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# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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## One more deaths and 198 more Covid cases in Sikkim

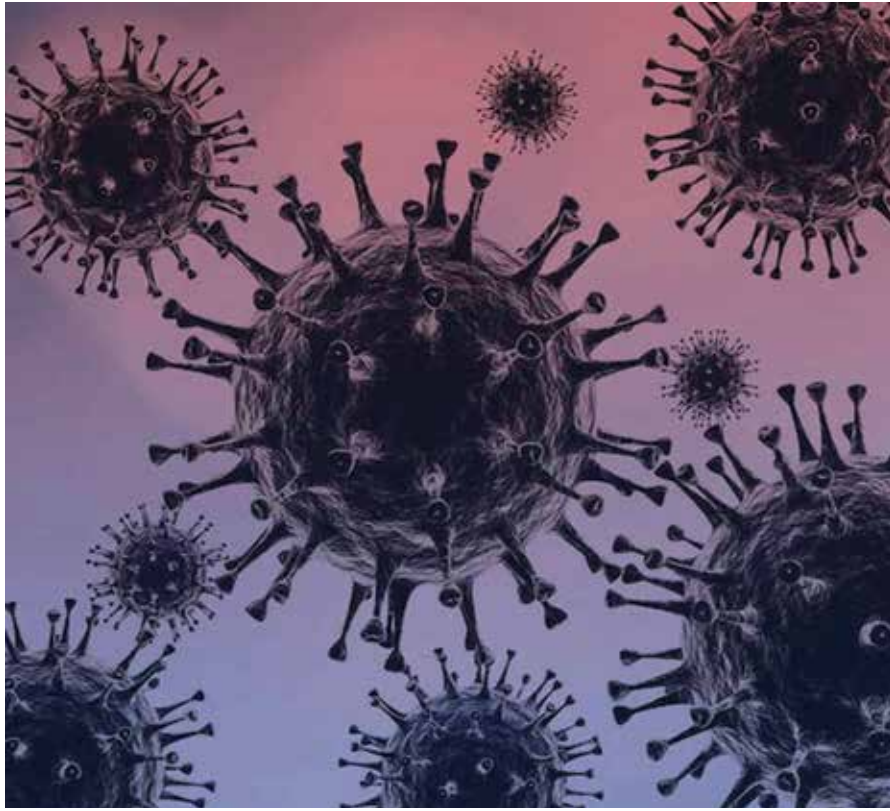
### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 10 JULY:**

After giving Sikkim a one-day breather, the Covid death-toll climbed again today with a Covid patient passing away at STNM Hospital in the past 24 hours. The State's Covid toll now stands at 313. Sikkim has seen four Covid deaths in the week since Monday.

Meanwhile, Covid cases are spiking noticeably again with 198 fresh cases of novel coronavirus being reported in the last 24 hours taking Sikkim's tally of confirmed cases of COVID-19 to 22,163.

The new cases were picked up from the testing of 1,027 samples on Friday giving Sikkim a daily test positivity rate of 19.2%. In the overall count of Covid in Sikkim, the 22,163 cases detected



ed thus far were picked up from the testing of 1.72 samples, giving Sikkim a cumulative test

positivity rate [thus far] of nearly 13%.

As per the Daily Report of COVID-19 in Sikkim

by the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme of the Health Department, of the new

cases, 96 were registered in East District, 35 in West District, 62 in South District and five in North District.

While 129 of the cases were found in RT-PCR testing of 722 samples, the remaining 69 were detected in rapid antigen testing of 303 samples.

Nine COVID patients were referred for hospitalization today.

On the other hand, 129 more persons were discharged from home isolation after making full recoveries to further improve the number of recovered cases here to 19,348.

At present, there are 2,244 active Covidcases in the State, of whom only 90 are in hospital [seven in ICU] while the rest are nursing mild enough symptoms to remain in facility or home isolation.

## Lharipas call on CM



**GANGTOK, 10 JUL (IPR):**The president of All Sikkim Lharipa Association, Norden T Sherpa accompanied by general secretary, TashiNorbuTamang, and other members called on Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang at his official residence, Mintokgang, today.

The team detailed

their professional journey and the status of workmanship, performance and achievements in the field of Buddhist and traditional art and culture in Sikkim.

They also mentioned that as an outcome of their seven years training, they are capable of giving best results in decorating traditional infra-

structure with religious art, thanka paintings, carving on monuments, statues, spiritual institutionsetc. and also shared their grievances.

Chief Minister patiently heard the grievances placed by the team and assured to render every possible support towards the welfare of the Association.

## Governor convenes meeting with Health Minister and Secy, checks on Covid situation



**Summit Report**  
Gangtok, 10 Jul:  
Governor Ganga Prasad today convened a meeting with Health Minister-Dr MK Sharma and DG-cum-Secretary, Health Department, DrPempa T Bhutia, at Raj Bhavan and reviewed Covid-19 situation in the State, a press communiqué from Raj Bhawan informs.

During the meeting, the Governor enquired

about measures taken by the government to tackle the spread of Coronavirus as the State government has allowed inter-state movement including tourists and other issues.

The Health Minister-apprised the Governor that over 5 lakh of Sikkim's population has received at least the first dose of the Covid vaccine and the State govern-

ment is making all efforts to increase vaccination coverage as Sikkim has adequate stock of vaccines.

The Minister further stated that the recovery rate of Covid infected people is more than 85 percent and present death rate stands at 0.3 percent.

DrSharma further mentioned that a Covid-

**turn to pg02**

### First sighting of Scarce White Royal Tajuria illurgioides butterfly in Sikkim



### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 10 JUL:**

A butterfly named Scarce White Royal Tajuria illurgioides was recorded in Sikkim Gangtok (White Hall area, Mintokgang) by Sonam Pintso Sherpa on 21 March 2021, the first sighting ever in Sikkim and first in 5 years in India.

As per an article published in Panda, an Envis Sikkim newsletter on Forest, Wildlife and En-

vironment, this butterfly species was last sighted in Arunachal Pradesh in 2016. Prior to that it was recorded in 1883 in Senchal near Darjeeling.

Tarun Karmakar a field biologist from National Center of Biological Science did the identification of the species as Scarce White Royal Tajuria illurgioides, after several references and discussion.

## BhanuPuraskar to be presented on Nepali BhasaManyataDiwas this year

**AARON RAI**

**GANGTOK, 10 JUL:**

This year, the BhanuPuraskar will be conferred on the occasion of Nepali BhasaManyataDiwas on 20 August and not on BhanuJayanti which falls on 13 July due to the current COVID protocols in place.

Nepali SahityaParishad Sikkim will confer the BhanuPuraskaron former MP, DilkumariBhandari, whose impassioned address to Parliament is credited for having played a major role in securing Constitutional recognition for the Nepali language.

BhanuJayantiwill be

observed in a simple function to be organized at BhanuUdhyan, informs the Parishad's president, RudraPoudyal.

He said that after gathering at BhanuUdhyan in the morning and laying a wreath on the Adikavi'sstatue, a simple BhanuJayanti ceremony will be conducted at the Nepali SahityaParishadBhawan at JeewanTheeng Marg where members of the Executive Committee of the SahityaParisad and language and literature lovers will gather.

According to MrPoudyal, after the

announcement that the BhanuPuraskar would be given to former Lok Sabha MP, DilkumariBhandari this year, linguists from different parts of the country, including Sikkim, are now inquiring about the ceremony.

However, as the pandemic is yet to end, the Parishad cannot hold a programme on BhanuJayanti grand enough for the significance of the award, therefore, if the situation is favorable, the Parishadwill confer the award to MsBhandari during Nepali BhasaManyataDiwas, said MrPoudyal.

# Financial aid provided to SHGs to set up value addition processing units

**GANGTOK, 10 JUL [IPR]:** Sixty Five Self Help Groups engaged in value addition of agriculture and horticulture produce were presented RsOne lakh each to establish processing units under Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH) in an special programme organised at SAMETI, ICAR Complex, Gangtok, today.

The Minister for Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, LokNath Sharma, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and handedover financial assistance of Rs One Lakh each to 65 SHGs from all districts which includes 23 SHG from South District, 22 SHG from West, 15 from East and 05 SHG from North District.

The Minister mentioned that the state government, under the leadership of the Chief Minister of Sikkim PSTamang (Golay), is truly dedicated to uplift the downtrodden people through numerous initiatives, hence, the ruling government has provided financial assistance of Ru-



pees One Lakh each to Sixty Five SHGs to encourage themselves towards entrepreneurship. He also shared congratulatory messages and best wishes of the Chief Minister.

Addressing the SHG executives/stake-

holders/ entrepreneurs, the Minister motivated them to engage themselves in creative practices and value addition of Agriculture and Horticulture produce. He elucidated power of unity and sincerity amongst the SHG's members in achieving

visionary goal of Vocal for Local and AatmaNirbhar Sikkim into a reality.

He underlined the significant role of SHG in building a self reliant society and highlighted opportunities, challenges and responsibilities of SHGs for revolutionary reformation in strengthening rural economy.

Motivating SHG towards Cluster Farming, he advised to acquire an uncultivated barren land for cultivation purpose and assured to bear the expenses of leasing amount by the state government. He also assured to provide financial assistance for construction of Onfarmed Collection Unit to the interested Self Help Groups.

He also threw light on revised Production Incentives Schemes of focused crops and newly introduced financial incentives for vegetables including Cabbage, Cauliflower, Green Peas, Cherry pepper, Radish, Carrot, Kiwi fruits.

The state government has revised the financial incentives per kilogram of Cardamom from Rs. 20 to Rs.100, Ginger Rs. 9 to

Rs.20, Turmeric Rs. 5 to Rs.10, Buckwheat Rs.4 to Rs.10 and incentives per kilogram of Orange also increased from Rs 10 to Rs.20, he informed.

The Minister also urged SHGs to aware farming households about the newly introduced financial incentives of Rs Five per kilogram of Cabbage, Rs. 7 / KG of Cauliflower, Rs. 8/KG of Green Pea, Rs 20/ KG of Cherry Pepper , Rs. 7/ KG of Radish, Rs. 7/KG of carrot and Rs. 20/ KG of Kiwi. While the marketing need to be executed through respective Cooperatives, Farmers Producers Organization (FPO) and VLW centre to be entitled with the benefits. He appealed farmers to acquire insurance of the cultivated varieties.

Along with assigning responsibilities to SHGs, Minister Sharma also announced to provide opportunity of exposure visit to best performing SHGs from all districts to witness best farming practices in India after one year.

The Minister also announced to provide

**turn to pg02**



## UP population bill draft says no government jobs, subsidy if more than 2 children

**LUCKNOW, 10 JUL [PTI]:** According to a draft of the proposed population control bill, anyone violating two-child policy in Uttar Pradesh will be debarred from contesting local bodies elections, from applying for or getting promotion in government jobs, and receiving any kind of government subsidy.

The Uttar Pradesh State Law Commission (UPSLC) states that the provisions are part of the draft titled The Uttar Pradesh Population (Control, Stabilization and Welfare) Bill, 2021.

The UPSLC website says, "The State Law Commission, UP is working on control, stabilisation and welfare of the population of the state and has prepared a draft bill."

Suggestions have been invited from the public to improve the draft bill and July 19 is the last date for it, reported news agency Press Trust of India.

Listing incentives for public servants who adopt the two-child norm, the draft bill says, "Public servants who adopt the two-child norm will get two additional increments during the entire service, maternity or as the case may be, paternity leave of 12 months, with full salary and allowances and three per cent increase in the employer's contribution fund under national pension scheme."

A State Population Fund will be constituted for the purpose of implementation of the act.

Listing the government's duties, the draft bill says that maternity centres will be established at all primary health centres. The centres and NGOs will distribute contraceptive pills, condoms, etc, spread awareness about family planning methods through community health workers and ensure mandatory registration of pregnancies, deliveries, births and deaths across the state.

The draft bill also says that it shall be the duty of the government to introduce a compulsory subject relating to population control in all secondary schools.

