



MAKING TIK TOK VIDEOS WITH GRANDSON 'SAVED' MY LIFE DURING LOCKDOWN, SAYS JUDI DENCH
pg 08

Editor

ENOUGH OF THIS MAI-BAAP CULTURE
pg 04

HBO SETS PREMIERE DATE FOR 'LOVECRAFT COUNTRY'
pg 08



Summit **TIMES**

Vol 05 | Issue 163 | Gangtok | Saturday | 04 July 2020

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | RS. 5

Era of expansionism is over: says Modi from Ladakh

LEH/NEW DELHI, JUL 3 (PTI): Sending a strong message to China, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the era of expansionism is over and that India's enemies have seen the "fire and fury" of its armed forces as he made a surprise visit to Ladakh in the midst of a tense border standoff between Indian and Chinese armies in a number of areas in the region.

In an address to troops, Modi paid glowing tributes to the 20 Indian soldiers killed in the Galwan Valley clashes and said tales of the bravery and valour of the armed forces are echoing in every part of the country.

"Bharat Mata's enemies have seen your fire and fury," Modi said in an apparent reference to the Galwan Valley clashes. He said bravery is a pre-requisite for peace and that the weak can never accomplish it.

The prime minister said the world has taken note of India's strength due to the "exemplary bravery" of the armed forces in the recent weeks, adding history is proof that "expansionists" have either lost or perished.

"The era of expansionism has come to an end. This is the era of development...History has proved that expansionist forces have either lost or were forced to turn back," he said.

He further said: "Your courage is higher than the heights where you are serving today. When the safety of the country is in your hands, then there is a belief. Not only me, but the entire nation believes in you. We all are proud of you."

The prime minister was accompanied by Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat and Army Chief Gen MM Naravane.

"Whether during the world wars or peace, the world has seen the victory of our brave soldiers and their efforts towards peace," he said amid chants of 'Vande Mataram'.

"We are the same people who pray to the flute-playing Lord Krishna, but we are also those who idolise and pray to the same Lord Krishna who carries the 'Sudarshana Chakra'," he said.

The Indian and Chinese armies are locked in a bitter standoff in multiple locations in eastern Ladakh for the last seven weeks. The tension escalated manifold after 20 Indian soldiers were killed in a violent clash in Galwan Valley on June 15. The Chinese side also suffered casualties but it is yet to give out the details.

In his address, Modi spoke at length about how the virtues of peace, friendship and courage have been a part of India's culture since time immemorial. He recalled that India has always given a befitting reply to anyone who has tried to disturb the prevailing atmosphere of peace and progress.

The prime minister affirmed that India is committed to peace and friendship but this commitment to peace should not be seen as India's weakness.

Today India is becoming stronger, be it in naval might, air power, space power and the strength of our army, he said, adding modernisation of weapons and upgrading of infrastructure has enhanced the country's defence capabilities manifold.

He also said that government is putting adequate focus on requirement of armed forces.

Modi travelled to Nimu, a forward post, to interact with Indian troops. Nimu is surrounded by the Zaskar range and is on the banks of river Indus. The Prime Minister met the top leadership of the Indian Army and later interacted with personnel of the Army, Air Force and ITBP.

In his address, Modi remembered all the "proud sons of Mother India" who made the supreme sacrifice at the Galwan Valley, adding those who were martyred belong to all parts of the country and "epitomised our land's ethos of bravery".

He affirmed that be it Leh-Ladakh, Kargil or the Siachen Glacier, be it the high mountains or the icy cold water that flows in the rivers, these are testimony to the gallantry of India's Armed Forces.

The situation in eastern Ladakh deteriorated after around 250 Chinese and Indian soldiers were engaged in a violent face-off on May 5 and 6. The incident in Pangong Tso was followed by a similar incident in north Sikkim on May 9.

Another SSB jawan tests positive for COVID, Sikkim's count rises to 102

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 03 JUL:

A 33-year-old SSB jawan stationed in West Sikkim has tested positive for COVID-19. With this, the tally of COVID cases reported so far in Sikkim has risen to 102.

In his daily health bulletin on Friday, Health Department DG-cum-Secretary, Dr Pempa T Bhutia informed that after completing a 14-day quarantine in Siliguri, the jawan in question entered Sikkim on 24 June from Melli check-post.

He added that the patient was in a quarantine facility with 40 other personnel in the SSB camp at Yuksom in West Sikkim. During the testing of samples of all 41 personnel in the quarantine facility after six days of quarantine on 01 July only the patient tested positive for COVID-19, he informed.

He informed that the patient has already been shifted to STNM hospital.

Dr Bhutia informed that the patient was with another three SBB personnel in a room in the quarantine facility and

these three personnel have now been kept separately and the facility has been declared a containment zone.

"Although others have tested negative for now, the testing of all 40 personnel will be conducted again after seven days," he informed.

Out of 102 cases reported in Sikkim so far, 41 are from East Sikkim, 22 from West Sikkim, 38 from South Sikkim and 01 from North Sikkim. At present, 36 patients are admitted in the isolation ward of STNM Hospital in

the State and 13 have been shifted to the Army hospital at Bagdogra and 53 have already been discharged after making full recoveries.

Secretary informed that the State government has been doing conducting TrueNat and RT-PCR tests free of cost so far, but now the government has decided to charge non-Sikkimese a nominal price for the testing. He added that the government has fixed the rate at Rs 3,500 for RT-PCR tests and Rs 2,000 for TrueNat testing for non-Sikkimese returning to Sikkim.

Medical Oxygen Generation Plant installed at CRH

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 03 JUL:

Central Referral Hospital (CRH) Tadonghas installed a state-of-the-artVSA based 93%, Medical Oxygen Generation Plant, manufactured by PCI Gases India Pvt. Ltd, India, a subsidiary of PCI Gases California, for generating oxygen for patients, a press release informs. The plant can produce upto 30 M3/Hr of medical oxygen requirements of CRH.

The plantincorporatesanadvanced PCI Gases patented technology (Reversible Blower Vacuum Swing Adsorption technology) that compresses only the purified Oxygen instead of compressing Air as in PSA technology. This results in the generator consuming less than half the electricity used by conventional PSA based Plants. The Generator, an intelligent skid mounted plant also does functional in full capacity even at high altitudes.

Siliguri was the nearest plant for oxygen cylinder procurement, a big challenge during lockdown/ road blockade and cost to the hospital and

thereby increasing cost for patient care. Keeping that in mind and the current Covid-19 pandemic and the challenges faced at hospitals, CRH in an effort to provide uninterrupted service to patients with special focus on those requiring critical care updated its technology and capacity by procuring and installing the oxygen generator plant at a cost of over a crore.

This procurement, installation happened in the midst of the Covid-19 Pandemic and imposed lockdown where CRH maintained all Quarantine protocols and social distancing with a lot of help and support from District Administration and State Health Department.

The inauguration and go live was conducted over video conferencing on 15 Jun, 2020 by Vice Chancellor, Sikkim Manipal University, Lt Gen Dr MD Venkatesh from facility quarantine with Prof Dr KS Sherpa, Registrar, SMU; Dr VK Mehta, Dean Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences (SMIMS); DrGautamDey, Medical Superintendent, CRH; Col Uma Kant Singh, Head General



Services, SMU and DrMingma Sherpa, Head, Operations, CRH all joining in the video conference from their offices while the technical personnel activated

the machine onsite. Guwahati is the only other place in the north-east with such a plant, the release mentions.

Contractor refutes Minister's allegations on Gyalshing-Omchung road work

RUDRA KAUSHIK
GYALSHING, 03 JUL:

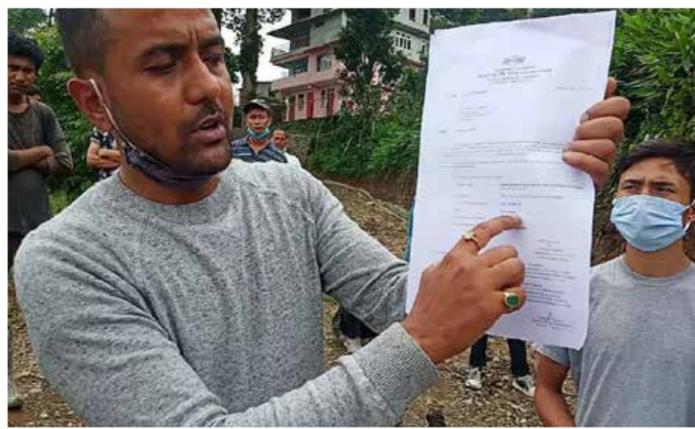
Contractor Prashant Subedi, who is overseeing the construction work of 8th Mile Gyalshing to Omchung Fair Weather Road (FWR) has refuted the allegation of mismanaging government funds in the road construction work. He maintained that he has not received a penny as the bill has not been released yet by the concerned department

so the question of mismanagement of government funds does not arise at all. It may be mentioned here that Roads and Bridges Minister, Samdup Lepcha, Agriculture Minister cum area MLA, Loknath Sharma and MP (Loksabha), Indra Hang Subba had inspected the under construction road on Thursday. Ministers

Loknath Sharma and Samdup Lepcha had raised concerns over some issues related to the under construction road which had gone viral on social media.

Minister Samdup Lepcha, while speaking with media had stated that government funds had been misused and the construction of the road was not executed as per the determined road alignments. He had further informed that bill of the project would not be released till further investigation.

The concerned contractor, Prashant Subed ipresenting the legal document today clarified on the subject pertaining to road construction work. He said that the Roads and Bridges Minister and area MLA should have collected the facts and



figures before levelling allegations.

The contractor informed that the tender for the road construction work was done in 21 Dec, 2018 instead of 2008 as claimed on social media. He added that the construction of road has been done according to the map and road alignments determined by the engineering cell and a contractor

cannot interfere on such subjects.

He shared that a stay order had been put on the road construction work due to petition filed by Omchung Junior Secondary School on 07 May, 2019 in the office of the District Collector, however, after intervention by locals the order was quashed and the construction work resumed on 26 Dec,

2019.

Prashant Subedi maintained that under the scheme, hand packed or dry wall construction had to be initiated but considering the welfare of the locals and compromising the cost of construction, concrete and cemented protective walls were constructed at necessary stretches of road.

On the Minister's

order that bill for the work will not be released till further investigation, MrSubedi expressed that he had paid his workers in full and he will wait for the decision of the competent authority.

He added that the public welfare work should not be politicized and authorities should not act according to information fed by some locals who do not know the entire story or details. He has requested the Roads and Bridges Minister to take a positive approach on the subject.

He further informed that 90% of road construction work has been completed and the remaining work has been stalled due to monsoon rains.

It was informed that the 2 kilometres stretch of road is being constructed at a cost of Rs 98 lakh.

'It's unscientific': Doctors entrusted with Covid-19 vaccine trial slam ICMR's Aug 15 deadline

NEW DELHI, 03 JUL [SCROLL.IN]: Four days after India's first indigenous vaccine candidate for Covid-19 was granted approval for human clinical trials by the drug regulator, the Indian Council of Medical Research on Thursday said that it wanted to "launch the vaccine for public health use latest by August 15".

