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Summit TIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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"Wonderful person, great respect for his work":

High Court on Stan Swamy

MUMBAI, 19 JUL [PTI]: The Bombay High Court, while hearing posthumously the appeals filed by late Jesuit priest Stan Swamy in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case, on Monday said he was a wonderful person and the court had "great respect" for his work.

The observations were made by a bench of Justices SS Shinde and N J Jamadar that had also presided over Stan Swamy's medical bail plea on July 5, when the HC was informed about the 84-year-old priest's death at the Holy Family Hospital here that day following a cardiac arrest.

"We don't have time normally, but I saw the funeral service (of Swamy). It was very gracious," Justice Shinde said.

"Such a wonderful person. The kind of service he has rendered to society. We have great respect for his work. Legally, whatever is there against him is a different matter," he said.

The bench also referred to the criticism that the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and the judiciary had received following Swamy's death.

It expressed regret over how, in several cases, undertrials languished in prisons waiting for the trial to begin.

The bench, however, also said it had ensured to remain fair while passing orders on Stan Swamy's medical bail plea, as well as on the pleas filed by his co-accused in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case.

"You came to us with his medical bail plea on May 28 and we acceded to every prayer, every time," the court said to

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After tearing through India for 9 months, Delta Variant finally confirmed in Sikkim

SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 19 JUL:

The Delta Variant of SARS CoV-2 which was first detected in India in October 2020, and which is currently the dominant variant causing Covid infections in at least 104 countries the world over, was finally confirmed in Sikkim today with the Health Minister Dr MK Sharma and Director General and Secretary, Health Department, Dr Pempa T Bhutia, holding a joint press conference to announce that genome sequencing of samples sent from Sikkim have confirmed the Delta Variant in Sikkim.

Dr Bhutia clarified that this is not Delta-Plus, the further mutation of the Delta Variant that has health professionals worried around the world at present.

While the announcement has sent social media circles in a tizzy,



doctors on the frontlines are not surprised. Some government doctors, while speaking to SummitTimes on obvious conditions of anonymity, shared that they had diagnosed this a while back even if lab-confirmation was coming only now.

In fact, they remain convinced that the second wave, which has been in Sikkim since end-April, was primarily driven by the Delta Variant, a phenomenon which has

been seen around the country.

Meanwhile, addressing a media briefing today, the Health Minister informed that 97 of the 98 randomly selected Covid-positive samples returned positive for the Delta Variant after genome sequencing at the National Institute of Biomedical Genomics in Kalyani, West Bengal.

The samples were sent for genome sequencing on 23 June and

the results arrived today.

He explained that the samples were sent for genome sequencing after increased infection was noticed in the State even after the lockdown and other restrictions on movement of people.

"We are concerned about the delta variant of COVID-19 as it is more severe than other variants and highly transmissible," he said.

He mentioned that the delta variant can

even escape detection in RT-PCR screening in some cases.

He also stated that there will not be a separate protocol to deal with the Delta Variant, but the Government will ramp up testing and tracing.

Speaking on the present situation, the Minister mentioned that the positivity rate of COVID-19 so far in July is 18.6% with 0.59% case fatality ratio.

While responding to media queries, Dr Sharma mentioned that although random samples were sent for genome sequencing, the department has the full details and will contact all persons whose samples tested positive for the delta variant for necessary observation.

Dr Bhutia in turn mentioned that the department will soon start a mobile testing facility between Ranipool and Gangtok.

257 new COVID cases recorded in Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 19 JUL:

Sikkim recorded a surge of 257 fresh cases of novel coronavirus in the last 24 hours taking the state tally of confirmed cases of COVID-19 to 23,649. Out of 257 new cases in the State, 111 cases were recorded in West District, 80 in South District, 65 in East District and 01 in North District.

As per the daily COVID-19 report of Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme of Health Department, 257 samples returned positive for COVID-19 during the testing of 1335 samples on Sunday and the daily positivity rate was recorded at 19.2%.

A total of 211 new cases were found in RT-PCR testing of 1198 samples, while 45 persons were found positive for COVID-19 in rapid antigen testing of 131 samples and one more new case was recorded in TruNat testing of six samples.

Among the new cases of COVID-19 in the State, only nine COVID patients were hospitalized and rest were sent to COVID Care Centres and home isolation.

As per the report no new COVID death has been reported in the last 24 hours and the state COVID death toll still stands at 324.

On the other hand, 136 persons were discharged from home isolation on Sunday improving the figure of recovered cases of COVID-19 in Sikkim to 20,634. The current state recovery rate of COVID-19 is 88.2%.

Active cases of coronavirus have slightly increased to 2429 in the State. There are 13 COVID patients currently admitted in ICU facilities of STNM hospital and Central Referral Hospital, Tadong.

Hospitals have become industries, thrive on human distress: Supreme Court

NEW DELHI, 19 JUL: The Supreme Court on Monday observed that hospitals in the country have become large industries now thriving on human distress and it is better that they be shut down.

"Do we look at hospitals as a real estate industry, or as a service to humanity?" asked Bench of Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice MR Shah.

"Hospitals have become a large industry now based on human distress. We cannot allow them to prosper at the cost of human lives. Let such hospitals be closed and allow the state to bolster health care facilities. Let not such hospitals operate in buildings with four rooms etc.," said Justice Chandrachud while noting that a number of hospitals don't adhere to fire safety norms.

Justice Chandrachud while noting that a number of hospitals don't adhere to fire safety norms. Justice Chandrachud gave an instance where one patient who had recovered from

COVID-19 and was to be released from the hospital the next day was burnt alive and two nurses also died because of fire in the hospital.

"These tragedies have unfolded in front of our eyes. Are these hospitals are real estate industry or providing service to humanity?" asked the Bench.

The Supreme Court was hearing a suo motu case regarding the proper treatment of COVID-19 patients and dignified handling of dead bodies in the hospitals and issue concerning fire tragedies in COVID-19 hospitals across the country.

The Bench pulled up the Gujarat government for failing to follow its directions with regard to fire safety norms in hospitals, while referring to a notification issued by the government extending the deadline till June 2022 for hospitals to adhere to the norms to correct building bye-law violations.

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Vaccinations reduce chance of Covid death in India to 0.4%

NEW DELHI, 19 JUL [BLOOMBERG]: Vaccines targeting Covid-19 are able to curb deaths and hospitalization in patients substantially, including those infected by the highly-transmissible delta variant that drove India's devastating second wave and is now triggering curbs from Los Angeles to Melbourne.

About 0.4% died among those who got infected after inoculation -- called breakthrough infections -- while nearly 10% needed hospitalization, according to a new study by researchers led by Indian Council of Medical Research's Nivedita Gupta. The study, which analyzed genome sequencing data of 677 Covid patients, found 86% of the fully-vaccinated cases were due to the delta variant.

The findings underscore the crucial role of shots in preventing extreme outcomes among Covid sufferers and allays doubts around

vaccine efficacy especially with respect to the delta variant that has rapidly spread to at least 104 countries. First detected in India last October, this variant has emerged as the dominant strain in the U.K., the U.S. and Australia, forcing public health officials to double down on social distancing measures.

"This clearly suggests that vaccination reduces severity of disease, hospitalization and mortality," said the study. "Therefore, enhancing the vaccination drive and immunizing the populations quickly would be the most important strategy to prevent further deadly waves of the Covid-19 and would reduce the burden on the health care system."

Among those analyzed in the study, which is still to be peer-reviewed, 592 people had received both the vaccine doses while 85 had only one dose. India has pre-

dominantly injected people with AstraZeneca Plc's Covishield -- a traditional vector-based shot whose efficacy against the delta variant has been dogged with concerns compared to the highly-effective messenger RNA vaccines from Pfizer Inc. and Moderna Inc.

DELTA MUTATIONS
Possibly the largest and first nationwide study of post-vaccination breakthrough infections from India, the research also detected evidence of two new mutations of delta -- Delta AY.1 and Delta AY.2 -- in some samples besides older variants, alpha and kappa.

India saw daily infections breach record 400,000-levels in early May during the delta-driven second wave which overwhelmed hospitals and crematoriums. Shortages of essential supplies led to citizens' pleas flooding social

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INDIAN NAVY

AN OCEAN OF OPPORTUNITIES

Indian Navy invites online applications from unmarried male candidates (who fulfill eligibility conditions as laid down by the Government of India) for enrolment as sailor for Matric Recruit (MR) entry:-

ENTRY	EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION	AGE	PAY STRUCTURE
Matric Recruit (MR)	Qualified in Matriculation Examination from the Boards of School Education recognised by Ministry of Education, Govt. of India	Candidates should be born between 01 Apr 2001 to 30 Sep 2004 (both dates inclusive)	After successful completion of training, candidate will be placed in Level 3 of Defence Pay Matrix (Rs. 21,700/- to 69,100/-) & MSP @ Rs. 5,200/- per month plus DA (as applicable)

ONLINE APPLICATION FOR MR ENTRY WILL BE OPEN UNTIL 23rd JULY 2021

NOTE:-
(i) Identity proof is mandatory for online registration.
(ii) Please read the instructions given in the website carefully before submitting your e-Application form.
For details visit www.joinindiannavy.gov.in & Employment News dated 17 July 2021.

APPLY ONLINE THROUGH QR CODE

Step 1: Download QR code scanner app
Step 2: From the app, scan the QR code given here
Step 3: Open URL and follow the instructions.



davp 10701/13/0008/2122

Flu Clinic inaugurated at Dikchu PHC

WANGCHUK BHUTIA MANGAN, 19 JUL: Forest Minister Karma Loday Bhutia, who is also the area MLA, inaugurated the newly constructed flu clinic at Dikchu PHC in North Sikkim today. The new facility has been constructed by Sneha Kinetic Power Project Ltd (SKPPL) and the Minister was accompanied by KC Lepcha, AGM SKPPL, Krishna Pradhan, Sr Manager, Rajen Pradhan, Asst Manager, Dr Shika Gurung and other staffs.

SKPPL has also donated blankets and the bed-sheets for the ward.

The Minister expressed his gratitude towards SKPPL for extending support towards the welfare of patients and the people.

Later, the Minister also visited the powerhouse of the 96 MW Dikchu Power Project being constructed by SKPPL and interacted with officials there.

Some Adani group companies being probed, says Minister in Parliament

CHENNAI, 19 JUL [PTI]: Securities regulator and customs authorities are investigating some Adani Group companies for non-compliance of rules, junior finance minister told parliament on Monday. It was not immediately clear when the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), or the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) launched the investigation.

The minister, Pankaj Chaudhary, did not name which companies were involved.

Shares of Adani group companies, which operate airports and ports, power generation and transmission, coal and gas trading, closed between 1.1%-4.8% lower on Monday.

"SEBI is investigating some Adani Group companies with regard to compliance with SEBI Regulations. Further, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) is investigating certain entities belonging to the Adani Group," Mr Chaudhary said.

Delta variant accounts for 80% of new Covid cases: Government Expert Panel Chief

NEW DELHI, 19 JUL [PTI]: The Delta variant was primarily responsible for the second wave of COVID-19 in the country, accounting for over 80 per cent of new cases, Dr N K Arora, co-chair of Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium said, underlining that the cases may go up if a new, more infectious variant comes.

The variant is also around 40-60 percent more transmissible than its predecessor, Alpha variant, and has already spread to more than 80 countries, including the UK, the US and Singapore.

The Delta Plus variant - AY.1 and AY.2 - has so far been detected in 55-60 cases across 11 states, including Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Madhya Pradesh and is still being studied for its transmissibility, virulence, and vaccine escape characteristics, Dr Arora said, according to a Union Health Ministry statement.

The Delta variant has mutations in its spike protein, which helps it bind to the ACE2 receptors present on the surface of the cells more firmly, making it more transmissible and capable of evading the body's immunity, Dr Arora said.

"The B.1.617.2, a variant of COVID-19 known as the Delta variant, was first identified in October 2020 in India, and was primarily responsible for the second wave in the country, today accounting for over 80 percent of new COVID-19 cases," he said.

It emerged in Maharashtra and travelled northwards along the western states of the country before entering the central and the eastern states.



On whether it causes more severe disease as compared to other variants, Dr Arora said there are studies that show that there are some mutations in this variant that promote syncytium formation.

"Besides, on invading a human cell, it replicates faster. It leads to a strong inflammatory response in organs like the lungs. However it is difficult to say that disease due to delta variant is more severe. The age profile and the deaths during the second wave in India were quite similar to that seen during first wave," he stated.