The bill seeks to revitalise efforts and provide for measures to control, stabilise and provide welfare to the population of the state by implementing and promoting two-child norm.

According to news agency PTI, the draft bill reads, "In Uttar Pradesh, there are the limited ecological and economic resources at hand. It is necessary and urgent that the provision of basic necessities of human life including affordable food, safe drinking water, decent housing, access to quality education, economic/livelihood opportunities, power/electricity for domestic consumption, and a secure living is accessible to all citizens."



## Hill Trinamooldharna against runaway fuel prices

**SMRITAKHAWAS DARJEELING, 10 JUL:**

The Hill Trinamool Congress held dharnas against the Central Government all over West Bengal today to protest the runaway hike in fuel and LPG prices in the country.

The Hill Trinamool spokesperson, NB Khawas, explained that the main idea behind the dharna is to protest the BJP Government's continuing refusal to bring fuel prices under control despite having made an electoral promise to do so. The protest dharnas are planned for Sunday as well.

## Party close to finalising permanent political solution for Darj Hills: BJP



**SMRITAKAWAS DARJEELING, 10 JUL:**

The Bharatiya Janata Party's Darjeeling district central committee met here today at Darjeeling with the newly-appointed State Organizing Secretary, Amitabh Chakroborti, and Darjeeling District president, Kalyan Dewan, chairing the session.

Addressing the press after the meeting, Mr Dewan informed, said, "We talked about many things which need to be

changed and improved within our party. Permanent Political Solution (PPS) is a very serious issue which is being taken care of by Central Government and when the Home Minister and many leaders of the BJP have already assured us about the PPS, then we also have to give them some time. If we rush everything, I'm afraid we might suffer the consequences."

He added that the party was working hard

for a PPS and added that it would not be "appropriate" to share the details just yet.

"We believe whatever we are dreaming of will be fulfilled by 2024," he added.

About the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration, he said that the people have already rejected it.

The BJP leaders also said that criticism of hike in fuel prices was misplaced since there were many factors behind it.

## New department to be created in Assam to protect indigenous faith, culture: Himanta Biswa Sarma

**GUWAHATI, 10 JUL [PTI]:**

The Assam cabinet on Saturday decided to create a new department to protect the culture and practices of people belonging to tribal and other indigenous communities, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

The new department, he stated, would ensure that the state's indigenous population gets to preserve their faith and traditions, while providing requisite support to them.

Addressing a press meet, Mr Sarma also said that the cabinet, during the meeting, has agreed that financial and administrative reforms were

necessary to remove red tape and ensure speedy implementation of schemes.

It further decided that departmental heads will be entitled to give its nod for projects worth ₹ 2 crore and below, and a finance committee headed by chief secretary for those between ₹ 2 crore and ₹ 5 crore, the CM explained.

A special standing finance headed by the finance minister will be approving projects that are worth anything between ₹ 5 crore and ₹ 100 crore, and only the cabinet gets to give a go-ahead to schemes that involve funds over ₹ 100 crore, he added.

## 2 arrested in Bengal for duping people on pretext of doubling money using chemical

**CANNING, 10 JUL [PTI]:**

Two persons have been arrested in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district for allegedly duping people on the pretext of doubling their money by using a chemical, the police said on Saturday.

Acting on a complaint lodged by Asit Halder, a resident of Gosaba area, the two were arrested from Basanti Police Station limits on Friday, and unaccounted cash of ₹ 4 lakh was recovered from their possession, a senior officer said.

Search is on for another person who is part of the racket, he said.

Mr Halder lost ₹ 6 lakh as he fell into the trap of the fraudsters, the officer said.

The three persons had asked Halder to come to a house in Jyotishpur area of the district.

After reaching the

house with ₹ 6 lakh in cash, he was asked to put his money in a container and keep it in a room.

He was then asked to bring the chemical from another room, and pour it into the container in which the money was kept.

Once he had completed the exercise, the fraudsters told him to carry the container back home and open it after a day.

The victim found bundles of blank papers in the container when he opened it the next day, the officer said.

"The accused had removed the money from the container and put bundles of blank papers in it when Halder had gone to the other room to bring the chemical," the officer said while explaining the modus operandi of the racket.

## Tristan Thompson Hits Back at Lamar Odom for Praising "Hottie" Khloe Kardashian on Instagram

Tensions are rising between Tristan Thompson and Lamar Odom over their mutual ex, Khloe Kardashian. This was Tristan's brazen response after Lamar called her a "hottie" on Instagram.

Khloe Kardashian has found herself in the middle of a love triangle.

The reality star's exes appear to be fighting over her, and it's all going down in the comments section of her latest Instagram thirst trap.

Khloe, 37, kicked off the weekend with a sexy bikini pic, showing off her body while enjoying an outdoor shower.

Tristan Thompson, who split with Khloe last month after they had reconciled in the fall, continued his streak of leaving flirty notes on her posts. He commented with two red heart emojis and two drooling emojis, as if trying to win her back.

Tristan, who shares 3-year-old daughter True with KoKo, then seemed to notice that Khloe's ex-husband, Lamar Odom, also had his eyes on the Good American founder.

Nearly six hours prior, Lamar had called her a "Hottie" and added some very discreet emojis: two flames, two heart eyes, one red heart and two loving faces.

That appeared to kick off a heated feud between the two basketball

pros. Tristan hit back at Lamar by writing, "@lamarodom God brought you back the first time. Play if you want, different results," with two shrugging emojis.

His message brought to mind Lamar's nearly fatal overdose in 2015, when he was taken to a hospital near Las Vegas after consuming a mix of drugs and alcohol. The former Lakers star was in a coma for three days before he could breathe on his own. He was eventually transported to a private rehabilitation center in California to recover.

At the time, Khloe put their divorce on hold. "I know it was very confusing to the world. Because I was with him, everyone thought we were getting back together," she recalled to Redbook after the fact. "But there was no one else to make the important medical decisions. I had to be there to make sure he would survive. I learned that strength is how you handle the good and the bad, and the situation with Lamar was where I found my strength."

Their divorce was finalized in December 2016, three years after she initially filed to end their marriage.

Just two months ago, Lamar told Andy Cohen he was no longer in touch with the Keeping Up With the Kardashians star.

### Governor convenes..

dedicated hospital is coming up t Karfectar, Jorethang in South Sikkim and it will be completed in next two months.

The DG-cum-Secretary further informed the Governor that keeping in view of third wave of Coronavirus, a pediatric ICU has been established at STNM Hospital.

Dr Bhutia stated that other district hospitals, those at Singtam, East Sikkim and Gyalshing, West Sikkim are fully equipped with oxygen plants and are fully operational. Meanwhile oxygen plants at the district hospitals at Namchi and Mangan will be operational shortly.

The Governor directed to take necessary measures to effectively manage and mitigate any resurgence of Covid positive cases in the State. He emphasised to maintain strict and constant vigil in containment zones including appropriate behaviour by all through community engagement and strict enforcement measures.

### Financial aid...

one thousand Power Tiller/ Chaff Cutter to the most deserving beneficiaries/ progressive farmers in near future. He also informed about the provision of subsidised loan (95% subsidy) for the establishment of Custom Hiring Services Centre.

The Chairman, Farmer Welfare Board, Phurden Lepcha, also shared his experiences based on observation of SHGs activities to strengthen their income generating sources. He applauded involvement of SHGs in various creative works at present and mentioned that the SHG's have been extending significant role to stabilise farmers economy at village level. The state government has always been supportive for strengthening of farmers economy through various initiatives and programmes.

Secretary Horticulture MT Sherpa proposed welcome address and also drew lights behind the purpose of distribution of financial incentives and encouraged for establishment of preservation and processing unit to multiply farmers income. He stated that the most of the SHG's are already engaged in value addition and this financial assistance will certainly motivates all SHGs to move a step forward for processing and packaging for augmenting their income sources.

He also underlined farmers friendly policy of Production Incentives Scheme framed by the state government and advised to take benefits with the cultivation of vegetables and spices like large cardamom. He also stated that the progress and prosperity of the farmers only reflects the success of the implementing authority and added that the department is fully committed to extend all possible support and services for farmers welfare, at all times.

Earlier, South District SHG Incharge Tika Adhikari expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang (Golay), Minister Horticulture Sharma for initiating inclusive policy to encourage SHGs towards entrepreneurship. The financial incentive was first of its kind for strengthening and promoting SHGs, she added.

The programme was conducted by the Additional Director (Spices Section) BL Dahal wherein he came out with motivating inputs for farming community.

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# SLSA organizes National LokAdalat, settles 23 of 26 cases taken up

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 10 JUL:** Sikkim State Legal Services Authority (Sikkim SLSA) under the aegis of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) organized National LokAdalat on 10 Jul, 2021. LokAdalat benches comprising of the LokAdalat Judges and ‘Other Persons’ held pre LokAdalat sittings to identify cases to be taken up during the National LokAdalat. Out of 26 cases taken up by the various LokAdalat Benches, 23 cases were settled and a cumulative sum of Rs27,01,300 awarded. The following types of cases were taken up in the National LokAdalat, viz. Bank Recovery case, Civil Matter, NI Act case, Criminal Compoundable matter and Matrimonial matter. Later this year, Sikkim SLSA will be holding National LokAdalat on 11 Sept and 11 December.

# The Body Shop celebrates 15th anniversary in India

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 10 JUL:** The Body Shop India, a UK-based brand, celebrated its 15th anniversary in June 2021 in India. The Body Shop is India's largest international beauty retailer with 200 stores across the country and servicing over 25,000 pin-codes through its web store [www.thebodyshop.in\](http://www.thebodyshop.in/). Founded in Brighton in 1976, by the late Dame Anita Roddick, The Body Shop is a forerunner in the ethical, green beauty movement. With a history of championing local communities through its bespoke Community Fair Trade (CFT) programme, The Body Shop sources its ingredients, accessories and packaging from over 30 CFT partners all over the world, it is informed. As a brand with activism at its very heart, The Body Shop India has also consistently championed local causes and initiatives in the market driving widespread awareness and fundraising for a variety of community projects that are aligned to its values. Continuing its founder's legacy of driving business as a force for good, the brand has numerous seminal campaigns to its credit such as Stop Violence in the Home (2007- 13), Support Her Education (2014-16), Forever Against Animal Testing (2017) and Rebuilding Bio-Bridges (2017). Most recently, the brand contributed over INR 35L to the female waste picker community struck by Covid-19, through Project NARI (Nutrition – Ability – Retraining - Inclusion) in 2020-21. For its End Period Shame campaign launched in April 2021, the brand is collaborating with Child Rights and You (CRY) to raise awareness about menstrual taboos as well as raise funds for community period projects in underprivileged communities hit by the pandemic.

# Delta variant cases mark 32% weekly increase in UK

**LONDON, 10 JUL [PTI]:** UK health officials said the Delta variant of COVID-19 continues as the dominant strain of coronavirus and marked a sharp increase in the UK with 54,268 more cases logged on Friday, which marks a 32 per cent increase over the previous week.