On July 2, the council's director-general Balram Bhargava wrote to the 12 institutions participating in the trial to "fast-track all approvals", adding that

participants on whom the vaccine would be tested should be enrolled "no later than July 7".

"Non-compliance will be viewed very seriously," the letter warned, adding that the vaccine was "the top-most priority" of the government.

The vaccine candidate, named Covaxin, has been jointly developed by the Hyderabad-based private company Bharat Biotech and the ICMR. It was approved for human trial on June 29. In effect, the

ICMR is saying it would release a vaccine for human use in less than two months of it being approved for trial - a timeline unheard of anywhere in the world.

Independent experts have criticised the letter. "I don't think anywhere in the world has anyone ever given a date in advance for the release of a new vaccine before a clinical trial has even begun," said Amar Jesani, editor of the Indian Journal of Medical Ethics and a public health activist. "That is not how science works."

Vasanth Muthuswamy, chairperson of the ethics advisory committee of the ICMR's bioethics cell, said she had not seen Bhargava's letter, but conceded the timelines were too short. "By general experience, a month to decide whether to release a vaccine is a very short time," she said. "Even if you fast-track it, it will take a minimum of one year."

Strikingly, the expected duration of the trial, according to the government's

official clinical trial registry, is one year and three months.

Even many doctors entrusted with conducting the trial told Scroll.in the timelines laid down in the ICMR letter were unrealistic.

For starters, seven of the 12 participating institutes are yet to receive a green-signal from independent ethics committees, a prerequisite for conducting clinical trials.

turn page 2

2 COVID survivors discharged in South



NAMCHI, 03 JUL (IPR):

Two fully recovered COVID-19 patients were discharged on 02 July from Isolation facility located at Samdruptse Car Plaza in the presence of Zilla Adhakshya, Tshering Dem Bhutia, DC (South), Ragul K, CMO (South), Dr DC Sharma and other Health officials and staff from District Hospital Namchi.

Out of 9 COVID-19 patients admitted at Samdruptse Isolation facility, 7 patients who had tested repeat positive were referred to Isolation facility at Socheygang Hospital in Gangtok.

During the course of the discharge the team of Disaster Management congratulated the

discharged patients on their speedy recovery. The discharged persons were dropped home via ambulance. They will be on home isolation and their health status and home quarantine protocol compliance will be followed up by the Village Level Monitoring Team.

It maybe mentioned here that the frontline COVID-19 warriors who provided health care services to the admitted patients at Samdruptse Isolation Centre comprised of Medical Officer, Staff Nurse, Ward Attendant and Safai Karamchhari have been sent for 14 days quarantine at Hotel Blue Sapphire, Namchi.

PM visits Nimu in Ladakh to interact with troops

DELHI, 03 JUL (PIB): Prime Minister, Narendra Modi travelled to Nimu in Ladakh to interact with Indian troops earlier today. Nimu is surrounded by the Zaskar range and is on the banks of river Indus. The Prime Minister met the top leadership of the Indian Army and later interacted with personnel of the Army, Air Force and ITBP.

Prime Minister paid rich tributes to the valour of our Armed Forces, stating that their courage and devotion to Mother India is unparalleled. He stated that Indians can go about their lives peacefully because they know that our Armed Forces are standing firm, protecting the nation.

Prime Minister said that due to the exemplary bravery of the Armed Forces in the recent weeks, the world has taken note of India's strength.

Prime Minister remembered all the proud sons of Mother India who made the supreme sacrifice at the Galwan Valley. He said that those who were martyred belong to all parts of India and epitomize our land's ethos of bravery.

He affirmed that be it Leh-Ladakh, Kargil or the Siachen Glacier, be it the high mountains or the icy cold water that flows in the rivers, these are testimony to the gallantry of India's



Armed Forces. The enemies of India have seen the fire and fury of our forces, said the Prime Minister.

Prime Minister also paid homage to two Matas: to Mother India and to the Mothers of all those brave soldiers and security forces of India who serve India with unparalleled diligence.

Prime Minister spoke at length about how the virtues of peace, friendship and courage have been a part of India's culture since time immemorial. He recalled that India has always given a befitting reply to anyone who has tried to disturb the prevailing atmosphere of peace and progress.

He affirmed that India is committed to peace and friendship

but this commitment to peace should not be seen as India's weakness. Today India is becoming stronger, be it in naval might, air power, space power and the strength of our army. Modernization of weapons and upgradation of infrastructure has enhanced our defence capabilities manifold.

Prime Minister recalled that Indian soldiers had a long history of bravery and competence in global military campaigns, including in the two World Wars.

Prime Minister said that the time for expansionism is over. This is the era of development. He recalled that it is this mindset of expansionism that did great harm.

He added that in the last few years, several steps have been taken for the wellbeing of India's forces and furthering India's security preparedness. This includes ensuring availability of modern weaponry, increased border infrastructure, border area development and expanding the roads network. He further shared that expenditure on border infrastructure has been enhanced three times.

Prime Minister also mentioned the efforts to strengthen the national security apparatus and to ensure the well-being of our armed forces. He highlighted recent initiatives of the government such as creation of CDS, construction of a grand

National War Memorial, fulfilment of OROP after decades and steps to ensure the well-being of the families of the armed forces personnel.

During the interaction, Prime Minister recalled the greatness of Ladakh's culture as well as the noble teachings of Kushok Bakula Rimpoche. He described Ladakh as a land of sacrifice and a land that has given several patriots.

Prime Minister affirmed that the people of India are inspired by the teachings of Gautama Buddha, for whom courage was linked to conviction and compassion.

SDF condemns suspension of two constables

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 03 JUL:

Sikkim Democratic Front party has expressed concern over the alleged suspension of two police constables in the case of the illegal entry of five persons into Sikkim from Melli check-post. The party has demanded that the police constables be reinstated until the report of the enquiry on the matter is submitted. SDF has also demanded a high-level judicial investigation on the entry of these five persons in Sikkim.

In a press release, the party has said that as per reports on social media two police constables on duty have been suspended. SDF has questioned the decision to suspend the constables before the inquiry has been completed. This, the party states, goes against service rules and the constitution.

The incident proves the weakness and carelessness of the State administration and police, SDF has alleged.

Sushmita Subba is still not allowed to enter Sikkim and even the former Chief Minister and SDF president, Pawan Chamling was sent back by the police from Mamring to Namchi on 19 June, the release states.

Rules and regulations should be equal for everyone, SDF has said further demanding stringent legal action against those involved in allowing the 5 persons into Sikkim.

LAND FOR SALE
(URGENT SALE)

BL land for sale. Road site 100ft by 50ft at Lower Syari. Enroute Ranipool to Deorali via Syari. 10 Minutes Drive from Ranipool. Serious Buyer may contact : 83720-77482/ 94341-36989/ 98320-82664

Plantation drive at Pakyong Airport



GANGTOK, 03 JUL [IPR]:

The Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, Government of Sikkim organised a plantation cum Swachhata Drive at Pakyong Airport, Pakyong on 02 July.

The drive was led by Minister, Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, B.S. Panth and was attended by the MLA, Rhenock Constituency, Bishnu Khatiwara. Also present during the plantation drive was the Additional

Chief Secretary, Tourism, Dr.K. Jayakumar and other officers of the Department along with the Airport Director, Ramatanu Shah and other officials from Airports Authority Of India.

Around 300 saplings of different varieties provided by the Forest Department were planted during the plantation drive with a view to increase the green cover of the State.

The plantation drive was organised to mark

the World Environment Day 2020 as the earlier proposed plantation drive had to be deferred due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The plantation drive was followed by a meeting with the Airport Director, Pakyong Airport where various issues relating to the current status of the Airport was discussed. The Minister took note of the various issues put forth and appropriate suggestions were given to solve the current issues at the earliest.

'It's unscientific':....

"As a principal investigator, I would not move unless I get a clearance, let it be anyone who is telling," said Venkata Rao, in charge of the trial at the Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital in Odisha, one of the 12 chosen sites.

Rao added: "It is not that I am being adamant, but I am humbly saying that we should follow the principles. And the first and the most important principle is: do no harm."

Another principal investigator at one of the government institutes chosen for the trial was even more scathing. "That is not a scientific letter," said the doctor, referring to ICMR's correspondence. "If the ethics committee does not approve, forget July 7 enrolment, we can't do it by December 7 also even if the PM [prime minister] intervenes. We cannot deviate from protocols - this is a trial on humans not animals."

Lucknow's King George Hospital is also awaiting a green signal from its ethics committee. "If they agree, we will be part of the trial and if they don't we can't be part of it," said R Vasudev, the principal investigator of the trial at the hospital.

Jesani said it beat him that "the director general of the ICMR can write a letter like this". "The head of the institution can call an ethics committee meeting at best, but how can you ask for speedy approvals and put in an implicit threat when ICMR's own guidelines say that the ethics committee should be independent of the administration?" asked Jesani.

Among the five participating institutions that have already got clearances from their ethics committee, four are private hospitals. All four got the approval on June 30 itself, a day after the trials were allowed by the drug controller.

One such institute is the Jeevan Rekha Hospital in Karnataka's Belgaum. The hospital's administrators seemed quite upbeat about meeting the government's deadline. "By August 15, we hope everything will be in place, I am not saying 110% but 99%," said an administrator of the hospital. "If the government has set a date, they must have thought something about it."

The three phases of clinical trials

But other institutions questioned the timelines. For one, enrolment of participants by July 7 was not possible under any circumstances, said Vasudev of Lucknow's King George Hospital. "If at all, we will get approval [from the ethics committee] by then."

Even if the trial was approved by July 7, it would still be difficult to furnish the final results of the trial by August 15, he added. "The sample size we have been allotted is around 150-200. We should be able to manage that by August 15, but the results would take some more time."

Across the 12 centres, the trials are envisioned to have a sample size of 1,125 people.

As detailed in the registry, the trials would combine Phase 1 and Phase 2, a practice that is being followed in several clinical trials of probable Covid-19 vaccine candidates to expedite the process.

Phase 1 of a clinical trial is usually small and is used to determine its safety profile. Phase 2, on the other hand, employs a bigger sample size, and looks at the immune responses triggered by the vaccine.

However, a vaccine is deemed safe to be commercially available only after Phase 3 - a much larger efficacy trial involving thousands of participants.

The trial document for Covaxin does not mention Phase 3. Even for Phase 1 and Phase 2, there appears to be some confusion over the sequence to be followed.

While Vasudev of Lucknow's King George Hospital said he had been sent the protocol for only Phase 2 trials, Rao of the Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital in Odisha said his organisation would be starting with Phase 1. "Then we will be migrating to Phase 2, but that process is not clear yet."

The lead investigator at the government hospital was blunt in his assessment. "By August 15, even Phase 1 will not be complete," he said, before quipping, "I think they got the date right, but forgot to add the year as 2021."