"The Delta Plus variant - AY.1 and AY.2 - has so far been detected in 55-60 cases across 11 states, including Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Madhya Pradesh. AY.1 is also found in countries like Nepal, Portugal, Switzerland, Poland, Japan but AY.2 is less prevalent. The variant is still being studied for its transmissibility, virulence, and vaccine escape characteristics," he said.

Dr Arora said current vaccines are effective against Delta variant as per the studies undertaken by ICMR on the issue.

On some parts of the country still witnessing a spurt in the number of cases, he said, though there is a significant dip in the number of cases in most parts of the country, some regions are witnessing a high-Test Positivity Rate (TPR) particularly in the north-eastern part and several districts in the southern states, most of these cases could be due to the Delta variant.

On whether future waves could be prevented, Dr Arora said a virus begins infecting a part of the population, which is most susceptible and also exposed to the infection. It diminishes after it successfully infects a large proportion of the population and strikes back when the immunity developed in the people post-natural infection fades.

"The cases may go up if a new, more infectious variant comes. In other words, next wave will be driven by a virus variant to which significant proportion of population is susceptible," he said.

The second wave is still going on. Any future waves will be con-

trolled and delayed if more and more people get vaccinated and most importantly, people follow COVID-Appropriate Behaviour effectively, especially till a substantial part of our population gets vaccinated, he stressed.

People need to focus on vaccination and adherence to Covid appropriate behaviour to manage COVID-19, he added.

There is a need to keep a strict vigil on the emergence of variants of concern and outbreaks so that they can be contained before they spread to a larger region.

The Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG), established in December 2020, was a consortium of 10 laboratories. Recently 18 more laboratories became part of it, he Dr Arora said.

The INSACOG is a consortium of 28 laboratories for whole genome sequencing in the context of COVID-19 pandemic and was established on December 26, 2020.

The idea is to have a strong network of laboratories to do genomic surveillance of

the SARS-CoV-2 and correlate whole genomics sequencing (WGS) data with clinical and epidemiological data to see whether or not a variant is more transmissible, causes more severe disease, escaping immunity or causing breakthrough infections, affecting vaccine efficacy, and diagnosed by current diagnostic tests, he said.

The National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) analyses this data. The entire country has been divided into geographical regions and each lab is given the responsibility of one particular region.

"We have formed 180-190 clusters with around four districts in each cluster. Regular random swab samples and samples of patients who develop severe illness, vaccine breakthrough infections, and other atypical clinical presentations, are collected and sent to regional laboratories for sequencing. The current capacity of the country is to sequence over 50,000 samples per month; earlier it was approximately 30,000 samples," he said.

Supreme Court seeks details of those arrested for posters critical of PM Modi

New Delhi, 19 Jul [PTI]: The Supreme Court Monday asked a petitioner to bring to its notice the cases registered and people arrested for allegedly pasting posters critical of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in connection with the vaccination drive against COVID-19.

The top court said it cannot issue blanket orders to police not to register FIRs over the pasting of posters criticising the Centre's vaccination policy.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and M R Shah gave petitioner Pradeep Kumar Yadav a week to bring to its notice individual cases registered against people and said that he should have done his homework instead of just relying on newspaper reports.

Pradeep Kumar Yadav said cases have been lodged in NCT of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Lakshadweep, and police may be directed to give a copy of the FIR to him.

The bench said, "We also read newspapers. The Lakshadweep controversy was something different. The woman in question was granted anticipatory bail from Kerala High Court. Don't bring that controversy in this matter. You tell us about the cases registered in Delhi and other places".

The top court refused to issue any direction to the police saying it would amount to issuing notice to them.

"You should do your homework. We are not issuing any direction to the police," the bench said

and posted the matter for further hearing next week.

Pradeep Kumar Yadav has filed a plea seeking to quash the FIRs registered by Delhi Police for allegedly pasting posters critical of PM Modi in connection with the vaccination drive against COVID-19.

He has sought direction from Delhi Police Commissioner not to register any further cases/FIRs with regard to COVID-19 posters/advertisements/ brochures which have surfaced in context to the ongoing vaccination drive.

Pradeep Kumar Yadav, who is also a practicing advocate, has said that he is seeking the indulgence of this court to intervene with the "illegal arrest of the innocent general public" for their speech and expression by way of pamphlets affixed on the wall which is now spread in social media.

He said the court has held in a catena of cases that freedom of speech and expression with regard to the public cause is a fundamental right of every citizen guaranteed under the Constitution of India.

The advocate referred to the top court's 2015 verdict in the Shreya Singhal case in which section 66A of the IT Act was quashed and the recent order in suo motu case on COVID management, in which state authorities were directed not to register any criminal case against the public seeking medical help in the social media.

Cash-for-marks scam in Assam Board exams unearthed, 2 arrested

RANGIA, 19 JUL [PTI]: The Assam Police has unearthed a scam of awarding higher marks in class 10 and 12 state board examinations in lieu of money and arrested two persons from Kamrup district in this connection, a senior officer said on Sunday.

The police also detained four others, including a school inspector and coordinator of the state board, for their alleged involvement in the cash-for-marks scam, he said.

Kamrup Superintendent of Police Hitesh Ch Roy said Principal of Majortop Higher Sec-

ondary School in Goroimari, Akkas Ali, and Office Assistant at Inspector of Schools Prashanta Das have been arrested.

The police also detained Kamrup district's Inspector of Schools MadhabDeka, Board of Secondary Education, Assam (SEBA) coordinator Pulpahinath, GoroimariAnchalik Girls High School headmaster HabiburRahman and SibeswarKalita, a staffer of Deka's office for their alleged involvement in the racket, he said.

"We are interrogating all the six people to get more informa-

tion. Once we find concrete evidence of involvement of the four detained, we will take action accordingly," Mr Roy said.

A case has been registered at Changsari police station under several sections of the Indian Penal Code.

The Kamrup District Police got information about a "marks scam" a few days back and was investigating it, Mr Roy said.

According to senior officials, a team of about 100 policemen raided the Office of Inspector of Schools on Saturday and seized several documents, in-

cluding answer sheets, a laptop, mobile handsets and unaccounted cash.

"The police detained all the six people and brought them to the SP's office for interrogation, which continued till late last night. The racket used to award higher marks to candidates of matric and higher secondary (Class 12) exams in lieu of money," an Assam Police source told PTI.

The police also recovered a huge amount of documents from the two schools located at Chhaygaon of Kamrup district.

"Wonderful person..."

Swamy's advocate, senior counsel Mihir Desai.

"Outside, we are speechless. Only you (Desai) can clarify this. You have said it on record that you have no grievance with this court in the matter," the HC said.

The HC further said nobody mentions that this is the court which granted bail to (co-accused) VaravaraRao, despite vehement opposition.

"We allowed (Rao's) family to meet as we thought human angle has to be seen. In another case (HanyBabu), we sent to hospital of his choice (Breach Candy Hospital-a private medical facility)," the HC said.

"We never anticipated this will happen (Swamy's death in custody). What was on our minds, we can't say now as we couldn't pronounce our order," the HC said referring to the pending medical plea of the late Jesuit priest.

Swamy was arrested by the NIA in connection with the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case from Ranchi in October 2020. The tribal rights activist, who was suffering from Parkinson's disease and several other ailments, spent most

of his time in custody in the Taloja prison's hospital in neighbouring Navi Mumbai.

He was admitted to the state-run J J Hospital in Mumbai on two occasions and was shifted to the Holy Family Hospital, a private medical facility, on May 28, following the intervention of the bench led by Justice Shinde.

On July 5, the bench was informed by the hospital authorities that Swamy had suffered from a cardiac arrest two days prior and was put on ventilator support.

He never regained consciousness and was declared dead by the hospital authorities about an hour before Swamy's medical bail plea was taken up for hearing by the HC, it was informed at that time.

On Monday, following the HC's observations on it having passed fair orders, Desai said, "Let me say on record that I am extremely happy with various benches of the HC that heard this matter."

Desai, however, urged the HC to let Swamy's aide and another priest, father Frazer Mascarenhas, to participate

in the magisterial inquiry that was initiated under Section 176 of the CrPC following the undertrial's death.

He also urged the high court to direct the magistrate conducting the inquiry to adhere to the UNHRC guidelines on such inquiries, and to ask for a report of the probe to be submitted in the HC.

Desai was Swamy's counsel in the appeals challenging a special court order denying him bail on both medical grounds and merits.

Swamy had also filed a plea in the HC just weeks before his death, challenging section 45-D of the stringent Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), that barred grant of bail to any person accused under the Act.

Advocate SandeshPatil, who appeared for the NIA, on Monday said the central agency was objecting to Desai's request since the HC was hearing appeals challenging a bail order and issues related to the inquiry could not be raised on the same pleas.

"Time and again it is projected that the NIA is responsible for whatever has

happened, and that jail authorities are responsible too," Patil told the HC.

The bench, however, told him there could be "no control on who says what outside on the matter".

"You take instructions on how many witnesses, how long will the trial take. We have to look at it practically," the HC said to the NIA counsel.

"The concern is that for how many years can people be asked to languish in jail without a trial. Not only in this case, but the question will arise on other cases also," it said.

The HC will continue hearing the pleas on July 23.

The Elgar Parishad case is related to inflammatory speeches made at a conclave held in Pune on December 31, 2017, which, the police claimed, triggered violence the next day near the Koregaon-Bhima war memorial located on the outskirts of the western Maharashtra city.

The police had claimed the conclave was organised by people with alleged Maoist links.

The NIA later took over the probe into the case.

Hospitals have become...

"You say hospitals don't have to adhere till 2022 and people will continue dying and be burnt," the Bench observed.

It also took exception to the fact that a report by a commission on the issue of fire safety in hospitals was filed in a sealed cover. "What is this report in a sealed cover by commission etc.? It is not a nuclear secret," said Justice Chandrachud.

The top court had ordered fire-safety audits and other illegalities by hospitals across India after fires in COVID-19 dedicated hospitals in Gujarat and Maharashtra had killed scores of patients.

Justice Chandrachud said that by the December 18, 2020, judgment of this court, all states were directed to appoint nodal officers in each hospital to ensure fire safety norms are followed. COVID-19 hospitals who don't have NoC from the fire department appropriate action was to be taken. On July 8, 2021, the Gujarat government passed a notification extending deadline to June 2022.

"40 hospitals in Gujarat were held liable and they came to High Court. Later, the government order was that no action should be taken against hospitals for violation of fire safety. Such an order is a contempt of this court," observed the top court.

The Bench asked the state of Gujarat to explain why this notification was brought into force and be placed on record.

The state of Gujarat shall also file before this court a comprehensive statement showing audits which were conducted in pursuance with December 2020 judgment of this court regarding fire safety, ordered the top court.

The top court posted the matter for hearing after two weeks.

Vaccinations reduce...

media platforms for hospital beds, oxygen cylinders and Covid-related medicines.

The country has so far fully vaccinated only 5.7% of its 1.3 billion population, according to Bloomberg's vaccine tracker.

THIRD WAVE

Infections are on the rise again in some Indian states including Maharashtra and Kerala, stoking fears of an incoming third wave. India's Prime Minister NarendraModi told state chiefs during a briefing Friday that effective steps were urgently needed to curb the outbreak from flaring up again.

The study also has policy prescriptions for India as it seeks to avert another of Covid infections. It emphasized the need for constant genome sequencing as well as tracking these breakthrough infections.

"Such monitoring will help us to understand the need to adequately tweak the available vaccines and also develop new vaccines with enhanced potential to protect against variant strains of SARS-CoV-2," it said.

Snake bite in animals - what to do and what not to do?

ANUPRIYA SHARMA

Snake bite in animals generally occurs while grazing or hunting. Most of the snake bites have been reported in dogs and horses, however, other species of animals are also affected.

There are more than 3500 different species of snakes out of which around 600 species have been found to be poisonous and dangerous. The poisonous snakes belong to six different families namely, Elapidae, Crotalidae, Viperidae, Hydrophidae, Laticaudidae and Colubridae.

'Venom' the toxic substance produced by the snakes are responsible for production of two types of toxicity i.e. neurotoxicity and cardiotoxicity/haemotoxicity.

The snake venom contains different fractions of anticoagulant, coagulant, cardiotoxic,

eyelids and paralysis of muscles of eyeballs and respiration, while Haemotoxic effects include local tissue damage and injury to blood vessels, blood cells and sometimes shock. It causes restlessness, teeth grinding, hypersalivation, dyspnoea, ataxia and con-

1. Keep the animal undisturbed.
2. To restrict the further absorption and distribution of venom, apply a tight tourniquet above the site of bite.

3. Incise the local area of snake bite in the direction of blood vessel and go for suc-



vulsions.