Public Health England (PHE) said its weekly analysis shows the continued rise in infections is not followed by a similar increase in hospitalisations and deaths, which reflects a high protection offered by both doses of a coronavirus vaccine. In a separate study, PHE also found that all the vaccines being administered are as effective at preventing symptomatic disease in the majority of people with underlying health conditions as the rest of the population. "The data continues to show that the sharp increase in cases that we are seeing is not being followed by a similar increase in hospitalisation and death," said Dr Jenny Harries, Chief Executive of the UK Health Security Agency. "This is because two doses of the available vaccines offer a high level of protection against the Delta variant. Getting both jabs is the best way to ensure you and the people you love remain safe, so we once again urge everyone to come forward as soon as they are eligible," she said. "As we approach the planned end of restrictions, we must remain cautious and careful. Cases are rising across the country, and whilst the vaccines offer excellent protection, they do not offer 100 per cent protection," she added. The weekly PHE data found the Delta AY.1 sub lineage, so-called

Delta plus mutation for its feared vaccine resistance, remains low at 44 cases. Overall, the Delta variant - first identified in India - currently accounts for approximately 99 per cent of cases that are sequenced across the UK, followed by the local Alpha variant of concern. In a variant technical briefing, PHE revealed that "secondary attack rates" - the likelihood of an infection occurring in a given context - amongst household contacts of cases with Delta has continued to fall. Despite this continued fall, secondary attack rates for both household and non-household contacts of cases with Delta remain higher than for Alpha. In its separate vaccine study, PHE found overall vaccine effectiveness against symptomatic disease in risk groups at approximately 60 per cent after one dose of either Oxford AstraZeneca [Covishield] or Pfizer/BioNTech, with little variation by age. After two doses, vaccine effectiveness is 81 per cent with Oxford/AstraZeneca in people in risk groups aged 16 to 64. No data is available for both doses of Pfizer/BioNTech yet. Diabetes, severe asthma, chronic heart disease, chronic kidney disease, chronic liver disease, neurological disease, and diseases or therapies that weaken the immune system such as blood cancer, HIV or chemotherapy

- have all been linked to an increased risk of hospitalisation or death with COVID-19. "This real-world data shows for the first time that most people who are clinically vulnerable to COVID-19 still receive high levels of protection after two doses of vaccine," said Dr Mary Ramsay, Head of Immunisation at PHE. "It is vital that anyone with an underlying condition gets both doses, especially people with weakened immune systems as they gain so much more benefit from the second dose," she said. The UK government is to confirm on Monday its plans to end all legal lockdown legal restrictions in the country from July 19. Doctors and medical leaders have been calling on the government to keep some measures, such as face masks in indoor settings, in place as the infections continue to rise. In a statement, the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, which represents 23 medical bodies responsible for training and development in various specialties, said it was essential that people took a responsible approach when restrictions were formally lifted. It warned that there was "little doubt that things will get worse before they get better". The warning comes as the UK logged 35,707 daily coronavirus cases on Friday, the highest daily figure this year since January 22.



## SIKKIM STATE TEACHER’S RECRUITMENT BOARD (Constituted Vide Notification No. 933/HRDD, 2015) Upper Syari, Gangtok, East Sikkim

Memo No. 59/SSTRB/ADM

Date: 08/07/2021

### NOTICE

- I. Applications are invited from In-service eligible candidates serving in the Government Schools of Sikkim for filling up the following posts:

Sl. No.	Name of the post	Eligible Category	No of post	Post Ratio	Pay Scale
1	Headmaster/ Headmistress Secondary School (HM, SS)	(I) Graduate Teacher (II) Post Graduate Teacher (III) HM JHS	38*	(a) 50% by promotion of Graduate/ Post Graduate Teachers (b) 50% by promotion of Headmaster/ Headmistress, Junior High School (HM, JHS)	Level 17
2	Pracharya (Principal) Sanskrit Pathshala	Post Graduate Teacher	01	100% by promotion of Post Graduate Teachers.	Level 18
3	Pradhan Adhyapak (HM) Sanskrit Pathshala	Graduate Teacher	02	100% by promotion of Graduate Teachers.	Level 17

**Note: At Sl. No. 1. In the event of non-availability of eligible candidates from category (b) the post of HM, SS shall be filled from among the eligible candidates of category (a) and vice versa in order of merit.**  
**\*(In the case of Sl. No. 1, a panel list of 15 names on merit basis will be maintained for a period of 11 months from the date of declaration of the result, to meet subsequent vacancies likely to arise because of promotion, retirement or falling vacant by any other means.)**

- II. Eligibility criteria, Educational and Professional qualifications and Teaching Experience for the post of (1) Headmaster/ Headmistress, Secondary School, (2) Pracharya (Principal), Sanskrit Pathshala and (3) Pradhan Adhyapak (HM) Sanskrit Pathshala, are given below:

Sl. No. and Post	Eligible Category	Qualifications		Teaching Experience
		Academic	Professional	
1) HM, SS	From Post Graduate Teachers	Post Graduate Degree in any subject from a recognized University	B. Ed Degree from an institute recognized by the NCTE	09 (nine) years of uninterrupted regular service as Post Graduate Teacher as on June 30, 2021
	From Graduate Teacher	Graduate Degree in any subject from a recognized University	B. Ed Degree from an institute recognized by the NCTE	09 (nine) years of uninterrupted regular service as Graduate Teacher as on June 30, 2021
	From HM, JHS	Graduate Degree in any subject from a recognized University	B. Ed Degree from an institute recognized by the NCTE	05 (five) years of uninterrupted regular service as HM, JHS as on June 30, 2021
2) Pracharya (Principal), Sanskrit Pathshala	Post Graduate Teacher	Post Graduate Degree in Hindi or Nepali with Sanskrit as a subject in Graduation OR Acharya in Sanskrit, from a recognised university.	B. Ed Degree from an institute recognized by the NCTE	10 (ten) years of uninterrupted regular service as Post Graduate Teacher as on June 30, 2021
3) Pradhan Adhyapak (HM) Sanskrit Pathshala	From Graduate Teacher	Graduate Degree in Shastri in Sanskrit from a recognized University.	B. Ed Degree from an institute recognized by the NCTE	10 (ten) years of uninterrupted regular service as Graduate Teacher as on June 30, 2021.
<b>Note: Service period on deputation to other Department shall not be counted as uninterrupted regular service.</b>				

- Candidates fulfilling the above criteria can apply either online at the official website of Education Department i.e., [www.sikkimhrdd.org](http://www.sikkimhrdd.org) or offline at the office of SSTRB, Syari, Gangtok. *The last date for filling up of the forms is July 23, 2021 by 4:30 pm. (candidates should strictly opt for only one mode)*
- Bank Receipt of ₹ 200/- has to be credited in the State Bank of Sikkim under Revenue head 0202-102-03-Edn.
- Candidates opting for online mode shall upload properly scanned copies of original of the following documents. Candidates opting for offline mode of submission shall submit the attested/self-attested (as applicable) copies of the following documents at the office of SSTRB.
  - Marksheet and Pass Certificate of Class X and XII or equivalent issued by recognized Board in case of HM, SS.
  - Marksheet and Pass Certificate of Class X (*Purva Madhayama*) and XII (*Uttar Madhayama*) or equivalent issued by recognized Board in case of Pracharya and Pradhan Adhyapak.
  - Marksheet and Pass Certificate of Graduation/Post Graduation issued by recognised University.
  - B. Ed. Marksheet and Pass certificate recognized by NCTE.
  - Appointment Order of Graduate Teacher/Post Graduate Teacher /Promotion Order of Headmaster/ Headmistress Junior High School.
  - Joining Report of first appointment as Graduate Teacher/Post Graduate Teacher /Promotion as HM of Junior High School.
  - Last Increment Order.
  - Bank Receipt.
  - Two Passport size photographs
  - If on Deputation to
    - Other Department:** Deputation Order, Joining Report, clearance from the concerned Department and NOC from Education department.
    - Education Department:** Deputation letter, joining report.
  - Departmental Clearance/NOC from the concerned District heads.
  - Vigilance Clearance.
- Syllabus for screening-cum-interview of HM, SS comprises of the following:
  - General Awareness
  - Educational Policies
  - Govt rules and orders pertaining to School Administration, duties and responsibilities of School Heads.
  - Sikkim Government Servant’s Conduct Rules, 1981, Sikkim Government Servant’s (Discipline Appeal) Rules, 1985, Sikkim Government Service (Leave) Rules, 1986, Sikkim Government Establishment Rules, 1974, and such other rules as applicable while discharging the duty as School Heads.
- Syllabus for screening-cum-interview of Pracharya (Principal), Sanskrit Pathshala comprises of the following:
  - Vyakarana (b) Sahitya (c) Purana (Itihas)* (d) General Awareness (e) Educational Policies (f) Service Rules
- Syllabus for screening-cum-interview of Pradhan Adhyapak (Headmaster), Sanskrit Pathshala comprises of the following:
  - Karma Kanda (b) Purana (Itihas) (c) Vyakarana* (d) General Awareness (e) Educational Policies (f) Service Rules
- Admit Card shall be issued in due course of time.
- No TA and DA shall be paid for attending the Interview
- Date and venue of the Interview shall be intimated later.

Whereas, under Notification no. 09/ADM/EDN dated 30/06/2021, State Government has relaxed the provision relating to the matter of recruitment, under Rule 6 of the Education Department, (Head master/Head mistress/Secondary School) Recruitment Rules, 1992, limiting it to only screening-cum-interview as a one-time measure.

**(NOTE: Incomplete application shall be rejected summarily. If found on verification that candidates do not fulfil prescribed criteria, candidature for the post will be cancelled by the Board without specifying any further reason.)**

Ro No. 94/IPR/PUB/Classi/21-22  
Dated: 08/07/2021

Sd/-  
Secretary  
Sikkim State Teachers’ Recruitment Board



## Hate and Paranoia are Handicaps, Not Virtues

*Set goals for the young, not boundaries*

The pandemic has not done much to stop people from allowing hate and paranoia to supersede humanity and faith. In fact, there have been instances when the pandemic has been leveraged to fan even more distrust and even revulsion. And that should not come as a surprise since paranoia feeds on poorly informed beliefs, shallow understanding of situations, internalised complexes and an inflated sense of entitlement and then hate expresses itself fuelled by this ready mix of easily combustible emotions. Outsiders, aliens, non-locals... these tropes are used often to project dilution of rights and even identity. Unfortunately, the issue of influx and the slogan of local protection are painted in such broad strokes that every comment against obviously offensive stereotyping runs the risk of being challenged for not being concerned enough about local sentiments. Everything needs to be qualified with recognition of the “negative” impact of influx and speaking of problems like illegal immigrants. These passions are whipped into deranged fury often and are increasingly being infected with the same arguments that one hears right-wing leaders spit with practised venom at every community they see as the “other”. They remain at the task despite repeated failures, but every once in a while they succeed, and from such episodes draw the oxygen for a fresh round of sowing distrust and ill-will.

It is not okay to excuse excessive paranoia as expressions of public frustration with “how things are” because they end up justifying ill-informed stereotypes. It gets more worrisome when community leaders foist suspicions and peddle fear. And that is the danger of playing fast and dirty with local issues, especially nowadays when too many impressionable and impressionable minds are within easy access of agent provocateurs.

What can one possibly say to groups and leaders who are grooming entire generations on an ideology of suspicion and fear? Will they be able to achieve anything for the constituents they claim to represent? No. All they succeed in delivering is more paranoia, more hate, more pessimism and then violence down the line. They will fail in addressing the real issues because they are approaching the challenges faced by their people all wrong. To blame someone else for everything that is lost is the argument of the ignorant and the odious opportunism of flawed mind-sets. Even though external situations can influence personal experiences and shape individual futures, issues of identity, status, culture & heritage, even opportunities, raised by cliques that surface every time insecurities come around, are more nuanced and complicated; not offering themselves easily to straightforward categorisations of victims and oppressors. These are inheritances and opportunities that are squandered away more due to ignorance and non-involvement than the projected monsters of influx or poaching by others. If these are indeed issues that worry the people should be seeking increased empowerment, not imbining hate or marking out enemies.

To blame someone else for the privations, whether personal or shared, is the excuse of the weak and any ‘achievement’ secured from this plank are hand-outs, not accomplishments of the proud. The knee-jerk reaction to expressed fears is the granting of quotas, reservations and even more “protection”. These, if our country’s experience of the past more than 70 years is any indication, enfeeble communities even more and create even more creamy layers of a handful of the privileged. These are, at best, fingers in the dike, not reinforcements behind which genuine empowerment can be nurtured, confidence cultivated.

Most insular leaders, however, are trying to build constituencies held together by hate-inspired paranoia, projecting a future that aspires for the past and closing doors when more vistas should be opened. Blame infects fear and fear breeds intolerance; these are handicaps, not virtues. Returning to the question of what one can possibly say to groups and leaders keen on grooming entire generations on an ideology of suspicion, how about this? Set goals for the young instead of boundaries...