CONTACT SUMMIT TIMES
REPORTERS
NAMCHI
9832048410,

9775736596
SINGTAM
7699771651
MANGAN/ DIKCHU

9832612485/
9434011213
GANGTOK
8016270440,

9832082664,
9832424750,
8768664251
9832470000



Facebook.com/
SummitTimesSikkim
fresh lot of rapid information

AgriMinister chairs NE e-symposium session



GANGTOK, 03 JUL (IPR): The Minister for Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Lok Nath Sharma chaired a Technical Session of e-symposium on "Emergent North East India: Organizing Community for Horticulture" through video conferencing from National Informatics Centre (NIC), Gangtok today. The Minister was also joined by the Principal Secretary, Agriculture and Horticulture, Department, R Telang, Secretary Horticulture, MT Sherpa and Director Horticulture, S Tamang. The e-Symposium was organized by Dr Abdul Kalam Centre for Policy Research and Analysis with an special emphasis on Agriculture and Horticulture in North-East India. The programme was also joined by panelists and the speakers from various States including Commissioner and Secretary to Governor of Nagaland, T Mhabemo, Team leader, Nagaland Beekeeping and Honey Mission, Nagaland, Trinity Saioo, Lakadong

Turmeric, Jaintia Hills, Jowai Meghalaya; CEO, Dina Chhangte, King Industries, Aizawl, Mizoram; Kohima, Nagaland, Dr Kelihol Tase, CEO, Navin Tiwari, Capital Foods Private Ltd., Mumbai, Owner, Neeraj Mutha, Mutha Industry Pvt. Ltd/ Epitome, Mumbai also addressed the technical session. In his valedictory address, the Minister underlined the concept of Green Economy envisaged by the State Government for the promotion of sustainable mountain agriculture and conservation of the Himalyan ecology. He also drew light on the efforts made by the Government to expand the idea of Organic Farming by involving the local community which will play a crucial role to enhance their economic condition. He also elucidated the various motivating initiatives to be introduced by the State Government including Production Incentive Scheme (PIS)

to incentivize farmers on production and marketing through the Farmers Producers Organizations thereby augmenting farmers income. He also anticipated that the scheme would be output oriented in enhancing production and also promote establishment of processing and packaging units at cluster level to benefit the farmers with the advantages of value addition. The scheme in the first phase will cover five crops, viz. large cardamom, ginger, turmeric, orange, buckwheat. The scheme has a unique feature that the incentive shall be directly credited to the farmers bank accounts. He also stressed upon the insightful vision of the government to ensure judicious utilization of the fallow land to increase production in total cultivable area with an influential mechanism. The local Panchayats, FPOs or any registered cooperative body shall be facilitated to cultivate high value crops on lease for a stipulated time

period. The benefits will also be shared with the land owners. He also outlined proactive engagement of the Government with all stakeholders including banks to improve credit flow to the agriculture and allied sectors in the State. Further, he informed about the special day in a week dedicated for the farmers by the banks and also added about the proposed loan melas to be organized in different locations for disbursement of agriculture loans to the farmers. He also underlined the cluster approach to facilitate aggregation and streamline of marketing of farm produce. Besides, he also touched upon the need to address the issues of soil health management, marketing, crop insurance and credit flow for formulating effective strategies to steer agricultural initiatives. The panelists also appreciated the insightful vision and inclusive incentives of the Government of Sikkim to encourage the farmers.

SMU conducts Online Business and Economy Quiz 2020

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 03 JUL:

The Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Sikkim Manipal University (SMU) organised an Online Economy and Business Quiz from 19

Jun to 02 Jul, 2020, a press release informs. The objective of the quiz was to engage the students through online classroom activities during the lockdown period and also to make the students aware of

the current scenario of Business and Economy. The quiz had 555 participants from different schools and colleges from all over the State and across the country. Participants were presented with certificates

from the University. Assistant Professors, Sumeet Agarwal and Bijendra Sharma from the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences were the Programme Convenors of this event.

Governor attends ChanakyaVarta'sPurvottar Parisamvad

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 03 JUL:

Governor of Sikkim, Ganga Prasad attended the valedictory function of a three-day event Chanakya Varta's Purvottar Parisamvad through webinar today, a press release informs. The webinar programme was organized by Chanakyavarta, New Delhi.

In his address, the Governor acknowledged and appreciated the State government and frontline workers for responding proactively and boldly in tackling the Coronavirus pandemic. The Governor informed about the homag programme for the 20 slain Indian soldiers Veeron Ko Naman where Sikkim government paid tribute to the Indian soldiers who were martyred in the recent standoff at Galwan valley in Ladakh.



The Governor complimented the State government for honouring the brave soldiers for their sacrifice. Speaking on Organic farming, the Governor lauded the farmers of Sikkim and government for expansion of organic farming. With the practice of Organic farming

Sikkim scaled new heights of development while keeping the environment protected and it also transformed the agricultural sector in terms of earnings. The Governor highlighted Sikkim's success in the field of sustainable tourism practices and

environmental ecology. Union Health Minister of State, Aswini Kumar Choubey, ex-Defence Secretary, Yogendra Narain, faculty from Sikkim Central University, officials from Sikkim Education department, farmers and social workers also participated in the webinar.

Sixth earthquake hits Mizoram in 15 days

AIZAWL, JUL 3 (PTI): An earthquake of 4.6 magnitude hit Mizoram's Champhai district on Friday afternoon, the sixth quake to rock the state in the last 15 days, officials said.

The earthquake occurred at around 2.35 pm and the epicentre was 52 km south-southeast of Champhai, according to the National Centre for Seismology.

The depth of the earthquake was 25 km, it said.

Tremors were felt in Farkawn, Khuangthing, Khawbung, Thekpui, Zawlsei and other nearby villages of the district on the India-Myanmar

border, Champhai's Deputy Commissioner Maria CT Zuali told PTI.

Tremors were also felt in Champhai town, she said.

The extent of the damage caused by the earthquake was yet to be ascertained as some villages could not be reached due to lack of mobile connectivity, she added.

The district administration was collecting information

from the affected villages, she said.

Zuali said she will visit the affected villages along with other officials on Saturday.

Assistance will be provided to those families whose houses were damaged by frequent earthquakes, she added.

A series of earthquakes hit at least three districts -- Champhai, Saitual and Serchhip -- between June

18 and June 24.

In the worst-hit Champhai district, a total of 138 buildings, including those of churches and the government, were affected, according to Zuali.

Of these, 118 houses were in Khawbung rural development block and 20 others in Champhai rural development block, she said.

There were no casualties, she added.

40 new coronavirus cases in Chhattisgarh

RAIPUR, JUL 3 (PTI): The number of COVID-19 cases in Chhattisgarh increased to 3,065 after 40 more people, including eight Border Security Force (BSF) personnel, tested positive on Friday, a health official said.

52 patients were also discharged from different hospitals following recovery, he said.

Of the new cases, eight were reported from Kanker district, seven from Raipur, six each from Bilaspur and Balrampur districts, five from Dantewada, three each from Bastar and Narayanpur districts and two from Rajnandgaon, he said.

Eight BSF personnel, belonging to different battalions, tested positive for the viral infection in Kanker, Chief Medical and Health Officer of the district Dr Jagjivan Ram Uike told PTI. They were lodged

in a quarantine centre in Antagarh town, he added.

The BSF is extensively deployed in Kanker for anti-naxal operations.

"With the latest cases, the overall count of infections in the BSF reached 70 in the state. But 28 of them have already recovered," said a BSF official.

A Personal Security Officer (PSO) of a BJP MP and four staff of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) are among the new cases detected in Raipur, the health official said.

The BJP MP and his family have been quarantined at home and their samples have been sent for testing, he added.

Chhattisgarh's COVID-19 figures are as follows: positive cases 3,065, new cases 40, total deaths 14, discharged 2,414, active cases 637, people tested so far 1,77,554.

Cleanliness drive conducted at Lower Bardang



YOGEN THATAL SINGTAM, 03 JUL:

People of Lower Bardang conducted a cleanliness drive in their area on 02 Jul, 2020. A JCB machine was also used to clean the drainage system.

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
ANSARI NAGAR, NEW DELHI - 110 608
EXAMINATION SECTION
Advertisement No. 20/2020

Ref.No.F.AIIMS/Exam.Sec./Adv/4-11(SR/SD-JULY-20)/2020 Date: 04.07.2020

Competitive Examination (Stage-I) for Recruitment to the post of Senior Residents / Senior Demonstrators for the July 2020 session at AIIMS, New Delhi

Online applications are invited from Indian Citizens as per Govt. of India Residency Scheme, for the tenure posts of Senior Residents/Senior Demonstrators for a maximum period upto 3 years. These posts include existing vacant posts, backlog vacancies of SC, ST, OBC and the posts which are likely to fall vacant (Stage-I) between 01.07.2020 to 31.12.2020. Details of posts can be seen on website. The Examination will be conducted in online (CBT) mode only followed by Interview (Stage-II) of eligible candidate.

Online Registration for applications	
Opens on	Closes on
06 th July, 2020 (Monday)	20 th July, 2020 at 5:00 pm (Monday)
Date of Entrance Examination	
Date of Exam	Duration of Exam
Date of Exam will be declared later	10:00 AM to 11:30 AM
Exam City	
4 Metro cities in India (Delhi/NCR, Mumbai, Kolkata & Chennai)	

Admit cards of eligible candidates will only be uploaded on the website. If the status of Registration Form or Admit Card is not available on website, applicant should immediately write an email through Registered email to the Assistant Controller (Examinations), AIIMS, New Delhi-110608 on aiims.srsdexams@gmail.com along with candidate name, exam/test, subject applied, candidate ID and specific query/clarification.

Important: For Prospectus, number of post, eligibility criteria, detailed information etc. please visit the website www.aiimsexams.org. All applicants are required to visit the website regularly since all subsequent Corrigendum/Addendum/Updates will be uploaded in the website only.

ASSISTANT CONTROLLER (EXAMS.)

davp 17112/11/0002/2021

What is Novel Coronavirus - nCoV?

The Novel Coronavirus (nCoV) is new strain of Coronavirus that originated in Wuhan, China. Notorious for mutating quickly and acquiring new qualities, it is a rising epidemic that was previously not identified in humans.

Symptoms of nCoV

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

Precautions to Prevent nCoV

- Wash your hands often with soap.
- Use an alcohol based hand sanitizer
- Observe good personal hygiene.
- Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands.
- Avoid contact with people with possible symptoms.
- Avoid contact with animals and consumption of undercooked meats.
- Avoid travel to nCoV affected places.
- Wear a mask if you have respiratory syndrome, and cover your mouth while coughing or sneezing.

Treatment

- Treatment is symptomatic and supportive, based on the patient's clinical condition.
- No vaccinations available as of now
- Visit Doctor in case symptoms detected.