Toxicity due to the venom depends upon the quantity of venom injected, species of the snake, location of the bite and the species of animal involved i.e. Horses are the most susceptible followed by sheep>cattl e>goat>dogs>pig>cats. It also depends on the prompt availability of an appropriate therapy. Thus, if not looked into the matter immediately, there are chances of severe injuries including death in animals bitten by the snake.

Clinical signs:

Clinical signs of neurotoxins containing snake bite are salivation, hyper-excitability, mydriasis, asphyxia, gasping, recumbency, convulsions and death within 2-4 hours. Regurgitation of ruminal contents, paralysis of tongue, oesophagus and larynx is also observed in calves.

Diagnosis:

Snake bite can be diagnosed by the history of sudden death, observing the fang marks, local swelling, oozing of blood at the site of bite, cyanosis etc. Identification of the snake in the vicinity also helps in making diagnosis.

General management of snake bite:

tion and infiltrate the area with 5% soap solution.

4. Inject antivenin, antibiotics and antitoxins.

5. If the snake has not been identified, give polyvalent antivenin intravenously and also infiltrate the antivenin locally around the site of bite.

6. Polyvalent antivenin should be administered intravenously @10-20ml per animal depending on the weight of the animal.

7. Give supportive treatment for managing shock and cardio pulmonary disturbances by administering corticosteroids.

Precautions to be taken:

1. Do not use potassium permanganate.

2. Do not give extreme hot or cold treatment at the site of bite or incision.

Conclusion: Snake bite is a common life-threatening emergency which must be looked into immediately, in order to save the life of an animal and with it, to protect ourselves from the loss that is going to occur in production by the death of the animal concerned.

[The writer is a 3rd year student at the College of Veterinary Science, Khanapara, Guwahati]

TipsForLife

haemolytic and necrotising factors.

They are complex mixture of toxins consisting of amino acids, polypeptides, glycopeptides and biogenic amines in addition to certain cations such as ions of potassium, sodium, calcium, nickel, magnesium etc. Most active component of the venom is a peptide or polypeptide which mostly acts enzymatically and at times non enzymatically too. Neurotoxicity is mostly produced by enzymatic portion of the venom. Some of the important enzymes present in the venoms of snakes are; Proteolytic enzyme, arginine ester hydrolase, thrombin like enzymes, collagenase, Hyaluronidase, Phosphodiesterase, Acetylcholinesterase, etc.

The venoms of cobra and krait are mainly neurotoxic while that of viper and rattle snakes are haemotoxic in nature. Neurotoxic symptoms include paralysis of cranial nerve of eyelids resulting in drooping of

Gangtok's Inner Wheel Club installs new office bearers



SUMMIT REPORT

RANGPO, 19 JUL:

The Inner Wheel Club of Gangtok convened an installation ceremony for the 2021-22 term.

The function was held virtually and Sunita Kiran was sworn in as president and Sunita Sirohia sworn in as the Secretary.

DC Amita Mundrawas present as chief guest and Renu Verma as guest

of honour.

Gangtok Deputy Mayor, Tshering Palden Bhutia, was inducted as an honorary Member of the club while new member Rajni Khati was introduced and was welcomed into the inner Wheel family, a press release informs.

The event also saw the release of the club's annual bulletin - FrAGRANCE.

Suresh Subba's debut novel released



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 18 JUL:

Zindagi Katha Haru Bhitra, the first book by Suresh Subba 'Biyogi' was released at his residence in Kitam in South District on Saturday.

The book is a collection of 16 short stories.

The writer has been con-

tributing towards Nepali literature and has already been conferred the 'Agam Singh Tamang Pratibha Puraskar 2019' by Sikkim Sammelan, South District.

Due to the continuing Covid restrictions, the release function was a scaled down event with only a few local teachers

and friends of the writer gathered for the event. Suresh's teachers Tika Chandra Mukhia, DN Sharma, Kharka Prasad Gazmer and Pramila Rai along with Kaziman Pradhan, Dhanraj Pradhan and Dinesh Kumar Subba and others attended the function.

Sensex tanks 587 pts; HDFC Bank slumps over 3 pc

Mumbai, Jul 19 (PTI): Equity benchmark Sensex tanked 587 points on Monday, tracking heavy losses in HDFC twins, Reliance Industries and Axis Bank amid a weak trend in global markets. The 30-share BSE index ended 586.66 points or 1.10 per cent lower at 52,553.40, while the broader NSE Nifty fell 171 points or 1.07 per cent to 15,752.40.

HDFC Bank was the top loser in the Sensex pack, slumping over 3 per cent, followed by IndusInd Bank, Axis Bank, HDFC, Maruti and Bajaj Finance.

On the other hand, NTPC, Nestle India, Dr Reddy's and Sun Pharma were among the gainers. Domestic equities fell sharply on weak global cues as concerns over recent rise in fresh COVID-19 cases in various part of the world including the US weighed on sentiments, said Binod Modi, Head - Strategy at Reliance Securities.

"Financials have witnessed steeper correction today as subpar performance delivered by HDFC Bank in 1QFY22 and visible deterioration in asset quality created apprehension among in-

vestors about banks and NBFCs having exposure in retail and SME.

"Further, auto and metal indices also corrected over 1 per cent. Barring realty and pharma, most key sectoral indices witnessed contraction. Profit-booking was visible in mid-cap and small-cap stocks also, while volatility index hardened over 8 per cent," he noted.

On the global front, bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Seoul and Tokyo ended with heavy losses. Equities in Europe were also in the red in mid-session deals.

Watershed for unicorns in India as China tech crackdown spooks investors

NEW DELHI, 19 JUL [BLOOMBERG]: Last week marked a watershed for technology startups in India, as a record bout of fundraising shifted attention to the world's second-most populous market, just as investors were becoming spooked by a crackdown on internet companies in China.

Food-delivery app Zomato Ltd. became the nation's first unicorn to make its stock-market debut, raising \$1.3 billion with backing from Morgan Stanley, Tiger Global and Fidelity Investments. The parent of digital payments startup Paytm filed a draft prospectus for what could be India's biggest IPO at \$2.2 billion, while retailer Flipkart Online Services Pvt raised \$3.6 billion at a \$38 billion valuation, a record funding round for an Indian startup.

"Indian entrepreneurs have been quietly building startups for a decade now, the country's internet infrastructure has vastly improved in that time and there's a very good appetite for tech stocks globally," said Hans Tung, the Silicon Valley-based managing partner of GGV Capital, which manages \$9.2 billion in assets. "Investors are beginning to see the huge upside and they expect India to be a China."

Lenskart, an online retailer for eyewear, also said Monday that it raised \$220 million from investors including Singapore's Temasek Holdings Pte and Falcon Edge Capital. It raised money earlier from KKR & Co. and Japan's SoftBank Group Corp.

Unlike China, where online usage is much more developed, many of India's 625 million internet users are just dipping their toes into the world of video streaming, social networking and e-commerce. Opportunities in online shopping are particularly attractive, as e-commerce accounts for less than 3% of retail transactions. Tech startups in India are still paying to build supply chain and delivery networks.

India's population is expected to overtake China's this decade and the mood now among investors could not be more different in the neighboring nations. China is reining in its tech companies, wiping over \$800 billion off market valuations from a February peak and shaving billions off the net worth of its most famous entrepreneurs. This month, the government abruptly pulled ride-hailing service Didi Global Inc. from app stores, months after regulators forced Jack Ma's Ant Group Co. to halt a blockbuster IPO at the eleventh hour. The clampdown is expected to continue, as regulators curb the power of internet companies and wrest back control of user data.

Indian tech companies "can attract global investors who've burnt their hands in Chinese tech companies," said Nilesh Shah, group president and managing director at Kotak Mahindra

Asset Management Co. in Mumbai. The successful listing of a few loss-making startups could lead to re-rating of many existing companies and send the market higher, he said.

India had a record \$6.3 billion of funding and deals for technology startups in the second quarter, while funding to China-based companies dropped 18% from a peak of \$27.7 billion in the fourth quarter of 2020, according to data from research firm CB Insights.

Flipkart, one of India's two dominant e-commerce players along with Amazon.com Inc., is among a slew of startups planning to tap public markets in the next 24 months, with a line-up that includes insurance marketplace Policybazaar's parent ETechAces Marketing & Consulting Pvt., logistics provider Delhivery Pvt. and ANI Technologies Pvt.'s Ola ride-hailing service. The IPOs will give retail investors a chance to own a stake in the startups, which had been available only to global private investors.

In those private markets, India has been minting startups valued at \$1 billion or more in recent months at unprecedented speed. In April, half-a-dozen unicorns were born within a span of four days, while intervals between fundraising rounds have contracted to weeks for many startups. A Credit Suisse Group AG report this year found there are about 100 unicorns in India with a combined market value of \$240 billion, in sectors from e-commerce and fintech to education, logistics and food delivery.

"\$1 billion is the new \$100 million," said Krishnan Ganesh, a serial entrepreneur who now promotes companies that have attracted investors such as Sequoia Capital, Lightspeed Venture Partners and Qualcomm Ventures. "Global investors see the potential upside in India's huge, under-penetrated market and capital flows have multiplied 10 times."

Optimism about India is tempered as one of the worst coronavirus outbreaks in the world threatens to erode decades of economic gains, with over 31 million infections and more than 400,000 deaths. At least 200 million Indians have regressed to earning less than the \$5 minimum daily wage, Bangalore-based Azim Premji University estimates, while the middle class shrank by 32 million in 2020, according to the Pew Research Institute.

Nor are investors in India free of political risks. Technology startups also face a tightening regulatory regime with Narendra Modi's government clamping down on foreign retailers, social media giants and streaming companies. The administration is expected to present a bill on data ownership and storage during the month-long parliament session starting Monday that would restrict the ways they can handle user information.

SAATHI organizes online dance workshop



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 19 JUL:

SAATHI organized an online dance workshop via zoom on 19 July the objective to engage students during the pandemic and encourage them to explore their talents.

The resource person for the program was

Pravesh Tamang, a dancer/teacher/choreographer at Music in Motion Dance Academy, Gangtok. He was also finalist in 'Yes I'm India's Biggest Reality Show' at Mumbai Goregaon Film City.

32 students from different schools of Sikkim attended the workshop.



What is Novel Coronavirus - nCoV?

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

<p>Symptoms of nCoV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fever ● Difficulty in breathing ● Dry Cough ● Severe acute respiratory syndrome ● Pneumonia - like symptoms 	<p>Precautions to Prevent nCoV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wash your hands often with soap. ● Use an alcohol based hand sanitizer ● Observe good personal hygiene. ● Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands. ● Avoid contact with people with possible symptoms. ● Avoid contact with animals and consumption of undercooked meats. ● Avoid travel to nCoV affected places. ● Wear a mask if you have respiratory syndrome. and cover your mouth while coughing or sneezing.
<p>Treatment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Treatment is symptomatic and supportive, based on the patient's clinical condition. ● No vaccinations available as of now. ● Visit Doctor in case symptoms detected 	<p>If you seek help, you may call :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Toll free no. 104 District surveillance Officer EAST : 7029372100 WEST : 9593297809 NORTH : 9641957468 SOUTH : 7407691463 New STNM AMS : 9434711402

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM**

Writers, Readers and Publishing

Nepali literature might be in good health, but publishing could use a professional boost

Usually around Bhanu Jayanti, tentative efforts are made to tease out an update on Nepali literature's health in these parts. The feedback has been far from encouraging for a while now. Nepali reading has apparently shrunk to newspaper reading, with literature finding ever fewer patrons. Newspapers, even journalists will admit, are not where literature finds expression, at least not on a regular basis; for that, the more relaxed indulgence of books, book shops and libraries is required. Newspapers can provide space to announce new arrivals and commission reviews to ponder on books, but to sustain literature, writers need readers of books not cursory skimmers of headlines.

Speak to writers and researchers and they rue the lack of professional publishers in these parts. Writers in English, and the region has had some exceptional ones in this language in the recent past, have benefited from the professional handling of the bustling Indian publishing scene. Nepali writers, unfortunately, have no such recourse available to help refine and promote their works. Writers here are increasingly being required to also become publishers, printers and retailers. In these times, when reading habits are down all over the world, such multitasking just won't cut it. At a time when writers and publishers the world over are going out of their way to woo readers and entice a wider audience, the Nepali literati in the region remains unmoved, or so it appears. The world of letters might be an exclusive club, but the work it churns out needs to be circulated more widely for creativity to be celebrated. It appears that not enough of this is happening. A book launch, for example, should mean more than just a formal release by a VIP and should excite anticipation among readers. Too many writers release their books at official functions where the protocol itself distances them from their readers. Someone should start the trend of book reading and meet-the-author sessions for Nepali publications too.

