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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Single-day spike of 61,267 COVID-19 infections, 884 fatalities: Health Ministry

NEW DELHI, OCT 6 (PTI): The daily spike in coronavirus infections dropped below 65,000 on Tuesday and the total recoveries surpassed 56 lakh pushing the recovery rate to 84.70 per cent, according to the Union Health Ministry.

However, the COVID-19 caseload rose to 66,85,082 with 61,267 new infections, the data updated at 8 am showed. The death toll climbed to 1,03,569 with 884 people succumbing to the disease in a span of 24 hours, the data showed.

The total recoveries have surged to 56,62,490 while there are 9,19,023 active cases of the coronavirus in the country which comprises 13.75 per cent of the total caseload.

The fatality rate due to the coronavirus infection was recorded at 1.55 per cent.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20 lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23 and 40 lakh on September 5. It went past 50 lakh on September 16 and crossed 60 lakh on September 28.

According to ICMR, a total of 8,10,71,797 samples have been tested until October 5 with 10,89,403 samples being tested on Monday.

Active cases only 13.75 pc of total COVID-19 caseload

NEW DELHI, OCT 6 (PTI): India's 9,19,023 active cases of COVID-19 constitute "merely" 13.75 per cent of the total caseload as on date and the country continues to report a steadily declining trend of percentage of active cases, the Union Health Ministry said on Tuesday.

So far 56,62,490 people have recovered from the disease in the country and exceed active cases of coronavirus infection by 47,43,467 as on date, it stated.

"The declining trend of the percentage of active cases is commensurately supported by the rising percentage of recovered cases," the ministry underlined.

Higher number of recoveries has aided the national recovery rate to further improve to 84.70 per cent, the ministry said.

A total of 75,787 people have recovered from COVID-19 and discharged in a span of 24 hours whereas 61,267 new infections were reported during the same period, according to the data updated at 8 am.

The new recoveries have exceeded the new confirmed

turn to pg 02

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 OCT:

Sikkim has lost a second COVID warrior to novel coronavirus with the death of Senior MPWH of Rangpo PHC, AB Biswakarma. The 56-year-old passed away at his residence at Jitlang, Rangpo in East Sikkim on Tuesday morning.

Two more deaths were recorded in the State on Tuesday taking the COVID-19 related death toll in Sikkim to 49.

As per the latest details, Sikkim's Case Fatality Rate works out to 1.56% which means that, on average, out of every 200 people who contract COVID, three are dying.

In the daily health bulletin on Tuesday, Health Department State IEC Officer, Sonam G Bhutia mentioned that AB Biswakarma was on posted at Rangpo check-



post on screening duty since 29 January till a few days before its closure.

He had tested positive for COVID-19 at Singtam District Hospital 13 days back and was then admitted in STNM

hospital from where he was discharged six days ago. He expressed that the Senior MPWH had served with dedication in the fight against novel coronavirus.

Earlier in the day,

Health Department DG-cum-Secretary, Dr Pempa T Bhutia, had consoled the demise of AB Biswakarma and stated the he was one of the finest and most dedicated COVID warriors.

"He was a great soul and encouraged and inspired many others through his work, resilience and dedication, all through the ongoing pandemic. As we offer our deepest condolence

to the family pray that his soul rest in eternal peace in heaven," Dr Bhutia had said.

Colleagues and lay people, all of whom had seen the diligence with which Late Biswakarma had worked and lived his life in the service of the people lined the roads to pay their final respects to the COVID Warrior on his last journey today.

A 57-year-old lady from DPH area in Gangtok, who was admitted on 28 September in STNM hospital and was in the ICU ward, also passed away at around 7:30 on Monday evening. Mr Bhutia informed that the patient had comorbidities of hypertension and was on dialysis.

The family of this woman has alleged that they were not informed properly about the cremation of the deceased

and the hospital authorities cremated her body in their absence.

Speaking to Summit Times, the Medical Superintendent, Dr CS Sharma said that they had tried to call the family of the deceased but the calls did not get through.

A 67-year-old woman from near Masjid in Upper Arithang also passed away at around 11 PM last night. The patient was found COVID-19 positive in rapid antigen testing and then admitted in STNM hospital on 04 October and was in the ICU ward. The patient had the comorbid condition of diabetes, the health bulletin informed.

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CM holds meeting with Economic Revival Committee



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 OCT:

Chief Minister, PS Tamang held a meeting with the Economic Revival Committee today

at Samman Bhawan on Tuesday.

In a Facebook post, the CM informed that the meeting deliberated on various measures and

strategies the Committee has proposed in their report. He added that a comprehensive version of the report will be submitted by next week.

26 new cases takes COVID tally to 3,135

SUMMIT REPORT

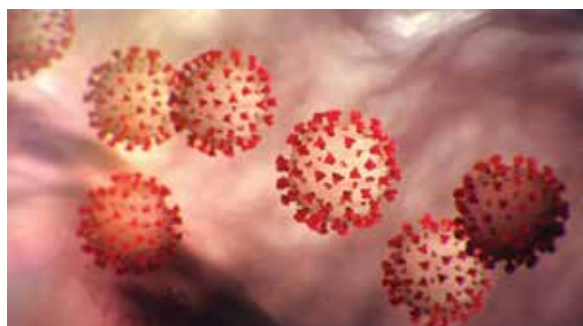
GANGTOK, 06 OCT:

Sikkim's tally of confirmed cases of COVID-19 has reached 3135 with 26 fresh cases reported in the last 24 hours. In the meantime, 39 more COVID-19 patients were discharged from isolation facilities on Monday taking the figure of discharged patients in Sikkim to 2506.

There are now 580 active cases of novel coronavirus currently in the State of which seven are admitted in the ICU facility of STNM hospital.

Out of 96 samples tested by RT-PCR testing on Monday, five returned positive for COVID-19, while four more persons were found positive in the TrueNat testing. Seventeen cases of novel coronavirus were reported in the rapid antigen testing of 75 samples.

Out of the 26 new cases, 22 have been reported in East District and 04 in South District.



While giving the break-up of new cases in the State, Health Department State IEC Officer, Sonam G Bhutia mentioned that one person from 5th Mile Tadong, one from Manipal Hotel, one from near Gumpa at Pabyuk-Naitam, one from Assam Lingzey and one from Pipaley in West Sikkim tested positive for COVID-19 in RT-PCR testing.

In TrueNat testing, one person from Sichey, one from Pani House, one from Pakyong and one from Chumbong in West Sikkim were found COVID-19 positive.

Likewise, one from Lower Nandok, one from

MG Marg, one from Deorali School Road, one from IBM Rangpo, one from near SRM University in 5th Mile Tadong, one from Amdo Golai, one from DPH area Gangtok, two from Ranipool, two from Metro Point Tadong and two from Tadong School Road in East Sikkim were tested positive for COVID-19 in the rapid antigen testing, Mr Bhutia informed.

He added that one person from Daragon Jorethang, one from Sumbuk, one from Rabongla and one from Upper Dorok Salghari in South District were also found COVID-19 positive in RAT.

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SKM hosts joining ceremony at Upper Lungjik

GANGTOK, 06 OCT: Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party organised a 'Jan Samaweshi Karyakram' at Upper Lungjik under Sudung-Lungjik GPU in West Sikkim on Monday. During the programme, 176 families from six wards of the GPU, led by panchayats BB Gurung and Ashok Subba, left SDF to join SKM, an SKM press release informs. The release adds that the programme was also attended by the party's CEC member, SM Limboo, SAABCO chairperson, Jang Tamling and other senior leaders and youth of the party.

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan by Marwari

Yuva Manch

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 OCT:

Under the four-day 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan', Marwari Yuva Manch, Siliguri branch, today helped divyang children of Bhimbar School for the Blind in Bidhan Nagar to have breakfast with their hands and donated essential items for daily use, a press release informs. Large dustbins were also provided for the school.

Marwari Yuva Manch, Siliguri branch organized various programs under the four-day 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' from 01 to 04 October.

Tripura reports 275 fresh COVID-19 cases, tally 27,308

AGARTALA, OCT 6 (PTI):

At least 275 more people tested positive for COVID-19 in Tripura on Tuesday, pushing the tally in the state to 27,308, a health department official said.

The death toll rose to 298 with two more people succumbing to the infection, he said.

West Tripura district, of which state capital Agartala is a part, has accounted for 161 of the 298 COVID-19 deaths, the official said.

Tripura currently has 4,879 active coronavirus cases, while 22,108 people have recovered from the disease.

Twenty-three patients have migrated to other states, he said.

First Double Volume Exchange Transfusion in a District Hospital

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 OCT:

Double Volume Exchange Transfusion (DVET) was done for the first time in a District Hospital setting by Dr Chewang Dorjee Bhutia, MD Pediatrics and Team of District Hospital Gyalshing, West Sikkim, a press release informs.

A male new-born was brought on day 4 with neonatal hyperbilirubinemia at District hospital, Gyalshing. On examination the newborn was found to have BIND, which is a neurological impairment resulting from high serum bilirubin levels. Serum bilirubin reported on admission was 26.8.



As it fell within the range of exchange transfusion level and there were features of BIND, Double Volume Exchange Transfusion (DVET) was done for the first time in a District hospital setting. Extremely high levels of bilirubin (severe jaundice) can lead to brain damage. Severe jaundice in new-borns can occur as a result of a variety of causes including rhesus hemolytic disease, ABO incompatibility, atypical antibodies etc.

Removal of blood from the affected infant and replacing with fresh blood from the blood bank (exchange transfusion) is used as

a treatment for severe jaundice in new-born infants. The affected infant's blood is removed in small portions and equal volume of blood is replaced during exchange transfusion.

Traditionally twice the blood volume of baby is removed and the replaced with fresh blood. Exchange transfusion has been shown to reduce brain damage in severely jaundiced babies; however, exchange transfusion is associated with serious adverse events as well.

Following the procedure the new-born has been successfully discharged and has been advised follow-up.

Jorethang Nayabazar School holds coordination meeting



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 OCT:

A coordination meeting was held between the guardians, teachers and members of School Managing Committee of Jorethang Nayabazar School Vidya Bharati today which had been closed since March 2020.

A press release informs that the meeting

attended by all the guardians discussed uploading of the results of the half yearly exam online, fee collection, online class activity, New Education Policy, 2020, etc.

Coordinator of Vidya Bharati Sikkim, Mohan Sharma informed that Office Secretary of Vidya Bharati Sikkim, Surya Dhital highlighted the

New Education Policy, 2020 along with the details of the meeting of Vidhya Bharati Sadharan Sabha organised at Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh from 03 to 05 October, 2020.

He informed that 80 members were present in the meeting while 200 members attended the same via online mode.

States should stand firm, reject Centre's options on GST compensation cess: Chidambaram

NEW DELHI, OCT 6 (PTI):

Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram on Tuesday complimented the states that rejected the two options given by the Centre to bridge the gap in the GST compensation cess and asked them to stand firm at the next meeting of the GST council on October 12. The former finance minister said the states should not borrow as the liability to provide Goods and Services Tax (GST) compensation as well as the onus to find resources fall on the Centre.

"I compliment the 9-10 states that stood

firm and rejected the two options given by the central government to bridge the gap in the GST compensation cess.

"The liability to provide the GST compensation to the full extent falls on the central government, as reluctantly admitted by the FM yesterday. Naturally, the onus of finding the resources also falls on the central government," he said in a series of tweets.