If you seek help, you may call :

- Toll free no. 104
- District surveillance Officer
- EAST : 7029372100
- WEST : 9593297609
- NORTH : 9641957468
- SOUTH : 7407691463
- New STNM
- AMS : 9434711402

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

Enough of This Mai-Baap Culture

Demand better or continue cribbing

Two parallel enquiries are underway into the unchecked entry through Melli episode, one by the DC-South and another by the Secretary [Coordination], Home Department. If the office of the Chief Secretary has its way, then there is a third investigation as well, this by the Crime Branch into the Facebook page – Mothers Sikkim – which first reported on the incident. As is seen with just about every “controversy” in Sikkim, this one too appears to be headed towards getting side-tracked in that even as the expose is being investigated, the messenger too is in the crosshairs. While there is no denying that one has to be held accountable for the information one puts out in the public domain, it is crucial that the sense of proportion is not lost.

Fact remains that five people entered Sikkim without having to go through any of the formalities that the administration has imposed on lay people. When it comes to claiming how this group of five received such preferential treatment, the information gets unsteady. Serious allegations have been leveled against the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police ascribing them roles in this entire drama which paints them both in very poor light. And it is here that the sense of proportion requires reiteration – can the bruised egos of the two officers be considered of the same level of harm as the offensively preferential treatment extended to the five, irrespective of the unfortunate death that brought them to Sikkim? It cannot. While the former is a perceptual hurt, the latter is wrong at all levels, especially since the rulebook has been thrown at too many families to refuse them passage back to their homes for more than three months now. Cops have beaten up and publicly humiliated people for violating the lockdown, and now arrives confirmation that the force actively colluded to break a rule which has been imposed at draconian levels in the State. And make no mistake, the personnel who will be shouldered with the blame are not the only guilty party here. The system is to blame since it thrives on privilege, cutting corners, making compromises, handing out favours and perpetuating a mai-baap culture because that is where officers, despite their flamboyant titles and exclusive service cadres, draw their relevance from. What the constables do on the field is but an extension of the attitude with which their seniors approach their responsibilities and tasks.

The State has done well by ordering an enquiry into the incident and publicly announcing that everyone involved will be held accountable. It will, however, take more than deputing a DC and a Home Department officer to carry out separate enquiries into the matter or suspending some juniors. Irrespective of where the truth lies, in the people's eyes, people in senior posts browbeat their subordinates into participating in the subversion of every COVID-prevention diktat that Sikkim's babus have dreamt up. The government has to convincingly convey to the people that it will not play favorites or shelter its officers. Governments do that on a regular basis, but these are not regular times. The lay people have been made to undergo too many privations in the name of COVID-management to take too kindly to the ease with which officers who dream up these rules are let off even when they themselves stage-manage exceptions for those they favour. Is anyone convinced that an officer in Sikkim can carry out an “independent” enquiry into something that involves his seniors? Is anyone convinced that a junior, even when served a suspension order [which is temporary], will tattle on his senior [and seniors will always be there] unless a crystal clear sign is sent out that the enquiry is not contaminated by hierarchy? The enquiry should ideally have been conducted by someone who does not need to kowtow, and if that appears too excessive then everyone above [in rank] to the officer conducting the enquiry has to be placed out of every office of influence at least for the duration of the enquiry.

It is also important not to villainise the group which enjoyed such preferential treatment. What they did was wrong, yes, but to send too much hate their way runs the risk of perpetuating the fear that everyone from outside is “infected” and will spread the virus. That is a dangerous fear to hold and an ignorant position to take. Sikkim has already embarrassed itself too much by extending this suspicion on its own returnees and health-workers, so they should just stop casting such aspersions. The family, when they talked to the right people and got the rules relaxed for themselves, flagged a practice which should have ended the day democracy arrived in Sikkim. The tyranny of connections made this incident possible and people need to take offence not because the five might have infected people, but because they were treated differently than thousands of others who have not been able to make the required phone calls or build the “right” contacts.

To book ad-space, contact: SummitTIMES at GANGTOK:

For circulation details Contact: (Sandeep) 9734152451

& for Advertisement booking at 9933427505 or at office no 03592 208698. Mail us at advertise@summittimes.com

SILIGURI:

Mr. Mani Rai, M/s. Space Ads, B.R. Ambedkar Building, Room No.7, 1st floor. Opp. Ganga Hotel. Hill Cart Road, Siliguri – 03. Ph. 9832318644/ 9800682989/ 9153035100 or mail at mani_siliguri@yahoo.co.in.

KOLKATA OFFICE:

Irshad Ali/ Imteeyaz. Synapse, 6, Madan Street, Mezzine – 2, 2nd floor. Kolkata – 700072. Ph. 033-22124348/ fax 033-22124337/ mob. 9830547774/ 981108397. E-mail: contact.synapse@gmail.com/ irshad_ali123@rediffmail.com

Why the African Union has failed to ‘silence the guns’. And some solutions

CHRIS CHANGWE NSHIMBI

THECONVERSATION.COM

Seven years ago African leaders committed themselves to working towards an end to armed conflict. As they marked the 50th anniversary of the founding of the African Union they swore to ensure lasting peace on the continent. They pledged not to bequeath the burden of conflicts to the next generation of Africans.

The pledge was followed by the adoption in 2016 of the Lusaka Road Map to end conflict by 2020. The document outlined 54 practical steps that needed to be taken. They focused on political, economic, social, environmental and legal issues. They ranged from adequately funding the African Standby Force for deployment, to stopping rebels or insurgents and their backers from accessing weapons. Other steps included fighting human trafficking, corruption and illicit financial flows.

At the time of the declaration, Africa had disproportionately high levels of conflict. State and non-state actors in Africa waged about 630 armed conflicts between 1990 and 2015. Conflicts orchestrated by non-state actors accounted for over 75% of conflicts globally.

The efforts to ‘silence the guns’ has been singularly ineffective. Since the pledge was signed conflict in Africa has increased.

One reason for the failure is that the 2020 goal was too ambitious given the number of conflicts on the continent. The second reason is that many are internal, arising from the grievances citizens have with their governments. This internal dynamic appears to have been ignored from the outset.

To make some headway the African Union needs to recognise this, and design solutions to conflicts that are informed by the need to protect human rights. The continental body should be empowered to act against any party that violates core values centred on human dignity.

THEATRE OF CONFLICT

Prominent conflicts by non-state actors include the Tuareg separatist and jihadist insurgencies in Mali, Boko Haram in Northern Nigeria, jihadist and militia insurgencies in Burkina Faso, al-Shabaab in Somalia, and the ethnic war in the Central African Republic.

The most notable civil wars are those in Libya, South Sudan and the one waged by Anglophone Ambazonia separatists in Cameroon.



Most conflicts are generally centred on these areas:

- Sahel region, including Mali, Burkina Faso, Northern Nigeria, Chad, Sudan and Eritrea
- Lake Chad area, including Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria
- Horn of Africa, including Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan and Kenya, and
- Great Lakes region, notably Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda and Uganda.

Though domestic, most of these conflicts tend to be cross-border in form. They threaten interstate and regional stability. For example, al-Shabaab in Somalia exploits porous borders to carry out deadly attacks in Kenya.

Most of Africa's conflicts are also increasingly characterised by violent extremism. The emerging conflict in the Cabo Delgado Province in Mozambique falls into this category.

PERENNIAL CONFLICT, ELUSIVE PEACE

The African Union has put a great deal of emphasis on promoting peace, security, and stability in Africa, including in its Agenda 2063 adopted in 2015.

But peace and security continue to elude the continent. Some conflicts have been raging for decades. These include fighting in the Western Sahara, conflict in the Maghreb region involving the Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, the Somali civil war, and the Allied Democratic Forces and Lord's Resistance Army insurgencies in Uganda and the DRC.

Eighteen years ago the African Union changed its Constitutive Act, allowing it to intervene in the internal affairs of member states. Nevertheless, it's been reluctant to do so. For example, it is conspicuously absent while bloody conflict escalated in Cameroon and Libya.

There has been one notable

exception: the organisation's refusal to countenance the coup in Sudan, and suspending the country's membership in June 2019. This should be the norm.

But this highlighted the AU's double standards. It tacitly countenanced the coups in Egypt in 2013 and Zimbabwe in 2017.

Although it did suspend Egypt after the coup led by Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, it subsequently restored its membership in 2019. This went against its own rule that bans coup leaders from occupying political office.

The organisation never suspended Zimbabwe over the coup that ended Robert Mugabe's despotic presidency. Neither did it speak out against General Constantino Chiwenga, the coup leader, becoming the vice-president.

Another example of failure has been in Libya, where the AU has been seen to be wringing its hands while deadly conflict escalates and external actors make it their war theatre. These include Turkey, Egypt, Russia and United Arab Emirates.

The presence of foreign military forces on the continent is of concern beyond the Libyan conflict. The increasing number has been recognised by the the African Union Peace and Security Council as a problem.

The numbers are going up via bilateral agreements between African states and foreign governments.

African countries gain economically from hosting foreign military bases. Djibouti, for example, earns about \$63 million annually from the US and \$20 million annually from China by leasing parts of its territory for their military bases. It also hosts British, French, German, Italian, Japanese and Spanish military bases.

The foreign actors establish themselves in Africa to protect their economic interests and for strategic reasons. Djibouti, for instance, is strategically close to the Middle East and the Red Sea.

CREDIBLE SOLUTIONS

The African Union should revisit its Constitutive Act to address principles that limit its ability to intervene in member states' territories. This will set the stage for crafting

robust legislation, policies, institutions and mechanisms for long-term stability in such countries.

Following that, the organisation should work through regional economic communities and people at grassroots to end conflict. Its eight recognised regions should emulate the successes of the Economic Community of West African States.

The regional bloc occasionally gives early warnings of brewing conflicts in member states. It has also provided military support and helped reform the security sector in Sierra Leone, The Gambia and Liberia. It has also helped with post-conflict reconstruction in these countries.

Notably, its military intervention in The Gambia forced the despotic Yahya Jammeh to vacate office in early 2017, after losing the presidential elections.

Ordinary people can also provide vital information to early warning systems. It's thus imperative to set up long-term, people-centred, innovative and inclusive measures to promote peace. Such bottom-up solutions, based on intimate knowledge of local areas, are key to success.

Finally, the issue of foreign military forces on the continent. Here the African Union has no control over their growing presence because they come through bilateral agreements between member states and foreign powers. Nevertheless, the African Union should work through its regional organisations to play a role in these decisions.

There's a precedent: the Southern African Development Community under the chairmanship of late Zambian President Levy Mwanawasa opposed the establishment of an American base in the region. Southern Africa went on to establish its own regional military brigade instead.

[the writer is Director & Research Fellow, University of Pretoria]

Alert but not alarmed: what to make of new H1N1 swine flu with ‘pandemic potential’ found in China

IAN M. MACKAY

THECONVERSATION.COM

Researchers have found a new strain of flu virus with “pandemic potential” in China that can jump from pigs to humans, triggering a suite of worrying headlines.