There was a time when the people of letters might have sniggered at such showbiz gimmicks and stayed away from them, but the written word, let us accept it, is in the danger of extinction and such desperate times demand urgent/ grand measures. Flashy book launches and promotion drives are the order of the day in the publishing business and are no longer seen as debasing the work. These are required tools. Writers who live off their writing are constantly under pressure to put out consistently good work whereas those who write as a "hobby" can afford to be slack. Of course there are exceptions, but this is still a reasonably accurate analogy. Why hasn't the Nepali publishing industry here delivered the professionalism that the writers and readers are so desperately seeking?

In their defence, the "local" market is extremely small and the local politics too sensitive to allow the more creative writers the space for irreverence that is so important for the more ambitious works to arrive. Advancements in desk-top publishing and affordable printing options have not helped either. Earlier, if not for anything else, then at least to handle the complicated world of typesetting and finding printers in Benaras required writers to seek out publishers. Now, anyone can 'publish' a book and while that is fine when limited to vanity publishing, it has been to Nepali literature's disadvantage that publishing has been reduced to printing. A publisher is expected to help writers refine their work, slice away the flab and help them polish their work. Take away this process, and amateurish attempts abound. That said, it cannot also be ignored that publishers here have not made an earnest stab at becoming professional either. To this day, most publishers believe that the job is over with the printing of a new title. They have to realize now that they are "publishers" and not just "printers." A publisher's work, once a piece of work has been found fit for release, begins after the printing is done. Copies of the book have to be circulated for reviews, the writer has to be promoted in the media, the markets have to be identified and consignments reached there before the publicity blitz. All this does not cost much. All it requires is a professional approach. Given the identifiable pockets in India where Nepali readers reside, the paucity of reading material [thanks largely to poor marketing], and the arrival [thankfully] of some impressive writers, an informed and well researched approach to publishing should save the day for Nepali literature.

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

'The Stars Aligned': Ash Barty's Wimbledon win is an historic moment for Indigenous people and women in sport

ADELE PAVLIDIS & MARCUS WOOLOMBI WATERS
theconversation.com

Over the weekend in London, the stars aligned in the most remarkable way. On the 50th anniversary of Evonne Goolagong Cawley's first Wimbledon win, Ashleigh Barty claimed her first Wimbledon title.

"I just hope I made Evonne proud."

The 25-year old becomes just the second Indigenous woman to win Wimbledon and breaks a long drought for Australia at what is widely regarded as the most prestigious tennis tournament in the world.

To put it in context, Australia hasn't won a singles title at the All England Club since 2002, when Lleyton Hewitt became the men's champion. The last time an Australian woman took out the title was over 40 years ago, when Goolagong Cawley won her second title in 1980 (this time also becoming the first mother to win Wimbledon in 66 years).

But the win is also an historic moment for First Nations people and for Australian women in sport. It presents an opportunity to both celebrate and learn from this achievement.

BARTY BREAKS THE MOULD

Barty's success is a particularly significant one for First Nations Australians. She is one of only a handful of Indigenous women who are both sporting champions and household names — such as Goolagong Cawley, Cathy Freeman and fellow Olympic medallists Nova Peris and Sam Riley.

Australia has always seemed to struggle with celebrating Indigenous sporting success, particularly when it happens overseas. Achievements like Patty Mills' magic 17 points to help secure the 2014 NBA championship for the San Antonio Spurs, Chad Reed's legendary status in motocross and Jesse Williams' 2014 Super Bowl ring have largely flown under the radar.

But Barty breaks this mould. She has long cited her Indigenous heritage and relationship with Goolagong Cawley as an inspiration. Yes, it is Barty's tennis success that has made her famous. But it is her grace negotiating Australia's uneasiness with its past and present relationship with our Indigenous peoples that makes her a true champion.

Her victory also followed by a significant hip injury in June. Although seeded number one for the tournament, even those in Barty's camp were nervous about her chances.

Barty said, "The stars aligned for me over the past fortnight. It's incredible that it happened to fall on the 50th anniversary of Evonne's [Goolagong Cawley] first title here too."

As First Nations people would say "the Old People" — her Ancestors — had intervened.

A NAIDOC WEEK VICTORY

Apart from the parallels with Goolagong Cawley's win, the timing is also special as it comes at the end of NAIDOC week. This year's theme has been "Heal Country". As Indigenous people continue to be marginalised in so many areas of Australian life, Barty's success is all the more a powerful testament to her strength and talent.

We know there are high barriers to Indigenous women participating in sport and exercise, at both grassroots and elite levels. These include racism and the high costs of participating. A frequently cited statistic (based on 2012 data) is about 23% of Indigenous women were physically active or played sport in the past 12 months, compared to 67% of non-Indigenous women.

Even in sports with high Indigenous participation, such as netball (where about 4% of participants are Indigenous), this still hasn't flowed through to the professional level. There have only ever been two Indigenous players to represent the national team — and none since 2000.

Last year, Queensland Firebirds midcourter Jemma Mi Mi, a proud Wakka Wakka woman, sat

on the bench during Super Netball's Indigenous round. Netball Australia says it is working to improve the culture but change is slow.

SEXISM AND AUSTRALIAN SPORT

Sport is a significant part of our national identity, and we have a deep love for our sporting heroes. Yet for women in sport, we know the road is harder than for men. It wasn't that long ago that champion race horse Black Caviar was named Australian sportswoman of the year by the Daily Telegraph.

In my recent research with female AFL players, women talked of their gratitude for being included in the sport at a professional level. This is despite low pay and the high pressures and workloads. As I argued, this attitude is a double-edged sword for professional sportswomen, as it can make them vulnerable to exploitation.

Looking at professional elite athletes in Australia, the top earners are predominantly men. For example, in the 2019 AFR sports rich list, Barty ranked eight and was the only woman in the top 20. A top seven rich list compiled by Fox Sports in June 2021 only featured men.

We also know that women in sport also cop abuse, sexism and harassment — as well as discrimination in terms of how seriously their involvement is taken.

UNEVEN PLAYING FIELD

So while we celebrate #YesAsh and enjoy the #BartyParty, we must also be honest about the realities for women in sport, and in particular for Indigenous women in sport.

For those of us who have enjoyed the pride and excitement of Barty's win, let's pledge to work harder on removing structural barriers to participation at grassroots and elite levels. It is time to acknowledge how uneven Australian sporting fields can be.

[Adele Pavlidis is Researcher in Sociology, Griffith University; Marcus Woolombi Waters is Lecturer, School of Humanities, Griffith University]

South African riots and food security: why there's an urgent need to restore stability

WANDILE SIHLOBO
theconversation.com

When South Africa's president, Cyril Ramaphosa, addressed the nation on July 12 amid violence and destruction of property in parts of KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng provinces, he warned of several risks if the situation was not resolved swiftly. One of them was food security.

A lot has been written about the acts of criminality and the disregard for the rule of law that's swept parts of the country. Attention has also been given to the underlying factors that make the South African society so fragile. These include rising unemployment, inequality, corruption and poor service delivery.

In light of the ongoing state of turbulence it's important to take a closer look at food security issues.

South Africa is generally a secure food country at a national level. On top of this it is a net exporter of agricultural and processed food products. Last year agricultural exports reached the second-highest level on record of US\$10.2 billion following a favourable production season.

But food security is about more than just having sufficient supplies. It also requires food accessibility, affordability, nutrition and stability over time.

This is where the challenge lies.

Continued disruption will affect supplies given the specifics of South Africa's food supply chains. KwaZulu-Natal, the epicentre of rioting and looting, is a major producer of various agricultural products such as sugar, milk and poultry products. The province also serves as an entry for imported food products, including wheat, rice, poultry products, and palm oils. Gauteng, the other province also most affected, is one of the major food processing hubs.

However, South Africa's food supply chains are not concentrated in one particular province. The biggest risk in the short term is the free movement of goods, including food and agricultural produce on the roads, specifically to and from the Durban port, the entry and exit point for agricultural imports and exports.

The other risk relates to increased income poverty because of the destruction of businesses.

FOOD PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION

In the same year as record pro-

duction figures, the country experienced an increase in hunger, as identified in the National Income Dynamics Study – Coronavirus Rapid Mobile Survey (NIDS-CRAM). But this wasn't necessarily an issue of food shortage

challenge is a disruption due to the looting spree, forcing companies to avoid volatile areas so as not to expose their property and employees to danger. It is far from clear how long the unrest in KwaZulu-Natal will last.



or a rapid increase in food prices. It was mostly because people were out of work and had reduced means to buy food.

In 2021, South Africa again enjoyed another season of an abundant harvest following favourable summer rainfalls. This means that there are unlikely to be food shortages this year, but rather ample supplies for local consumption and export markets. This will be true for major grains, fruits, meat and various products.

Still, this doesn't mean everyone in the country is food secure. Or that prices won't rise rapidly.

There are long-standing challenges with income poverty in South Africa and the extent to which the poorest people are able to afford nutritious food. Still, food prices have only risen negligibly. South Africa's consumer food price inflation was at 6.8% year on year in May 2021, from 6.7% year on year in April, according to data from Statistics South Africa. This is not an alarmist rate as we have seen double-digit inflation rates in years of drought such as 2016, where consumer food price inflation averaged 10.8% year on year.

The expectation is that consumer food price inflation could in fact soften in the second half of 2021.

Therefore, Ramaphosa's emphasis on the risks to food security in his address on July 12 was primarily focused on KwaZulu-Natal. The main

Menacingly, no one can tell with certainty if waves of protest will not spill over to other provinces in ways that disrupt business and supply chains and affect livelihoods. If the wave of violent protests continues unabated, it could pose a risk to food security, with the poorest people most affected as their employment and livelihoods will suffer. Small businesses in particular might be forced to close given the scale of the continuing violence.

But South Africans in other parts of the country that have not seen outbreaks of looting and violence should not panic about possible food shortages.

PRODUCTION PATTERNS

KwaZulu-Natal has been the most affected by the violence. But the province isn't the epicentre of agriculture in the country. It isn't an anchor to the South African food system. Provinces in central South Africa – the Free State, Gauteng, Mpumalanga, North West and Limpopo – hold far more key positions. This is because of their abundant agricultural production and food processing capacity.

Maize meal and wheat flour – both staple to most South African diets – are primarily produced in the Free State, Mpumalanga, North West and the Western Cape. These provinces account for over 60% of production of each of these grains, and process over 50% of them.

KwaZulu-Natal processes roughly 8% of the 11.5 million tonnes of maize consumed in South Africa each year. In wheat, KwaZulu-Natal processes roughly 21% of the annual consumption. The numbers vary per product, but the point here is that food supply chains are not concentrated in one particular province.

There is no risk of food shortage currently from other anchor provinces. But the risk comes when there is no fuel for transport within the country, given the force majeure that the refinery in Durban has declared. It is South Africa's largest refinery, accounting for 35% of the country's refining capacity.

I highlight this because a large share of South Africa's food is transported by road.

In the case of trade, the current disruptions weigh even more heavily on businesses and farmers in agriculture. On average, 75% of the country's grains are transported by road annually. These are largely exported through the Durban harbour. The same is true for imported food products such as rice, wheat and palm oil, among other products. The volumes are also large for horticulture, specifically citrus, a leading exportable agricultural product in South Africa.

The burning of trucks on the roads and the blocked routes to the ports will prove costly to businesses and harm South Africa's reputation as a global supplier in various value chains. This will also negatively affect the province's food supply chains.

This needs urgent intervention, especially as agricultural products are perishable and the country is entering an export period for citrus in a year of a record harvest.

As South African authorities grapple with achieving stability, there needs to be a deeper introspection about ensuring that the country creates an environment conducive for businesses to thrive. And that it addresses the social ills that underlie instability and disregard for the rule of law.

In the near term, South Africans should not panic about the food system. But authorities will need to act swiftly and assertively to restore stability.

[The writer is Visiting Research Fellow, Wits School of Governance, University of the Witwatersrand]

'Free Him by 5 PM': Supreme Court on activist held over Facebook post

NEW DELHI, 19 JUL [NDTV]: The Supreme Court today ordered the release of Leichombam Erendro, a Manipur-based political activist arrested for sedition in May over some Facebook posts. The 37-year-old was held under the stringent National Security Act for saying "cow dung and cow urine don't work." While Solicitor General Tushar Mehta sought time and wanted the case to be adjourned till tomorrow, the judges ordered his immediate release.