"It is unfair and unjust to ask state governments to borrow the money. States must stand firm at the next meeting on 12th October,"

Chidambaram said. At its meeting on Monday, the GST Council failed to reach a consensus on ways to compensate the states for the loss of tax revenue.

The panel will meet again on October 12 to thrash out the state compensation issue, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said after a marathon eight-hour meeting.

The council was divided on political lines, with 10 states ruled by non-BJP parties opposing the Centre's proposal of states borrowing to meet the shortfall in receipts.

NCERT textbooks to be available in Indian sign language

NEW DELHI, OCT 6 (PTI):

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) signed an MoU with the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) on Tuesday to make textbooks and other educational material accessible for deaf children in sign language.

"The availability of NCERT textbooks in Indian Sign Language (ISL) will ensure that hearing-impaired children can also now access educational resources and it will be a useful and much needed resource for teachers, teacher educators, parents and the hearing-impaired community," Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thawar Chand Gehlot said.

According to officials of the ministry, the cognitive skills of children are developed in the childhood and it is necessary

to provide them with educational material in accordance with their learning needs.

"So far, hearing-impaired children used to study only through a verbal or written medium but after the signing of this MoU, they can study through a single Indian Sign Language also. It will not only enhance their vocabulary, but also enhance their capabilities to understand concepts," Secretary Shakuntala Gamlin said.

The ISLRTC is an autonomous national institute of the social justice and empowerment ministry, which is dedicated to developing manpower for popularising the use of Indian Sign Language, teaching and conducting research.

The memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed in the virtual presence of Gehlot and Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank".

Smuggled betel nuts worth Rs 2.55 crore seized in Assam

GUWAHATI, OCT 6 (PTI):

Areca nuts worth Rs 2.55 crore, suspected to be smuggled from Myanmar, were seized in Guwahati and three persons arrested, a senior official said on Tuesday.

Acting on a tip-off, three trucks carrying 68 tonnes of areca nut, commonly known as betel nut, coming from Kalain in Cachar district were intercepted, said Om Prakash Tiwary, the dep-

uty commissioner of Customs (Prevention Division). The consignments were on the way to Bijnai in Assam and Falakata in West Bengal, he added.

"The seized goods are believed to be smuggled from Myanmar through the border in Mizoram. The market value of the seized goods is 2.55 crore," he said. Three persons were arrested and further investigation is underway, he added.

Active cases...

cases in 25 states and UTs, the ministry highlighted.

Seventy-four per cent of the new recovered cases are concentrated in 10 states and UTs -- Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Delhi, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal, the ministry said.

Maharashtra alone has contributed the maximum with nearly 13,000 single-day recoveries.

The ministry said that 75 per cent of the 61,267 new confirmed cases recorded in a span of 24 hours are from 10 states and UTs.

Maharashtra continues to be the State reporting a very high number of new cases with more than 10,000 cases followed by Karnataka with more than 7,000 cases.

Also, 884 fatalities due to COVID-19 have been reported in a day, of these nearly 80 per cent are concentrated in ten states and UTs of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Delhi and Madhya Pradesh, the ministry said.

More than 29 per cent of new fatalities reported are from Maharashtra (263 deaths).

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Rithey Gurung s/o Late Raghu Man Gurung aged about 78 years, by faith Buddhist, farmer by occupation R/o Deythang P.O. Sreebadam & P.S. Soreng, West Sikkim solemnly declare that my actual name is RITHEY GURUNG & father name is Raghu Man Gurung as recorded Sikkim Subject Register Sl.No. 310. Vo No. XIII, whereas my name has been recorded as "Sher Bahadur Gurung" and my father name is recorded as "Ragu Man Gurung" in my Domicile (241/DCW dt. 21.3.1986) issued by DC West, Gyalshing, Aadhar Card & in my Electoral Card. Has recorded as "Shekhar Bahadur Gurung" & father name's as "Raghu Bir Gurung" in my Parcha Khatiyon bearing no. 203, Kharsa No. 107, 108 dt. 04-May-2007 & as "Sher Bahadur Gurung" & my father name as "Raghu Bir Gurung" in my son's (Dal Man Gurung) COI no. 1280/DC(W) dt. 21.2.95 issued by DC, West District.

Therefore I hereby declare that "Rithey Gurung", "Sher Bahadur Gurung", "Sher Bdr Gurung" and "Shekhar Bahadur Gurung" are the name of one and same person i.e. myself and henceforth be address as "Rithey Gurung" for an official purpose. And the name "Raghu Man Gurung", "Ragu Man Gurung" and "Raghu Bir Gurung" are the name of same person i.e. my deceased father and henceforth he will be known by the name "Raghu Man Gurung" for an official purpose.

This affidavit is made bonafide in the Court of Sub-Divisional Magistrate at Soreng, Sub-Division, West Sikkim.

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

FOR RENT

Two and half storeyed (1st to 3rd floor) complex is available for rent in the heart of Ranipool Bazaar (Opposite UCO Bank). The building area is 35'x60' approx. in each floor and is fit for offices, shopping complexes, guest houses, banks etc. Contact: 8509755220, 8348007688.

GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

General roadside land for sale measuring 30 by 45 square feet near smile land below apica garden. Contact no. 7797885351/9733538899.

Building for sale

A two storey building constructed on plot area 50x40 ft. Situated at Upper Phong near Phong SS, South Sikkim is on sale. Cost Rs 60 Lakhs (Negotiable). Interested may contact : 8145829309, 7864937800, 9749897695.

Watch out, there's an OTT rise about!

ZAUREZ HAMID, SAWAN KUMAR, VAIDEHI SIDDHI MEHTA, & OGIRALA ALANKRITHA

Over The Top (OTT) platforms have been on the ever-increasing rise, especially during the COVID 19 pandemic. Different platforms like Netflix, Hotstar, Amazon prime, ZEE5, and Voot offer audiences' diverse genres and content, making audiences opt for it. The subscription sales for each platform are increasing year by year. It also allows new writers to showcase original stories covering crime, thriller, comedy, and horror genres. During the lockdown, it was the primary source of entertainment.

In general, the plan of action of OTT is basic. First, the stage goes through cash to make or purchase its content, and afterward, the content is sold by charging a price from the audience and users. Making an OTT stage is a haptic cycle, and simultaneously, it is a negative income framework in the business world. On the other hand, numerous platforms give different payment options, for example, every week, day by day, and per annum for the users' comfort.

There are about 40 providers of

OTT platforms in India, which distribute streaming media over the Internet. In the financial year 2018, the OTT market share in India was worth Rs. 2,150 crores (Rs. 21.5 billion, US\$303 million as of 2018), and its value grew to Rs. 35 billion in 2019. Due to the pandemic, as the movie theatres and television shows were shut down in the current year, the demand for OTT is on the rise exponentially. Hence, the revenues for these platforms increased rampantly. As per the most recent report by the Boston Consulting Group, the Indian OTT market to reach \$5 billion in size by 2023; the average time spent by Indian subscribers on various OTT platforms is about 70 minutes a day.

The economic impact of the OTT platforms categorized into three categories:

- Direct impact: The output produced and employment generated by companies that are directly engaged in the film, TV, and OVS industries.

- Indirect impact: The output grew and was employed by suppliers to the creative industries due to these creative industries' economic activity. For instance, the film sector's increased activity will drive demand for hotels, transport,

tation, cameras, etc., which will generate economic output and employment.

- Induced impact: The output produced and employment generated because of the consumption triggered by the direct and indirect employees above spending their wages.

If the industry has to increase its output by INR 1, how much should all industries grow? Best explained through a simplified example. Suppose the TV industry requires only two inputs to produce work worth INR 100, viz. INR 20 worth of cameras and INR 10 price of catering. If the TV industry were to increase its production by INR 10, the camera industry would need to increase its output by INR 2 and the catering industry by INR 1. This total increased production of INR 3 by suppliers to the TV industry is called the first-round effect.

However, to increase output by INR 2, the camera industry would, for example, require the plastic industry to raise production by INR 0.2, and the lens industry to expand its output by INR 0.3. Thus, there is a second-order effect of INR 0.5. In turn, those sectors will have backward linkages for their increased

work—virtually an iterative process through which the input-output table is calculated. The input-output table enables us to determine the overall impact after a full set of iterations. Similarly, they allow us to estimate the induced effects.

ZEE5 has registered a significant 80% rise in subscription numbers. Alt Balaji has an average of 17,000 new subscribers each day in lockdown - a 60% increase from the average of 10,600 per day in March before the lockdown.

Subscription to these platforms could grow further in the future, as the traditional media are losing their shine. In recent times, several big-ticket films are now bypassing the conventional theatrical release, and opting for OTT release is proof enough of the rise in their respective subscription bases. Indian OTT players have taken steps to capture the market, but there is a lot left to be done before, Indian OTT market achieves the same penetration as its western counterparts.

The Real challenge is to maintain the user base and their interest in the OTT platforms in India.

[The authors are MBA students of SME, IIT Jodhpur]

9th convocation at Assam Don Bosco University

SUMMIT REPORT

GUWAHATI, 06 OCT:

Assam Don Bosco University's Ninth Convocation held on Monday and was live-streamed on Youtube and Facebook.

In his message to the graduates, Chief Minister of Assam, Sarbananda Sonowal said, "It is a great day for all the graduates to cherish their success" and conveyed his wishes for their "bright future".

This year, degrees were conferred on 908 students of which 468 students received the bachelor's degrees in engineering and technology, basic sciences, commerce, management and humanities; 440 students received master's degrees in various branches of engineering, science, commerce and management.

Doctoral Degrees were conferred on 15 scholars.

Gold Medals under various categories were awarded to 28 outstanding graduates with the highest Cumulative Grade Point Average in each program. The Chancellor's medal for outstanding graduate in PG courses and the Vice Chancellor's medal for outstanding graduate in UG courses for notable and exceptional contribution to campus life were also awarded on the occasion.

Rotarians distribute essential items to 300 families in need

SUMMIT REPORT

SILIGURI, 06 OCT:

Rotary Club of Siliguri Metropolitan distributed essential goods to underprivileged families as part of its Gandhi Jayanti initiatives on Friday. Hand sanitizers, biscuits, masks, bleaching powder and bread were handed over to 300 people in the presence of Rotary Club of Siliguri Metropolitan members.

UP CM should have decency to call Hathras incident a tragedy: Rahul



PATIALA, OCT 6 (PTI): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi attacked the Uttar Pradesh government on Tuesday, saying Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath should have the decency to call the alleged gang rape and killing of a Dalit woman in Hathras district a tragedy.

Gandhi, who is holding a series of tractor rallies under his 'Kheti Bachao Yatra' in Punjab to protest the Centre's new farm laws, also took on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying he has not spoken "a word" on the Hathras incident.

"The CM of Uttar Pradesh should have the decency to say this is a tragedy and will look into it and will protect this family and this girl," Gandhi told reporters here.

He was asked by a reporter for his reaction over the UP government reportedly saying that there was an international conspiracy to defame it.

Yogi ji is entitled to his opinion. He is more than welcome to imagine whatever he wants to imagine. What I saw there was that a lovely girl was molested, her neck was broken, her family was threatened and the people who did it, no action was taken against them, he said.

