



HOW GABRIELLE UNION AND DWYANE WADE BECOME ONE OF HOLLYWOOD'S BIGGEST SUCCESS STORIES
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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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CM lays foundation stone for Heavenly Path's Herbal Medical & Spiritual Healing Centre



"FACILITY WILL BENEFIT ALL OF SIKKIM"

AARON RAI

NAMCHI, 17 JAN:

Chief Minister PS Tamang today laid the foundation stone of "Meditation Amasya Healing Center," a herbal medical and spiritual healing centre at of the Heavenly Path Organisation here at Nandugaon under his constituency, Poklok Kamrang, in South Sikkim.

The head of the Heavenly Path Organisation, revered by his followers as "Guru Hajur Master God Angel" joined the ceremony through a video message, the ongoing pandemic not making his travel to the venue possible. The CM too rued the fact that the Covid pandemic had kept the HPO head away from what he held up as a historic event.

In his message, he expressed gratitude towards the CM for green-flagging the project and expressed confidence that the project would

prove beneficial for all of Sikkim.

The complex, being developed by the Tourism & Civil Aviation Department will be spread over a lavish 4.78 acres and include facilities like a Lovism Herbal Garden, Nirvanik Ashram, Aamasha Healing Centre, quarters, a multipurpose hall and other amenities.

In his address, the CM remarked that the Heavenly Path Organizationis has been making incomparable contributions to the Sikkimese society and shared that he has seen the struggle the organization and its followers have gone through in the State and has felt their pain.

The situation has changed with the SKM Government, he remarked, while adding the facility for which the foundation stone was laid today would prove beneficial to all Sikkimese.

Accusing his predecessor of having divided Sikkim on religious and community

lines, he stated that the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has always been blessed by Master God Angel.

He announced that the State Government will bring Master God Angel to Sikkim and applauded the organization's philosophy of "Lovism," which he remarked was a 'Sarva Dharma' which extends equal treatment to all religions and thereby serves mankind and humanity at large.

About the project the Chief Minister urged the Tourism & Civil Aviation Department to modify and include all facilities required by this complex and develop it as an exemplary model for healing in the state.

He added that an Akhand Jyoti will also be built if land was available.

Tourism Minister, BS Pant, in his address, remarked the complex will contribute towards the development of the entire constituency and bring religious tourism to it.

Infections continue to remain low, only 9 new Covid cases in Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 17 JAN:

Sikkim recorded only nine new COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours, taking the number of confirmed cases to 6,038.

In the meanwhile, the number of recovered Covid cases has further improved to 5,652 with the discharge of six more patients on Saturday.

There are now 161 active cases of COVID-19 in the State, of whom two are currently admitted in the ICU facility of the COVID-dedicated STNM Hospital.

In the daily health bulletin on Sunday, Health Department State

IEC Officer, Sonam Gyaltzen Bhutia, informed that these nine cases were all from East District and detected from the testing of 240 samples on Saturday.

While eight were picked up in RT-PCR testing of 199 samples, one was recorded in rapid antigen testing of 35 samples.

Of new cases reported from in and around Gangtok, there are two persons from Development Area, three from Shyari, one from Rongneck and one from Church Road, Arithang.

Likewise, one person from Rhenock and one from Sirwani, Singtam were also found positive for COVID-19.

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Sikkim to vaccinate Tues to Friday

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 17 JAN:

As per the COVID-19 vaccination schedule for the states released by the Union Health Ministry on Sunday, vaccinations in Sikkim will be held on four days – Tues, Wed, Thurs and Fridays.

The Health Ministry, it is informed, has asked all big states to conduct vaccinations on any four days of the week, while smaller states were advised to hold vaccination sessions on any two days since their population is lower.

Interestingly, while a big state like Uttar Pradesh has decided to inoculate only two days every week, Sikkim had decided to hold the vaccination four days a week. The Health Ministry in a presentation shared with the media said states and Union Territories were asked to hold COVID-19 vaccination session four days a week to minimise disruption in routine health services.

CHAMLING COUNTERS SKM CLAIMS OF HIS GOVT NOT HAVING BEEN SERIOUS ABOUT SEEKING TRIBAL STATUS FOR LEFT-OUT COMMUNITIES

"Historic claims laughable, resolution only to distract from lack of achievements"

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 17 JAN:

Sikkim Democratic Front president, Pawan Chamling, has dismissed as "laughable," the SKM Government's claims that its resolution seeking tribal status for the 12 left-out communities was historic.

The government resolution, passed on 11 January, he contends, was rushed only because the demand has been "gaining some media attention in the context of the Bengal election."