"We are of the view that the continued detention of the petitioner would amount to violation of right to life and personal liberty under Article 21. We direct him to be released today by 5 pm with a personal bond of ₹ 1,000," a two-judge bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and MR Shah said.

The order came on a plea by Mr Erendro's father. The activist, along with journalist Kishorechandra Wangkhem, were arrested for posting



the comment over the death of Saikhom Tikenra Singh, the then state BJP President. Manipur BJP Vice-President Usham Deban and General Secretary P Premananda Meetei had filed a complaint against them saying their posts were offensive.

Earlier, in June 2020, Mr Erendro was charged with sedition by the state police over another Face-

book post that had the photo of Rajya Sabha MP Sanajaoba Leishemba with Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The photo, captioned Minai macha, showed Manipur's titular king bowing with folded hands before the senior BJP leader.

Roughly translated from Meitei, Manipur's native language, Minai macha means "son of a servant".

Mr Erendro was later on bail in this case.

The Supreme Court had last week questioned if the sedition law was "still necessary after 75 years of Independence". The law is a serious threat to the functioning of institutions and holds "enormous power" for misuse with no accountability for the executive, the court had said, com-

paring it to a saw in the hands of an overzealous carpenter.

During the argument, the court said there was "minimal conviction or very low rate of conviction" in the history of the sedition law.

The government's top lawyer, Attorney General KK Venugopal, however, argued that the law should be retained with "guidelines".

Nepal increases weekly flights between Kathmandu and New Delhi to six from the current two

Sangam Prasad Kathmandu, 19 Jul [KathmanduPost]: Nepal's civil aviation body on Sunday permitted the national flag carriers of Nepal and India to increase the number of weekly flights on the Kathmandu-Delhi route under the air bubble arrangement from two to present to six.

With an increase in demand for tickets as there has been an exponential rise in the number of outbound passengers from Kathmandu, mostly travelling for medical treatment, passengers have been scrambling to get tickets on the route, the busiest and most lucrative one for airlines.

Raj Kumar Chettri, spokesperson for the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal, told the Post that Nepal Airlines and Air India have been permitted to operate three flights a week each and will be effective from Monday.

While, as per the approved schedule, Air India will operate flights on the sector on Sundays, Tuesdays and Fridays Nepal Airlines, which operates services every Wednesday, is yet to get the slot approval from India's civil aviation regulator.

Currently, the services remain capped due to an air bubble arrangement between Nepal and India that allows one weekly flight in either direction.

In December last year, Nepal and India entered into an air bubble agreement, a dedicated flight service between the two countries following strict health and safety protocols set by the authorities of the respective countries.

"Both carriers—Nepal Airlines and Air India—applied to raise their frequencies on Sunday after the government decided to increase the frequencies in the sector. We have approved their operating permits accordingly," said Chettri. However, according

to Chettri, under the air bubble arrangement, other airlines in India are still restricted to operate on the Kathmandu-New Delhi route. India's low-cost carrier IndiGo and startup carrier Vistara have also applied to operate in Nepal.

Demand for tickets on the Kathmandu-Delhi route has been going off the charts, and airfares have been soaring due to the limited frequencies.

Travel agencies have reported that the price of a seat on a flight to Delhi has reached Rs50,000, almost six times the normal cost because flights between the two neighbours have not been increased despite a massive surge in travel demand.

Flight frequencies on other international sectors have returned to near normal levels.

On July 5, a Cabinet meeting had allowed the resumption of passenger flights on international sectors based on the country's needs and travel demand.

The government moved to resume flights following complaints about expensive air tickets in the international sector after a limited number of flights were permitted to some key destinations.

But services to Delhi, the busiest and most lucrative route out of Kathmandu, remain capped due to an air bubble arrangement between Nepal and India that allows one weekly flight in either direction.

Dim Prasad Poudel, managing director of Nepal Airlines, said they would immediately apply for the slot at the Delhi airport once they received the approval letter from the Nepal Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal.

Shyam Raj Thapaliya, managing director of Osho World Nepal, one of the leading travel agencies in Nepal, said as most of the embassies based in Kathmandu

have started issuing visas from New Delhi, travellers have to go to the Indian capital to get their entry permits, resulting in a travel rush.

"Many Nepalis are also travelling to Delhi for medical treatment," he said.

According to Osho Travel, seats on Air India are sold out for July 23. The cheapest ticket on the next flight on July 30 costs Rs48,500.

Air India operates the New Delhi-Kathmandu service every Friday. The normal charge for the 1 hour 15 minute hop is Rs9,000.

Nepal's flag carrier Nepal Airlines, which currently makes reciprocal flights to Delhi, operates services every Wednesday. Flights are sold out for July 21 and July 28 too.

The Nepal Airlines fare on the Kathmandu-Delhi sector is capped at Rs30,000.

An unnamed official of the airline said they had applied for a daily flight on the Kathmandu-Delhi sector in mid-March, when the second wave started in India.

With coronavirus cases surging in neighbouring India, Nepal was caught off guard. On April 29, the government announced a second lockdown. It restricted domestic flights from midnight of May 3 and international flights from midnight of May 6 as the second wave of Covid-19 gripped the country.

While all international scheduled flights connecting Kathmandu have been ordered to halt, the government decided to continue with the two flights a week on the Kathmandu-Delhi sector.

Passengers travelling between the two countries have to follow strict travel protocols.

"The increased flights will bring relief to passengers who are forced to pay hefty airfare due to limited flights," said Chettri, of the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal.

Assam releases new Covid SOPs, no relaxations for Eid

GUWAHATI, 19 JUL [NDTV]: The Assam government on Monday announced that no public gatherings will be allowed in the state on Eid in view of the COVID-19 pandemic as it released a set of new virus-fighting measures, including the continuation of complete lockdown in five districts to control the situation.

State Health Minister Keshab Mahanta said that not more than five people will be allowed for prayers inside mosques and urged the people to celebrate Eid at their homes. Eid ul-Adha will be celebrated in the state on Wednesday.

Talking to media persons in Guwahati, Mr Mahanta informed that the five districts where the total containment will remain effective for another week include Jorhat, Golaghat, Biswanath, Sonitpur and Lakhimpur.

"The curfew in these districts will be for round the clock, however, in the districts showing moderate positivity rate including Goalpara and Morigaon districts, it will be from 1 pm to 5 am," said the order issued by the Assam State Disaster Management Authority.

There is, however, no change in the timing of curfew in Guwahati.

Curfew has been relaxed till 5 pm in the other 26 districts of the state.

The other districts, where curfew will remain effective from 5 pm to 5 am are Nalbari, Baksa, Bajali, Kamrup, Darrang, Nagaon, Hojai, Tinsukia, Dhemajai, Cachar, Karimganj and Karbi Anglong.

"Public gathering is banned in total containment districts. In other districts, up to 10 persons are allowed for marriage or funeral programme," the SOP stated.

13 years after Singur strike, Bengal Minister says Tatas "most welcome"

KOLKATA, 19 JUL [PTI]: Thirteen years after their small car project was forced out of West Bengal following the anti-land acquisition movement in Singur, Industry and IT Minister Partha Chatterjee has said talks are on with the Tatas for big-ticket investments in the state.

Underscoring job creation as the TMC government's top priority, Mr Chatterjee also said incentives to companies will depend on ability to generate employment.

He said the Mamata Banerjee dispensation wants two large manufacturing units to be set up by any prominent industrial house at the earliest.

"We never had any enmity with the Tatas, neither we fought against them. They are one of the most respected and biggest business houses of this country and also abroad. You can't blame the Tatas (for the Singur fiasco).

"The problem was with the Left Front government and its forcible land acquisition policy. Tata group is always most welcome to come and invest in Bengal," Mr Chatterjee, also the ruling TMC's secretary general, told PTI in an interview.

Mr Chatterjee said the salt to steel business conglomerate has shown interest in setting up another Tata Centre in Kolkata to house its offices.

"We already have the presence of Tata Metaliks, one Tata Centre besides the TCS here. But if they are willing to come up with big-ticket investments in manufacturing or other sectors, there is no problem. Our IT secretary recently told me they had shown interest in setting up a Tata Centre here," he said.

When asked whether the state government will go the extra mile to reach out to the Tatas, Mr Chatterjee said he is already in touch with group officials to attract investment.

Singur, once known for multiple crop farming, hogged media limelight after Tata Motors set its sight on the land to build its cheapest car Nano in 2006. The Left Front government acquired 997.11 acres along the National Highway 2 and handed it over to the company.

Mamata Banerjee, then in the opposition, called a 26-day hunger strike demanding the return of 347 acres of farmland that was



"forcibly" acquired.

Despite several rounds of meetings between the TMC and the Left Front government, the issue could not be resolved and the Tatas eventually moved out of Singur to Sanand in Gujarat in 2008. The land acquired for the project was subsequently returned to farmers in 2016.

When asked whether the government will invite the Tatas to set up a manufacturing unit at Singur once again, the minister said, "Why would Tatas want to return to Singur? The land has already been given back to farmers. We are planning to come up with agro-based industries there as the area's economy is based on agriculture."

Speaking about the government's priority areas for rapid industrialisation and employment generation, Mr Chatterjee said setting up two major manufacturing units, specifically in the iron and steel sector, topped the list.

"Industrialisation and job creation have been the focus areas in our party manifesto. No doubt it's a challenge as the situation across the globe is not conducive due to the COVID situation.

"Our priority right now would be to bring two big manufacturing companies which are job creators. I am speaking to various stakeholders, industry captains and officials about it. We are on the job," he said.

Mr Chatterjee said although information technology does not fall in the category of manufacturing sector, the government is looking for more investments there too.

The minister assured the issue of delay in land acquisition and related approvals, and incentives sought by industry for setting up their units will be addressed promptly.

"We will simplify the process of clearances required for land needed for setting up industries. I will discuss the matter with our chief minister. There will be promptness so that industries don't have any complaints about delay," he said.

"Second is the incentive part. We earlier had an incentive scheme, but we did away with it as the incentives companies were seeking and offers they had for us in terms of job creation and revenue generation, did not balance out. Now incentives will be decided depending on their proposals and the scale of jobs that will be created," he said.

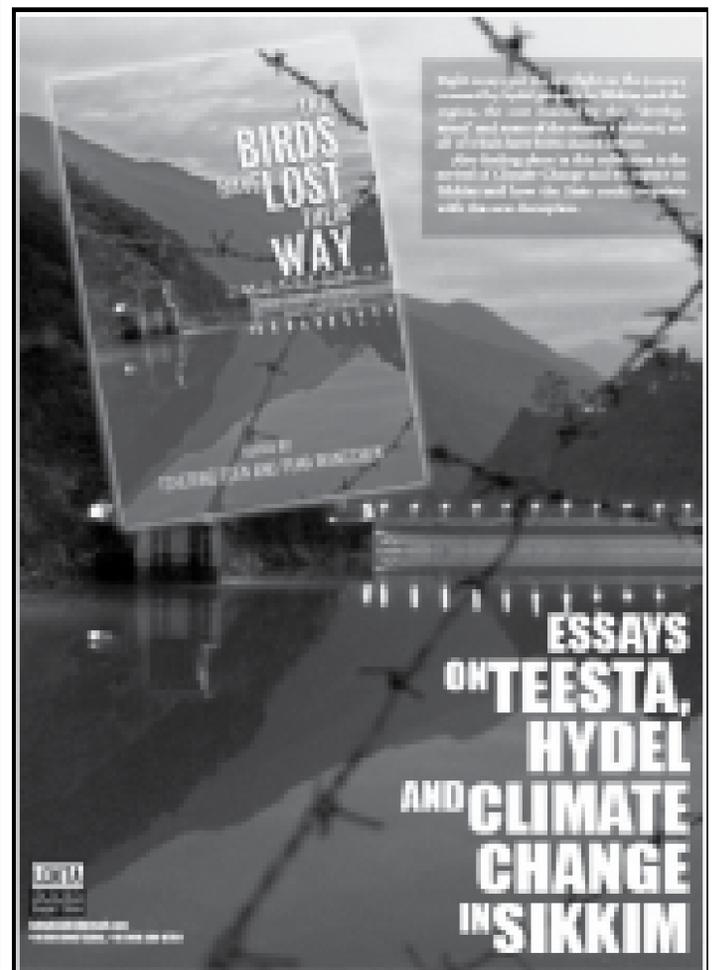
Mr Chatterjee, however, emphatically noted that there won't be any change in the government's land policy of "no forcible acquisition".

The industry, he said, will have to acquire land on its own or from the government's notified land bank and industrial parks.