"If Yogi ji sees it as an international conspiracy, well that is fine, that is his prerogative. What I saw was a tragedy, said Gandhi. Before his tractor

rallies, Gandhi visited the Hathras victim's family on his second attempt after being dramatically stopped outside Delhi by UP police.

Gandhi said he visited the family wanted them to know that they are not alone.

"A child is raped and murdered, but the whole administration attacks the family and country's PM does not utter a word, he said.

The 19-year-old Dalit woman was allegedly gangraped and brutalised in Hathras district of Uttar Pradesh on September 14. She died a fortnight later.

The victim was cremated near her home on September 30. But her family alleged they were forced by the local police to conduct her last rites in the dead of the night. Local police, however, said the cremation was done "as per the wishes of the family".

The UP government has recommended a CBI probe and quoting an FSL report, it has denied the woman was raped. On Sunday, UP police lodged at least 19 FIRs on charges ranging from attempt to trigger caste conflict to sedition in connection with the incident.

In his address to BJP workers on Monday, Chief Minister Adityanath referred to recent incidents and said anarchist elements were trying to trigger communal and caste violence in the state.

Webinar deliberates Atmanirbhar Bharat mission for Divyangs

GANGTOK, 06 OCT [PIB]: Technology and Core Competence of North East's resources and diversity to propel 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' for well-being of Divyangs, experts opined in a Webinar '150 years of Celebrating Mahatma-Propelling AtmaNirbhar Bharat for socio-economic development of Divyangs' organised by Press Information Bureau, Guwahati on the topic today. Experts from Industry, Government sector along with academicians deliberated and discussed about the potential from multi-sectoral and policy perspective.

Mentioning about Central Government initiative with examples of North East and its challenges, Padma Shri Uddhab Kumar Bharali said that 150th years of Celebration of Mahatma Gandhi adds extra responsibility on all citizens of India to work for holistic development of all sections of society. Shri Bharali who is from Lakhimpur district of Assam said that technology and creativity plays a pivot role in socio-economic development of

Divyangs. Creative utilisation of technology such as Machines to feed the disabled, slippers for knees, cleaners, and de-weeders for amputees, variety of peeler machines to peel betel nut, garlic, jatropha, coconut and safed musli are ways to empower the Divyangs so that they are AtmaNirbhar in their working. He said that 'First-Mover Advantage of Technology' for North East is telling story of Empowerment for Divyangs.

In the discussion, Padma Shri Naresh Chander Lal said that Central Government Initiatives are encouraging socio-economic development of Divyangs. He emphasised on the quintessential aspect of effort for encouraging entrepreneurship and knowledge among Divyangian community, generating awareness among society about potentialities of Divyangs and providing marketing opportunity to entrepreneurs. He said Divyang artisans and entrepreneurs are playing a vital role in development of the country.

Prof. (Dr.) Kishor

Goswami, Professor of Economics, Dept. of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Kharagpur delved into the utilisation of Technology for the development and well-being of Divyangs. He said that technology has to be low cost and cost effective for the maximum utility of the technology. Appreciating the efforts in the endeavours of the Central Government, Prof Goswami said that Artificial Intelligence and latest technology utilisation could be Game Changer for economic and social development of Divyangs. He elaborated that devices for Divyangs has to be dovetailed for local environment and has to be eco-friendly and should be easy accessible to the common people.

With optimism, MD JIS Group, Taranjit Singh and Director JIS Group, Amit Srivastav said that huge potential are there in Central Government programmes Start-ups and Stand up India in the sector.

The Webinar has enthusiastic participation of leading entrepreneurs of Assam and North East

Region as they said that tremendous opportunities are there for the business and Market related to entrepreneurship in this sector and Central Government initiatives are a WIN-WIN scenario for value addition in this business ecosystem.

Senior officers of PIB Kohima, Assistant Director, Shri Sonikumar were present in webinar. Deputy Director, Pallav Chakravorty, PIB welcomed the experts as the webinar delved into details on the various aspects of the topic such as entrepreneurship, Atmanirbhar Bharat and the essential awareness about Technology related to devices for Divyangs and how it is making a difference in the socio-economic development of Divyangs.

The entire webinar was planned and coordinated by Joint Director (M&C), Samrat Bandyopadhyay, PIB, Guwahati. Along with students, eminent journalists and other government senior officials from Doordarshan Guwahati, Regional Outreach Bureau, Guwahati, All India Radio Guwahati were also present on the occasion.



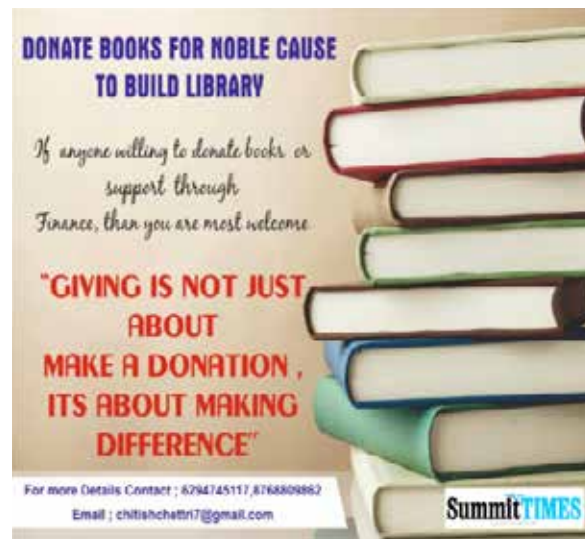
URBAN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

The Ministry of housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India has desired for wide circulation of Draft Model Tenancy Act for comments from all stakeholders. The Model Tenancy Act would be the base for the State to develop their own Tenancy Act, as the subject of housing falls under State List.

The draft of the Model Tenancy Act in Hindi and English had been uploaded in the official website: www.udhdsikkim.org for comments from all stakeholders. Any comments may be emailed to gtkudhd@gmail.com on or before 31st October 2020 for onward submission to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)

Sd/-
Additional Chief Town Planner
Urban Development Department
Government of Sikkim
Gangtok - 737101
East Sikkim.

**R.O. No. 96/IPR/Pub/Classi./20-21
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Symptoms of nCoV

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

Precautions to Prevent nCoV

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

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- No vaccinations available as of now.
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Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for filling up the following contractual posts for Composite Regional Centre For Skill Development, Rehabilitation & Empowerment Of Persons With Disabilities, (CRC), Sikkim, Assam Lingzey P.S. Ranipool, Gangtok, East Sikkim on purely temporary basis. Applications should reach the Director of the Institute at the above address. The Last date for receipt of application is 09.10.2020 in the enclosed format.

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 - Ph.D in related field of rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities.
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Emoluments : Rs. 25,000/- P.M. with no other allowances.
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Director, NIEPVD, Dehradun

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Don't Camouflage Male Chauvinism

The #MeToo campaign is important because the deck was always been loaded against women

The #MeToo campaign has ripped the fig leaf off the ugly preying that women across the world have been subjected to for far too long. The momentum, some might argue, is already flagging, but the ripples remain and occasional tsunamis will keep rising. Why? Because this is an important conversation to have.

While sexual assault and abuse are clearly criminal offences, the MeToo wave seeks to address not just the obvious instances of such abuse but also the more complicated situations and assaults in which centuries of internalizing convinces even the victims that they might have hinted consent or led the perpetrator on. But now that even such grey zones have been more clearly defined, and a clearer understanding established about what constitutes abuse, why consent in necessary, and most importantly, that even the Mighty will fall if they are called out, the serial abusers, who have traditionally been protected by their positions or social and financial standing, have much to fear. They now stare at a situation where they could not only lose their "reputation" but also the positions which brought them the courage and entitlement to force themselves on women. The #MeToo campaign was desperately needed because there is a dangerous regression underway across the world and misogyny and patriarchy are on the ascendant. The society at large needs to thank the women who started the process of calling out their pigs and forcing people to address the problem and confronting the madness manifesting in men in positions of power, influence and privilege.

This was one of the reasons why the Trump victory in USA was so deplorable. Given the American dominance of mass media, even if one does not understand the American electoral processes, the elections there are closely followed. When a man who brags about grabbing women by their pussies gets elected President of the US of A, every entitled male chauvinist pig out their gains strength and mutates into an even uglier version of himself. And not just in USA, because the US elections tend to set off a trend. So, while the eight years before Trump were about an inspirational pursuit of change and inclusiveness, now it is about regression and paranoia. When a person with the obnoxious sexism of The Donald manages to win, apart from imperiling the rights of all the women in USA, he also delivers the packaging within which disgusting worldviews and offensive sexism can not only be packaged and peddled, but also consumed without guilt. Invoke nationalism, paint a threat to an old/ imagine way of life and anything, no matter how false or patently disagreeable, can be circulated and sold. Think Padmaavat here. The movie, an obnoxiously jingoistic celebration of stereotyping and misogyny gets protested by the most stereotypically misogynist of groups for being, let's say, too liberal and permissive. The alleged distortions and the claimed ode to Rajput valour and womanhood - everything ended up just being in head. But noise was made and noise was heard. And when the sham - of the movie - was called out for the patriarchy it celebrated, the club slapped down hard. That is what we have become and that is what we needed to be saved from, which is why #MeToo is important. And since then we have had the runaway hit that was the regressive Kabir Singh.

Once the language of insular patriarchy becomes commonplace, there will be enough of us with regressive streaks to lend our shoulders to it and lower the bar for the new normal. It goes without saying that women's rights, even the basic ones which will secure them equality, have been compromised and sabotaged so effectively over the centuries that we have internalized the denigration to such an extent that every step forward has to be struggle, battled for, argued and defended. It was already an uphill battle until regression received its new packaging in traditions and identity politics. When the laws refuse to see women as equals, social conduct cannot be expected to do any better than feed them to sexual predators and look away. But #MeToo is forcing us to notice how widespread this malaise has become, how too many have been traumatized. May be now we can effect some change...

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Coronavirus: Thresholds for effective herd immunity could be lower than predicted – here's why

PIETER TRAPMAN
theconversation.com

Basic models for COVID-19 suggest herd immunity is achieved when 60% of people are immune. This is because in a population where everyone is susceptible to the coronavirus, an infected person is estimated to infect on average an additional 2.5 people. Yet if 60% of those theoretical 2.5 people are immune, then only one new infection can take place, and the outbreak cannot grow.

This is based on a very simple model, though. It assumes that everyone in the population mixes to the same degree and at random. It's unrealistic. In our research, we tried to reflect some of the diversity of behaviour found in human populations to show what effect it might have on reaching herd immunity.

We looked at two factors that influence the degree to which people mix with each other. The first was sociability.

Those who are more socially active are more likely to be infected in the early stages of an epidemic. This means that over time, naturally acquired immunity tends to be concentrated in those who make lots of social connections, while susceptibility to the disease – and the capability of spreading it – tends to be over-represented among people who make fewer connections.

As we demonstrated, this can affect when the herd immunity threshold is reached. We created an illustrative model in which 25% of people socialise half as much as the average, 50% socialise an average amount, and the remaining 25% socialise twice as much as average. When you have these different

groups mixing at these different rates, the model predicts that the herd immunity threshold will be considerably lower: 46.3% instead of 60%.

If more differences between people are considered, the point at which herd immunity is reached through natural infection decreases even further. With this in mind, we considered the effect of age on social mixing.

People in one age group don't mix equally with people across other age groups; across a population, socialisation follows certain trends. To roughly model this, we split the population into six age groups, and then estimated the amount of contact between them using data from a previous study on social contacts.