In a press statement conveyed by is party today, Mr Chamling argues that the claims were an SKM Government attempt to distract people from noticing that "two years of governance have gone by with nothing substantial to show..."

Mr Chamling has also shared his worry that the SKM government, with this resolution, "has complicated the matter - which will unnecessarily delay the process of the case" and likens it to a game of Snakes & Ladders in which a token, just before reaching the finishing square, slides back down to the starting point when caught by a snake.

He claims that the SDF Government "had done all the necessary groundwork and the demand was being deliberated at the highest level," however, with the introduction of Majhi in the group, the Centre will ask for a reexamination which will send the matter back to square one.

"Remember there are Majhis in other non Nepali communities too," he points out.

Meanwhile, also rejected as laughable is the SKM claim



that the SDF resolution of 2015 on the issue carried less weight since it was private member's resolution.

"It shows how low Sikkim politics has stooped. Also, to say that the SDF government did not have enough documents to back up the demand is a barefaced lie," he adds.

He then goes on to detail all that the SDF Government had done to pursue the demand, starting with constituting the Barman Commission in 2008 and its "comprehensive and powerful document" which strongly recommended and justified granting of ST status for the 11 left-out communities.

"No government has come up with such an authentic

move was afoot.

The State Government in Sikkim, Mr Tamang, pointed out was a strong alliance with 31 of the 32 members of the Legislative Assembly wearing either SKM or BJP colors.

SDF, it may be recalled, lost 10 MLAs to BJP and two to SKM shortly after losing the 2019 assembly elections leaving Mr Chamling as the only SDF MLA in the House.

Any attempt to destabilize this alliance were futile, Mr

Tamang stressed.

Also today, the CM reiterated his allegation that the petition in High Court challenging the "One Family One Job" scheme had been funded by Mr Chamling and assured that the State Government will fight for the security of the OFOJ appointees right till the Supreme Court if required.

He also thanked the BJP MLAs for supporting the State Government's resolution seeking Tribal status for the 12 communities.

document as this one," he claims.

This report was also submitted to the concerned agencies, he adds, while pointing out that the SDF government also appointed an Expert Committee in 2016 to review the comments of the ORGI and respond in detail.

The Committee prepared a report on the proposal for the inclusion of the 11 Communities in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Sikkim and duly refuted all comments and observations made by the ORGI, he states.

He further details, "The ethnographic report was entitled 'A Report Prepared Responding to the Comments and Observations made by ORGI (In relation to granting of Scheduled Tribe Status to left out eleven Communities of Sikkim)' and also included an ethnographic report prepared by Dr Sandhya Thapa, Associate Professor in Sikkim University."

In July 2003, he also wrote to the then Minister for Tribal Affairs seeking that Sikkim be declared a Tribal State, Mr Chamling adds, while further informing that the SDF government had also passed a resolution asking the Centre to grant 'Minority Status' to the Nepali community in India.

And then there are the memorandums and delegations which pressed the demand with the Centre, he informs.

"As far as the SDF government's effort was concerned, the ball was in the Central Government's court on this matter. I am hopeful that this groundwork and constant lobbying done by us in the past will not go in vain and the centre will grant the long pending and rightful demand of these Nepali communities," he states.

41 complete training on agri tools making and repairs



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 17 JAN:

A 10-day skill-based training on Agricultural Tools Making

and Repairs concluded today at Bermiok Community Centre, Hee Bermiok, West

Sikkim, a press release informs. The course was taken by 41 trainees who received their

certificates at the valedictory programme held today which had the Agriculture Minister LN Sharma as chief guest.

‘Centre’s oppressive attitude’: Farmers hit back after probe agency’s summons

NEW DELHI, 17 JAN [NDTV]:

Farmers protesting the agriculture laws lashed out at the centre Sunday for its “oppressive attitude” after the NIA summoned 40 protest members and supporters, including Punjabi actor Deep Sidhu, as “witnesses” in a case against Sikhs for Justice - a banned separatist group.

Addressing reporters from Singhu on the Delhi-Haryana border, where thousands have gathered since late November to demand the repeal of the controversial laws, farmer leader Shivkumar Kakka accused the centre of “torturing” those who were supporting the movement.

“NIA has started to register cases against those who are a part of the farmers’ movement or those who have lent their support to it. All farmers’ unions condemn this. We will fight this in every possible way,” Darshan Pal, another farmer leader, said.

Earlier today farmer leaders Baldev Singh Sirsa and Manjeet Singh Rai said the summons were a sign of the centre weakening after a weeks-long stand-off that has seen several



violent clashes with police, the deaths of dozens of farmers and an intervention by the Supreme Court.