"It is our stated stand that there will be no forcible land acquisition," he said, adding West Bengal has good connectivity, infrastructure, and law and order conducive for industries. The labour is skilled and inexpensive, he said.

Mr Chatterjee rejected suggestions that the anti-land acquisition agitations in Singur and Nandigram had given the TMC an anti-industry image. "Had it been the case, the party won't have won three consecutive terms in office with a resounding mandate," he asserted.

The minister replied in the negative to a question about whether the constant bickering between the state and the Centre will pose a hurdle in bringing in new investments, but advised the BJP-led government to follow the spirit of federalism.



Bangladesh wins 2nd ODI vs. Zimbabwe to take series

HARARE, JUL 19 (AP): Bangladesh won the second one-day international against Zimbabwe by three wickets with five balls remaining to claim the series.

Bangladesh passed the victory target of 241 in the last over and finished on 242-7 to lead the series 2-0 with one game to play.

Shakib Al Hasan hit 96 not out to continue a brilliant series for him. His five wickets in the first game saw him become Bangladesh's highest wicket-taker in ODIs.

Shakib's unbeaten 69-run partnership with No. 9 Mohammad Saifuddin (28 not out) took Bangladesh home.

Zimbabwe had a chance when Bangladesh was 130-5 but couldn't keep the pressure on.

WessleyMadhever made 56 in Zimbabwe's 240-9 in 50 overs. Captain Brendan Taylor scored 46.

Shakib also took two wickets with his left-arm spin to help Bangladesh's bowling effort.

The third ODI is on Tuesday.

PM speaks to Nepalese counterpart Sher Bahadur Deuba

NEW DELHI, 19 JUL (PTI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday spoke to his Nepalese counterpart Sher Bahadur Deuba, and asserted that both leaders will work together to further enhance the wide-ranging cooperation between the two countries, including in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr Deuba, the 75-year-old President of the Nepali Congress, won a trust vote in the reinstated lower House of Representatives, averting a general election in the Himalayan nation amidst the pandemic.

Mr Deuba, who was appointed as the prime minister on July 12 following the Supreme Court's intervention, secured 165 votes in the 275-member House on Sunday.

In a tweet, PM Modi said, "Spoke with Prime Minister @DeubaSherbdr to convey my congratulations and best wishes. We will work together to further enhance the wide-ranging cooperation between India and Nepal, including in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic."

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Big boost for Lahiri ahead of Olympics, finishes T-3 at Barbasol Championship

NICHOLASVILLE (US), JUL 19 (PTI): Olympic-bound Indian golfer AnirbanLahiri fired a stellar seven-under 65 to finish tied third at the Barbasol Championship here for his best result of the season, a timely boost ahead of the Tokyo Games.

Lahiri, 34, made eight birdies, including four over his closing five holes, at Keene Trace Golf Club here on Sunday to end his week on 20-under 268, one stroke behind the playoff duo of Seamus Power and J T Poston.

Ireland's Power went on to earn his first PGA TOUR title following a six-hole playoff.

It was a welcome return to form for Lahiri, who had struggled with COVID-19 in April.

His third career top-three finish on the PGA TOUR moved him up from 129th to 108th on the FedExCup standings. The top-125 will qualify for the lucrative FedExCup Playoffs in August and retain their TOUR cards for next season.

"I think all week, I've played a little better than the scores I've shot. I've been a



little disappointed with my scrambling and just my score hasn't been as good as I would have liked it to be.

"I'm not playing next week, off to Tokyo, so I wanted to make sure that I get the most out of this week. I've done whatever I could given the circumstances," said Lahiri, who has featured on the

PGA TOUR since 2016.

His week's cards of 68, 67, 68 and 65 marked the first time he has shot in the 60s in all four rounds of a tournament since finishing tied 10th in the 2018 Mayakoba Classic in Mexico.

Lahiri was especially delighted with his ball-striking.

After an opening birdie on

the third hole from eight feet, Lahiri rattled home a 32-foot conversion at the next before finishing strongly with six more birdies on his home-ward stretch against a lone bogey on 13.

"Yeah, I really needed those," said Lahiri of his strong finish.

"I really enjoyed it. The

golf course obviously is set up for a ton of birdies and eagles, so you better be flag hunting and rolling it good. All in all, a great week," said the Indian, a former two-time International Team member of the Presidents Cup.

The Indian will now head to Tokyo at the end of this week for the men's golf com-

petition from July 29 to August 1 where he is determined to challenge for a podium finish against a stellar line-up featuring newly crowned Open champion Collin Morikawa, World no.1 Jon Rahm, Justin Thomas, Xander Schauffele, Rory McIlroy and local hero Hideki Matsuyama.

"It's exciting to be wearing the Tricolours. It's always a really, really special thing to represent India. Every opportunity that I get, I'm going to grab it with both hands, and hopefully I can go with this form to Tokyo and keep making these birdies because I'm going to need them," said Lahiri, who finished 57th in a field of 60 in 2016 Rio Olympics.

"It would mean everything (to win a medal). I think it would change the way golf is perceived in India. I think it would change the kind of support we get from corporates and the government.

Japan's Satoshi Kodaira closed with a 68 to finish tied 20th while China's Bobby Bai, who Monday qualified for his first PGA TOUR start on US soil, settled for a share of 42nd place after a final round 73.

Flawless finish: Morikawa wins British Open for 2nd major

SANDWICH (ENGLAND), JUL 19 (AP): Collin Morikawa was making one of the most satisfying walks in golf, down the 18th fairway as a soon-to-be British Open champion, when he looked up at the huge grandstand surrounding the green.

It was filled with spectators, who firstly were applauding and soon giving a standing ovation to a 24-year-old American making a historic start to his major championship career.

So different to 11 months ago, when Morikawa won his first major the PGA Championship at an empty venue.

"I hope the thing is off the table," Morikawa said, "that I can play with fans and I can play well on a Sunday."

Fans. No fans. Parkland. Now even links. Morikawa is the real deal, make no mistake.

The mature-beyond-his-years Californian closed with a bogey-free, 4-under 66 at Royal St George's and won the British Open in his debut Sunday, becoming the first player to capture two different majors on the first attempt.

And this time there was a crowd, at 32,000 the biggest since golf returned following the coronavirus outbreak.

After tapping in for par to win by two shots over Jordan Spieth, he gave a fist pump before applauding the spectators.

Before long, he was being handed the claret jug that so many go their entire career without winning. He gazed adoringly at it, then thrust it into the air and gave it a kiss.

"Those are the moments, the few seconds that you embrace so much," he said.

"And you look around, every seat is packed. Everywhere is packed with people."

They were seeing a young player already halfway to the career Grand Slam after eight starts, the first since Bobby Jones in 1926 to win two majors in so few appearances. He follows Gene Sarazen, Jack Nicklaus, Seve Ballesteros, Tiger Woods, Rory McIlroy and Spieth in winning multiple majors before turning 25.

His total of 15-under 265 was a 72-hole record in 15 Brit-



ish Opens at Royal St George's. In 13 of them, the winning score has been 5 under or lower.

"When you make history," he said, "it's hard to grasp, it's hard to really take it in ... At 24 years old, it's so hard to look back at the two short years that I have been a pro and see what I've done because I want more."

He did it with style amid immaculate weather on the links off Sandwich Bay, flushing shots with his irons and getting up-and-down on the rare occasions he found trouble. He called his putting display one of the best of his short career, turning a statistical weakness into a strength.

Starting the final round one shot behind Louis Oosthuizen, Morikawa was tied for the lead after four holes and then made three straight birdies on Nos. 7-9 to overtake the South African, who hadn't trailed since the 12th hole of his second round.

Morikawa made key par saves pumping his fist both times at Nos. 10 and 15, between which he rolled a birdie putt up and over a ridge and into the cup on the 14th to build a two-stroke lead he never lost. Spieth parred his final four holes and also shot 66.

By making par at the last after another perfect drive, Mori-

kawa played his final 31 holes without a bogey on a course that has confounded many great players because of its quirky bounces and undulating fairways.

All the more remarkable was that this was his first major test on a seaside links. Morikawa had little experience with this style of golf before playing the Scottish Open last week at The Renaissance Club, which is not a traditional links but featured the kind of tight lies and rolling terrain that prepared him for it. He even had three new irons in his bag this week.

He completed a feat achieved by Ben Curtis on the same course in 2003, winning golf's oldest championship in his links debut.

For Oosthuizen, who was seeking a wire-to-wire win and a second claret jug he had a runaway victory at St. Andrews in 2010 it was another near miss in a career full of them. He was runner-up this year at the PGA Championship and the US Open, two of his six second-place finishes at majors.

This time Oosthuizen tied for third with U.S. Open champion Jon Rahm (66) after closing with a 71 his first round not in the 60s this week. He never recovered

from losing his lead with an ugly bogey on the par-5 seventh hole. He caught way too much ball out of the greenside bunker with his third shot, which bounced onto the putting surface and landed in a bunker on the other side.

Morikawa made a routine birdie on the hole to move two ahead of Oosthuizen. Spieth had made eagle at No. 7 a few minutes earlier.

"Well I do know one thing, the fans at the Open are second (or third) to none," Oosthuizen said on Twitter, having declined to talk to reporters.

"Thank you for the incredible support this week, and congrats to Collin Morikawa who played with class and grit today."

Spieth had his closest call in a major since winning the British Open in 2017 at Royal Birkdale. Missing an 8-foot par putt at No. 4 and hitting his tee shot into a bunker at No. 6 led to dropped shots. He made up for those with his eagle and played the final 10 holes in 4 under.

"I did everything I could in the past few hours to win this championship," Spieth said.

It was his bogey-bogey finish on Saturday he missed a 2-foot par putt on the 18th that Spieth mostly regretted.

India will aim to stamp authority over Sri Lanka in second ODI

COLOMBO, JUL 19 (PTI): India's young guns will get another opportunity to flaunt their exceptional talent and secure a series win against a hapless Sri Lankan outfit in the second ODI here on Tuesday. Skipper ShikharDhawan was left in complete awe at the other end as the likes of Prithvi Shaw, IshanKishan and SuryakumarYadav made batting look ridiculously easy in the first ODI on Sunday night.

In the long run, India want to play more aggressively in the shorter formats and the performance of the trio served as a perfect template in that context.

Their sensational batting also reinforced the might of India's bench strength with ODI debutants Kishan and Yadav bossing the opposition from ball one.

Sri Lanka bowlers also made it easier for the marauding Indian batters who romped home to the win in the 37th over.

India are unlikely to make changes as they would like to pocket the series before giving chances to other youngsters in the squad.

The only one feeling the heat would be Manish Pandey, who laboured to a 40-ball 26 in the series opener when others were at their fluent best.

Shaw, in his comeback game, played breathtaking strokes on the off-side but missed out on a big score. It is something he would like to correct on Tuesday.

It was good to see KuldeepChahal and YuzvendraChahal bowl in tandem after a long time and they proved once again that they perform better as a pair.

With spinners bowling the bulk of the overs, star all-rounder HardikPandya showed promise in the five overs he bowled.

Seniormost pacer

Bhuvneshwar Kumar did not have the best of days but trust him to be back in his elements in the next game.

It will take a special effort from the struggling Sri Lankan side to pull one back against the rampaging visitors.

The inexperienced team showed it has the talent to compete with the opposition if not win. Most of the batsmen got starts but could not convert. It is something they will have to fix to test India.

Thanks to ChamikaKarunaratne's 35-ball 43, Sri Lanka were able to cross 250. He feels his team can regularly score 300-plus if the batsmen don't squander starts.

"We were trying to play longer innings - even when I was batting with DasunShanaka in the 42nd or 43rd over I asked him if I should go for some big shots, but he told me to wait until the 45th over.

"If more of our batsmen had been able to bat longer, we could have attacked earlier and gone for a bigger score. We do have the ability to get to 300 or 350, and hopefully that will happen in the next games," said Karunaratne.

The bowlers too need to raise their game significantly to put pressure on the high-quality Indian batsmen. Both teams might be interested in chasing with the slow pitch playing better in the evening.

Squads:
 India: ShikharDhawan (captain), Prithvi Shaw, DevduttPadikal, RuturajGaikwad, SuryakumarYadav, Manish Pandey, NitishRana, IshanKishan, Sanju Samson, HardikPandya, KrunalPandya, KrishnapaGowtham, YuzvendraChahal, KuldeepYadav, VarunChakaravathy, Rahul Chahar, Deepak Chahar, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, ChetanSakariya, NavdeepSaini.

Dangerous conditions complicate wildfire fight in western US

BLY, ORE. (AP): Erratic winds and dry lightning added to the dangers for crews in parched Oregon forests battling the nation's largest wildfire, just one of dozens burning across several Western states.