It's excellent this virus has been found early, and raising the alarm quickly allows virologists to swing into action developing new specific tests for this particular flu virus.

But it's important to understand that, as yet, there is no evidence of human-to-human transmission of this particular virus. And while antibody tests found swine workers in China have had it in the past, there's no evidence yet that it's particularly deadly.

WHAT WE KNOW SO FAR

China has a wonderful influenza surveillance system across all its provinces. They keep track of bird, human and swine flus because, as the researchers note in their paper, “systematic surveillance of influenza viruses in pigs is essential for early warning and preparedness for the next potential pandemic.”

In their influenza virus surveillance of pigs from 2011 to 2018, the researchers found what they called “a recently emerged genotype 4 (G4) reassortant Eurasian avian-like (EA) H1N1 virus.” In their paper, they call the virus G4 EA H1N1. It has been ticking over since 2013 and became the majority swine H1N1 virus in China in 2018.

In plain English, they discovered a new flu that's a mix of our human H1N1 flu and an avian-based flu.

What's interesting is antibody tests picked up that workers handling swine in these areas have been infected. Among those workers they tested, about 10% (35 people out of 338 tested) showed

signs of having had the new G4 EA H1N1 virus in the past. People aged between 18 to 35 years old seemed more likely to have had it.

Of note, though, was that a small percentage of general household blood samples from people who were expected to have had little pig contact were also antibody positive (meaning they had the virus in the past).

Importantly, the researchers found no evidence yet of human-to-human transmission. They did find “efficient infectivity and aerosol transmission in ferrets” - meaning there's evidence the new virus can spread by aerosol droplets from ferret to ferret (which we often use as surrogates for humans in flu studies). G4-infected ferrets became sick, lost weight and acquired lung damage, just like those infected with one of our seasonal human H1N1 flu strains.

They also found the virus can infect human airway cells. Most humans don't already have antibodies to the G4 viruses meaning most people's immune systems don't have the necessary tools to prevent disease if they get infected by a G4 virus.

In summary, this virus has been around a few years, we know it can jump from pigs to humans and it ticks all the boxes to be what infectious disease scholars call a PPP – a potential pandemic pathogen.

If a human does get this new G4 EA H1N1 virus, how severe is it?

We don't have much evidence to work with yet but it's likely people who got these infections in the past didn't find it too memorable. There's not a huge amount of detail in the new paper but of the people the researchers sampled, none died from this virus.

There's no sign this new virus has taken off or

spread in the regions of China where it was found. China has excellent virus surveillance systems and right now we don't need to panic.

The World Health Organisation has said it is keeping a close eye on these developments and “it also highlights that we cannot let down our guard on influenza”.

WHAT'S NEXT?

People in my field – infectious disease research – are alert but not alarmed. New strains of flu do pop up from time to time and we need to be ready to respond when they do, watching carefully for signs of human-to-human transmission.

As far as I can tell, the specific tests we use for influenza in humans won't identify this new G4 EA H1N1 virus, so we should design new tests and have them ready. Our general flu A screening test should work though.

In other words, we can tell if someone has what's called “Influenza A” (one kind of flu virus we usually see in flu season) but that's a catch-all term, and there are many strains of flu within that category. We don't yet have a customised test to detect this new particular strain of flu identified in China. But we can make one quickly.

Being prepared at the laboratory level if we see strange upticks in influenza is essential and underscores the importance of pandemic planning, ongoing virus surveillance and comprehensive public health policies.

And as with all flus, our best defences are meticulous hand washing and keeping physical distance from others if you, or they, are at all unwell.

[the writer is Adjunct assistant professor, The University of Queensland]

CITU holds human chain protest against BJP Govt



SUMMIT REPORT SILIGURI, 03JUL: Centre of Indian Trade Union (CITU) protested against BJP government today in Siliguri by making a human chain at Mahanandabridge. General secretary of Center of Indian Trade Union (CITU), Saman Pathak alleged that the BJP government is taking advantage of the

lockdown and selling all the natural resources of our country to others. Mr Pathak added that the government must pay full salary to the workers during this lockdown. All the families with no income during this lockdown have to be paid an allowance of Rs. 6,500 per month, he said. The government must stop the sale of domestic

produce through privatization of all state owned sectors including coal, railways, etc, and workers' rights should not be taken away on the excuse of lockdown, Mr Pathak added. The government should also arrange decent employment for migrant workers who have returned home because of this pandemic, he said.

COVID-19 claims 16 more lives in Bengal; 649 fresh cases

KOLKATA, JUL 2 (PTI): The COVID-19 death toll climbed to 699 in West Bengal after 16 more people succumbed to the disease on Thursday, while 649 fresh cases pushed the state's infection tally to 19,819, a health department bulletin said.

The number of active COVID-19 cases in the state crossed the 6,000-mark to reach 6,083, it added.

Since Wednesday evening, 509 people have recovered from the disease in the state, the bulletin said.

According to the bulletin, 15 of the dead coronavirus patients suffered from other ailments too.

Eight people died in Kolkata; three in North 24 Parganas; two each in Howrah and Hooghly; and one in South 24 Parganas, the bulletin



said. Kolkata saw the highest single-day spike with 218 fresh cases while 162 infections surfaced in North 24 Parganas; 58 in South 24 Parganas; and 56 in

Howrah, the bulletin said. Thirty-three new cases were reported from Darjeeling; 30 from Malda; 25 from Hooghly; 12 from Murshidabad; 10 from Jalpaiguri; eight

each from Uttar Dinajpur and Paschim Burdwan; seven from Purba Medinipur; and six from Bankura, it added. Four cases each were reported from Dakshin Dinajpur and

Purba Burdwan; three from Nadia; two each from Kalimpong and Alipurduar; and one from Coochbehar, the bulletin elaborated.

Since Wednesday evening, 509 people have recovered from the disease thus improving the discharge rate to 65.78 per cent.

In the past 24 hours, 10,405 samples have been tested in the state, the bulletin said.

Meanwhile, an official of the state land reforms department tested positive for the disease following which the entire sixth floor of the state secretariat 'Nabanna' was sanitised, official sources said.

The joint secretary-rank official is undergoing treatment at a hospital and her colleagues at the department have been asked to stay in isolation.

PM Modi speaks with Assam CM over floods

NEW DELHI, JUL 3 (PTI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday spoke with Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal over the flood situation in the state and assured him of all help from the Centre.

"Spoke to Assam CM Shri Sarbananda Sonowalji and reviewed the situation in the wake of flooding and landslides in parts of the state," Modi tweeted.

The flood in Assam has spread to 22 of the 33 districts, affecting over

16.03 lakh people and claiming the lives of 34. The deluge has damaged infrastructure at various places in the state.

The prime minister said he assured all possible support from the Centre to help those affected.

In his tweet, Sonowal said the prime minister inquired about issues, including the floods and the COVID-19 situation.

"He assured all necessary support from the Centre," the chief minister said.



Single-day spike of 561 COVID-19 cases in Odisha



BHUBANESWAR, JUL 3 (PTI): Odisha on Friday reported its highest single-day spike of 561 COVID-19 cases, taking the state's tally to 8,106, while the death climbed to 29 with two more fatalities, a health department official said.

Two men, aged 66 and 40, died of the disease at a COVID hospital in Ganjam district, he said. "Regret to report the demise of two COVID positive patients. One was suffering from hypertension and the other was a diabetic patient. They died during treatment," the health department official said.

Of the 29 deaths in the state, Ganjam, the worst-hit district, accounts for 17, followed by five in Khurda, four in Cuttack, and one each in Bargarh, Puri and Angul, he said.

Eight other

coronavirus patients had died earlier but their deaths were attributed to "non-COVID reasons", the official said.

The state had reported its first COVID-19 fatality in Bhubaneswar on April 6.

Of the new 561 patients, including an NDRF staffer, 425 were reported from quarantine centres where people returning from other states are lodged for preliminary observation and care, while 136 others were detected as a result of the contact-tracing exercises.

The contact-tracing exercises of the fresh patients are underway, the official said.

The NDRF staffer was placed under institutional quarantine after his return from West Bengal, where he had gone for restoration

work in the wake of cyclone Amphan, the official said.

With this, the total number of disaster response personnel from NDRF, ODRAF and Odisha Fire Service testing positive for the virus rose to 296.

The fresh cases have been reported from 19 different districts.

Ganjam recorded the highest of 283 cases, he said, adding that other districts that reported a high number of new cases are Cuttack (81), Rayagada (76), Khurda (26), Bargarh (21), Bolangir (19) and Mayurbhanj (10).

Odisha now has active 2,567 cases, while 5,502 patients have recovered from the disease so far.

The state health department on Thursday conducted tests of 6,871 samples, the official added.

BHUBANESWAR, JUL 3 (PTI): The Odisha government on Friday fixed Rs 2,200 as the price for conducting the RT-PCR test to detect COVID-19 in private labs in the state, as per a notification.

The state government also named four private laboratories, approved by the Indian Council of Medical Research, where the tests can be conducted.

"...the (state) government has fixed the maximum price for RT-PCR COVID-19 test by private laboratories at the rate of Rs 2,200 inclusive of GST and all other incidental charges for private individuals desirous of testing," a notification issued by the Home Department said.

The tests can be conducted at Apollo Hospital, IMS & SUM Hospital, InDNA Life Science at KIIT Technology Business



Incubator (KIIT-TBI), and GenX Diagnostics. All these labs are located in Bhubaneswar.

The tests will be conducted by private laboratories under the supervision of Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC), Bhubaneswar following ICMR guidelines regarding the testing protocols for RT-PCR (Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction) COVID-19 tests, it said.

The state government's decision

came a day after the central government clarified that the state authorities must not restrict an individual from getting tested for COVID-19 at the ICMR-approved laboratories.

So far, the state has conducted 2,81,523 tests for COVID-19 and of them, 8,106 people have been found to be positive.

4 fresh COVID-19 cases in Nagaland; count rises to 539

KOHIMA, JUL 3 (PTI): Four more persons have tested positive for COVID-19 in Nagaland, taking the state's tally to 539 on Friday, Health Minister S Pangnyu Phom said.

Three new patients

are from quarantine centres in Mon district and one is from Peren district, he said.

Thirty-one people, 10 each from Peren, Kohima and Dimapur and one from Phek district, have recovered from

COVID-19, the minister said.

Of the 539 cases, 311 are active while 228 people have recovered, Phom said.

The recovery rate has increased to 42.3 per cent from 36.82 per cent on Thursday, he added.

3 fresh COVID-19 cases in Meghalaya; count rises to 62

SHILLONG, JUL 3 (PTI): Three persons, including two BSF personnel, tested positive for COVID-19 in Meghalaya on Friday, taking the state's tally to 62, Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma said.

The two infected BSF personnel are from East Khasi Hills district while the civilian is from Ri Bhoi, he said.

With three new patients, the number of fresh cases reported

in Meghalaya in the last 24 hours has risen to six, a senior health official told PTI.

Of the 62 cases, 18 are active while 43 persons have recovered and one patient has died, he said.