We found that accounting for age-specific mixing trends, together different sociability levels, lowered the herd immunity threshold a little further, to 43%.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

The first important thing to say is that our estimates should be interpreted only as a demonstration of how differences in behaviour can affect herd immunity. These figures aren't exact values, or even best estimates. The activity levels and contact rates between age groups that we used in the model were simply illustrative.

The second thing to note is that we've only accounted for two types of variation across the population. More realistic models would be more complex, including many other factors. For example, large household sizes, school and work environments, and metropolitan living all create higher rates of person-to-person contact. In such places a

greater proportion of people will get infected, and infection and immunity will be more concentrated among highly active and connected individuals.

Finally, for our model we've assumed that immunity doesn't decrease over time and that it offers 100% protection. Neither of these things are necessarily true.

But what our work does seem to suggest is that most forms of variation across a population will decrease the point at which herd immunity is reached through natural infection. This means that it could be reached at a lower human cost than previously expected. In countries or areas that have already been heavily hit by the virus, herd immunity might already be close. In such places, stopping the spread of the disease might therefore only require getting people to adhere to relatively mild restrictions on social behaviour.

Some words of warning are needed though. Even if the threshold is lower, reaching herd immunity through natural infection will still require a lot of people to get infected. Though lower than initially thought, the human cost would still be very high. The city of Manaus in Brazil may be the first in the world to have reached herd immunity, but one in every 350 people infected with the virus there has died, amounting to around 2,500 deaths in total.

Finally, while variation across the population generally decreases the overall level of immunity needed, among the most active people, the fraction that needs to be infected to reach herd immunity will be more than 60%.

[the writer is Senior Lecturer in Mathematics, Stockholm University]

How reading habits have changed during the COVID-19 lockdown

ABIGAIL BOUCHER,
CHLOE HARRISON &
MARCELLO GIOVANELLI
theconversation.com

During times of crisis, people find themselves faced with life-style changes. One of the earliest and most noticeable changes seen during the COVID-19 lockdown was how we consume media — and especially how we read.

People tend to find comfort in certain books, and reading habits and genre preferences can change during periods of stress. This helps to explain why much genre fiction has roots in times of significant social, political or economic upheaval. Gothic literature is, in part, a British Protestant response to the French Revolution (1789-99).

Science fiction, which emerged as a genre around the fin de siècle, was galvanised by both the industrial revolution and the theories of Charles Darwin. The hard-boiled detective story, which appeared in the 1930s, takes its cues from the privations of the great depression.

While it's still relatively early to see the influence of the coronavirus and the lockdown on creative industries, there were some striking patterns in media consumption in the early part of the pandemic. Books about (literal and metaphorical) isolation, like Sylvia Plath's *The Bell Jar* and Gabriel García Márquez's novels *One Hundred Years of Solitude* and *Love in the Time of Cholera* were among those that saw a big rise in sales. (Beyond books, horror flourished; in particular, films about global pandemics such as *28 Days*

Later, *Contagion*, and *Outbreak* were among the highest rentals on streaming services.)

In view of these patterns of changing reading habits during times of upheaval and signs that such changes were happening during COVID-19, our team decided to research reading habits among the UK public. We were particularly interested in the following questions about the effects of the pandemic:

How much people have been reading;

1. What type and genre of texts people have been reading;

2. To what extent people have been returning to previously read books.

3. As many as 860 participants took part in our online survey, which was advertised through social media. Our findings show that the COVID-19 lockdown changed not only how people read during times of stress, but also what people turn to for comfort or distraction.

READING FREQUENCY

Respondents generally reported that they were reading more than usual. This was largely due to having more free time (due to being furloughed, or not having a commute, or the usual social obligations or leisure activities).

This increased reading volume was complicated for those with caring responsibilities. Many people with children reported that their reading time had increased generally because of their shared reading with children, but had less time than normal for personal reading.

Reading frequency was further

complicated by a quality vs quantity snag. People spent more time reading and seeking escape, but an inability to concentrate meant they made less progress than usual. In short, people spent more time reading but the volume they read was less.

GENRE CHOICE

Despite the early figures showing spikes in interest for content about pandemics and isolation, it appears that people quickly tired of these topics. Many respondents sought out subject matter that was at least predictable, if not necessarily comforting. Many found solace in the "security" of more formulaic genres (whodunits and other types of thrillers were often cited). Others found themselves significantly less picky about genre than they were before the lockdown: they read more, and more widely.

Many found the lockdown to be a great opportunity to explore things they didn't normally have the time or desire to read (like hefty classics that seemed too dull or heavy to bring on a commute) or to fill other gaps in knowledge (the protests over police brutality and racism were cited frequently as the catalyst for many readers seeking out more texts by non-white authors).

RE-READING

Much as with the choice of genre, readers generally fell into two camps: those that read for exploration and those that re-read for safety. The re-readers found solace in previously read books: familiar plots and known emotional regis-

ters helped stressed-out readers avoid suspense and surprises.

Unsurprisingly, lockdown also made re-reading a physical necessity for some. Some respondents noted how they were unable to visit the library or browse at the bookshop for new books. Others reported that they simply wished to save money. On the other hand, the participants who reported re-reading less than normal during the lockdown period wanted to use their newfound time to seek out new topics and genres.

The two groups also drew on different metaphors to describe their experiences: some of the non-re-readers talked about time as a commodity (for example, valuing reading something new), while the re-readers discussed the ability to travel easily, and with little effort to familiar places, characters and experiences.

Our research shows that the lockdown really did affect the reading habits of those who took part in our survey. But what might be the longer term implications of the lockdown on how and why we read? And what might happen given the possibility of a second lockdown? It remains to be seen if and how the pandemic might be responsible for continuing changes in our relationship with books.

[Abigail Boucher is Lecturer in English Literature, Aston University; Chloe Harrison is Lecturer in English Language and Literature, Aston University; Marcello Giovanelli is Senior Lecturer in English Language and Literature, Aston University]

15 new COVID-19 cases in Andamans; tally rises to 3,899

PORT BLAIR, OCT 6 (PTI): At least 15 more people tested positive for COVID-19 in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, raising the tally in the Union Territory to 3,899, a health department official said on Tuesday.

The death toll rose to 54 after a person succumbed to the infection, he said.

Of the fresh patients, eleven were detected during contact tracing, while four have travel history, he said.

Ten more people were cured of the disease on Monday, taking the number of recoveries in the archipelago to 3,659, the official said.

The Union Territory now has 186 active coronavirus cases.

The Andaman and Nicobar administration has sent 63,009 samples for COVID-19 tests so far, of which 136 reports are awaited, the official added.

Over 60 butterfly species recorded in Arunachal meet

ITANAGAR, OCT 6 (PTI): Over 60 species of butterflies were documented during the seventh edition of the Ziro Butterfly Meet in Lower Subansiri District of Arunachal Pradesh, officials of the forest department said on Tuesday.

The three-day event that concluded on Monday was held at the Tale Wildlife Sanctuary (TWS), and organised by NGO NgunuZiro in association with the Tale Wildlife Division and the Hapoli Forest Division during the ongoing National Wildlife Week.

The significant species recorded during the meet include the "extremely rare Tytlers' Treebrown, the Bhutan Treebrown and the Scarce Evening Brown", which are legally protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, they said.

The Tytlers' Treebrown was last photographed in 2010, the officials said.

The highlight of the meet was the plantation of nectaring plants in Pange Camp and tagging of several host plants in the area.

During the inaugural session on October 3, Division Forest Officer Abhinav Kumar had emphasised on the importance of community participation in conservation activities.

The butterfly meet, which has seen participation from India and abroad in previous editions, was organised with only 20 members this year in view of the COVID-19 pandemic, they added.

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Com

Nagaland still a 'Disturbed Area' as a mother remembers her 'martyred' son

TEMJEN YANGER

KOHIMA, OCT 05 [NAGALANDPAGE]: On June 30 2020, the Centre declared entire Nagaland as "disturbed area" for a further period of 6 months in the face of feeble protests. Thirty-four years earlier, two young Nagas had fallen victims to indiscriminate firing by uniformed personnel as they marched in peaceful protest along with hundreds decrying the extension of the same colonial era Disturbed Area Act of the Indian Parliament. The two young men ~ Vikhozo Yhoshü and Kekuojalie Sachü ~ are remembered every year with the NSF Martyrs' Memorial Trophy, a major football tournament organized under the shadow of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA).

On March 20, 1986, Nagaland Armed Police (NAP) resorted to indiscriminate firing upon agitating students at Kohima, who were protesting the extension of the Disturbed Area Act (DAA) from 5 km belt to 20 km along the Indo-Burmese border. Two students, in their teens, were killed. On October 3 2020, as the 21st



NSF Martyrs' Memorial Trophy (Special Edition) kicked off at IG Stadium, 74-year old Neibano Yhoshii, the mother who survived her son late Vikhozo Yhoshü, still shed silent tears.

"My mother makes it a point that our family does not miss the NSF Martyrs' Day and NSF Memorial Day," said Kelevino Yhoshii the youngest sister of late Vikhozo Yhoshii,

who accompanied her mother that day. The septuagenarian Yhoshii vividly remembers her son as he was before the tragic day. Speaking to Nagaland Page, she recollected that they were given prior information about the peace march called by the NSF.

"The night before he (late Vikhozo) told me that they had been called for peace march by the Naga

Students' Federation."

"Vikhozo was very ambitious and wanted to be a doctor like his uncle Dr. Dietho Yhoshii ~ he always said that he will take care of me and his father," the grief-stricken mother recollected. However, she reasoned that the sacrifice was for the cause of the Nagas although that does little to alleviate the grief for the loss of her eldest son

at such a tender age. But she adds: "I believe that my son's martyrdom will not go in vain." Vikhozo Yhoshü was just 14-years-old when he was killed.

"Whenever we are invited for the memorial trophy I am filled with mixed emotions," Neibano Yhoshii says reflecting on how she eventually coped with her loss.

Nagaland Page also

reached out to the family of late Kekuojalie Sachii, who is survived by four siblings. Sachii's mother had already passed before he met his tragic end and his father passed on in 2003.

Alieii Kire, the eldest sister of late Kekuojalie Sachii said, Sachii often mentioned that "To give one's life for the nation for a worthy cause is a life well lived."

Sachii's family also conveyed that though they are heartbroken on losing Kekuojalie, they still remember him with fondness and takes pride in the fact that he had lived a worthy life.

Casualties are a given in any conflict and deaths end up as mere statistics in the ensuing years for the public and Governments. In the midst of it all, parents, kith and kin have to live with the pain of losing their loved ones. The NSF Martyrs' Memorial Trophy comes as a reminder every year of the sacrifice of two young Nagas ensuring their lives don't get consigned to mere numbers in the long list of casualties in Nagaland's struggle.

NSCN(IM) wants Naga peace talks to shift to 3rd country

DIMAPUR, OCT 6 (PTI): The NSCN (IM) has demanded direct involvement of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the talks to resolve the festering insurgency in the northeastern state and insisted that the negotiations be held in a "third country".

In a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi written on February 25, but kept secret so far, Thuingaleng Muivah, the general secretary of the group and chief Naga negotiator in the talks with the government, also spoke about the framework agreement (FA) signed in 2015 and its proposal that the state should be allowed to have a Constitution and national flag.