“The NIA is not doing this... this is the work of a government that boasts of a 56-inch chest (a reference to Prime Minister Narendra Modi). Today that chest has shrunk. that government is weakened by our struggle. The government is trying to divide us but they have failed,” Manjeet Singh Rai told NDTV.

Mr Sirsa, who is one of those to receive the summons, declared it a ploy by the centre to derail the farmers’ movement, and added that he had not even been formally informed about the call.

The government is weakened by our struggle, said farmer leader Manjeet Singh Rai. “I got to know about my summons

through a journalist. Then I received it on my WhatsApp... I was asked to join the probe today but I didn’t go. The government is trying to weaken us,” he said.

Punjabi actor Deep Sidhu, who has emerged as a fierce and vocal supporter of the farmers and their struggle, was asked to appear at the NIA’s headquarters in Delhi. He too did not appear.

Akali Dal chief Sukhbir Singh Badal has also accused the centre of trying to intimidate farmer leaders and those supporting them through central agencies. “... They aren’t anti-nationals... absolutely clear that the government is only trying to tire out farmers,” he tweeted.

On Tuesday the Supreme Court stayed the implementation of the laws, and criticised the centre for its apparent inability to

resolve an agitation that has rumbled on for several weeks.

The court also ordered a committee to be set up to resolve the dispute, but it was swiftly pointed out that the members (all court-appointed) were advocates of the laws. The farmers welcomed the stay, but refused to negotiate with the committee.

Nine rounds of talks have been held so far with no breakthrough. Ahead of a tenth on Tuesday Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar claimed most farmers were in favour of the laws.

The farmers fear the laws will allow large corporate firms to bully them into selling at lower prices; they want the laws scrapped and a legal guarantee for MSP. The centre, which has stressed that the laws will benefit farmers and not be repealed, has offered a written guarantee for MSP.

On Sunday evening the farmers also announced that they would go through with a planned tractor rally and march to Delhi on January 26 (Republic Day).

COVID-19 vaccination drive hits bump in Maha and Odisha due to app glitch

RAJENDRA JADHAV & JATINDRA DASH S A T A R A / BHUBANESWAR, 17 JAN (REUTERS):

India’s COVID-19 vaccination drive hit a bump on the first day due to glitches in an app called Co-Win that is being used to coordinate the campaign, according to several officials involved in the immunisation programme.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched what his government has described as the “world’s largest vaccination programme” on Saturday to rein in the pandemic

in India, which has reported the second highest number of cases after the United States.

Co-Win, developed by the government, is supposed to help by alerting healthcare workers who are first in line to get shots, and by allowing officials monitor and manage the entire drive.

But many health workers, who were to receive the vaccines, did not get the message on Saturday, said a senior official with the health department of the western state of Maharashtra.

“We were planning to vaccinate 28,500 people on Saturday but could do only 18,328 because of glitches in the Co-Win app,” the official told Reuters on condition of anonymity as the details are not public yet.

Maharashtra, home to the financial hub of Mumbai, has been hit the hardest by coronavirus among all Indian states.

India was aiming to vaccinate more than 300,000 people on day one, but only 191,181 people were inoculated on Saturday, official data shows.

In the eastern state of Odisha, officials said

they were forced to use printouts due to issues with the app.

“We also went with our plan B and contacted people to be vaccinated directly offline,” Bijay Kumar Mohapatra, Director, Health Services, Odisha, told Reuters.

The Indian government did not respond to a request for comment on Sunday.

“The system performance and speed was improved and is being further optimised,” Manohar Agnani, additional secretary, ministry of health and family welfare, said on Saturday.

Rajasthan CM clears proposal to make marriage registration process simpler

JAIPUR, JAN 17 (PTI):

Additional district marriage registration officers and block marriage registration officers will be appointed according to requirements and the process of marriage registration will be simplified in Rajasthan.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has approved a proposal for the necessary amendments to the Rajasthan Compulsory Registration of Marriages Act 2009, according to a release issued by the planning and statistics department here.

According to the proposal of the department, additional district marriage registration officers and block marriage registration officers will be appointed according to requirements, in addition to district

marriage registration officers.

The process of marriage registration will also be simplified after making necessary changes related to the age for marriage registration, the method of memorandum etc., according to the release.



SART FOR ANIMALS

Sikkim Animal Rescuing Team held its first awareness programme at Namchi Central Park on Sunday in a bid to make the public aware about cruelty inflicted on animals and of the need to rescue such animals. SART aims to provide the animals with shelter and food. Advocate Bhupendra Giri was present as the chief guest and spoke about laws in place to protect animals from cruelty.