Samples of 20,000 people entering the state have been collected so far, the official said, adding that 6,000 tests per million population have been conducted.



VIDEO NEWS SECTION

It's easy to relax...
When you can trust the News.

To book ad-space, contact SummitTIMES at

GANGTOK: For circulation details Contact: +91-9749877695, +91-9447102692 & for advertisement booking at +91-9933427909 or at office no 03592/2084/8. Mail us at advertise@summittimes.com

SILIGURI: Mr. Mani Rai, M/n. Space Ads, B.R. Ambedkar Building, Room No.7, 1st, 9831803977. E-mail: contact.synapse@gmail.com/irshad_xii123@rediffmail.com

KOLKATA OFFICE: Irshad Ali/Imteyaz, Synapse, 6, Madan Street, Mezzine - 2, 2nd floor, Kolkata - 700072. Ph: 033-22124348 / fax 033-22124337 / mob: +91-9030547774 / +91-9030547774

Phone: 03592-2084/8 +91-9832556698 +91-9832080753

www.summittimes.com

Address: Santa Bhawan Complex, Church Road Near Diesel Power House (DPH) Gangtok, East Sikkim, 737101

Now you can whatsapp SummitTIMES @ 9832556698 9832080753

PCB, Pak team management decline comment on Flower's charge against Younis

KARACHI, JUL 3 (PTI): The Pakistan Cricket Board and the national team touring England have refused to comment on former batting coach Grant Flower's stunning claim that ex-captain Younis Khan once held a knife to his throat on receiving some unwanted advice.

Flower made the sensational allegation during a cricket podcast in which he spoke about his nearly five-year stint with the national team between 2014 and 2019. Younis is currently the batting coach of Pakistan.

An official response was not forthcoming from the PCB but a well-informed source in the board told PTI that the incident, that took place in Brisbane during a 2016 tour of Australia, wasn't a case of serious threat as portrayed by Flower but just friendly banter on the breakfast table.

"But the impression being spread by Grant Flower is not entirely true. Younis apparently had jokingly picked up the butter knife and waved it around telling Grant to just let him have his breakfast end not give advice at the breakfast table," the source said.

Younis is unlikely to respond to Grant's narration of what happened, the source added.

Recalling the incident, Flower also said that head coach Mickey Arthur had to intervene and calm Younis at that time.

On being contacted, the media manager of the Pakistan squad in Worcestershire said there would be no comments on the matter for now.

The PCB source said it was saddening to see former coaches and support staff, who have worked with the Pakistan team, disclose confidential information in public once their contracts end.

"And they also tend to add salt and pepper to incidents to grab headlines," he asserted.

Younis agreed to become the batting coach of the Pakistan team for the long England tour just last month.

The former captain is Pakistan's leading Test run-getter and the only one from the country to cross 10,000 runs in the five-day format.

Liverpool thrashed 4-0 by Man City in 1st game as champions

MANCHESTER, JUL 3 (AP): As they stepped onto the pitch, Liverpool's players were given a guard of honor from Manchester City. It was the only time they looked like Premier League champions on Thursday.

I think they drank a lot of beers in the last week, City manager Pep Guardiola said.

The dethroned champions made sure there was an abrupt comedown from the partying. A merciless attacking display sparked by City scorers Kevin De Bruyne, Raheem Sterling and Phil Foden consigned Liverpool to a 4-0 loss exactly a week after its 30-year title drought ended.

They were quicker than us in mind -- we lacked fluidity, Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp said. "Isn't it nice another team can be champions when Man City play so well?"

The slack defending and lack of sharpness from Liverpool was perhaps forgivable from players who had spent the previous 31 rounds establishing an unprecedented 23-point lead to become England's earliest champions.

Such an emphatic loss is not how Liverpool wanted to close out such a memorable season. Especially when there are still as many games to overhaul City's record 100-point haul from 2017-18.



Klopp wasn't as downbeat as the result suggested despite Liverpool going a fifth away game in all competitions without scoring.

I saw a brilliant attitude, I saw boys who were fighting with all their effort, he said. We didn't behave like somebody who became champions a week ago."

It was a night to forget for so many Liverpool players -- particularly Joe Gomez, who dragged Raheem Sterling down to concede a penalty converted by Kevin De Bruyne in the 25th minute.

We tried to play football, taking risks," Guardiola said, "because they are the best team I ever faced in my life with high pressing, it is incredible how fast they are, how quick they play.

De Bruyne and Phil Foden helped City

stylishly waltz through Liverpool and show how the title can be reclaimed next season.

Receiving a pass from Foden, Sterling took the ball past Gomez with left boot before using his right to knock in City's second in the 35th minute.

Sterling and Gomez reunited in a Premier League match for the first time since Liverpool's victory over City at Anfield in November that was followed the next day by a training camp altercation while they were on England duty.

After being run ragged in central defense, Gomez was substituted at halftime.

Before the break, City still had time to produce a third.

The technique in the buildup would have had fans on their feet if they were not prohibited due to the coronavirus

pandemic.

Instead fewer than 300 people inside the Etihad Stadium could savor the counterattack that was capped by Foden playing a one-two with De Bruyne before raising the ball into the net past Alisson.

This is a team that is evolving and changing you can see the maturity Phil is playing with," Sterling said.

"I think in the future we have some great players. It summed up Liverpool's night that the fourth goal came from an own goal after another blistering City attacking move. De Bruyne picked out Sterling who turned Andrew Robertson and sent in a shot that was deflected into his own net by Alex-Oxlade Chamberlain.

Only VAR spared Liverpool a greater humiliation in stoppage time when a handball by

Foden was spotted in the buildup to Riyad Mahrez putting the ball in the net.

Consider it a message from City.

Next season started today, said Sterling, who has won the Premier League twice since leaving Liverpool five years ago, and we did well. There is still unfinished business for City before pandemic-delayed conclusion to the season in August.

City plays Arsenal in the FA Cup semifinals and has a 2-1 lead over Real Madrid after the first leg of the Champions League's interrupted round of 16.

We were disappointed at times this season having lost some games we shouldn't have, Sterling said.

So we had a test against the new champions and (a chance) to make a point.

Hero Indian Open cancelled



NEW DELHI, JUL 3 (PTI): Hero Indian Open, the biggest golf tournament the country hosts, was on Friday cancelled owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The tournament, co-sanctioned by the European Tour, was earlier scheduled to be held from March 19 to 22 in Gurugram but was postponed. The women's Indian Open was also cancelled on Tuesday due to the pandemic.

"Keeping in mind the health and safety of everyone as top most priority, we have decided to cancel this year's Hero Indian Open," Devang Shah, Chairman of the Indian Golf Union (IGU), told PTI.

"We have made the decision after due consultation with our sanctioning partner European Tour."

Shah said they had planned to host the event sometime in October but were forced to shelve the plan because of the worsening COVID-19 situation in

the country.

"It is becoming serious day by day, so we decided to cancel this year's tournament after consultation with European Tour. It will now be held in 2021," Shah said.

IGU acting president Lt Gen D Anbu (Retd) said it was a very tough decision but they had to take it considering the well-being of everyone.

"It was a very difficult decision, but the right one under the present circumstances of the ongoing pandemic. With no likelihood of any respite in the foreseeable future, safeguarding the health and well-being of all players, officials and spectators is of paramount importance," he said.

The Hero Indian Open was established by the IGU in 1964 and is one of the oldest running international sports events in the country. It has been a European Tour-sanctioned tournament since 2015.

Gabriel named in West Indies squad for England series



MANCHESTER, JUL 3 (PTI): Seasoned paceman Shannon Gabriel, returning from an ankle surgery, has been drafted into the 15-man West Indies Test squad for the Test series against England beginning on July 8.

Gabriel was among the reserves when the West Indies players landed in England but proved his fitness with impressive performances in the two inter-squad warm-up matches at the Old Trafford here.

He is now part of a strong pace attack which also includes captain Jason Holder, Kumar Roach, Chamar Holder, Alzarri Joseph and Raymon Reifer.

"I am delighted that we are able to add Shannon to the Test squad. He has shown that he is fit and ready, he will add experience, firepower and potency to the bowling unit," Roger Harper, Cricket West Indies selector said.

Gabriel bowled in three innings and grabbed eight wickets for 122 runs. The 32-year-old had made his

Test debut at the Lord's in May 2012 and has so far played 45 matches taking 133 wickets.

His career-best performance came two years ago at the Daren Sammy Cricket Ground in St. Lucia when he took 8-62 against Sri Lanka to end with match figures of 13-121.

West Indies will travel from Manchester to Southampton on Friday as they continue preparations in a bid to retain the Wisden Trophy in the #RaiseTheBat Test Series.

The first Test will be played at the Ageas Bowl, starting Wednesday.

The series will mark resumption of international cricket which was suspended in March due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Test Squad: Jason Holder (captain), Jermaine Blackwood, Nkrumah Bonner, Kraigg Brathwaite, Shamarh Brooks, John Campbell, Roston Chase, Rahkeem Cornwall, Shane Dowrich, Shannon Gabriel, Chamar Holder, Shai Hope, Alzarri Joseph, Raymon Reifer and Kumar Roach.

There was environment of fear in Pakistan team during 2019 WC: Inzamam

KARACHI, JUL 3 (PTI): There was a sense of insecurity among Pakistan players during the 2019 World Cup, claims former chief selector Inzamam-ul-Haq, who also reckons that the PCB should have given Sarfaraz Ahmed more time as captain instead of removing him abruptly.

Inzamam said captains need to be backed since they get better with time. "Even in the last World Cup I felt the captain and players were under pressure because they were thinking if we don't do well in the tournament we will be out. That environment was created and this is not good for cricket," Inzamam said.

"Sarfaraz achieved some notable victories for Pakistan and was learning to be a good captain but unfortunately when he had learnt from



experience and mistakes he was removed as captain," the former captain told a TV channel.

Inzamam remained chief selector from 2016 till the 2019 World Cup. During his tenure, most of the time Sarfaraz remained captain.

Soon after Inzamam was replaced by head coach Misbah-ul-Haq, the Pakistan Cricket Board removed Sarfaraz as a player and captain from all

three formats.

"Sarfaraz won us the Champions Trophy and also made the team number one in T20 cricket. He got us some good wins. He should have been given more time as captain by the board but it acted in haste and didn't give him confidence or patience."

The PCB has now given the Test captaincy to senior batsman, Azhar Ali while young batsman Babar Azam leads the

side in the white ball formats.

Inzamam, the most capped player for Pakistan, also said that the captain's own performance can dip as he had to focus a lot on other players.

"But a captain learns all this with time. There is no shortcut to it."

He pointed out that people praise Imran Khan's leadership qualities and captaincy but he also won the

World Cup on his third attempt as captain.

"He won the 1992 World Cup because by that time he had become a seasoned captain and learnt to motivate his players and get them to fight in every match."

Inzamam said giving confidence to new players and youngsters is very important for the selectors. He gave the example of Babar Azam.