The destructive Bootleg Fire, one of the largest in modern Oregon history, has already burned more than 476 square miles (1,210 square kilometers), an area about the size of Los Angeles. The blaze just north of the California state line was 25% contained.

Meteorologists predicted critically dangerous fire weather through at least Monday with lightning possible in both California and southern Oregon.

"With the very dry fuels, any thunderstorm has the potential to ignite new fire starts," the National Weather Service in Sacramento, California, said on Twitter.

Thousands have been ordered to evacuate, including some 2,000 people who live in rugged terrain among lakes and wildlife refuges near the fire, which has burned at least 67 homes and 100 outbuildings while threatening many more.

Climate change has made the West much warmer and drier in the past 30 years and will continue to make weather more extreme and wildfires more frequent and destructive. Firefighters said these condi-



tions in July are more typical of late summer or fall.

Pyrocumulus clouds — literally translated as "fire clouds" — complicated containment efforts Sunday for the Dixie Fire in northern California, where flames spread in remote areas with steep terrain crews can't easily reach, officials said. New evacuation orders were issued in rural communities near the Feather River Canyon.

The Dixie Fire remained 15% contained and covered 29 square miles (74 square kilometers). The fire is northeast of the town of Paradise, California, and survivors of

that horrific fire that killed 85 people watched warily as the blaze burned.

A growing wildfire south of Lake Tahoe jumped a highway, prompting more evacuation orders, the closure of the Pacific Crest Trail and the cancellation of an extreme bike ride through the Sierra Nevada.

The Tamarack Fire, which was sparked by lightning on July 4, had charred about 28.5 square miles (74 square kilometers) of dry brush and timber as of Sunday night. The blaze was threatening Markleeville, a small town close to the California-Nevada state line. It has destroyed at least

two structures, authorities said. A notice posted Saturday on the 103-mile (165-kilometer) Death Ride's website said several communities in the area had been evacuated and ordered all bike riders to clear the area. The fire left thousands of bikers and spectators stranded in the small town and racing to get out.

Kelli Pennington and her family were camping near the town Friday so her husband could participate in his ninth ride when they were told to leave. They had been watching smoke develop over the course of the day, but were caught off guard by the fire's

quick spread. "It happened so fast," Pennington said. "We left our tents, hammock and some foods, but we got most of our things, shoved our two kids in the car and left."

About 800 fire personnel were assigned to battle the flames by Sunday night, "focusing on preserving life and property with point protection of structures and putting in containment lines where possible," the U.S. Forest Service said.

A fire in the mountains of northeast Oregon grew to more than 18 square miles (48 square kilometers) by Sunday. The Elbow Creek Fire that started Thursday has prompted evacuations in several small, remote communities around the Grande Ronde River about 30 miles (50 kilometers) southeast of Walla Walla, Washington. It was 10% contained.

Natural features of the area act like a funnel for wind, feeding the flames and making them unpredictable, officials said.

Overall, about 70 active large fires and complexes of multiple blazes have burned nearly 1,659 square miles (4,297 square kilometers) in the U.S., the National Interagency Fire Center said. The U.S. Forest Service said at least 16 major fires were burning in the Pacific Northwest alone.

Singaporean businessman charged with providing money to IS militant for terror activities

SINGAPORE, JUL 19 (PTI): A Singaporean businessman was charged in a court here on Monday with providing money to an Islamic State militant for facilitating terrorist acts in Syria.

Mohamed Kazali-Salleh, who was based in Malaysia, is accused of giving SGD 1,000 over three occasions to a Malaysian Islamic State militant Wan Mohd Aquil Wan Zainal Abidin also known as Akel Zainal, who was believed to be the most senior ISIS fighter in Syria prior to his reported death in March 2019, said the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

Kazali was arrested by Malaysian Special Branch officers in December 2018, according to a Channel News Asia report on Monday.

He was deported to Singapore and handed over to the Internal Security Department on January 7, 2019, for investigations into his terrorism-related activities. He was issued with an Order of Detention under the Internal Security Act (ISA) in January 2019 for supporting terrorist group Islamic State.

A parallel investigation by the police's Commercial Affairs Department found that in 2013 and 2014, Kazali allegedly provided a total of Malaysian Ringgit 1,500 (SGD 576) and USD 351.75 (SGD 450) over three occasions to Akel Zainal.

The funds were purportedly intended for facilitating terrorist acts in Syria, said MHA.

"The act of providing money in support of terrorist purposes, regardless of the amount, is a

serious offence under the Terrorism (Suppression of Financing) Act," said MHA.

If convicted, the detention order against Kazali will be cancelled and he will serve the sentence imposed by the court.

"To prevent him from spreading his radical ideas to other inmates, he will be held separately, and will continue to undergo rehabilitation whilst serving his prison sentence," said the ministry.

"An assessment will be made at the end of his sentence whether he has been successfully rehabilitated or remains a threat to society. If he remains a threat, he may be detained further under the ISA," Channel News Asia cited the Ministry as saying. MHA reminded members of the public not to transfer money or provide support through the provision of services, supplies or any material to a terrorist organisation, or for facilitating or carrying out terrorist acts.

Anyone found guilty of providing property and services for terrorist purposes may be jailed for up to 10 years, fined up to SGD 500,000, or both, the MHA said.

"Terrorism and terrorism financing are grave threats to domestic and international security, and global action is required to deprive terrorist groups of funding and materials," added the ministry.

"Singapore is part of this global effort and is strongly committed to combatting terrorism financing, regardless of whether the monies are used to facilitate terrorist acts locally or abroad," the ministry said.

Video shows Iranian police opening fire during water protest

Dubai, Jul 19 (AP): Iranian police opened fire late Sunday night amid protests against water shortages in southwestern Iran, a video showed, the latest unrest after days of demonstrations that have seen at least one person killed.

The video from the Human Rights Activists News Agency by Human Rights Activists in Iran showed the shooting in Susangerd, which has been an epicenter of demonstrations in Iran's restive Khuzestan province.

A police officer fires into the air with a pistol and at least one other shot can be heard in the footage. Riot police on motorcycles race around a corner, firing at the protesters.

The video corresponded to other Associated Press reporting of the demonstrations in Khuzestan, home to ethnic Arabs who complain of discrimination by Iran's Shiite theocracy. The video also matched known features of Susangerd and the protest depicted took place where other demonstrations occurred in recent days.

On Sunday, the deputy governor of Khuzestan province in charge of security affairs acknowledged the unrest had killed at least one person. The state-run IRNA news agency quoted Valiollah Hayati as blaming rioters for killing a citizen in the city of Shadegan

in Khuzestan. Iran's government long has blamed protesters for deaths during demonstrations in unrest, despite its history of bloody crackdowns.

Arab separatists have long operated in Khuzestan, which Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein tried to seize in his 1980s war with Iran. They have blown up oil pipelines in the past and have been blamed for attacks, including a 2018 assault on a military parade that killed at least 25 people in Ahvaz.

Water worries in the past have sent angry demonstrators into the streets in Iran. The country has faced rolling blackouts for weeks now, in part over what authorities describe as a severe drought. Precipitation had decreased by almost 50 per cent in the last year, leaving dams with dwindling water supplies.

The protests in Khuzestan come as Iran struggles through repeated waves of infections in the coronavirus pandemic and as thousands of workers in its oil industry have launched strikes for better wages and conditions.

Iran's economy also has struggled under US sanctions since then-President Donald Trump's 2018 decision to unilaterally withdraw America from Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers, crashing the value of he Islamic Republic's currency, the rial.

Germany defends preparation for floods, considers lessons

BERLIN (AP): German officials are defending their preparations for flooding in the face of the raging torrents that caught many people by surprise and left over 190 people dead in Western Europe, but concede that they will need to learn lessons from the disaster.

Efforts to find any more victims and clean up the mess across a swath of western Germany, eastern Belgium and the Netherlands continued Monday as floodwaters receded. So far, 117 people have been confirmed dead in the worst-affected German region, Rhineland-Palatinate; 46 in the neighboring state of North Rhine-Westphalia; and at least one in Bavaria, parts of which saw heavy rain and flooding over the weekend. At least 31 people died in Belgium.

The downpours that led to usually small rivers swelling at vast speed in the middle of last week were forecast, but warnings of potentially catastrophic damage didn't appear to have found their way to many people on the ground — often in the middle of the night.

"As soon as we have provided the immediate aid that stands at the forefront now, we will have to look at whether there were things that didn't go well, whether there were things that went wrong, and then they have to be corrected," Economy Minister Peter Altmaier told the Bild newspaper. "That isn't about finger-pointing — it's about improvements for the future."

Federal and state authorities faced criticism from opposition



politicians for allegedly failing to warn citizens of the impending disaster, which came ahead of a national election in September. But Interior Minister Horst Seehofer dismissed claims that federal officials had made mistakes, and said warnings were passed to local authorities "who make decisions on disaster protection."

"I have to say that some of the things I'm hearing now are cheap election rhetoric," Seehofer said during a visit to the Steinbach Reservoir in western Germany, where authorities said Monday they no longer fear a dam breach. "Now really isn't the hour for this."

The head of Germany's civil protection agency said that the country's weather service had "forecast relatively well" and that the country was well-prepared for flooding on its major rivers.

But, Armin Schuster told ZDF television late Sunday, "half an hour before, it is often not possible to say what place will be hit with what quantity" of water. He said that 150 warning notices had been sent out via apps and media.

He said "we will have to investigate" where sirens sounded and where they didn't.

Officials in Germany's Rhineland-Palatinate state said they were well-prepared for flooding, and municipalities were alerted and acted.

But the state's interior minister, Roger Lewentz, said after visiting the hard-hit village of Schuld with Chancellor Angela Merkel on Sunday that "we of course had the problem that the technical infrastructure — electricity and so on — was destroyed in one go."

Local authorities "tried very quickly to react," he said. "But this was an explosion of the water in moments. ... You can have the very best preparations and warning situations (but) if warning equipment is destroyed and carried away with buildings, then that is a very difficult situation." Cellphone networks also were knocked out by the flooding.

There were already broader questions about Germany's emergency warning system after a nationwide test last September, the first in 30 years, largely failed.

Sirens didn't sound in many places, or had been removed after the end of the Cold War, and push alerts from the national warning app arrived late or not at all.

Schuster, the head of the civil protection agency, noted that a program to reform civil protection was launched earlier this year, including a drive to encourage local authorities to install more sirens. Germany doesn't have a text messaging system for disaster warnings, but Schuster told Deutschlandfunk radio it is exploring the possibility.

As local communities contemplate the huge task of rebuilding smashed homes and infrastructure such as the water system, Chancellor Angela Merkel's Cabinet is set to draw up a package of immediate and medium-term financial aid on Wednesday.

At the Steinbach Reservoir, North Rhine-Westphalia state governor Armin Laschet said the dam was designed for a risk that might occur once in 10,000 years.

"This was exceeded in the last few days," he told reporters. "It was a likelihood nobody had foreseen."

CORONAVIRUS
PRECAUTIONS & SAFETY TIPS

DON'T LOWER THE GUARD

LOCKDOWN HAS BEEN LIFTED, BUT UNFORTUNATELY, THE THREAT OF COVID-19 HAS NOT YET SUBSIDED.

As we adopt to the new normal, here is a reminder of the precautions you must take-

WEAR A MASK

Always wear a mask to prevent droplets from going outside



GET A FLU VACCINATION

Get your flu shot to develop an immune response before flu season begins, particularly if you have comorbidities



WASH YOUR HANDS

Wash your hands often, for about 20 seconds each with soap & carry a sanitizer



MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING

Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arm's lengths) from other people



GET TESTED

Get tested if you have symptoms of COVID-19. Stay at home until you get the result.



COVER YOUR MOUTH & NOSE WHILE SNEEZING, OR COUGHING

Before stepping outside, make sure to carry a handkerchief or a packet of tissues.



FOLLOW PRECAUTIONS BEFORE STEPPING OUT

Carry your sanitizer, water bottle and, most importantly, avoid crowded areas.



CHECK YOUR TEMPERATURE

Monitor your temperature on regular basis



HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

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Adele and LeBron James' Agent Rich Paul Look Cozy While Attending NBA Finals Game Together

Adele made a rare public appearance to attend the NBA Finals. However, the singer wasn't alone, as a source confirms to E! News that she and "Rich Paul attended the game together."

Adele's new rumored romance has us rolling in the deep.

On Saturday, July 17, the 33-year-old singer turned heads after making a rare public appearance at the NBA Finals for Game 5. The English star looked as fabulous as ever, wearing a wildly fun-printed coat and all-black ensemble underneath. However, Adele's showstopping style wasn't the only thing worth noting.