In the letter released to the media on Monday, the outfit said it was making public the letter for "lack of response" from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

Muivah, who is the Ato Kilonser (prime minister) of the self-styled Naga government, referred to the circumstances in which he and the then chairman of the outfit Isak Chishi Swu first arrived in India in 2002 and "patiently" stayed here since 2010 to conclude an "acceptable and honourable political settlement."

He said the NSCN(IM) started political negotiation with the government only after it recognised the Naga problem as a "political issue" and stopped calling it India's internal law and order issue.

Referring to the framework agreement,



Muivah said, "We mentioned in our proposal that Nagaland shall use its National Flag, Anthem, Emblem and Insignia" and have a Constitution called 'Yehzabo'.

Though Muivah said it was not a "demand", his letter spoke about how "sovereignty lies with the people" and the "peaceful co-existence" of "two entities" through "sharing of sovereign power".

Talking about the dealy in implementing the framework agreement, Muivah said, "In the given circumstances and in order to save the political dialogue, the talks should resume at the highest i.e. prime minister level, without precondition, and outside India in a third country."

Muivah also wrote about the "obnoxious" conduct of the Ministry of Home Affairs while dealing with the Naga question.

"We are totally shocked and surprised that even after more than two decades of political negotiation, the MHA and its agencies have

become obnoxious. "It has come as a total shock and surprise that the Gol has started branding and accusing the members of the NSCN who are in political negotiation as terrorist and with impunity they are arresting the members of the organization, he wrote.

He dubbed as "serious provocation" the conduct of the home ministry, and said it went against the spirit of political negotiation and the framework agreement.

Muivah was also bitter about the role of Nagaland Governor R N Ravi who, before taking up the new assignment, was the Government of India's chief negotiator for the Naga talks.

He alleged that Ravi was interfering with the law and order issues in "deliberate deviation" from his appointment as the Centre's representative for the peace talks.

"The activities of the Representative of the Gol is polarizing the Naga society instead of uniting the Nagas for an honourable political solution,"

Muivah wrote. He alleged Ravi was meeting only a "certain section" of the Naga society that is not committed to a "genuine political solution and who do not represent the genuine aspiration of the Naga people".

Despite Muivah's fulmination, several rounds of talks to restore peace in Nagaland have been held in New Delhi. The Indian side was largely represented by officers of the Intelligence Bureau (IB).

We have come to India on the invitation of the Gol and we are in Nagaland to meet our own Naga people vis-a-vis the peace process. If the MHA is trying to stop us from meeting our own people, then their negative intent against the peace process has become very clear, he said.

Muivah also wrote that the Indian government should allow him to leave the country if our stay in India is no more welcome. All necessary arrangements must be made for us to leave India and the political talks be resumed in a third country.

Kohli rues dropped catches after 59-run thrashing

DUBAI, OCT 6 (PTI): Royal Challengers Bangalore skipper Virat Kohli says dropping the sitters has hurt his team, which endured a 59-run drubbing at the hands of Delhi Capitals in the Indian Premier League.

All-rounder Marcus Stoinis was dropped on 30 by Yuzvendra Chahal, after which he went on to score a 26-ball 53 and power the Capitals to 196 for four at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Monday.

Kohli himself had dropped KL Rahul twice in RCB's loss to Kings XI Punjab earlier in the tournament.

"Those important chances in between, we need to grab when the opportunity comes our way. It is not like we are dropping half chances, we are dropping sitters and those things hurt you," Kohli said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

"We got into the game after the first six and then Stoinis batted really well in the end, we gave him a life, he took the game away from us," he added.

Delhi were off to a flying start with openers Prithvi Shaw and Shikhar Dhawan adding 68 runs. The RCB bowlers were able to pull things back, picking up quick wickets before slipping again.

"I think they got off to a great start in the first six then we pulled it back in the next eight overs and the last phase again got away from us," Kohli said.

RCB have won three of their five matches. However, both their losses have come while chasing big targets.

"I think it is about rectifying those

small mistakes. The conversation around chasing is always to have a big partnership, with the dew setting in had we kept 7-8 wickets at the end of 10 overs, the game would have been on," Kohli said.

Delhi Capitals skipper Shreyas Iyer was delighted with his team's all-round performance.

"Our strategy was to be fearless and play with full freedom. We have got good youngsters in our side, so we just need to go out and execute our talent and skills. I am very happy with the way things are going so far, and we need to keep up the momentum," Iyer said.

"It is important for us to get a good recovery. It isn't easy going back into the bio bubble, so we try to spend time with each other and that is working really well for us," he added.

Axer Patel (2/18), who came in to the side in place of the injured Amit Mishra, played a vital role in his side's victory and was adjudged the Man of the Match.

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"My plan after speaking to batsmen was that since the wicket was slow, I wanted to bowl at the stumps and vary the pace.

"In the Powerplay I was in a mood to defend at first, but when the third ball spun I changed gears and got into an attack mode," he said.

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8 new cases push Mizoram's COVID-19 tally to 2,128

AIZAWL, OCT 6 (PTI): Mizoram's COVID-19 tally rose to 2,128 on Tuesday as eight more people, including four security personnel, tested positive for the infection, an official said.

Four new cases were reported in Aizawl district, three in Kolasib and one in Serchhip, he said.

Three Assam Rifles jawans and one Border Security Force (BSF) personnel are among the new patients, the official said.

All the new patients had returned from other states and were placed under institutional quarantine, he said.

Mizoram now has 291 active

coronavirus cases, while 1,837 people have been cured of the disease so far, the official said.

The recovery rate among the COVID-19 patients in the state stands at 86.33 per cent, he said.

A total of 83,092 samples have been tested for COVID-19 so far, the official added.

FC Goa begin training for ISL season



MUMBAI, OCT 6 (PTI): FC Goa on Tuesday said it has started preparations for the upcoming season of the Indian Super League, which is tentatively scheduled to start in December.

Apart from playing in the ISL, the club will also be representing India in the AFC Champions League.

Under the watchful eyes of assistant coach Clifford Miranda, FC Goa has begun their pre-season training with the majority of the Indian contingent.

Only Ishan Pandita and Len Doungel, who are currently undergoing their quarantine period as per the League protocols, are yet to join, FC Goa said in a statement on Tuesday.

The first few days saw the players going through their paces, with the focus being on regaining their fitness after a long off-season owing to the raging COVID-19 pandemic.

Since Saturday, the team has been doing double sessions both at the training ground and the gym to work on their physical attributes, core and sharp-

ness along with the ball drills.

A midfield mainstay, Lenny Rodrigues sounded ecstatic on his return to the ground with his fellow Gaurs.

"This has been a long and unusual off-season for us all. Its been tough for us all. Now to get back on to the ground and start doing the things that we love, I am thrilled," Lenny said.

"This pre-season will be crucial like every other. But the circumstances through which we have gone through and to come this far, this feels like an achievement," added the midfielder.

The initial days of the camp will see the Gaurs practice at the Ella Ground in Old Goa before switching to the clubs very own practice facility in Salvador do Mundo.

The team is regularly in contact with head coach Juan Ferrando and the coaching staff for session plans, updates and feedback.

While the ISL dates are yet to be announced, it is likely that the League will be held in Goa.

Kohli rues dropped catches after 59-run thrashing

DUBAI, OCT 6 (PTI): Royal Challengers Bangalore skipper Virat Kohli says dropping the sitters has hurt his team, which endured a 59-run drubbing at the hands of Delhi Capitals in the Indian Premier League. All-rounder Marcus Stoinis was dropped on 30 by Yuzvendra Chahal, after which he went on to score a 26-ball 53 and power the Capitals to 196 for four at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Monday.

Kohli himself had dropped KL Rahul twice in RCB's loss to Kings XI Punjab earlier in the tournament. "Those important chances in between, we need to grab when the opportunity comes our way. It is not like we are dropping half chances, we are dropping sitters and those things hurt you," Kohli said at the post-match presentation ceremony. "We got into the game after the first six and then Stoinis batted really well in the end, we gave him a life, he took the game away from us," he added.

Delhi were off to a flying start with openers Prithvi Shaw and Shikhar Dhawan adding 68 runs. The RCB bowlers were able to pull things back, picking up quick wickets before slipping again. "I think they got off to a great start in the first six then we pulled it back in the next eight overs and the last phase again got away from us," Kohli said.

RCB have won three of their five matches. However, both their losses have come while chasing big targets.

"I think it is about rectifying those small mistakes. The conversation around chasing is always to have a big partnership, with the dew setting in had we kept 7-8 wickets at the end of 10 overs, the game would have been on," Kohli said.

Delhi Capitals skipper Shreyas Iyer was delighted with his team's all-round performance.

"Our strategy was to be fearless and play with full freedom. We have got good youngsters in our side, so we just need to go out and execute our talent and skills. I am very happy with the way things are going so far, and we need to keep up the momentum," Iyer said.

"It is important for us to get a good recovery. It isn't easy going back into the bio bubble, so we try to spend time with each other and that is working really well for us," he added. Axer Patel (2/18), who came in to the side in place of the injured Amit Mishra, played a vital role in his side's victory and was adjudged the Man of the Match.

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Silly Season: When is football's goal-fest going to settle down a bit?

JONATHAN LIEW

LONDON, 06 OCT [THEGUARDIAN]: Somewhere between the fifth and sixth Aston Villa goals on Sunday night, it began to feel as if everything was just getting ... a little loose. A little silly. As if the writing team on the new season of "Football!" had gone wild on the macchiatos and were now throwing in plot twists for the hell of it. Like the preposterous final segment of Casino Royale in which, for no apparent reason, Bond goes to Venice and spends half an hour blowing up an entire building. We swallowed Leicester getting trounced by West Ham. We were just about OK with Spurs winning 6-1 at Old Trafford. But this felt ... excessive.

"The day football went crazy," read the back page of one newspaper on Monday morning, which felt a trifle overegged on the back of a handful of freak scorelines in one league in one country. Still, with the season 10% through, and 144 goals scored in 38 games, it's worth asking a few pointed questions. What's driving this? Is it all going to settle down at some point? And – just as crucially – what does this all mean for a sport that has always sought to tread a tightrope between the credible and the incredible, the authentic and the fantastical?

If you've come for definitive answers, you're in the wrong place. But perhaps there are a couple of temptations we should resist at the outset. First, that this has come entirely out of the blue. Liverpool have been playing with the handbrake on since around the turn of the year, and were arguably overdue a shoeing. Manchester United's collapse was portended



well in advance, a serially inefficient squad that somehow manages to look both horrifically stretched and horrifically bloated all at once. Leicester, for all their devastating flourish against Manchester City, have by and large looked curiously wan since the restart: a team still in search of balance. The manner and alignment of these results may be genuinely shocking. But they weren't entirely random.

The second fallacy is that these clubs have somehow been found out, exposed as frauds, that any prior excellence they may have displayed was entirely imaginary. Deep down, we know this. Virgil van Dijk wasn't always the doddering wreck he appeared on Sunday night, humiliated by Jack Grealish, clumsily lunging at Ross Barkley like a man with two pints in his hands, trying to stop his change from rolling under the quiz machine. We've

seen Van Dijk being good. We've seen Thiago Silva being good. We've seen Caglar Soyuncu being good. We've seen Ederson being good. It wasn't a trick of the light. It really wasn't always like this.