### WRITE US:

Readers are invited to comment on, criticise, run down, even appreciate if they like something in this paper. Letters carrying abusive/ indecorous language and personal attacks, except when against people responsible in this newspaper (who are fair game), will have to be ignored. Letters which carry forward a conversation or initiate a dialogue will command immediate attention and receive prominence. Mail us at: [news@summittimes.com](mailto:news@summittimes.com)

## Five Lessons on Bringing Truth Back to Politics From Britain’s First Female Philosophy Professor

PETER WEST  
*theconversation.com*

It is often said that we live in a “post-truth” era. It is unclear at times what role, if any, truth plays in politics. During the pandemic, world leaders dismissed the advice of experts and acted against empirical data.

Democracies have felt precarious – in the US, during the Trump presidency, and in countries like Brazil, Hungary and Poland currently. Integral to such corrosion of democracy (as George Orwell made clear in his novel 1984) is the distortion of truth and facts in favour of a particular agenda.

In times of crisis, it can be helpful to look backwards at how our forebears have coped with similar situations in history.

Now, I suggest we look to an under-appreciated philosopher writing just before the outbreak of the second world war, as fascism and communism threatened the stability of European democracy.

Susan Stebbing was the first woman in the UK to be appointed to a full professorship in philosophy (at Bedford College in 1933). She came through the ranks of academic philosophy alongside some of Britain’s best-known philosophers, including Bertrand Russell.

Like most women in philosophy’s history, Stebbing has been overlooked in favour of her male counterparts. She is not a household name, even though she published prolifically and served as president of the UK’s two largest philosophical societies, as well as Humanists UK. Only recently has her work gained its deserved attention among philosophers.

Stebbing’s 1939 book *Thinking to Some Purpose* taught a general audience to use the tools of philosophical logic to engage in healthy public discourse. She calls for people to “think clearly,” unclouded by “unconscious bias and unrecognised ignorance”.

Stebbing’s lessons on thinking clearly and taking politispeak with a grain of salt can help us navigate our fraught political climate today. Here are

just a few.

**QUESTION YOUR MOST CHERISHED BELIEFS**  
Stebbing claims that all of us have long-held beliefs we are not willing to doubt. She explains that in such cases we confuse the “passionateness” of our feelings for a “guarantee of truth”.

Stebbing argues it is important to question all our beliefs, especially in politics. Once we’ve identified our most cherished beliefs, we might ask ourselves: could I reasonably accept that now? If the answer is no, they ought to be weeded out.

**AVOID THE FALLACY OF ‘SPECIAL PLEADING’**  
Stebbing thinks people are generally pretty poor at putting themselves in one another’s shoes. We make claims about how others should behave, without considering whether we would do the same in a given situation.

She writes: “A safeguard against this mistake is to change you into I” For instance, before condemning one state for selling arms to another, I ought to consider whether my own state does the same – and whether I am happy with it. Only then can I be sure I am not acting hypocritically.

**BE WARY OF EMOTIVE LANGUAGE**  
Stebbing distinguishes between two types of language: “scientific” and “emotive”. Scientific language is used to make objective claims. Emotive language is intended to evoke strong feelings. Often, in politics (and journalism), emotive language is disguised as scientific language -- giving words “a significance in addition to their objective meaning”. Think of the way “woke” is used by right-wing commentators. It isn’t so much describing someone, as getting you to feel a certain way about them.

Paying attention to whether politicians are trying to appeal to our emotions can help us tell a convincing argument from a cheap, emotional dog whistle. We can then decide whether to allow ourselves to be persuaded by our feelings or to turn to more objective forms of evidence.

**LOOK OUT FOR EMPTY SLOGANS**  
Stebbing emphasises that politicians make good use of slogans: short statements that stick in the minds of voters. Slogans are not inherently harm-

ful, she thinks – they are often rooted in truth and can reveal meaningful assertions. However, some slogans seem meaningful but wilt under scrutiny. If a slogan is empty, it has no role to play in rational argument and should be discarded.

Consider, for example, Theresa May’s claim that “Brexit Means Brexit”. While this initially sounded like a firm commitment to follow through with the referendum result, over time it became clear that no one really knew what “Brexit” was going to mean at all.

**THINK FREELY**  
Stebbing is part of a long line of philosophers, dating back to the 18th-century Enlightenment, known as “free-thinkers”. Free-thinkers believe that we should only form judgments based on our own independent reason, as opposed to church teachings, newspaper propaganda or party politics.

If your judgment tells you that something doesn’t sound right, pursue that thought. We all have an innate “capacity to follow an argument” that we should put to good use. Rather than voting the way we have always voted or taking the advice of others, we should weigh up the available evidence and form our own conclusions.

Stebbing’s work is finally attracting the attention of other philosophers, but it was never her intention to be read only by her peers. She wanted to bring philosophy out of the ivory towers of Cambridge and Oxford and into the hands of ordinary people. She thought politicians underestimated the public’s ability to follow an argument, and that instead of trying to provide proof of their policies, rely on making themselves appear likeable and painting their opponents as frauds.

Stebbing thought there was something we can do about this state of affairs – we can bring truth back into politics by learning to think clearly and holding politicians to greater scrutiny. Indeed, many of our current leaders would do well to study her lessons.

*[the writer is Teaching Fellow in Early Modern Philosophy, Durham University]*



## The ocean is full of tiny plastic particles – we found a way to track them with satellites

CHRISTOPHER RUF  
*theconversation.com*

Plastic is the most common type of debris floating in the world’s oceans. Waves and sunlight break much of it down into smaller particles called microplastics – fragments less than 5 millimeters across, roughly the size of a sesame seed.

To understand how microplastic pollution is affecting the ocean, scientists need to know how much is there and where it is accumulating. Most data on microplastic concentrations comes from commercial and research ships that tow plankton nets – long, cone-shaped nets with very fine mesh designed for collecting marine microorganisms.

But net trawling can sample only small areas and may be underestimating true plastic concentrations. Except in the North Atlantic and North Pacific gyres – large zones where ocean currents rotate, collecting floating debris – scientists have done very little sampling for microplastics. And there is scant information about how these particles’ concentrations vary over time.

To address these questions, University of Michigan research assistant Madeline Evans and I developed a new way to detect microplastic concentrations from space using NASA’s Cyclone Global Navigation Satellite System. CYGNSS is a network of eight microsatellites that was launched in 2016 to help scientists predict hurricanes by analyzing tropical wind speeds. They measure how wind roughens the ocean’s surface – an indicator that we realized could also be used to detect and track large quantities of microplastics.

**LOOKING FOR SMOOTH ZONES**

Annual global production of plastic has increased every year since the 1950s, reaching 359 million metric tons in 2018. Much of it ends up in open, uncontrolled landfills, where it can wash into river drainage zones and ultimately into the world’s oceans.

Researchers first documented plastic debris in the oceans in the 1970s. Today, it accounts for an estimated 80% to 85% of marine litter.

The radars on CYGNSS satellites are designed to measure winds over the ocean indirectly by measuring how they roughen the water’s surface. We knew that when there is a lot of material floating in the water, winds don’t roughen it as much. So we tried computing how much smoother measurements indicated the surface was than it should have been if winds of the same speed were blowing across clear water.

This anomaly – the “missing roughness” – turns out to be highly correlated with the concentration of microplastics near the ocean surface. Put another way, areas where surface waters appear to be unusually smooth frequently contain high concentrations of microplastics. The smoothness could be caused by the microplastics themselves, or possibly by something else that’s associated with them.

By combining all the measurements made by CYGNSS satellites as they orbit around the world, we can create global time-lapse images of ocean microplastic concentrations. Our images readily identify the Great Pacific Garbage Patch and secondary regions of high microplastic concentration in the North Atlantic and the southern oceans.

**TRACKING MICROPLASTIC FLOWS OVER TIME**

Since CYGNSS tracks wind speeds constantly, it lets us see how microplastic concentrations change over time. By animating a year’s worth of images, we revealed seasonal variations that were not previously known.

We found that global microplastic concentrations tend to peak in the North Atlantic and Pacific during the Northern Hemisphere’s summer months. June and July, for example, are the peak months for the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.

Concentrations in the Southern Hemisphere peak during its summer months of January and February. Lower concentrations during the winter in both hemispheres are likely due to a combination of stronger currents that break up microplastic plumes and increased vertical mixing – the exchange between surface and deeper water – that transports some of the microplastic down below the surface.

This approach can also target smaller regions over shorter periods of time. For example, we examined episodic outflow events from the mouths of the China’s Yangtze and Qiantang rivers where they empty into the East China Sea. These events may have been associated with increases in industrial production activity, or with increases in the rate at which managers allowed the rivers to flow through dams.

**BETTER TARGETING FOR CLEAN-UPS**

Our research has several potential uses. Private organizations, such as The Ocean Cleanup, a nonprofit in The Netherlands, and Clewat, a Finnish company specializing in clean

technology, use specially outfitted ships to collect, recycle and dispose of marine litter and debris. We have begun conversations with both groups and hope eventually to help them deploy their fleets more effectively.

Our spaceborne imagery may also be used to validate and improve numerical prediction models that attempt to track how microplastics move through the oceans using ocean circulation patterns. Scholars are developing several such models.

While the ocean roughness anomalies that we observed correlate strongly with microplastic concentrations, our estimates of concentration are based on the correlations that we observed, not on a known physical relationship between floating microplastics and ocean roughness. It could be that the roughness anomalies are caused by something else that is also correlated with the presence of microplastics.

One possibility is surfactants on the ocean surface. These liquid chemical compounds, which are widely used in detergents and other products, move through the oceans in ways similar to microplastics, and they also have a damping effect on wind-driven ocean roughening.

Further study is needed to identify how the smooth areas that we identified occur, and if they are caused indirectly by surfactants, to better understand exactly how their transport mechanisms are related to those of microplastics. But I hope this research can be part of a fundamental change in tracking and managing microplastic pollution.

*[the writer is Professor of Climate and Space Sciences and Engineering, University of Michigan]*



# India's fuel demand rebounds in June

**NEW DELHI, JUL 10 (PTI):** India's fuel demand rebounded in June after slumping to a nine-month low in the previous month as restrictions to curb the spread of the pandemic were eased, helping economic activity and mobility to pick up.

Fuel consumption rose 1.5 per cent to 16.33 million tonnes in June from a year earlier and by 8 per cent over May 2021, data from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas showed.

Petrol sales rose 5.6 per cent year-on-year to 2.4 million tonnes in June. It was up 21 per cent from May sales of 1.99 million tonnes.

Diesel - the most used fuel in the country - rose 12 per cent from May to 6.2 million tonnes, but was down 1.5 per cent from June 2020 and 18.8 per cent from June 2019.

This is the first monthly increase since March.

Fuel demand had recovered to near-normal levels in March before the onset of the second wave of COVID-19 infections led to the re-imposition of lockdowns in different states, stalling mobility and muting economic activity.

Consumption in May slumped



to its lowest since August last year amid lockdowns and restrictions in several states.

Fuel demand showed signs of resurgence in June after restrictions began to be eased and the economy gathered pace.

With COVID case addition continuing to decline and vaccination

pace picking up, state governments have continued to reopen, though some exceptions such as Maharashtra exist.

The then Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan had last month stated that India's fuel demand would recover to pre-pandemic levels by the end of 2021.

"We are confident by the end of this calendar year we will be in a position to restore our original (pre-COVID) consumption behaviour," Pradhan said.

Consumption of LPG, the only fuel which showed growth even during the first lockdown because of free supplies by the government

to the poor, rose 9.7 per cent year on year to 2.26 million tonnes. It was up 26.3 per cent over June 2019.

With airlines yet to resume full-scale operations because of travel restrictions around the globe, jet fuel sales at 2,58,000 tonnes was up 16.2 per cent year on year but

61.7 per cent lower than June of 2019.