"Babar struggled initially in Test cricket but we never had any doubt about his ability and see today where he is standing in all formats."

He also described Babar and pacer, Shaheen Shah Afridi as and future stars.

"Babar is always compared to Virat Kohli but the latter has played a lot more cricket and if you look at their stats and performances at the stage Babar is now, he has not done badly at all.

Bremen's Bundesliga future on edge after 0-0 with Heidenheim

BREMEN, JUL 3 (AP): Werder Bremen's Bundesliga future remained in doubt after being held to a 0-0 draw by second-division Heidenheim in the first leg of their relegation-promotion playoff.

Bremen, which finished third from bottom in the top division, will have to do without captain Niklas Moisaner for the second leg on Monday after he was sent off late with his second yellow card for a poor challenge.

Florian Kohfeldt's sides was relieved not to concede in injury

time when Heidenheim defender Timo Beermann headed just wide from Marc Schnatterer's corner.

It was the closest either side came to scoring in a game of few opportunities played in heavy rain from a summer thunderstorm.

Heidenheim, based in the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg in southwestern Germany, is bidding to reach the Bundesliga for the first time. The team has been coached by Frank Schmidt since 2007, making the 46-year-old the longest serving coach



at one team in Germany.

Schmidt previously played for the club and took over as coach on an interim basis when Heidenheim was playing at the local fifth-tier

Oberliga level. The team earned promotion in Schmidt's first season and won the fourth-tier regional league for promotion to the third division in his second.

Five seasons later, Heidenheim won the third division for promotion to the second. This is the club's first shot at playing in the top division.

CONTACT

SUMMITTIMES
REPORTERS

SINGTAM

8170070813

MANGAN/ DIKCHU

9832612485/

9434011213

GANGTOK

8116388176

9832424750

8016270440

Congress passes bill rebuking China over Hong Kong crackdown

WASHINGTON, JUL 3 (AP): Congress has approved a bill rebuking China over its crackdown in Hong Kong amid protests against a strict "national security" law that outlaws so-called subversive or terrorist acts, as well as collusion with foreign forces intervening in the city's affairs.

Critics say the new law effectively ends the "one country, two systems" framework under which Hong Kong was promised a high degree of autonomy when it reverted from British to Chinese rule in 1997. The U.S. legislation would impose sanctions on groups that undermine Hong Kong's autonomy, including police units that have cracked down on Hong Kong protesters, as well as Chinese Communist Party officials responsible for imposing the new security law. The bill also imposes sanctions on banks that do business with entities found to violate the law.

The Senate gave final legislative approval to the measure on Thursday, a day after the House approved it. It now goes to the White House.

Ahead of the Senate vote, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said no amount of pressure from external forces could "shake China's determination and will



to safeguard national sovereignty and Hong Kong's prosperity and stability."

He urged the US to abide by international law and stop interfering in Hong Kong's affairs, and not sign the sanction bill into law.

If President Donald Trump signs the bill, "China will definitely take strong countermeasures, and all consequences will be borne by the US side," Zhao told reporters on Thursday.

The White House declined to comment, but in a television interview on Thursday, Vice President Mike Pence called the new

Hong Kong security law a betrayal of the international agreement China signed.

"President Trump has made it clear that we're going to be modifying our trading relationship and the trading status with regard to Hong Kong and we're going to continue to speak out on behalf of the people of Hong Kong and on behalf of human rights of people within China, Pence told CNBC.

Sen. Chris Van Hollen, D-Md., a co-sponsor of the Senate bill, said

passage of the "Hong Kong Autonomy Act" makes it clear that the United States "will not stand by as China seeks to crush freedom, human

rights and democracy in Hong Kong".

The Chinese government "is already flagrantly using their new authorities to punish and imprison those who have stood up against the recent implementation of their sweeping national security law," Van Hollen said.

"Our legislation mandates severe consequences on those who participate in this unconscionable repression."

Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Pa., the bill's other lead sponsor, urged Trump to sign it into law. "With our bill, the CCP will learn there are ramifications

for repressing Hong Kongers' freedom," Toomey said, referring to the Chinese Communist Party.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi also praised the sanctions bill as an urgently needed response to the cowardly Chinese government's passage of its so-called national security law."

Lawmakers from both parties have urged the Trump administration to take strong action in response to the crackdown by China against the former British territory, which was granted partial sovereignty under a treaty that took effect in 1997.

US issues guidelines but no new rules for safe air travel



WASHINGTON, JUL 3 (AP): Federal officials said Thursday that airlines should consider limiting capacity on planes to promote social distancing, but stopped short of requiring them to do so.

The officials also recommended but did not move to require travellers wear face coverings in airports and on planes. All leading U.S. airlines now require passengers to wear masks, but regulators have refused a request by the airlines to make it

a federal rule.

The Transportation, Homeland Security, and Health and Human Services departments made those and other recommendations in a report containing guidelines for reducing the risk of spreading the new coronavirus by air travel.

The agencies said airlines and airports should take steps to increase social distancing, clean surfaces touched by passengers, give specialized training to airline crews, and provide more

information to help with contact tracing if passengers test positive for the virus.

The issue of limiting capacity on planes gained new urgency this week when American Airlines joined United Airlines in trying to fill every seat on every flight.

The move was criticised by the government's top expert on infectious diseases, Dr. Anthony Fauci, and Dr. Robert Redfield, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

North Korea's Kim urges 'maximum alert' on virus

SEOUL, JUL 3 (AP): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un urged officials to maintain maximum alert against the coronavirus pandemic, criticising unspecified complacencies in the country's anti-virus campaign that he said risked unimagined and irretrievable crisis.

Despite the warnings, state media said Friday that Kim reaffirmed government claims that there hasn't been a single case of COVID-19 in North Korea.

Kim told a ruling

party meeting that the country has thoroughly prevented the inroad of the malignant virus and maintained stable anti-epidemic situation despite the worldwide health crisis.

The North's claim of being COVID-19 free has been questioned by outside experts, who say a major outbreak in the country could possibly have dire consequences because of its chronic lack of medical supplies and poor health care infrastructure.

Describing its anti-

virus efforts as a matter of national existence, the country has shut down nearly all cross-border traffic, banned tourists, intensified screening at entry points and mobilized tens of thousands of health workers to monitor residents and isolate those with symptoms.

Experts say the country's self-imposed lockdown is also hurting an economy already battered by stringent US-led sanctions over its nuclear weapons and missile programme.

Turkey: Saudi suspects tried in absentia for Khashoggi death

ISTANBUL (AP): A Turkish court on Friday opened the trial in absentia of two former aides of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and 18 other Saudi nationals over the 2018 killing of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi.

Turkish prosecutors have indicted the 20 Saudi nationals over Khashoggi's grisly killing at the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul that cast a cloud of suspicion over Prince Mohammed. They are seeking life prison terms for the defendants, who have all left Turkey.

Saudi Arabia rejected Turkish demands for the suspects' extradition and put some of them on trial in Riyadh. The proceedings were widely criticized as a "whitewash" and Khashoggi's family later announced that they had forgiven his killers.

The trial in Turkey will be closely watched for possible new information or evidence into the killing, including the whereabouts of Khashoggi's remains.

The Turkish prosecutors have charged the prince's former advisers, Saud al-Qahtani and Ahmed al-Asiri, with "instigating



a premeditated murder with the intent of (causing) torment through fiendish instinct."

Prosecutors are also seeking life prison sentences for 18 other Saudi nationals charged with carrying out "a premeditated murder with the intent of (causing) torment through fiendish instincts."

Khashoggi, who was a resident of the U.S., had walked into his country's consulate on Oct. 2, 2018, for an appointment to pick up documents that would allow him to marry. He never walked out.

A team of 15 Saudi agents had flown to Turkey to meet

Khashoggi inside the consulate. They included a forensic doctor, intelligence and security officers and individuals who worked for the crown prince's office.

Turkish officials allege Khashoggi was killed and then dismembered with a bone saw. Turkey, a rival of Saudi Arabia, apparently had the Saudi Consulate bugged and has shared audio of the killing with the CIA, among others.

Prior to his killing, Khashoggi had written critically of Saudi Arabia's crown prince in columns for the Washington Post.

Saudi Arabia had initially offered

shifting accounts about Khashoggi's disappearance. As international pressure mounted because of the Turkish leaks, the kingdom eventually settled on the explanation that he was killed by rogue officials in a brawl.

Turkish prosecutors say the suspects "acted in consensus from the beginning in line with the decision of taking the victim back to Saudi Arabia and of killing him if he did not agree."

Riyadh had insisted that the kingdom's courts are the correct place for the suspects to be tried and put 11 people on trial over the killing. In December, five people were sentenced

to death while three others were found guilty of covering up the crime and were sentenced to a combined 24 years in prison.

During the Muslim holy month of Ramadan in May, Khashoggi's son announced that the family pardoned the killers, giving legal reprieve to the five government agents who were sentenced to death.

To book ad-space, contact SummitTIMES at

GANGTOK:
For circulation details Contact: (Sandeep) 9734152451 & for Advertisement booking at 9933427505 or at office no 03592 208698. Mail us at advertise@summittimes.com
SILIGURI:
Mr. Mani Rai, M/s. Space Ads, B.R. Ambedkar Building, Room No.7, 1st floor. Opp. Ganga Hotel. Hill Cart Road, Siliguri - 03. Ph. 9832318644/ 9800682989/ 9153035100 or mail at mani_siliguri@yahoo.co.in.
KOLKATA OFFICE:
Irshad Ali/ Imteeyaz. Synapse, 6, Madan Street, Mezzine - 2, 2nd floor. Kolkata - 700072. Ph. 033-22124348/ fax 033-22124337/ mob. 9830547774/ 983108397. E-mail: contact.synapse@gmail.com/ irshad_ali123@rediffmail.com

DONATE BOOKS FOR NOBLE CAUSE TO BUILD LIBRARY

If anyone willing to donate books or support through Finance, than you are most welcome

"GIVING IS NOT JUST ABOUT MAKE A DONATION, ITS ABOUT MAKING DIFFERENCE"

For more Details Contact ; 6294745117,8768809862

Email ; chitishchettri7@gmail.com

SummitTIMES

**CONTACT
SUMMIT TIMES
REPORTERS**

NAMCHI
9832048410,
9775736596
SINGTAM
7699771651

**MANGAN/
DIKCHU**
9832612485/
9434011213

GANGTOK
8016270440,
9832082664,
9832424750,
8768664251
9832470000

Making Tik Tok videos with grandson 'saved' my life during lockdown, says Judi Dench



LONDON, JUL 3 (PTI): Veteran actor Judi Dench has credited video platform Tik Tok for giving her a new lease of life during the coronavirus pandemic at a time when each day is like swimming in "uncharted" waters.

Since lockdown was announced around March, the Oscar winner has been featuring on the page of her 23-year-old grandson Sam Williams, with the duo participating in a number of socially distanced and virtual dances together.

"It saved my life," Dench, 85, told Channel 4 News about the impact of the social media platform on her life.