And so to some possible theories. Fatigue, mental and physical, feels like the elephant in the room here, particularly as it is defences rather than attacks that appear to be malfunctioning. The lack of a proper pre-season has been brutal in this respect: good defences don't simply come together in an afternoon. It's a painstaking process of drilling and composition, a sort of human needlework. Even United's defence looked very decent for much of last season, when they went 19 games unbeaten in all competitions, conceding just eight times. Again: whatever you may think of him now, Harry Maguire hasn't always defended like a man made of jam in a

world made of wasps. For most of the year, he's been fine.

Which brings us to the Great Disruption. And on reflection, it's little surprise that if you force players into a new campaign with a bare minimum of rest, some having played in the European post-season and some not, you're going to get some wildly varying levels of consistency. That gets amplified several-fold when – like, say, Liverpool or Manchester City – you're also attempting a high-wire, high-pressing style that requires every piece to be finely calibrated. Paradoxically, it's often the teams trying to play eight-out-of-10 football but nailing it – your Evertons, your Tottenhams, your West Hams – who are currently outperforming expectations. This, too, may explain why the more even, restrained Championship is averaging 1.91 goals a game.

Then you have the intan-

gibles. The last-minute disruption of positive Covid-19 tests for Thiago, Sadio Mané or Aymeric Laporte: the late reshuffles, the hastily-redrawn plans. The turbulence of the transfer window. The snakes-on-a-plane jeopardy of the latest VAR tweaks. Perhaps even the empty stadiums have a part to play here: a departure from familiar moorings, a sense of strange new frontiers being breached, the idea that the very foundations of the game, its look and sound and feel and purpose, are shifting underneath us.

In many ways this has been the basis of football's ultimate triumph: its steady-state theory, its ability to churn out essentially the same flavour of product whatever the era, whatever the location, whatever the circumstances. Perhaps that was the anomaly, not this circus of dazed, drained, haunted, weirded-out players, forced through a relentless 13-month slog and expected to play with 90-minute intensity. Did we really think goals were just going to carry on happening at between 2.6 and 2.8 per game forever?

Of course, you can't argue with the entertainment. The storylines. The buzz. At a time when cinemas are being shuttered, theatres lie empty, live music has screeched to a halt and television production is in limbo, the Premier League is essentially this country's main source of fresh entertainment content. Maybe that's the point. Maybe that's the only point. Then again, there's a problem with constantly telling the audience they won't believe what they're seeing: eventually, they may end up not believing what they're seeing.

Captain Karthik faces stiffest test as KKR take on resurgent CSK



ABU DHABI, OCT 6 (PTI): Under-fire Kolkata Knight Riders captain Dinesh Karthik will have to figure out urgent fixes for his star-studded team's faltering performances when it takes on a resurgent Chennai Super Kings in the IPL here on Wednesday.

KKR acquired England's World Cup-winning skipper Eoin Morgan but the management reposed confidence in Karthik and asked him to lead the side.

However, a few of his baffling decisions apart from his own poor run with the bat -- 37 runs from four matches -- has put the Indian wicketkeeper-batsman in the line of fire.

Promoting himself ahead of the star duo of Morgan and Andre Russell and preferring Sunil Narine in the opening slot over Big Bash sensation Tom Banton -- who has been compared with Kevin Pietersen -- has put 35-year-old Karthik in the dock.

Narine has looked woefully out of sorts, managing only 27 runs from four matches at 87.09 strike rate and it's high time that the team brings in the big-hitting English youngster.

KKR have plenty of resources

in bowling but Karthik, it seems, has not been able to manage them well and their match against Delhi Capitals could be a case in point.

Pat Cummins' not-so-impressive performance has added to the team's woes.

The pitch in Sharjah is a batsmen's paradise and both teams cantered past the 200-mark but it's the bowlers who made the difference in a close chase.

The pair of Morgan and Rahul Tripathi looked to seal it but Delhi's bowlers strangled KKR's batting at the death.

Karthik will need to back his bowlers, especially Indian lead spinner Kuldeep Yadav who seems to have been under-utilised and bowled just nine overs after being dropped from the Delhi game.

Chennai, on the other hand, rediscovered some of the form that made them three-time champions. After three losses on the trot, the Mahendra Singh Dhoni-led side would look to make its ascent to top-four from being at the bottom.

Not known to tweak his side much, Dhoni persisted with Shane Watson and the Aussie veteran finally came to form with an unbeaten 83. Chasing 179 against Kings

XI Punjab, Watson and Faf du Plessis made light work of their bowlers in a record 181-run unbeaten stand to seal the chase.

The coming to form of a mis-firing top order is what CSK needed to come out of a miserable start and having done that, they would certainly look favourites against a struggling KKR.

Teams (from)

Kolkata Knight Riders: Dinesh Karthik (C), Andre Russell, Kamlesh Nagarkoti, Kuldeep Yadav, Lockie Ferguson, Nitish Rana, Prasidh Krishna, Rinku Singh, Sandeep Warrier, Shivam Mavi, Shubman Gill, Siddhesh Lad, Sunil Narine, Pat Cummins, Eoin Morgan, Varun Chakravarthy, Tom Banton, Rahul Tripathi, Chris Green, M Siddharth, Nikhil Naik, Ali Khan.

Chennai Super Kings: MS Dhoni (C), M Vijay, Ambati Rayudu, Faf du Plessis, Shane Watson, Kedar Jadhav, Dwayne Bravo, Ravindra Jadeja, Lungi Ngidi, Deepak Chahar, Piyush Chawla, Imran Tahir, Mitchell Santner, Josh Hazlewood, Shardul Thakur, Sam Curran, N Jagadeesan, KM Asif, Monu Kumar, R Sai Kishore, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Karn Sharma.

Match starts: 7.30pm IST.

Djokovic battles past Khachanov in first real test

PARIS, 06 OCT [REUTERS]: Top seed Novak Djokovic passed his first real test at this year's French Open with flying colours as he battled past Russia's Karen Khachanov 6-4 6-3 6-3 on Monday to reach the quarter-finals for the 14th time.

It was far from plain sailing for the 33-year-old Serb though and there was an anxious moment when a ball flew off his racket during the first set and hit a line judge in the head, reviving memories of his default at the U.S. Open.

Djokovic had conceded no sets and only 15 games in his first three rounds but the powerful 15th seed Khachanov provided a much better barometer of his form in his quest for a second French Open and 18th major title.

"It was definitely closer than the score suggests," Djokovic, who has bounced back strongly from the ignominy of being defaulted at the U.S. Open for inadvertently striking a female line judge in the throat with a ball, said.

"It was quite even all three sets and I managed to break his resistance towards the end of each set but it was a close one definitely. I'm happy the way I closed it out."

Djokovic is through to his 47th Grand Slam quarter-final and 11th in succession at Roland Garros and will face either German qualifier Daniel Altmaier or 17th seed Pablo Carreno Bus-

ta of Spain. Carreno Busta was the player who benefitted from Djokovic's indiscretion in the U.S. Open fourth round.

Djokovic faced stiff resistance in the first set and it was while pushing for a break in the eighth game that he stretched to return a wide serve and the ball flew off his frame and into the temple of a line judge from close range. This time it was a completely innocent accident and Djokovic apologised and moments later broke serve after a grueling 10-minute game.

Russian Khachanov broke back though immediately with a dipping forehand before tamely handing Djokovic the set in the next game with a double fault.

Djokovic relied heavily on his drop shot again as he moved 4-2 ahead in the second but Khachanov then had four break points but failed to convert any of them.

Khachanov survived four set points at 2-5 before Djokovic calmly held to move two sets clear.

Djokovic could never totally relax though and from 2-0 ahead in the third set, he lost three consecutive games and saved two break points to avoid going 4-2 down.

The Serb is never more dangerous than when his back is against the wall though and he regained control to ease home and claim a 35th win in 36 matches this season -- the one blot being his default in New York.

Kyrgyzstan cancels parliament election results after unrest

MOSCOW (AP): The Central Election Commission of Kyrgyzstan declared the results of the weekend's parliamentary election invalid on Tuesday after mass protests erupted in the Kyrgyz capital, Bishkek, and other cities, with opposition supporters seizing government buildings overnight and demanding a new election.

Hundreds were injured, and one person died. Members of several opposition parties announced plans to oust the president and form a new government.

The decision to cancel the results of the vote was made in order to "prevent tension" in the country, head of the Commission Nurzhan Shaildabekova told the Interfax news agency.

Mass protests in the capital, Bishkek, and other cities broke out after the authorities announced early results of Sunday's parliamentary election. They attributed the majority of votes to two parties with ties to the ruling elites, amid reports of vote buying and other violations.

Supporters of a dozen opposition parties took to the streets on Monday, demanding the cancellation of the vote and a new election. Police moved to disperse the crowds with water cannons, tear gas and flashbang grenades. Some 590 people sustained injuries in clashes with police and one person died, the Interfax news agency reported, citing Kyrgyzstan's Health Ministry.

The violent crackdown failed to curb the unrest, and during the night the protesters broke into the government complex that houses both the parliament and the presidential office. Interfax reported that opposition supporters also took control of Bishkek's City Hall.

Another group of protesters went to Kyrgyzstan's State Committee of National Security, demanding to free former president Almazbek Atambayev, who was convicted on corruption charges earlier this year and sentenced to 11 years and two months in prison. Security officers released Atambayev after negotiations with the protesters.

Members of several opposition parties announced plans to oust Jeenbekov and create a new government.

"We intend to seek the dismissal of Sooronbai Jeenbekov from his post," Maksat Mamytkanov, a member of the Chon Kazat party, told Interfax on Tuesday, adding that opposition parties also insist on adopting a new constitution.

Zhanar Akayev of the Ata Meken opposition party was quoted by the Kyrgyz service of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty as saying that "a new prime minister and the people's government need to be appointed," and then "a popular election" needs to be held.

Jeenbekov on Tuesday urged leaders of opposition parties to "calm their supporters down and take them away" from the streets.

After 6 months stranded, Easter Islanders will return home

RUSSELL, NEW ZEALAND (AP): About 25 residents from remote Easter Island who have been stranded far from their loved ones for more than six months because of the coronavirus will finally be able to return home this week on a French military plane.

The group has been stranded on Tahiti in French Polynesia. Many arrived in March planning to stay for just a few weeks, but they got stuck when the virus swept across the globe and their flights back home on LATAM airlines were canceled.

A second group of about 15 Tahitians have also been stranded on Easter Island because of the flight cancellations. French authorities announced Tuesday they would use an Airbus A400M Atlas turboprop to repatriate both groups in a flight that would take about six hours in each direction.

Also named Rapa Nui, Easter Island is a Chilean territory located midway between Polynesia, in the South Pacific, and South America.

The French state department said it launched the mission following a request from Chilean authorities, and it was being conducted in close coordination with the French embassy in Santiago, Chile. The plane is currently deployed with the French military in Tahiti.

The group of Easter Islanders had been begging authorities for help for months — in Spanish, in French, and in English. They had even written to Chilean President Sebastián Piñera. The Associated Press first wrote about their plight last month.

"I'm so happy!!!" said the group's unofficial leader, Kissy Baude, in a

WhatsApp message to the AP. "We are very happy and relieved to finally be able to return home and to know that the Tahitians stranded in Rapa Nui will also return home in the same mission."

Baude thanked authorities in France, French Polynesia, Chile and Easter Island for putting the logistics in place, including airport management and a 14-day virus quarantine they will undergo at a health center when they arrive back on Easter Island.