Naphtha sales dropped by about 3.1 per cent to 1.19 million tonnes while sale of bitumen - used for making roads, were down 32 per cent at 5,09,000 tonnes. Fuel oil consumption rose 1.9 per cent to 5,33,000 tonnes.

## Local governments in Nepal plan medicine scholarships to tackle doctor shortage in remote districts



**BINOD GHIMIRE**

**KATHMANDU, 10 JUL**

**[KATHMANDUPOST]:**

Following an increase in coronavirus cases, a Covid-19 hospital was established in Patarasi Rural Municipality in Jumla district last year. The hospital came as a huge relief to the people of the remote rural municipality which didn't have any health facilities other than a health post.

However, the hospital couldn't function effectively due to the lack of adequate number of health workers, including doctors. Now the rural municipality has come up with a solution to the problem.

The executive council meeting of the rural municipality last month decided to fund the MBBS studies of one local student every year. Upon graduation, the beneficiary will need to serve at the local hospital for a few years, said Lachhiman Bohora, chairperson of the rural municipality.

"The pandemic has taught us a lesson that we direly need manpower for our health infrastructure," Bohora told the Post. "So far, not a single person from our rural municipality has become a doctor."

He said the rural municipality will bear the entire cost of MBBS studies of the students.

In Taplejung district, the Primary Health Centre at Sirijunga Rural Municipality is supposed to be manned by an MBBS doctor. However, no doctors deputed by the federal government have served there for more than a few months. In 2019, the health centre

was without a doctor for seven months. Despite their several requests to the Ministry of Health and Population, no doctor showed up at the health centre.

"Then we hired a doctor by paying Rs 50,000 more than the government pay scale as the federal government was reluctant to depute one," Tika Ram Gurung, chairperson of the rural municipality, told the Post. "However, we are not sure how long he will stay." In December last year, Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli laid the foundations for 309 hospitals across the country. This includes a 10-bed hospital at Sirijunga.

Though the construction is set to begin shortly, officials at the rural municipality doubt that the government will supply any doctor to the hospital. So the rural municipality decided to sponsor a student from the rural municipality for his/her MBBS studies every year. In return s/he will have to work at the local hospital for two years.

"We believe our initiative will ensure that we have no dearth of doctors at our hospital," said Gurung. "Covid-19 pandemic has taught a lesson that every local government should be equipped to deal with such a crisis in the future."

The Chandannath Municipality in Jumla and Kushe Rural Municipality in Jajarkot are the other local governments that have followed suit.

According to Hom Kumar Shrestha, chairperson of the National Association of Rural

Municipalities in Nepal, Covid-19 pandemic has exposed the country's poor health system and prompted the local governments to take initiatives to better their health system without federal funding.

Along with the funding for MBBS studies, the local governments have increased their budget for improving their health facilities. "Improvement of health services is the priority of the majority of the local governments," he told the Post.

Health experts have lauded the local units' decision to fund MBBS studies of local students. They say local governments should also work to enhance the quality of education being imparted at schools.

"Students can pursue MBBS studies only after passing highly competitive entrance tests. So the local units need to focus on bolstering the educational base of their students so that they can pursue MBBS," Dr GD Thakur, former joint secretary at the Ministry of Health of Population, told the Post. "It is also the moral responsibility of such MBBS graduates to pay back by serving in their local units."

Every year over 200 students, selected through highly competitive screening tests, get the opportunity to study the MBBS degree on full scholarship. In return, they need to serve in rural Nepal for two years. However, many of them do not fulfil this requirement and either move abroad or work in Kathmandu and other cities.

## 2 arrested in Bengal for duping people, Rs 4 lakh seized

**CANNING (WB), JUL 10**

**(PTI):** Two persons have been arrested in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district for allegedly duping people on the pretext of doubling their money by using a chemical, police said on Saturday.

Acting on a complaint lodged by Asit Halder, a resident of Gosaba area, the two were arrested from Basanti Police Station limits on Friday, and unaccounted cash of Rs 4 lakh was recovered from their possession, a senior officer said.

Search is on for another person who is part of the racket, he said.

Halder lost Rs 6 lakh as he fell into the trap of the fraudsters, the officer said.

The three persons had asked Halder to come to a house in Jyotishpur area of the district.

After reaching the house with Rs 6 lakh in cash, he was asked to put his money in a container and keep it in a room.

He was then asked to bring the chemical from another room, and pour it into the container in which the money was kept.

Once he had completed the exercise, the fraudsters told him to carry the container back home and open it after a day.

The victim found bundles of blank papers in the container when he opened it the next day, the officer said.

"The miscreants had removed the money from the container and put bundles of blank papers in it when Halder had gone to the other room to bring the chemical," the officer said while explaining the modus operandi of the racket.

## Odisha eyes boating services at 100 locations by year-end to woo tourists



**BHUBANESWAR, JUL 10**

**(PTI):** The Odisha government is eyeing to start boating services at 100 locations by the end of this year to boost tourism in the state, officials said on Saturday.

At a high-level meeting, Chief Secretary SC Mohapatra directed the departments of Forest and Environment, Water Resources and Tourism to identify the spots in a month, they said.

The activities should start by the end of the year, Mohapatra directed the officials concerned.

The locations should be identified on the basis of their competitiveness for being popularised among tourists, and must offer exotic experiences, he noted.

"Proper choice of the location and their popu-

larisation will attract private investment to the sector and that will take the state's eco-tourism industry to the next level," the chief secretary said.

He also directed to put in place proper safety measures and suggested the officials to adopt a community management model by involving locals with proper training.

Odisha has around 118 big and small dams, including Hirakud, Mandira, Patora, Deras and Hadgarh. The state is bestowed with natural lakes like Chilika, Ansupa, Pata and Kanjia, Hirakud. Besides, there are around ten major river basins such as Mahanadi, Bramhani and Baitarani, an official said.

These places offer scores of sites for boating activities, he said.

## No fresh COVID-19 case in Andamans, tally at 7,492



**PORT BLAIR, JUL 10 (PTI):**

The union territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands did not record a single fresh COVID-19 case in the last 24 hours, a health department official said on Saturday.

The coronavirus tally in the archipelago remained at 7,492, he said.

On July 5 also the union territory did not record a single fresh COVID-19 case.

One more person was cured of the disease on Friday, taking the total number of recoveries in the archipelago to 7,352.

The COVID-19 death toll remained at 128 as no fresh fatality due to the contagion was reported in the last 24

hours, the official said.

The Union Territory now has 12 active COVID-19 cases and all the patients are in the South Andaman district while the other two districts North and Middle Andaman and Nicobar are now COVID-19 free.

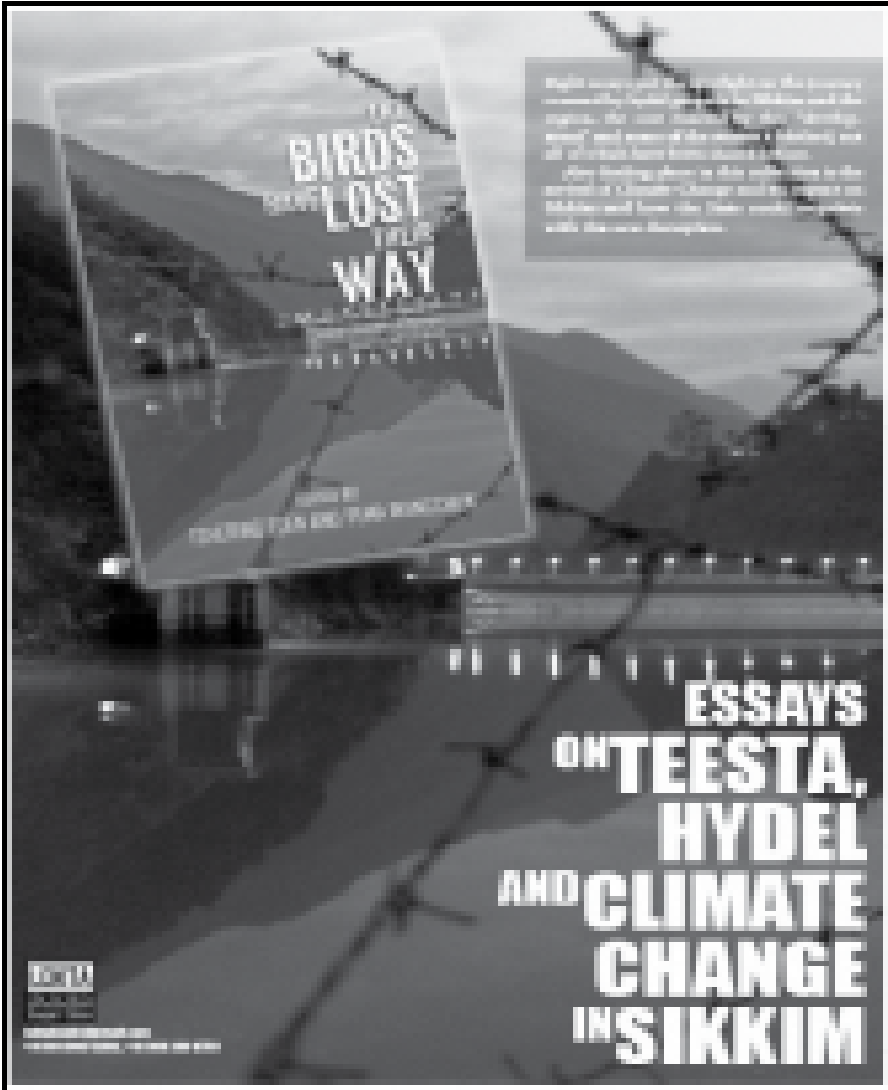
The local administration has been strict to contain the spread of the disease and has adopted an approach of tracking, testing and treating, he said, adding that people arriving here from the mainland are mandatorily required to undergo COVID test.

The Andaman and Nicobar administration has conducted 4,17,598 sample tests for COVID-19 so far, and the positiv-

ity rate stands at 1.79 per cent, the official added.

Meanwhile, Health Secretary R N Sharma told reporters on Friday that the union territory has a population of around 4 lakh and so far a total of 2,18,848 people have been inoculated, of which 1,62,321 people have received the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and 56,527 have received both doses of the vaccine.

Sharma said with calibrated opening of activities considering decline in cases, agencies are enforcing strict norms COVID Appropriate Behaviour [CAB] for prevention of COVID-19 spread.





## Jim Furyk shoots 64 to take 2-shot lead in US Senior Open

OMAHA, NEB. (AP): The combination of wind, heat and humidity made it difficult to go low at the U.S. Senior Open on Friday.

Jim Furyk and Greg Kraft found a way.

Furyk shot a 6-under 64, the best round in days at Omaha Country Club, to take a two-stroke lead over Stephen Ames. The 2003 U.S. Open champion and 17-time PGA Tour winner rebounded from an opening 72 to get to 4 under.

"I was able to see some putts go in, and I hit a lot of fairways, a lot of greens today, kept the ball in good places," Furyk said. "When I missed it, I missed it in the right spots for the most part. Just really kind of got on a roll and got some momentum."

First-round co-leader Ames bogeyed four of the first six holes on his second nine and shot 73. Two-time U.S. Senior Open runner-up Miguel Angel Jimenez (71) was 1 under.

Kraft, who hadn't played in a tournament since September 2019, had four straight birdies on his second nine and shot 65 for the best round of the afternoon session.

"I just got it going," said Kraft, who shot 75 on Thursday. "I actually played not that bad yesterday, but I was on the wrong side of the hole all day. Today I got it under the hole, which made a big difference."

Kraft was in a logjam of 10 players at even par. Among them were first-round co-leader Billy Andrade (75), Fred Couples (71), David Toms, Thongchaijaidee (71) and the oldest player in the field, 67-year-old Jay Haas (71).

"You know, there's such a long way to go, but I'm playing OK," Haas said. "I don't think I'm playing just amazingly — golf that I can't even fathom. I can play better, I think, but I have to do it. I feel good. Health, I love the heat. It keeps me loose." Alex Cejka (74), the winner of the first two majors of the year, was in a group of 12 at 1 over along with major winners Mike Weir (74), Mark O'Meara (71) and Retief Goosen (69).