The "Rumor Has It" singer was sitting courtside next to LeBron James's agent Rich Paul. And although the two didn't pack on the PDA during the game against the Phoenix Suns and Milwaukee Bucks, they did look cozy together.

During their fun night out, the duo seemed attentive to what was going on throughout the game. At one point, the Grammy winner even noted something happening on the court, with the sports agent leaning in to listen closely.

A source confirms to E! News that they are dating, with a separate insider adding, "Adele and Rich Paul attended the game together."

As Phoenix and Milwaukee faced off in the finals, the twosome took some of the spotlight away from the players and even captured the attention of ESPN's Brian Windhorst. In a recent podcast

episode of The Lowe Post, the sports journalist reacted to Adele and Rich's date night. "Meanwhile, Rich Paul, [LeBron's] agent, brings his girlfriend to the game to sit next to LeBron. His girlfriend is Adele," Brian said. "Rich Paul is at the

finalized her divorce with Simon Konecki. The two, who split in September 2019, agreed to share joint legal and physical custody of their son Angelo, 8.

A month after she and Simon broke up, Adele was rumored to be dating



game with Adele. LeBron is watching the game with Adele. This is the first time that they've come out in public together so this will be all over the tabloids, especially in England tomorrow. Trust me."

At this time, both Adele and Rich have yet to publicly comment on their rumored romance. E! News has reached out to both of their reps but we haven't received a response. News of the singer's possible relationship comes four months after she

rapper Skepta. Last June, the "Chasing Pavements" musician and the rapper exchanged flirty messages on Instagram, which only added more fuel to the fire.

But by October 2020, she confirmed that she wasn't in a relationship during her unforgettable appearance on Saturday Night Live. As she wrote on Instagram at the time, "I'm going back to my cave now to be the (single) cat lady that I am! Peace out til next year [black heart emoji]."

Kaitlyn Bristowe Calls Out Fans Mocking Her "Privileged Problems" After She Posts Tearful Footage

Kaitlyn Bristowe, who's currently co-hosting The Bachelorette, didn't appreciate comments she received after posting footage of herself in tears to explain why she's feeling lonely.

Kaitlyn Bristowe is responding to fans who offered insulting feedback about her recent emotional posts.

On Saturday, July 17, the current co-host of The Bachelorette took to her Instagram Story to share footage of herself getting emotional and brushing away tears as she got candid about feeling alone, given that fiancé Jason Tartick was out of town. Kaitlyn, who grew up in Canada, also explained that it had been tough to not get back there lately to see her loved ones.

"I have been so emotional the last few days," she said. "It's so hard sometimes being away. I haven't been back to Canada in two years. I was FaceTiming my dad today, and I'm feeling so lonely. And obviously, Jason left, and he is having family time, and I was supposed to be there, and I couldn't because of work stuff. And I'm just missing them, and I miss the dogs, and I'm just having a moment."

The 36-year-old star added that she used to watch Family Guy when she was feeling blue, so she was hoping her followers might have recommendations for other smile-inducing entertainment. "I need a show to cheer me up—a movie, a series, something," she said. "I've already watched Ted Lasso, so anything that cheers people up, because I'm just missing so many people and dogs right now." This led her to start crying again, and so she playfully quipped, "Damn it."

Kaitlyn went on to say that not only has it "been so long" since she's seen

her mom and other relatives, and that she had wanted to see Jason's family as well, but that it's tough when fans hassle her about not being with her fiancé or her pets.

"It's hard because people get me [bleeped] sometimes even about like, 'Why aren't you with Jason for this?' or 'Why do you leave the dogs?'" she said.

A short while later, the former lead on The Bachelorette returned to her Story to say she wasn't pleased by the DMs she received in response to her emotional messages.

"I mean, I shouldn't have even asked for movie recommendations because then that forces me to go into my DMs, and then I see things like people saying 'have some dignity,' 'pull it together,' 'stop crying,' 'privileged problems lol,'" the Dancing With the Stars season 29 winner said. "I'm like, 'Oh, yeah, I forgot. That's what I got in my DMs.'"

Luckily, she shared footage after waking up on Sunday, July 18 to make it clear she was in much better spirits following the night's rest. "All it took was one good sleep, put on a little workout outfit, have a coffee and say, 'It's a new day,'" Kaitlyn explained. "I feel good. Let's go, Sunday."

During a podcast appearance last week, Jason addressed criticism that Kaitlyn has received from online trolls since joining Tayshia Adams to serve as host of Katie Thurston's season following the permanent departure of previous franchise host Chris Harrison.

"The way that people make comments, nasty comments, about people's appearances—and obviously, specifically, I'm referring to Kaitlyn—it's grotesque," shared Jason, who proposed to her earlier this year. "It's a joke."

Renée Zellweger and Ant Anstead Prove They're Going Strong With Passionate Kiss

Renée Zellweger and Ant Anstead might have seemed like an unlikely pair at first, but their connection is clearly unmatched. And we have the photo to prove it. Renée Zellweger is definitely Down with love regarding her new Ant Anstead romance.

The A-List movie actress and the For the Love of Cars star were seen passionately embracing in a steamy kiss while on the beach. In the pic, they weren't shy about packing on the PDA, as they had their arms wrapped around each other while locking lips.

Renée wore a zebra long-sleeve shirt and black leggings for their romantic outing. She topped her look with a purple hat and a pink scrunchie. Ant was spotted in a black T-shirt and a navy bathing suit. The English television presenter's 22-month-old son, Hudson London Anstead, whom he shares with ex-wife Christina Haack, joined in on the fun.

In the midst of his divorce with Christina, which they finalized on June 21, Ant and Renée went public with their relationship that same month. The pair reportedly met on Celebrity IOU: Joyride, according to TMZ, who first shared the news.

Renée and Ant have only recently started going public with their romance. Earlier this month, the duo was first seen out together, as they enjoyed a relaxing time together on a balcony.

In March, Ant shared with E! News how he was feeling about moving on and healing from his breakup with Christina.

"There's a choice that we all make," Ant described at the time. "You either dwell in it or you look forward and I'm a forward-facing positive person."



ICE CREAM QUEEN! Selling Sunset star Christine Quinn cooled off with an ice cream bar in Los Angeles.

Ariana Grande and Husband Dalton Gomez Enjoy Fun Night Out at Christina Aguilera's Show

Ariana Grande didn't hide her excitement about getting to join husband Dalton Gomez for Christina Aguilera's hit-packed Hollywood Bowl show, and Christina made it clear the admiration is mutual.

Ariana Grande and Christina Aguilera keep making each other that much stronger.

Ariana and husband Dalton Gomez attended the 40-year-old "Say Something" vocalist's concert at Los Angeles' storied Hollywood Bowl venue on Saturday, July 17, and the "Positions" singer shared pics and footage to social media throughout the weekend of the night out. "Screaming," Ariana, 28, wrote on a post of footage showing Christina singing her 2003 single "Fighter" during the performance. "I love you. congratulations to you & the @laphil on a STUNNING show."

Later in the weekend, Ariana posted video of Christina's rendition of her 2006 hit "Ain't No Other Man" and added the message, "dead." Ariana also posted a photo of herself wearing a mask while posing with Dalton and two other friends at the concert. She added a heart and single-tear emoji. On July 18, Christina reposted Ariana's footage to her own Instagram Story and added, "Thank you for coming, beautiful." Christina also shared her own Instagram post that read in part, "I can wholeheartedly say I had the time

of my LIFE performing at the @hollywoodbowl this weekend." The two stars have shared a connection for quite some time, as they teamed up to perform Ariana's singles "Into You" and "Dangerous Woman" during the season finale of The Voice that aired in May 2016.

Lately, the "Love Me Harder" star has



made an effort to keep her fans in the loop about special moments in her life. Earlier this month, she shared pics from her honeymoon to Amsterdam with Dalton following their surprise May nuptials.

Her post included images of a windmill and the city's famed canals, along with a shot of the lovebirds adorably seated in a massive pair of wooden clogs that are positioned throughout the region for tourists' photo ops.

Aries: Don't let the world get the better of you, beautiful. Don't let the world tell you how you should or shouldn't live your life. You've been through a roller coaster ride in the past months, and you need time to recuperate from all the twists and turns. So, prioritise self-healing. Give yourself the time off you deserve. Having a meditation practice that grounds you at a time like this will prove to be beneficial on multiple levels.

Tip: Take the time off you deserve.

Taurus:

The reason you're feeling stuck is because you've been taking everything so seriously, and it's not serving your highest good, Taurus. So, bring that spirit of play into everything you say and do. Cuddle with your furry friends. Laugh until your stomach hurts. Roll in the grass and reconnect with your wildish nature. This will help you remember that you are not the "doer" of things. Simply the medium through which the Universe expresses its beauty and grace.

Tip: It's time to adopt the spirit of play.

Gemini:

Don't blame the world for how you feel, Gemini. It all starts with the self. In other words, how you

address yourself is the most defining factor in your relationship with the world. So, bring a little more love, a little more kindness, and a little more gentleness into the equation. You may not be perfect, but you're beautiful. It's always a good occasion to celebrate your flawsomeness!

Tip: How do you address yourself?

Cancer:

Be here, Cancer. Be here now. Observe the abundance that is pouring into your life from every corner. This will help you realise how blessed you are and how everything takes place as per divine order. It's true that there are certain things that are out of your control at this point. But, worrying about it won't solve anything. It's best to let go of that false sense of control and trust Spirit's timeline for you.

Tip: It will all work out better than you imagine.

Leo:

Abundance comes in many forms, Leo. The small, precious moments we spend with those we love. The times when we're in communion with Nature and the 'I' begins to merge with the Whole. The times when a child smiles at us and we're reminded of the true meaning of innocence. There is so much grace and beauty in your life. So be thankful for it all with the inner knowing that remembering

the good will give it the power to grow manifold.

Tip: Abundance comes in all forms.

Virgo:

When we operate from the ego space, we get stuck in a loop of anger and hatred. When we move to the soul space, on the other hand, we remember our true nature. Virgo, you're made of stardust and magic. You are the vibration of love in human form. So, tap into the wisdom of your higher self. Reconnect with your sacred purpose. This will give you the power to let go of past pain and heal broken relationships.

Tip: Forgive, forget, and let go.

Libra:

What if we said you're not obliged to live somebody else's dream? What if we said you don't have to be anybody but your true and most authentic self? Think of this as a time of discovering your true freedom. A time of stripping away the false layers and coming into your own. Remember, this will feel uncomfortable as growth often does. Power through nonetheless by remembering the light that awaits you at the end of the tunnel.

Tip: Discover your true fragrance.

Scorpio:

You're tired of repeating the runner-chaser dy-

namic. You're tired of playing games with the people you love. What you're ushering in today: a brand new chapter in the realm of romance, one that sees you being open and vulnerable. Allow yourself to feel all the feels, Scorpio. It's true that not everything is meant to last forever. But that shouldn't stop us from appreciating the beauty and grace that surrounds us in the moment.

Tip: Feel all the feels, my love.

Sagittarius:

Self-care is a lifestyle, Sagittarius, one that requires you to prioritise the needs of your body and your being, nurture your vessel as if it were a sacred site, and be mindful about what you let into your space. So far, you're a solid eight on the self-care meter, but there's a little something that needs your immediate attention. Only you know what that is, beautiful. Word for the wise: take action without delay even if that means putting some of your worldly responsibilities on hold for a while.

Tip: There's something that needs your immediate attention.

Capricorn:

They say that when you want something, really, really want something, the Universe conspires to bring this miracle into your life. What the Divine

forces want you to know is that this is true for where you are and that big things are happening behind-the-scenes for you. Trust the process and stay in alignment with your intention. PS: Can you imagine where you will be six months from now?

Tip: Stay in alignment, beautiful one.

Aquarius:

Creative processes of all kinds are blessed today, Aquarius. But, you don't have to do all the brainstorming by yourself. Get your bestie on the phone or ask your work spouse to play sounding board. Two is always better than one, beautiful. This is also a time of finding a balance between the "dreamer" and "the doer" within. So, make sure you set all of these beautiful ideas into motion.

Tip: Brainstorm with your bestie.

Pisces:

Intention + Action + Grace = Magic. Keep this formula in mind as you begin the process of manifestation. You are stepping into a magical time, beautiful. A time when miracles will begin to happen for you. Remember, you don't have to do this alone. You are the co-creator of your reality and the Divine forces are supporting you at every step along the way.

Tip: Intention + Action + Grace = Magic.