Among those stranded is a 21-year-old mom who gave birth to her second son just a few days ago without her husband by her side, because he was back home. It was unclear whether she and her newborn would be ready to return home on Thursday's flight.

Home to about 8,000 people, Easter Island is a tiny speck in the vast Pacific Ocean renowned for its imposing moai — giant heads carved from volcanic rock by inhabitants hundreds of years ago. For Easter Islanders, Tahiti has long been a stopping-off point, a connection to the rest of the world.

Until the virus struck, LATAM airlines ran a regular return route from Santiago, Chile, to Easter Island and on to Tahiti. LATAM said it suspended the route in March because of the virus and doesn't have a timeline for restarting it. No other airlines offer a similar service.

"The resumption of this flight is subject to the development of the pandemic and travel restrictions in place," the airline said in a statement last month.

Top Israeli, UAE diplomats meeting in Berlin for talks

BERLIN (AP): The foreign ministers of the United Arab Emirates and Israel are meeting in Berlin on Tuesday for talks that Germany hopes will strengthen nascent ties between the two nations and bolster broader Middle East peace efforts.

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said it was a "great honor that the Israeli and Emirati foreign ministers have chosen Berlin as the location for their historic first meeting" since the two countries agreed to normalize relations in a U.S.-brokered deal.

The agreement, signed at a White House ceremony last month, reflects the changing politics of the Middle East, in which shared concerns about archenemy Iran have largely overtaken

traditional Arab support for the Palestinians, who reject the deal as a betrayal. "The most important currency in diplomacy is trust, and I am personally grateful to both of my colleagues for placing this trust in Germany," Maas said in a statement. "We are doing everything we can to be good hosts for the dialogue between the two countries on how to shape their future bilateral relations."

Israeli Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi and Emirati Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan were to meet, along with Maas, behind closed doors at a secluded government guest house on the outskirts of the German capital.

Maas said the "courageous peace agree-

ment" between the two countries is "the first good news from the Mideast in a long time, and at the same time an opportunity for new movement in the dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians."

Germany is a strong supporter of Israel, but at the same time has been critical of its settlement policies and also works closely with the Palestinians and is in favor of a Palestinian state as part of a "two state" solution.

Maas said "courage and trust" are what is needed in the Middle East peace process.

"We must seize this opportunity, and Germany and Europe want to help," Maas said. "I hope that Berlin can offer a good framework to discuss further steps on this path."

Pompeo to meet Jaishankar in Tokyo

WASHINGTON, Oct 6 (PTI): US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will meet External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in Tokyo on Tuesday, the State Department said.

Pompeo and Jaishankar are in Tokyo to attend the second QUAD ministerial involving their counterparts from Australia and Japan.

While Pompeo and Jaishankar talk over the phone at frequent intervals, this is their first meeting after the recent border incursions by China in India.

According to the State Department, Pompeo is scheduled to meet new Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga and his Japanese counterpart Toshiimitsu Motegi.

In an interaction with reporters traveling with him, Pompeo hoped to have significant announcements and significant achievements during the QUAD minis-



terial. It's going to be a wonderful trip. It's supporting something we've been working on for a long time to put together. To meet with our Quad partners is a project we've been preparing for. We're hoping to have some significant announcements, significant achievements, Pompeo said.

Before leaving for Tokyo, Trump spoke with President Donald Trump over the phone.

I did get a chance to talk with the president at some length today, and I

think he spoke with his entire national security team today, he said.

This is a team that is mature and capable. We're fully prepared for all possibilities that may take place. We had a good conversation. I'm not going to say what it was about. But we made sure that the president was fully up to speed on all the things happening around the world. Got a little bit of additional guidance for this trip, now I'm looking forward to executing it, Pompeo said.

Cuba Delta grows into hurricane in Caribbean; eyes Yucatan



MEXICO CITY, Oct 6 (AP): Tropical Storm Delta rapidly strengthened into a hurricane in the Caribbean Monday, aiming to hit Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula potentially as a major storm before continuing on to strike the U.S. Gulf coast later in the week.

That part of Mexico is still soaked from Tropical Storm Gamma which hit its popular coastal resorts over the weekend and forced thousands from their homes in Tabasco and Chiapas.

Gamma weakened to a tropical depression Monday after leaving six dead in southeastern Mexico. It continued to break up just north of the Yucatan Peninsula.

Delta had been forecast to strike western Cuba, but shifted a bit to the west Monday putting it on a path to hit the northeast tip of the Yucatan early Wednes-

day. It was moving into an area with very warm water and nearly calm high winds that forecasters at the hurricane center called a very conducive environment for strengthening."

The US National Hurricane Center said Monday evening that a hurricane warning was in effect for the Cuban province of Pinar del Rio and in Mexico, from Tulum to Rio Lagartos, as well as Cozumel.

Delta was forecast to be southwest of the Cayman Islands early Tuesday, and approach the northeastern portion of the Yucatan peninsula Tuesday evening, reaching it early Wednesday morning.

The hurricane center said Delta is expected to continue strengthening rapidly over the next day or so, and be a major hurricane when it nears the Yucatan Peninsula. It is forecast to make land-

fall on the US Gulf Coast around Friday.

Delta is the earliest 25th named storm to form in the Atlantic, beating the old record of Nov 15, 2005, according to Colorado State University hurricane researcher Phil Klotzbach.

It had top winds of 75 mph (120 kph) Monday evening and was about 220 miles (355 kilometers) south-southeast of Grand Cayman. It was moving west near 8 mph (13 kph).

Delta is expected to hammer parts of southeastern Mexico already drenched by Tropical Storm Gamma.

Mexico's civil defense agency said in a statement that four of the deaths blamed on Gamma, including two children, were in Chiapas, where a landslide on a mountainous slope buried their home. The other two deaths were

in Tabasco state, where one person was dragged away by the water and another drowned.

Gamma, along with cold fronts, combined over the weekend to cause extreme rains in parts of the Yucatan Peninsula and Chiapas, affecting more than half a million people. The hardest-hit state was Tabasco, where more than 3,400 were evacuated to shelters.

The hurricane center said Gamma had become a tropical depression with maximum sustained winds of 35 mph (55 kph). It was located about 115 miles (190 kms) east-northeast of Progreso, Mexico. It was moving southwest at 5 mph (7 kph).

Forecasters predicted up to 8 more inches of rain in the states of Yucatan, Campeche and Tabasco, producing significant flash flooding.

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Institute of National Importance Combined Entrance Test (INI-CET) for admission to PG Courses for January 2021 session

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi invites online applications for Institute of National Importance Combined Entrance Test (INI-CET) January 2021 for admission to PG courses [MD/MS/M.Ch.(6years)/DM(6years)/MDS] of AIIMS, New Delhi, JIPMER Puducherry, NIMHANS Bengaluru & PGIMER Chandigarh and seven other AIIMS (Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Jodhpur, Nagpur, Patna, Raipur & Rishikesh) for January 2021 session as per following schedule: -

<u>Online Registration for application</u>	Starts on	Closes on
•#Basic Registration [All applicants who have applied earlier and whose Basic Registration have been #ACCEPTED for January 2019, July 2019, January 2020 and July 2020 session for AIIMS, are not required to complete Basic Registration again. They will have to complete Final Registration only after Generation of Code] and •Editing of Basic Registration	29.09.2020	12.10.2020
Status of Basic Registration and last date of correction of rejected Images	14.10.2020	17.10.2020
Final Status of Accepted Basic Registration	19.10.2020 (by 5:00 pm)	

Date of uploading Prospectus including eligibility criteria alongwith seat position of Sponsored and Foreign National candidates: 06.10.2020

•Generation of Registration Unique Code (RUC) [only for Accepted Basic Registration candidates - Previous RUC code not valid for January 2021 session] •Final Registration (only for the candidates those have generated RUC code) •Editing of Basic & Final Registration (Change of category and city choice will not be allowed after payment of registration fee in any circumstance) •Uploading of valid Certificate: for PWBD, OBC(NCL), EWS and Sponsored certificate only •[Date of issue of certificate for OBC(NCL)/EWS candidates should not be earlier than 1 year from the last date of submission of final online registration form which is 26.10.2020 i.e. should be issued between 27.10.2019 to 26.10.2020 (both dates inclusive)]	06.10.2020 (05:00 pm)	26.10.2020 (05:00 pm)
Date(s) of checking status of Final Registration & Last date of submission of required documents.	03.11.2020 (11:00 am)	06.11.2020 (05:00 pm)
Final Status of Final Registration and uploading of admit card on AIIMS website	10.11.2020 (Tuesday)	
Date of Examination	Examination Timings	
Friday, 20 th November, 2020	Medical and Dental Courses- 09:00 AM – 12:00 Noon	
	Examination Centres	
	Cities all over India	

Important: For Prospectus, detailed information etc. please visit the website www.aiimsexams.org. All applicants are required to visit the website regularly since all subsequent Corrigendum/Addendum/Updates will only be uploaded on the website. Basic Registration is mandatory. Only those with accepted Basic Registration can proceed for Generation of Code for Final Registration.

Correction/edit of Registration: For candidates requiring correction in Basic Registration OR Final Registration, the edit panel will be available as per schedule only. It may kindly be noted that the editing shall be done only by the candidate. Candidate will be responsible for all corrections. No corrections allowed after closing date of editing i.e. 26.10.2020 by 05:00 pm. **Applicants may note that further correspondence will NOT be entertained in this regard.**

Note: All applicant for which fees not paid will be summarily rejected and no correspondence will be entertained in this regard.

PAAR 

ASSTT. CONTROLLER (EXAMS)

davp 17112/11/0018/2021

Cinema halls to reopen Oct 15 onwards with 50pc capacity, one-seat distance: Javadekar

NEW DELHI, OCT 6 (PTI): After seven months of shut down due to COVID-19, cinema halls will reopen on October 15 with 50 per cent capacity and one-seat distance between the viewers, Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar said Tuesday.

"Cinema halls are shut for last seven months. They are now opening from October 15. For safety of people, we have come out with SOP to be followed," Javadekar said.



"Cinema halls shall be allowed to open with 50 per cent capacity only and people will maintain one-seat distance. Alternate seats will be left vacant for social distancing. Wearing masks at all times inside the hall will be important," he added.

Briefing the press at his residence, the Union minister also said that online booking of tickets will be encouraged but box office will be open for single-screen theatres.

"In single-screen theatres, ticket counters will be opened. However, we encourage online booking for contact-less transactions. Proper ventilation has to be ensured and temperature setting of all air conditioning should be above 23 degree Celsius," he said.

The minister, releasing the SOP, said sufficient time interval between successive screenings on a single screen as well as on various screens in a multiplex should be pro-

vided to ensure row-wise staggered entry and exit of the audience.

"The show commencement time, intermission period and finish time of a show at any screen shall not overlap with the commencement time, intermission period or finish time of a show at any other screen in a multiplex," the ministry said in its SOP.

The SOP document said only packaged food and beverages will be allowed and on-

line payments will be encouraged at food and beverage counters. Delivery of food inside the cinema halls will be prohibited.

The Ministry of Home Affairs had in its unlock guidelines issued on September 30 allowed reopening of cinema halls from October 15.

According to the SOP, seats to be left vacant will be marked "not to be occupied" and physical distancing of at least six feet will have to be followed outside the auditoriums. The SOP advised use of Aarogya Setu mobile application.