With thunderstorms in the forecast Saturday, the first tee times for the third round were moved up to 7:15 a.m. with threesomes going off Nos. 1 and 10.

Temperatures were in the low 70s when Furyk went out Friday morning, but wind swirled and was gusty. The wind calmed by the afternoon, but heat and humidity set in to create feel-like temperatures near 100, and the conditions coupled with the hills of OCC wore on the 50-and-over players.

Furyk hit 12 of 13 fairways and 15 of 18 greens in regulation and had three birdies on each side.

The turning point, he said, was making a 30-foot putt to save par after his tee shot landed in a greenside bunker on the 240-yard, par-3 third hole. Birdies on three of the next four holes got him under par for the tournament.

# Back in Wimbledon final, Djokovic to face Italy's Berrettini

Wimbledon, Jul 10 (AP): The victories keep adding up for Novak Djokovic: 20 in a row at Wimbledon since the start of the 2018 tournament, 20 in a row in all Grand Slam matches since the start of this season. Get both streaks up to 21 on Sunday by beating MatteoBerrettini in the final at the All England Club, and Djokovic will tie rivals Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal with a 20th major championship, the most for a man in tennis history.

It would mean everything, the No. 1-ranked Djokovic said.

That's why I'm here. That's why I'm playing.

He worked his way in and out of trouble against a much younger, much-less-experienced opponent Friday until eliminating No. 10 Denis Shapovalov 7-6 (3), 7-5, 7-5 in the semifinals at Centre Court.

Each set was tight and intense. Each appeared to be within Shapovalov's grasp until it was in Djokovic's.

He was serving for first set. He was better for most of the second set; had a lot of opportunities and just didn't manage to close it out when he needed to, said Djokovic, who at 34 is 12 years older than Shapovalov.

In important moments, I think I probably held my nerves better than he did and just (made) him play an extra shot, (made) him do an unforced error.

Djokovic made just 15 unforced errors, Shapovalov 36. The other key stats: Djokovic saved 5 of 5 break points in the second set, then 3 of 3 in the third.

What hurt so much this time was just that I felt like the game is there and it's possible to go and play for



the trophy, said Shapovalov, who walked off in tears after falling to 0-7 against Djokovic.

"It's a feeling I've never had before, so that's why it just hurt so much. I felt like I was outplaying Novak in parts of the match. If you're outplaying Novak, you can beat anyone.

So true. Now another new-to-these-stages foe, No. 7 seed Berrettini, will give it a shot.

Cries of Vai! (Go!), Forza! (Let's go!) and even Andiamo, amore mio! (Let's go, my love!) rang through the All England Club's main stadium earlier, supporting Berrettini in his native tongue on his way to becoming Italy's first Grand Slam male finalist in 45 years.

With booming serves delivering 22 aces, and powerful forehands helping compile a total of 60 winners, Berrettini used an 11-game run

to grab a big lead and held on to beat No. 14 Hubert Hurkacz 6-3, 6-0, 6-7 (3), 6-4.

Djokovic is trying to collect a sixth championship at Wimbledon and third straight to go along with nine from the Australian Open, three from the U.S. Open and two from the French Open.

And then there's this: After collecting trophies on the hard courts of Melbourne Park in February, and the red clay of Roland Garros in June defeating Berrettini in the quarterfinals there Djokovic seeks a triumph on the grass of the All England Club to get three-quarters of the way to a calendar-year Grand Slam, with only the U.S. Open remaining.

No man has pulled off that three-title stretch within one year let alone all four since Rod Laver won the Grand Slam in 1969. This will be Djokovic's 30th major final, Berret-

tini's first. Much as it was Djokovic's 41st major semifinal, Shapovalov's first. Obviously, the job is not done yet," said the 25-year-old Berrettini, who lost his only previous Slam semifinal, at the 2019 U.S. Open.

I want to get the trophy now that I'm here."

He owns an 11-match winning streak on grass courts, including the title at the Queen's Club tuneup last month, when he became the first man since Boris Becker in 1985 to win the trophy in his debut at that event.

Matteo played (an) unbelievable match, said Hurkacz, who arrived at Wimbledon on a six-match losing streak but beat Federer and No. 2 Daniil Medvedev to reach his first Slam semifinal. I didn't have many chances, basically. Probably zero.

When he got broken for the first time, the 24-year-old from Poland

sat for the ensuing changeover and, between bites of a banana, motioned to his American coach, Craig Boynton, to adjust the seating arrangements in their guest box. As if that were the issue.

Cheered from the stands by his girlfriend, AjlaTomljanovic, who made it to the quarterfinals this week, and his parents and brother Mom captured his on-court interview with her cellphone Berrettini was two points from winning in the third set.

But Hurkacz extended the contest to an extra set, before Berrettini asserted himself again.

A lefty with a vibrant, sometimes violent, swing, including when it comes to his one-handed backhand, Shapovalov kept pushing Djokovic to the brink, but couldn't quite get the job done.

That backhand forced a Djokovic error to conclude a 15-stroke exchange that provided Shapovalov with a break and a 2-1 edge. He stretched that to 5-3 and was two points from taking the set in the next game, but couldn't get closer.

Serving for the set at 5-4, Shapovalov faltered pushed by Djokovic's indefatigable defense.

Djokovic broke, then was better in the tiebreaker. Not perfect, but better.

Mostly playing it safe and letting Shapovalov err worked just fine. Shapovalov double-faulted to end that set. He did so again to get broken to trail 6-5 in the second. And again in the game that left him behind 6-5 in the third.

By then, Djokovic was punching the air and shouting, knowing the match's end, and another final, was near.

## Calling time: Restrained refs kept Euro 2020 games flowing

London, Jul 10 (AP): Playing at the European Championship has been a very welcome feeling for England defender John Stones. Thanks, in part, to the refereeing.

While Premier League games are often punctuated by long pauses for drawn-out video review checks, that hasn't been the case over the last month with refereeing overseen by UEFA at Euro 2020.

A higher threshold for intervening to potentially overturn on-field decisions cuts out pauses in games.

They wanted everything to go quite swiftly and move and keep the game flowing, Stones said Friday.

I'd like to see that maybe definitely coming to the Premier League next season if they can kind of, not speed the game, but keep it flowing a little bit more. That would be a good thing that's probably come out of this tournament.

So quick are some of the VAR checks that it might not seem one is even taking place.

In Sunday's final at Wembley Stadium,

Dutch referee BjrnKuijpers will oversee the match between England and Italy.

We want the minimum interference for the maximum benefit and we want to intervene (only) for clear and obvious mistakes," UEFA chief refereeing officer Robert Rosetti said during the tournament.

We need to find the correct balance in the line of intervention, because our target is to keep football like it is. It's not acceptable to study all the minor pushing or pulling, or minor contacts and marginal contacts independently. The laws of the game are clear.

Unlike competitions, including the Premier League, calls like offside aren't being dissected on television forensically with dotted lines and detailed geometry.

The time that is taken for the decisions has been really quick, Stones said.

It seems that sometimes from our point of view, we want it to be kind of checked a little bit more.

Not so on Wednes-

day, perhaps, when Raheem Sterling won the penalty that led to England's winner against Denmark in the semifinals. Bursting into the penalty area in extra time, Sterling appeared to lose his balance following a challenge by JoakimMaehle. The winger eventually fell to the ground after a nudge from another Denmark player, Mathias Jensen.

It was the correct decision, Stones said.

He's been bumped from two sides.

It produced a European Championship record 16th penalty, which was saved but England captain Harry Kane scored from the rebound.

Italy midfielder Marco Verratti, however, thought England was fortunate to be awarded the spot kick that led to the 2-1 win.

If I was the referee I wouldn't have awarded a penalty, Verratti said.

I think it was a bit of a generous penalty. But that's part of soccer, it can happen. It was an important goal, because obviously they won the match, but it was a generous penalty.

## Sensational Sciver powers England to 18-run win over India in rain-hit T20

NORTHAMPTON, JUL 10 (PTI): England all-rounder Nat Sciver smashed a record-equalling half century before the bowlers put the struggling Indian batters under pressure to ensure an 18 run-win for the hosts via DLS method in the rain-curtailed first T20I against here.

Put in to bat, England rode on Sciver's 27-ball 55, that included eight fours and a hit over the fence, and wicketkeeper Amy Jones' 43 off 27 balls to reach 177 for seven in 20 overs.

Sciver's sensational fifty was England's joint fastest in the format.

Inreply,Indiafailedtokeepupwiththerequiredrun-rate despite vice-captainSmritiMandhana'squickfire 29 off 17 balls before rain gods had the last laugh with the visitors at 54 for three in 8.4 overs, 18 runs behind England via the DLS method.

England now lead the three-match series 1-0 and 8-4 in the multi-format points system having lifted the ODI trophy.

Chasing 178, India was off to the worst possible start as pacer Katherine Brunt bamboozled the big-hitting ShafaliVerma for a duck, leaving India nought for one.

However, Mandhana and HarleenDeol (17 not out) got the tourists back on track after the initial upset.

With rain on the cards, the duo quickly stitched a 44-run partnership with Mandhana hitting six boundaries, including successive fours off Brunt in the third over of the chase, while Harleen played second fiddle.

But Sciver struck soon, getting rid of the dangerous Mandhana in the sixth over.

Skipper HarmanpreetKaur's (1) prolonged lean patch continued as the senior batter became all-rounder Sarah Glenn's first victim in the very next over.

The loss of the skipper's wicket in quick succession cost the Indians dear, ensuring that they were well behind in the DLS method.

Earlier, veteran pacer ShikhaPandey (3/22) snared three wickets while spinners PoonamYadav

(1/32) and RadhaYadav (1/33) took a scalp each in what was an ordinary bowling effort.

Opens Tammy Beaumont and Danni Wyatt gave England a solid start, collecting 48 runs in the powerplay.

Radha broke the opening stand in the eighth over as wicketkeeper RichaGhosh, playing her first match of the series, caught Wyatt attempting a reverse sweep. Initially given not out, the Indians went for the review which showed a big spike on the UltraEdge.

After skipper Heather Knight's departure, Sciver and Jones kept the moment going. The duo strung a 78-run stand.

Harmanpreet and Harleen pulled off splendid catches in the penultimate over as Shikha struck thrice, getting rid of Sciver, Jones and Sophia Dunkley (1).

While skipper Harmanpreet, fielding at long on, put an end to Sciver's brilliant innings by diving to pouch the ball inches over the ground.

Two balls later, Harleen put an end to Jones' innings, as she jumped to take a superb reverse-cupped catch at the boundary above her head before losing her balance.

She threw the ball in the air as she stepped out of the boundary rope only to jump back in, diving forward to complete the catch.

Skipper Harmanpreet said the team's fielding has improved considerably under the guidance of coachAbhay Sharma but the bowling could have been better.

"We knew there'd be rain after 8:30 PM. We couldn't make it due to back-to-back wickets. We fielded really well, there's a lot of improvement in our fielding.

"Shikha did really well in the bowling department. We need to think of the boundaries we're are giving in between overs. If we can work on that, we can stop any team. Every game is important for us, today was unfortunate because of rain," she said at the post match presentation.

## Rio opens 10% of Maracana Stadium for Copa America final

RIO DE JANEIRO, JUL 10 (AP): Rio de Janeiro officials are allowing Copa America organizers to invite thousands of COVID-19-tested fans into the final at Maracana Stadium between Brazil and Argentina.

Rio city health secretary Daniel Soranz issued guidelines on Friday permitting

crowds of up to 10% in each section of the 78,000-seat stadium. No tickets will be sold for the encounter on Saturday.

The Maracana hosted about 60,000 fans in the previous Copa America final in 2019, when Brazil beat Peru 3-1.

In January at Maracana,

the delayed 2020 Copa Libertadores final between Palmeiras and Santos was attended by about 5,000 spectators, but they were all concentrated with little regard for social distancing guidelines.