"I know nothing about TikTok. Sam is the person who is technically minded and who has all the ideas, so he got very strict.

He made me do it. I had to rehearse, I had to rehearse all those moves. Don't just think that comes naturally," she added.

The actor further elaborated on what she meant by Tik Tok saving her during COVID-19 outbreak.

"Every day is so uncharted. You wake up and wonder what day it is, and then you wonder what date it is, and sometimes what month. And then you think, 'What do I do today?' and if the prospect is, 'Well, what is there to do today?' I've done a bit of painting and I've talked to friends and rehearsed my Tik Tok and done it with Sam," Dench said.

Earlier, a video of the actor wearing a hat with moveable bunny ears while telling people to "keep laughing" amid lockdown went viral.

Asa Butterfield on missing out on Spider-Man: All things work out in the end

LOS ANGELES, JUL 3 (PTI): Actor Asa Butterfield, who had auditioned to play Spider-Man, says he may not have bagged the role of the iconic superhero but things worked out in the end for him.

The actor has found global fame with his hit Netflix series "Sex Education" in which he stars as the lead protagonist Otis Milburn, an awkward teenager who ends up becoming somewhat a sex therapist to his peers.

But before "Sex Education" came his way, Butterfield had tried out for the role of Spider-Man but lost out to Tom Holland.

The actor said he tries to look at the brighter side of life.

"Every so often there's a part (that you really want) and it's a script you love, and you kind of put your heart and soul into it, and you don't get it.

"And it is tough and it is s***, but I often find that something even better comes out of it at the end. And so in the case of Spider-Man, I did 'Sex Ed', because I wouldn't have been able to do both of those at the same time," Butterfield told Collider.

The actor, who featured as child artiste in the 2008 Holocaust film "The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas" and later in Martin Scorsese's 2011 adventure



drama "Hugo", said he had a different interpretation on the character of Spider-Man to that of the filmmakers.

"I think as an actor and going out for roles, there's only so much you can do and everyone's gonna have a different take on a part and look at the character in different ways, have a different sort of performance, and you kind of have to stick with what you think.

"And if that isn't necessarily in line with what the director and the producers want, then it's like, there's nothing you can do about that," he explained.

Butterfield also praised Holland for his performance as Peter Parker/

Spider-Man in "Captain America: Civil War" (2016), "Spider-Man: Homecoming" (2017), "Avengers: Infinity War" (2018), "Avengers: Endgame" (2019), and "Spider-Man: Far From Home" (2019).

"Tom did amazing things with Peter and he had an entirely different portrayal of him and I think it's worked so well in the universe and in that part, and I don't think I could do it. So I think all things work out in the end," he said.

The second season of "Sex Education" started streaming this year and the show has been renewed for a third season.

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

email us: news@summittimes.com

Saroj Khan Demise: Shah Rukh Khan revealed she slapped him when he complained of too much work; THROWBACK



Saroj Khan died on July 3, 2020 after suffering a cardiac arrest at a hospital in Mumbai

Shah Rukh Khan has worked with Saroj Khan in a couple of

films, and today, as Saroj Khan passed away after suffering from a cardiac arrest, we got our hands on a throwback interview of the actor wherein he talks about Saroj Khan and how she slapped him while shooting for a song. Often actors have shared their experiences of working with Saroj Khan and the choreographer's advice wherein she asked actors to value work because one day will come when they will have no work.

Talking about Shah Rukh Khan, in a throwback interview, Shah Rukh Khan got talking about working with Saroj Khan as he said that back in the day, when he was new to the industry, SRK shared that since he was working three shifts in a day, he happened to tell Saroj Khan that he was tired of all the work and to this, Saroj Khan lovingly slapped him on the cheek, and told the actor that he should never say that he has too much of work.

While Saroj Khan was cremated today in the morning in Mumbai, her daughter informed that her prayer meet will take place next week. While Saroj Khan's last choreographed song was Kalank's Tabaah Ho Gaye, Madhuri Dixit took to social media to pen a heartwarming note for her friend and guru as she wrote, "I'm devastated & at an utter loss of words today! Saroj ji was part of my journey since the beginning. She taught me a lot, not just about dance but so much more. There's a rush of memories in my head thinking of this big personal loss. My heartfelt condolences to the family."

HBO sets premiere date for 'Lovecraft Country'

LOS ANGELES, JUL 3 (PTI): HBO's upcoming drama series "Lovecraft Country" is set to debut on August 16, the network has announced.

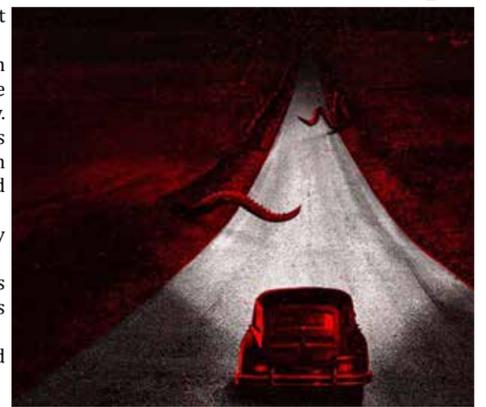
The show, which has filmmakers JJ Abrams and Jordan Peele on board as executive producers, will also be available to watch on the streaming platform HBO Max after its airtime at 9 pm, reported Variety.

Based on the novel of the same name by Matt Ruff, the series follows the journey of two childhood friends across a 1950s America with Jim Crow laws, which enforced racial segregation in the Southern United States, in search of a missing father.

It stars Jurnee Smollett-Bell, Jonathan Majors, Aunjanue Ellis, Abby Lee, Michael Kenneth Williams, among others.

The series comes from afemme, Inc, Abram's Bad Robot Productions and Peele's Monkeypaw Productions in association with Warner Bros Television.

Misha Green, Bill Carraro, Yann Demange, Daniel Sackheim and David Knoller are also attached to executive produce.



GETTING CREATIVE! Model Chantel Jeffries grabbed lunch with friend and fellow model Jocelyn Chew, who got creative and created a face mask from her sweatshirt, at Zinque Cafe in West Hollywood.

ARIES: Aren't you tired of trying to control every comma and every full stop in the script of your life? Yes, you are the conscious creator of your reality, but there are some things that are beyond your control. This is a truth you are being asked to acknowledge today. Step into the role of the observer, Aries, as you begin to trust the wisdom of the Whole. What is meant to be, will be. Que sera sera.
Tip: Let go of your false sense of control.

TAURUS: If you feel like you're stuck in a rut, you probably are. It's time to zoom out of your circumstances and view them from a higher perspective. Here are five ways to get on board with the motivation train at a time like this. 1: Look beyond the illusion created by your 3D reality and recognise that everything is transient. 2: Revisit the list of goals you penned down earlier this year. 3: Update your vision board. 4: Say your affirmations out loud. 5: Exercise. Move your body. Activate those feel-good hormones.
Tip: Reignite that inner fire.

GEMINI: It's time to revisit your list of goals. Where do you stand as far as your mission is concerned? It's okay if you've taken a minor detour. Reminding yourself why you started this journey will help you re-route. You're stepping

into a time of magick and synchronicity, Gemini. You'll find that the Universe is aligning you with the right people and circumstances that fuel your growth. Stay connected with your higher wisdom, and you'll know exactly what you need to do.
Tip: You're attracting people and circumstances that fuel your growth.

CANCER: Maybe you were comfortable with playing behind the scenes earlier, but the new you believes the centre stage is where the magic is at. You have something worthwhile to say, Cancer. Don't be afraid to grab the microphone if and when the opportunity arises. The new moon in your sign, which lit up the sky earlier this week, is also bringing forth all kinds of creative opportunities. Stay cognisant of them. Your heart always knows the best way forward.
Tip: It's time to step onto the centre stage.

LEO: The New Earth is a place of truth, love and freedom, one that supports our soul's mission while providing us with resources we need in order to live a safe and secure existence. The real question is: are you willing to vibrate at a higher frequency, or play by the rules of the matrix? The abundance you require is available to you—now. Allow yourself to receive, Leo.
Tip: Abundance is the order of the Universe.

VIRGO: Often, we base our self-worth on how others perceive us. As a result of this, we give our power away, and spend the better part of our lives catering to their needs (while putting ours on the backburner). The ability to give is beautiful, but how much is too much? Today, take a backseat even if it makes you uncomfortable. Draw a boundary. Say 'no' if necessary. Allow other people to show up for you instead.
Tip: Allow yourself to receive in the way that you give.

LIBRA: Librans who work in the field of media and communication, this is your time to shine. If you have a story that deserves to be told, now is the time to share it. Create from a space of authenticity and know that Spirit has got your back. Yes, there will be people who ask you to dilute your message or compromise on your ideals in order to pander to a larger audience. Don't do anything your higher self wouldn't be proud of, and yes that means saying no to a quick buck.
Tip: Create from a space of truth and authenticity.

SCORPIO: It's time to check in with your vision board, Scorpio. Is it in alignment with who you are now or does it narrate a tale of who you used

to be? Don't be afraid to edit wherever necessary. Your dreams are allowed to change with you. Some of you may feel that your vision is being challenged by those in power. No, you don't have to compromise on your ideals if you don't want to. Instead of taking the defensive route, explain your perspective from a neutral space.
Tip: It's time to check in with your vision board.

SAGITTARIUS: The cards speak of love and romance, especially if you have been working on opening your heart. Maybe they're exactly what you envisioned, and match your lust for life. Maybe they don't possess the qualities you desire in a partner, but there's an element X that's bringing you together. Either way, you're being asked to keep your judgements aside, take the first step, and see where this goes. PS: Can you imagine what your life would look like six months from now if things work out?
Tip: Open yourself to new love.

CAPRICORN: While it's true that certain dreams are merely for comic relief, others play a role in highlighting our fears and bringing certain patterns to the fore. Today, you're being asked to go Freud on your dreams and understand what your subconscious is pointing you towards. This analysis may even help you find answers to questions that have been weighing you down and draw up a roadmap to the destination

you're moving towards. Turning to a therapist or a dream analyst could also help you make sense of the messages.

Tip: Pay attention to what your dreams are telling you.

AQUARIUS: The groundwork has been laid. This is the moment of truth. You're being asked to define how and where you would like to go from here. Trust that all the help and support you require will come through in divine time. There will be moments when you find yourself questioning your chosen path or doubting your dreams, but this is a limitation of your three dimensional mind. Your higher self knows that there is a whole wide Universe waiting to be explored. Look beyond the illusion.

Tip: Work with the law of attraction to invite the people and circumstances that will help you level up.

PISCES: There are new opportunities coming your way but before you get caught up in the excitement, take a moment to assess what you truly desire. Is the given project in alignment with the larger plan you've dreamed up in collaboration with the Universe? If not, reserve the right to say no. It's time to redirect your gaze to the projects that fulfil you, and trust that being in the energy of this fulfillment will help you attract opportunities that truly speak to you. Tip: Say yes to that which resonates with your soul.