"Given the current COVID-19 outbreak in India, it is important that various stakeholders involved in the activities of exhibition of films take suitable measures to restrict transmission of the virus while conducting their operations and activities," it said.

It said thermal screening of visitors and staff will have to be carried out at entry points and only asymptomatic individuals should be allowed to enter the premises.

"Provisions for hand sanitization should be made available at all entry points and in work areas. Designated queue markers shall be made available for entry and exit of the audience from the auditorium and the premises," it said.

"Efforts shall be made to avoid overcrowding in the common areas, lobbies and washrooms during the intermission. Audience may be encouraged to avoid movement during the intermission. Longer intermissions may be used to allow audience seated in different rows of the auditorium to move in a staggered manner," it said.

Sabrina Carpenter to star in Netflix's modern take of 'Alice in Wonderland'

LOS ANGELES, OCT 6 (PTI): Singer-actor Sabrina Carpenter is set to headline a musical reimagining based on Lewis Carroll's storybook fantasy "Alice in Wonderland".

The Netflix project, titled "Alice", will also have Carpenter produce the film under her newly launched At Last Productions banner. According to The Hollywood Reporter, the team behind the popular Netflix dance movie "Work It" will reunite for the film. Carpenter previously served as an executive producer on "Work It".

"Alice" is billed as a contemporary take on the classic Carroll story.

While details are being kept under wraps, the film will be set against the backdrop of a music festival called "Wonderland". Ross Evans will pen the original screenplay.

Along with Carpenter, Leslie Morgenstein and Elysa Dutton are producing for book-to-screen banner Alloy Entertainment. Alloy also backed "Work It", and is associated with Netflix for its popular psychological thriller series "You".

Veteran Bengali actor Soumitra Chatterjee tests positive for COVID-19

KOLKATA, OCT 6 (PTI): Veteran Bengali actor Soumitra Chatterjee has tested positive for COVID-19, his daughter Poulomi Basu said on Tuesday. He has been admitted to a private hospital in Kolkata in the morning, she said.

The 85-year-old actor had a fever for the last three days and he tested positive for COVID-19 on Monday night, she added.

"Baba (father) is stable now. He is fully conscious. He is under observation due to his advancing age," Basu told PTI.

Chatterjee has been shifted to a cabin, a spokesperson of the hospital said.

In the last two months, the Dadasaheb Phalke Award-winning actor had been shooting for a biopic and a documentary on his life.

Bride-To-Be Kajal Aggarwal



The reason behind the ear-to-ear grin in Kajal Aggarwal's pictures posted by her sister Nisha Aggarwal isn't hard to guess. The Singham actress, who announced her wedding date to Gautam Kitchlu on Tuesday morning, featured in her sister's latest album posted on Instagram. Kajal, who is getting married to entrepreneur Gautam Kitchlu on October 30 in Mumbai, can be seen dressed in a classic LBD in the pictures. She can be seen wearing a sash that reads: "Bride-to-be." Kajal and Nisha accentuated their looks with head gears of sorts. Kajal's sister Nisha, who is also an actress, simply added heart emojis to the pictures. No captions needed.

On Tuesday morning, Kajal shared a statement, an excerpt from which read, "It gives me immense joy to share that I am getting married to Gautam Kitchlu, on October 30, 2020 in Mumbai, in a small, private ceremony surrounded by our immediate families."

The actress thanked her fans and

well-wishers for their "unending support" and she added in her statement, "This pandemic has certainly shed a sobering light on our joy, but we are thrilled to start our lives together and know that all of you will be cheering us on in spirit. I thank you for all the love you have showered upon me over the years and we seek your blessings as we embark upon this incredible new journey. I will still continue doing what I cherish the most - entertaining my audience - now, with a whole new purpose and meaning. Thank you for your unending support."

Kajal Aggarwal, who made her debut in Bollywood with Kyun! Ho Gaya Na, is best-known for her performances in films such as Singham, co-starring Ajay Devgn, Special 26, opposite Akshay Kumar and Do Lafzon Ki Kahani. She also has many Tamil and Telugu films to her credit. Her impressive line-up of films includes Mumbai Saga, Acharya, Mosagallu, Hey Sinamika, Paris Paris and Kamal Haasan's Indian 2.

Actor Kajal Aggarwal, entrepreneur Gautam Kitchlu to get married on October 30

MUMBAI, OCT 6 (PTI): Actor Kajal Aggarwal on Tuesday announced she will be tying the knot with entrepreneur Gautam Kitchlu on October 30 in a private ceremony.

The "Special 26" actor said the ceremony, to be held in Mumbai, will see immediate family members in attendance.

"It gives me immense joy to share that I am getting married to Gautam Kitchlu, on October 30, 2020 in Mumbai, in a small, private ceremony surrounded by our immediate families.

"This pandemic has certainly shed a sobering light on our joy, but we are thrilled to start our lives together and know that all of you will be cheering us on in spirit," Aggarwal said in a statement.

The 35-year-old actor thanked her fans for their continued love and

sought good wishes as the couple embarks "upon this incredible new journey."

"I will still continue doing what I cherish the most - entertaining my audience - now, with a whole new purpose and meaning. Thank you for your unending support," she added.

The actor made her debut with the 2004 drama "Kyun! Ho Gaya Na" before turning to south and gaining popularity with films like SS Rajamouli's Telugu blockbuster "Magadheera", "Darling", "Mr Perfect".

She returned to Hindi films with Rohit Shetty's "Singham" in 2011 and went on to star in the Akshay Kumar-led ensemble, "Special 26".

She will be next seen in John Abraham-Emraan Hashmi starrer "Mumbai Saga", Kamal Haasan's "Indian 2" and "Paris Paris".

Busy Phillips joins Sara Bareilles-led comedy Girls5eva

LOS ANGELES, OCT 6 (PTI): Actor Busy Phillips has boarded the cast of streaming platform Peacock's comedy Girls5eva, fronted by Sara Bareilles.

The original series is created and written by Meredith Scardino and follows a one-hit-wonder girl group from the 90's whose members reunite to give their pop star dreams one more shot, after it gets sampled by a young rapper. According to Variety, Phillips

will play essay the role of Summer, the most bubbly, but least talented member of the group.

The show also features Hamilton star Renee Elise Goldsberry. Scardino is also executive producing the project with Tina Fey via her Little Stranger banner, Robert Carlock, Jeff Richmond, David Miner and Eric Gurian.

Universal Television is backing the series.



MORNING VIBES! Actress Cara Santana rocked a "see you in '21" hoodie and greeted an adorable pup after grabbing an iced beverage in Los Angeles.

ARIES:

It's all about self-care in the Aries HQ. You're letting go of the guilt associated with prioritising yourself and learning the art of saying no when you need to. Remember, going into the space of 'nothingness' is an integral part of the creation process. So, declutter your schedule and dream a new world into being. If you have children of your own, prioritise spending time with them as well. You'll find that there is a lot to learn from the little ones.

Tip: Dream a new world into being.

TAURUS:

There's no more playing around, Taurus. You know they're the one, and you're willing to do what it takes to make this relationship work. The flaw in the plan: one of your families may not be on board with the plan. In such a case, you need to adopt 'patience' and 'persistence' as your magic words. Trust that they will come around eventually. Let your thoughts remain positive. The pursuit of higher education may be on the cards for some. Be cognisant of the opportunities coming your way, as they could be an answer to your prayers.

Tip: Patience and persistence, Taurus.

GEMINI:

Inner illumination is coming through strongly in your cards. There's an urge to disengage from the outside world and pay attention to your own thoughts. Contemplation will help you find the answers you are seeking at this moment. The cards are also emphasising on the need to practice meditation. There are days when the portal of bliss opens for us almost instantaneously as we close our eyes, and then there are days we're unable to transcend the demons in our mind.

Show up for your daily ritual anyway as you let go of your attachment to a certain outcome.

Tip: Meditate.

CANCER:

You've spent months agonising over how somebody else was getting the promotion, the raise, the perfect partner, and some such, while you were stuck in a loop, unable to move forward. But, here's what you need to keep in mind, Cancer: not everything is as it appears. Just because somebody hit the jackpot does not necessarily mean they're happy, and vice-versa. Today, be grateful for where you are, recognise the blessings that are pouring into your life at this moment, and lay your trust in the divine plan. Everything will work out just fine!

Tip: Everything is taking place in divine time.

LEO:

New work opportunities are showing up for you, Leo—opportunities that have the potential to make you an international sensation. It's time to carpe diem on your dreams as you surrender the fear of the unknown to the Universe. Sure, there's a chance you may trip and fall. But, there's a greater chance you will learn something about yourself (and the world) along the way.

Tip: Take a chance.

VIRGO:

It's an 'all's well that ends well' kind of day in the Virgo HQ. Things are coming together unexpectedly, putting both your heart and your mind at ease. Overheard at the cosmic conference: a prayer of gratitude will give your blessings the power to grow manifold. 'Selfless service' may also be a priority for some. What is that one cause you feel aligned with? Consider

volunteering in a place that feels safe to you at a time like this.

Tip: It's all coming together seamlessly.

LIBRA:

We're inching closer to retrograde season, which means the past is likely to show up unexpectedly at your doorstep—and by the past, we mean that one partner that you didn't quite get a chance to explore things with. Some might even refer to the amour in question as 'the one who got away'. The truth is, your circumstances have changed, and so have they. If you feel inspired to give this relationship another go, listen to the stirrings of your heart. Don't be in a rush to make big decisions, though. Word for the wise: one step at a time.

Tip: Here's to love and other intoxicants!

SCORPIO:

Things on the financial front may or may not sort themselves out immediately, but that doesn't mean there is no way out. The cards are urging you to be cognisant of what's showing up for you. There's a promising offer on the horizon right now. Your willingness to take on a more proactive role and act when the time is right will make all the difference here.

Tip: Act when the time is right.

SAGITTARIUS:

Sagittarius, you're Destiny's favourite child—and there's no force in the world that can change that. Today, you're being asked to put your worries to rest; to surrender your burdens to the divine. Even though it seems as if it's going downhill from here, you're at a turning point, one that will bring about a major shift. If you've been thinking about calling in a miracle, the time is now!

Tip: Do you believe in miracles?

CAPRICORN:

You're at a point where you are reassessing everything you've done so far, picking and choosing the stories you want to take into the future with you. You are not defined by your past and have permission to start over whenever you want to. Power struggles may also be a constant for some of you. Remember, you cannot always win a war by waging war. A peaceful protest is a good way to navigate your circumstances.

Tip: It's time to reassess the story you're telling yourself and the world.

AQUARIUS:

When things don't go our way, it's easy to go into a downward spiral. Beware of adopting the failure narrative, Aquarius. The truth is, the changes that are taking place right now are not mere coincidences. They have been orchestrated by the Great Spirit. Honour and acknowledge this blessed shift as you let go of your false sense of control. You are being guided to a better place, even though you cannot see it yet.

Tip: Think of this rejection as a redirection.

PISCES:

So what if it hasn't worked out, Pisces? Don't give up now. The cards are urging you to pick up the pieces and move forward. Recognise your inherent potential. Open your eyes to gifts you have been blessed with. Know that you possess the power to move mountains as you go along. What the path requires from you: a new level of commitment. Set an intention and prepare for nothing less than a miracle! The Universe will render you the support you need right now.

Tip: You possess the power to move mountains as you go along.