Soranz said in the guidelines that the decision followed a request by CONME-

BOL, which said all spectators will need negative tests to get in. There will be a great distance between people, and all the guests will be invited by CONMEBOL," Rio Mayor Eduardo Paes said in a news conference.

Brazil agreed to stage the Copa America only two weeks

before kickoff after original hosts Colombia and Argentina were dropped for political and health reasons.

But Brazilians have generally showed disinterest in the tournament while the country suffers from the pandemic. Known deaths from COVID-19 are at 530,000, though

recent figures suggest the vaccination efforts are having an impact.

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, who is not expected to attend Saturday's final, is a critic of social distancing measures. He insists the economic impact of the pandemic kills more than the virus.



## S. Korea hits third-straight high in virus cases

SEOUL, JUL 10 (AP):

South Korea has set a new high in daily coronavirus cases for the third straight day as officials prepare to enforce the strongest social distancing restrictions in the greater capital area where transmission have surged following months of complacency.

The Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency said Saturday that more than 1,000 of the 1,378 new cases were from capital Seoul and nearby Gyeonggi Province and Incheon, a region where officials from Monday will clamp down on private social gatherings of three or more people from 6 p.m. Nightclubs and churches will close, visitors will be banned at nursing homes and hospitals and weddings and funerals will be limited to family-only gatherings.

Dozens of new cases were each reported in major cities and regions across the country, including Busan, Daejeon, Ulsan, South ChungcheongProvince and South Gyeongsang Province.

After adding 9,700 cases in July alone, the country's caseload is now at 166,722, including 2,038 deaths.

The surge is a worrisome development in a country where just over 30% in a population of 51 million have been administered their first doses of coronavirus vaccines.

## Mexico enters 3rd wave of coronavirus, infections up 29%

MEXICO CITY, JUL 10 (AP): Mexico is entering its third wave of the coronavirus pandemic, as infections rose by 29% compared to the previous week.

But the country's health department said Friday the growth is largely coming from infections among younger, less vulnerable people. Case numbers are now as high as the beginning of the last surge in September; that wave peaked in January and steadily declined until June.

But at present only about 22% of the country's hospital beds are occupied; hospital beds in many parts of the country were essentially filled to capacity during the last wave.

Authorities said the relative decline of serious cases among older people is a result of the country's vaccination campaign, which as of Friday has given at least one dose to about 39% of all adults.

Assistant Health Secretary Hugo L. Perez-Gatell said the rise in infections is not due to the arrival of the Delta variant, but rather to an increase in public activity.

Mexico City health authorities said they expect the third wave to peak in August in the capital, which has been the worst hit by COVID-19 in the previous two waves.

# Indonesia short on oxygen, seeks help as virus cases soar

JAKARTA, JUL 10 (AP): Just two months ago, Indonesia was coming to a gasping India's aid with thousands tanks of oxygen.

Today, the Southeast Asia country is running out of oxygen as it endures a devastating wave of coronavirus cases and the government is seeking emergency supplies from other countries, including Singapore and China.

A shipment of more than 1,000 oxygen cylinders, concentrators, ventilators and other health devices arrived from Singapore on Friday, followed by another 1,000 ventilators from Australia, said LuhutBinsarPandjaitan, the government minister in charge of Indonesia's pandemic response.

Beside those donations, Indonesia plans to buy 36,000 tons of oxygen and 10,000 concentrators devices that generate oxygen from neighbouring Singapore, Pandjaitan said.

He said he is in touch with China and other potential oxygen sources. The U.S. and the United Arab Emirates also have offered help.

We recognize the difficult situation Indonesia currently finds itself in with a surge of COVID cases, White House press secretary Jen Psaki said.



In addition to sending vaccines, the US is working to increase assistance for Indonesia's broader COVID-19 response efforts, she said, without elaborating.

Overall, Indonesia, the world's fourth-most populous country, has reported more than 2.4 million infections and 63,760 fatalities from COVID-19. Those figures are widely believed to be a vast undercount due to low testing and poor tracing measures. On Thursday, Indonesia reported nearly 39,000 confirmed cases, its largest one-day jump. Indo-

nesia's hospitals are swamped, with growing numbers of the ill dying in isolation at home or while waiting to receive emergency care.

On Java, Indonesia's most populous island, hospitals began setting up makeshift intensive care units in mid-June. Many patients are waiting for days to be admitted. Oxygen tanks were rolled out onto sidewalks for those lucky enough to get them, while others have been told they have to find their own.

Emergency rooms at a public hospital in Bandung

city closed earlier this week after running out of oxygen amid panic buying fueled by soaring infections in the West Java provincial capital, said YayaMulyana, the city's deputy mayor.

Panicked people bought oxygen tanks even though they didn't need them yet, Mulyana said. That has led to oxygen supplies running out.

At one hospital in Yogyakarta, in central Java, 63 COVID-19 patients died in one day -- 33 of them during an outage of its central liquid oxygen supply, though the hos-

pital had switched to using oxygen cylinders, spokesman BanuHermawan said.

Indonesia donated 3,400 oxygen cylinders and concentrators to India when a brutal outbreak ravaged the country. As its own cases surged, Jakarta then canceled a plan to send another 2,000 oxygen concentrators to India in late June.

The daily need for oxygen has reached 1,928 tons a day. The country's total available production capacity is 2,262 tons a day, according to government data.

I asked for 100% of oxygen go to medical purposes first, meaning that all industrial allocations must be transferred to medical, said Pandjaitan, the government minister. We are racing against time, we have to work fast.

Given the rapid spread of the highly infectious delta variant, he warned that Indonesia could face a worst-case scenario with 50,000 cases a day. The next two weeks will be critical, he said.

The Ministry of Industry responded by issuing a decree that all oxygen supplies be sent to hospitals overflowing with coronavirus patients, and asked industry players to cooperate. Oxygen is used in making many products, including textiles, plastics and vehicles. Oil refiners, chemical manufacturers and steel makers also use it. But industry leaders have fallen in line in supporting government efforts to maximize supplies for hospitals.

The government has redirected oxygen supplies from industrial plants in Morowali in Central Sulawesi, Balikpapan on Borneo island, and Belawan and Batam on Sumatra islands, Pandjaitan said. Smaller oxygen industries have also been directed to produce pharmaceutical oxygen.

## Nepali medical students from foreign universities can intern in Nepal

Kathmandu, 10 Jul [Kathmandu-Post]: Lifting an over a decade-old ban, the Medical Education Commission has decided to allow Nepali medical students from foreign universities to do internships in Nepal. Nepali students from Chinese universities are expected to benefit from the decision.

Dozens of Nepali students, who completed their MBBS studies from China but couldn't do their internships, had been staging protests demanding that they should be allowed to undergo the post-study practice in their home country.

The commission has given the students concerned 12-days starting Thursday to apply for internships. All the students, who have completed their MBBS studies by April 2020, are eligible for internship. "The ban has been lifted for one time to address the concerns of the students who could not undergo their internships due to the Covid-19 pandemic," SemantKoirala, an under-secretary at the commission, told the Post. The MBBS students, after complet-

ing their five years of study, need to complete one year of practice under supervision at hospitals before their graduation.

An estimated 200 students mainly from various Chinese universities and colleges haven't graduated, despite completing their studies in 2019, in the lack of internship opportunities. According to the education consultancies that facilitate the students to study MBBS abroad, students from 2015 and earlier batches will benefit from the commission's decision. Milan Gyawali, managing director at Speed International Education Consultancy, said MBBS students in various Chinese universities and colleges, who had been doing their internships had to return home in February and March last year without completing the training due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Hence, they couldn't graduate.

"Although their Chinese universities had last year given their students permission to do internships in Nepal itself, the students could not undertake internships due to a longstand-

ing ban and lost a year," Gyawali told the Post. "Students who completed their MBBS studies this year should also be allowed to undertake internships in Nepal," he demanded.

The students, who had joined MBBS in 2016, completed their five years of study earlier this year.

Various countries including China haven't allowed Nepali students to reenter after they were sent home on a pandemic break in early 2020. But these students have been continuing their studies online.

The students who were earlier unable to start their internships said they lost an entire year due to the delay by the commission in lifting the ban. "I had already completed seven months in my internship when the pandemic compelled me to return home last year," Era Shrestha, an MBBS student from Dali University in China, told the Post. "I would have graduated by now had the commission made the decision on time." Shrestha applied for an internship at Bir Hospital on Thursday itself.

Officials at the commission say they don't have information if medical students from countries other than China also have faced a similar problem. "We can tell only after July 20, the deadline to submit the form for the internship, whether there are students from other countries as well," said Koirala.

China was the most preferred destination for Nepali students to study medicine before the government decided to bar Nepali students studying abroad from doing internships in Nepal. Now, most of the students travel to Bangladesh for MBBS studies.

The Council had introduced the ban in May 2007. The council said students who have not completed their internships in countries where they studied, would not be allowed to apply for a medical practice licence in Nepal. After finding that hospitals were ignoring the ban and still allowing foreign students to undergo internships, the Ministry of Health and Population in February 2008 had threatened action against hospitals.

## Hackers disrupt Iran's rail service with fake delay messages

TEHRAN, JUL 10 (AP): Iran's railroad system came under cyberattack on Friday, a semi-official news agency reported, with hackers posting fake messages about train delays or cancellations on display boards at stations across the country.

The hackers posted messages such as long delayed because of cyberattack" or canceled" on the boards. They also urged passengers to call for information, listing the phone number of the office of the country's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The semiofficial Fars

news agency reported that the hack led to unprecedented chaos at rail stations. No group took responsibility. Earlier in the day, Fars said trains across Iran had lost their electronic tracking system. It wasn't immediately clear if that was also part of the cyberattack.

Fars later removed its report and instead quoted the spokesman of the state railway company, SadehSekri, as saying the disruption did not cause any problem for train services. In 2019, an error in the railway company's computer servers caused multiple delays in train services.

## Black Sea drills showcase strong NATO-Ukraine defense ties

ABOARD USS ROSS (AP): Ukraine and NATO have conducted Black Sea drills involving dozens of warships in a two-week show of their strong defense ties and capability following a confrontation between Russia's military forces and a British destroyer off Crimea last month.

The Sea Breeze 2021 maneuvers set to wrap up Saturday involved about 30 warships and 40 aircraft from NATO members and Ukraine. The captain of the USS Ross, a U.S. Navy destroyer that took part in the drills, said the exercise was designed to improve how the equipment and personnel of the participating nations operate together.

"We'd like to demonstrate to everybody, the international community, that no one nation can claim the Black Sea or any

international body of water," Cmdr. John D. John said aboard the guided missile destroyer previously deployed to the area for drills. "Those bodies of water belong to the international community, and we're committed to ensure that all nations have access to international waterways."

The Russian Defense Ministry said it was closely monitoring Sea Breeze. The Russian military also conducted a series of parallel drills in the Black Sea and southwestern Russia, with warplanes practicing bombing runs and long-range air defense missiles' deploying to protect the coast.

Last month, Russia said one of its warships in the Black Sea fired warning shots and a warplane dropped bombs in the path of the HMS Defender, a

British Royal Navy destroyer, to chase it away from an area near Crimea that Moscow claims as its territorial waters.

Russia denounced the Defender's presence as a provocation and warned that next time it might fire to hit intruding warships.

Britain, which like most other nations didn't recognize Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea from Ukraine, insisted the Defender wasn't fired upon on June 23 and said it was sailing in Ukrainian waters when Russia sent its planes into the air and shots were heard during the showdown.

The incident added to the tensions between Russia and the NATO allies. Relations between Russia and the West have sunk to post-Cold War lows over Moscow's 2014 an-

nexation of Crimea, its support for a separatist insurgency in eastern Ukraine, accusations of Russian hacking attacks, election interference and other irritants.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said last week that the incident with the Defender wouldn't have triggered a global conflict even if Russia had sunk the British vessel because the West knows it can't win such a war. The statement appeared to indicate Putin's resolve to raise the stakes should a similar incident happen again.

Aboard the Ross, John said the Sea Breeze participants were exercising their right to operate in international waters. He described the drills as "a tangible demonstration of our commitment to each other for a safe and stable Black Sea region."





# Chinese regulator halts Huya-Douyu game-streaming merger

**HONG KONG (AP):** China's market regulator on Saturday blocked the merger of Tencent-backed game streaming platforms Douyu and Huya following an anti-monopoly investigation, as authorities ramp up scrutiny of some of the country's biggest technology companies.

Huya and Douyu — which provide videogame live-streaming services akin to Twitch in the U.S. — are two of the largest companies of their kind in China. Both count gaming firm Tencent among their investors.

China's State Administration for Market Regulation said in a statement that a merger between Huya and Douyu would give Tencent control over the merged entity.

"From the perspective of different key indicators like revenue, number of active users, resources for streamers, the total share is very substantial and the elimination and restriction of competition can be foreseen," the statement said.

Authorities have stepped up oversight of some of China's largest technology firms over concerns of monopolistic behavior and unchecked growth, as well as how companies are collecting and using data from their millions of users.

Also Saturday, China's cyber-regulator said companies holding personal information of over a million users must apply for cybersecurity approval if they plan to list abroad. The Cyber-space Administration of China said in a statement that the review and approval is necessary because of risks that the data could be "affected, controlled, and maliciously exploited by

foreign governments."

It also said there's a risk of important data being illegally used or transferred out of the country.

Last week, the cyber-regulator ordered a cybersecurity investigation into ride-sharing platform Didi Global Inc. The food delivery platform Meituan is also under an anti-monopoly probe, and e-commerce giant Alibaba was fined a record \$2.8 billion earlier

Tencent said it was notified by the regulator that the merger has been halted.

"The company will abide by the decision, comply with all regulatory requirements, operate in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, and fulfill our social responsibilities," the company said in a statement Saturday.

Earlier this week, Chinese authorities said they would also increase supervi-



this year for antitrust violations.

China's market regulator said the decision to ban the merger between Huya and Douyu is the first instance of regulators prohibiting market concentration in the internet sector.

The two companies first announced last October that they planned to merge, but market regulators later said that they would review the \$6 billion deal.

sion of companies listed overseas.

Under the new measures, regulation of data security and cross-border data flows, as well as the management of confidential data, will be improved.

Authorities also plan to crack down on illegal activities in the securities market, and will investigate and punish acts such as the fraudulent issuance of securities, market manipulation and insider trading.



**SISTER, SISTER!** The famous siblings, Charli D'Amelio & Dixie D'Amelio share a laugh while shooting photos for their new clothing brand in NYC.

## Aly Raisman's Dog Is Found Safe After Going Missing on Fourth of July



Olympic gymnast Aly Raisman thanked the "heroes" who helped recover her puppy Mylo, who went missing in Massachusetts after being spooked by fireworks on Fourth of July.

Aly Raisman's beloved dog is back home following a heart wrenching week for the retired Olympian.

On Friday, July 9, Raisman announced that Mylo was recovered safely after going missing on Fourth of July. In a photo shared to Instagram, the 27-year-old could be seen reuniting with her pup.

Raisman thanked the individuals who played a role in Mylo's return, writing, "HEREOS. I HAVE HIM. MYLO IS SAFE. THANK YOU Carla, Gayle & her sweet dog."

The gymnast promised to share further details with her 2 million Instagram followers, but noted she was taking some time "to snuggle with my everything."

Over the past several days, Raisman has issued several pleas for help in locating Mylo around the Seaport and Boston, Mass. area. At

the time of his disappearance, she said he was "terrified" by fireworks set off over the holiday and "ran off."

"Sick to my stomach & completely heartbroken," Raisman shared to social media while promoting a reward for his return. "Hoping for good news soon."

Today's positive update was met with a collective sigh of relief from Raisman's famous peers and fans.

"Amazing news!!!!!!" Mandy Moore commented, while Olympic teammate Laurie Hernandez wrote, "YES!!! MY WHOLE HEART."

Fellow Olympian and close friend McKayla Maroney said she was "so happy" to hear Mylo was back in Raisman's care, and Iskra Lawrence commented, "Thank goodness he's home."

Raisman rescued Mylo from a Rhode Island shelter in October 2020. The next month, she and Mylo made headlines after enjoying a doggie play date with Chris Evans and his pup Dodger.

## Marilyn Manson Released on Bail After Turning Himself in on Assault Charges

Marilyn Manson turned himself in to police in Los Angeles in relation to an outstanding arrest warrant for an alleged spitting incident out of state.

Marilyn Manson spent time in a police jail last week after turning himself in to Los Angeles police in response to an out-of-state arrest warrant over an alleged spitting incident.

The 52-year-old rocker, whose birth name is Brian Warner, faces two class A misdemeanor assault charges following the reported incident involving a videographer while performing in Gilford, New Hampshire in 2019. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department inmate records show Manson was detained at an L.A. jail on July 2.

Anthony J. Bean Burpee, chief of police in Gilford, told E! News in a statement on Thursday, July 8, that the

rocker turned himself in to L.A. authorities in relation to the 2019 arrest warrant issued for acts that allegedly took place at the New Hampshire concert. Manson was processed and released on personal recognizance bail, the police chief said.

Burpee added, "As an agency, we are pleased with Mr. Warner's decision to finally address the arrest warrant that has been outstanding since 2019."

In May, after the Gilford police made the arrest warrant public, Manson's attorney told the TV station NBC10 in Boston, "It is no secret to anyone who has attended a Marilyn Manson concert that he likes to be provocative on stage, especially in front of a camera. This misdemeanor claim was pursued after we received a demand from a venue videographer for more than \$35,000 after a small

amount of spit came into contact with their arm. After we asked for evidence of any alleged damages, we never received a reply."

The lawyer continued, "This whole claim is ludicrous, but we remain committed to cooperating with authorities, as we have done throughout."

Three eyewitnesses at the concert told People in May they saw Manson spit and "shoot his snot" at the camerawoman. One of them said, "He was spitting everywhere and one time it got on her camera so she wiped it off and looked semi-irritated. I think her final straw is he got on the floor, got within 2-3 feet of her and hacked a giant snot rocket at her, not the camera. She was pissed off and disgusted so she stormed off and he just laughed."

The rocker is due to be arraigned at a court in New

Hampshire. The date was not disclosed. If convicted, the musician would face a possible maximum sentence of one year in prison and a \$2,000 fine.

Manson's arrest charges come as he faces unrelated accusations of abuse by several women, four of whom who have filed civil lawsuits against him for alleged sexual assault—Game of Thrones star and his former girlfriend Esmé Bianco, another ex who has remained anonymous, his former assistant Ashley Walters, and last month, model Ashley Morgan Smithline.

The rocker has denied any wrongdoing and has not been charged with a crime in relation to the claims. In February, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department announced that its Special Victims Bureau is "investigating allegation(s) of domestic violence" involving Manson.

Aries:

You love them, but you hate them. Also, you can't live without them. What you're dealing with is one of those classic millennial relationships, Aries! The kind that isn't exactly supportive to your mental health. What the cards are urging you to do is step away from the drama for a second. To observe how your ego is interfering with something that's "this" beautiful. The solution you are seeking is close at hand. So, be patient with yourself, the other person, and the Universe right now. Tip: Observe how your ego is getting in the way of your relationships.

Taurus:

Sometimes things work out seamlessly. At other times, it takes a little more effort from the sides of both parties. What the cards want you to know is that this effort is worth your time. So, open yourself to love and know that your openness will be met with no resistance. Taurus is in a long-distance relationship may be actively working towards bridging the gap. As for single Venusians, the time is ripe to find romantic connections online. Tip: Open your heart to love.

Gemini:

Things may be a bit topsy-turvy today, especially on the domestic front. Some of you could be at odds with your mother or a mother figure in your life. At times like these, it's important to understand that you both come from different worlds, and

that finding a middle ground may or may not be a realistic option. So, step back. Allow the drama to unfold (without having others violate your boundaries, of course). Sometimes, agreeing to disagree may be the only way forward. Tip: You may be at odds with your mother or a mother figure in your life.

Cancer:

You are stepping into a time of growth and expansion. A time of taking your business to the next level. It's a good idea to follow the rulebook, but don't let it limit you. Giving yourself the permission to take certain risks will prove to be fruitful in the long run. Connecting with old friends and lovers may also be an important theme at this point. Some of these associations may be instrumental in helping you propel your business forward. Tip: Allow yourself to take certain risks.

Leo:

This is a time of hope and optimism. A time of believing in yourself and in the divine support that is available to you in each moment. Trust that a shift in your inner landscape will bring about a big shift in your outer reality too. On the domestic front, starting a family may be on the cards for some. Those who already have children of their own (or in the family) are being asked to spend time with them today and perfect the art of being silly. Tip: You believe in yourself like never before.

Virgo:

So it didn't work out, Virgo. So all of your attempts proved to be futile the first time around. It's time to stop mulling over your misery and repeating the old story over and over. It's time to start afresh with hope and optimism in your heart, and the belief that the Universe will catch you if you fall. If the signs are to be believed, you are closer to the destination than you have ever been. So reclaim the reins and take a calculated step in the direction of your dreams and desires. Tip: It's all coming together, beautiful.

Libra:

This is a wonderful time for home-run businesses, and for those who wish to set something up exactly where they are. But you can't do everything on your own if you want to expand in a mindful manner. So collaborate with the right crew, and outsource the tasks that can do without your time and energy. 'Collaboration' is the keyword for freelancers too. The Universe is offering you a chance to sync your forces with like-minded people. Say yes and give yourself the permission to figure it all out as you go along. Tip: Collaborate with the right crew, and outsource the tasks that can do without your time and energy.

Scorpio:

You can have the best ideas in the world, but they will amount to nothing until you actively put them into practice. So, take ownership of both your life "and" this project, Scorpio. Leading by example is the best way to garner the support from your teammates. On the interpersonal front, you're being asked to practice nonviolent communication. It's better to speak about what's on your mind than to hold onto grudges. Tip: It's time to put things into practice.

Sagittarius:

The new moon in Cancer is activating the portal of good juju for you. You're at a point in your life where you can be appreciative of the love and laughter that surrounds you in every moment. What the cards want you to know: there's a lot more where that came from, Sagittarius. For couples who have been in what can best be described as an unconventional romance, this is a time of deepening your connection and realizing that you are more connected than you give yourself credit for. Trust the signs that are telling you this is meant to be as you actively work towards building a future together. Tip: Appreciate the love and laughter that surrounds you in each moment.

Capricorn:

In his book Be Here Now, Mystic Ram Dass said, "I can do nothing for you but work on myself... and you can do nothing for me but work on yourself." Just the messages you need to reflect upon as you step into the new moon cycle, Capricorn. It's true that you're stuck in what can best be described as a karmic relationship. But you have attracted this

experience into your life for a reason. Honour what's taking place right now as an opportunity to do the work and evolve on a soul level. It is by observing your shadows that you will be able to transform on a mind, body, and soul level. Tip: The differences are providing you with an opportunity to grow.

Aquarius:

This phase of your life is about the hustle. You're putting in your best efforts without being attached to a specific outcome, which in turn is propelling your career in the right direction. Don't limit yourself, though. The portal of growth and expansion is open to you. Aligning yourself with the right forces and taking calculated risks is the way forward. PS: Tapping into the power of digital marketing is also a good idea right now. Tip: The portal of growth and expansion is available to you.

Pisces:

We, as a collective, tend to glorify the fast life, without realising that magic takes form behind the scenes. This is especially true for where you are, Pisces. You're in that in-between phase where the old heart quite ended, and the new is yet to begin. Instead of pushing against the flow, welcome this as a time of massive revelations. An opportunity to dream a new world into being. Remember, it is when you get comfortable with being in yin mode that the answers you seek begin to reveal themselves to you. Tip: The gates of the subtle realms are open for you in this moment.