Newa Guthi of Singtam thanks CM for resolution on left-out communities

SUMMIT REPORT SINGTAM, 17 JAN:

Newa Bhay Bowneykutti, Singtam Sakha Guthi under Sikkim Newar Guthi has extended gratitude towards the State Government for the resolution passed by it seeking inclusion of the 12 leftout communities of

Sikkim in the Scheduled Tribes list.

“The tribal status resolution is a long awaited and highly respected approach from the state government. It would benefit the different communities of Sikkim. We would like to acknowledge our sincere and deepest gratitude

to the Chief Minister of Sikkim and every member of Sikkim Legislative Assembly for their sincere efforts of goodwill,” convey Binod Pradhan, president, NBB and Ganesh Pradhan, advisor, NBB, in a press statement issued today. The Sikkim

Legislative Assembly, it may be recalled, had passed a government resolution on 11 January seeking Scheduled Tribe status for Thami, Bahun-Chettri (Khas), Sanyasi (Jogi), Newar, Kirat Khambu Rai, Kirat-Dewan, Sunuwar, Gurung, Mangar, Bhujel and Majhi communities.

2,24,301 beneficiaries given COVID-19 vaccine so far; 447 cases of adverse effect reported: Govt

NEW DELHI, JAN 17 (PTI):

A total of 2,24,301 beneficiaries have been inoculated with COVID-19 vaccine so far, out of which only 447 adverse events following immunisation (AEFI) were reported, the Union Health Ministry said on day two of the nationwide vaccination drive on Sunday.

Addressing a press briefing, the ministry’s Additional Secretary Manohar Agnani said out of the 447 adverse events following immunisation, only three required hospitalisation.

“Today being Sunday, only six states conducted vaccination drive and in 553 sessions a total of 17,072 beneficiaries were vaccinated,” he said.

51 adverse reactions from vaccine, one a “bit serious”, Delhi Health Minister

NEW DELHI, 17 JAN [NDTV]: Delhi Health Minister Satyender Jain said today that there have been 51 cases of minor complications reported from the coronavirus vaccine that was rolled out across the country yesterday. In Delhi, 4,319 healthcare workers vaccinated on the first day, among which one “slightly serious” case was reported, the minister added. The patient was admitted to the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences and is stable now.

“There have been 51 minor incidents yesterday where there were some minor complications and one was a bit serious,” news agency ANI quoted Mr Jain as saying. The patient is a 22-year-old security guard who works at the hospital. He was admitted in the hospital’s Intensive Care Unit till last night.

“The remaining 51 (people vaccinated) did not have to be hospitalised. They were only observed for a short while,” the minister said. Barring in the

The six states where the vaccination drive was carried out on Sunday are Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Manipur and Tamil Nadu, he added.

Agnani said a total of 2,24,301 beneficiaries have been vaccinated till January 17 as per provisional reports, adding that 2,07,229 of them received the jabs on day one of the drive.

“A total of 447 AEFI have been reported on January 16 and 17, out of which only three required hospitalisation. Most of the AEFI reported so far are minor like fever, headache, nausea,” he said.

He said a meeting was held with all states

and union territories on Sunday to review the progress of the drive, identify bottlenecks and plan corrective actions.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi rolled out the world’s largest inoculation drive against COVID-19 on Saturday and said the two vaccines being deployed will ensure a “decisive victory” for India against the pandemic.

India has approved two vaccines -- Covaxin developed by Bharat

Biotech and Covishield from the Oxford/AstraZeneca stable being manufactured by the Serum Institute of India -- for emergency use in the country.

According to the government, the shots will be offered first to an estimated one crore healthcare workers and around two crore frontline workers, and then to persons above 50 years of age, followed by persons younger than 50 years of age with associated comorbidities.

ANTHYESTI KRIYA



The Anthyesthi Kriya of late Shri Man Bahadur Chettri (Roka) who left for heavenly abode on 10th January 2021 falls on 22nd January 2021 (Friday).

All relatives, family, friends and well wishers are requested to join us

in offering prayers for the departed soul at our residence Lower Samdur, Ranipool, East Sikkim. We also express our gratitude to all those who stood by us during our time of bereavement.

Bereaved Families:
Bishnu Maya Chettri Roka (wife)
Hem Bdr Chettri (son), Srijana Chettri (daughter-in-law), Pratima Chettri (daughter), Suraj Sapkota (son-in-law), Sony Chettri (daughter), Bhakta Bdr Roka (brother), Kharka Bdr Roka (brother), Tara Bdr Roka (brother), Indra Bdr Roka (brother) and entire Roka family.

Contact- 9609906181, 9775445161, 8670765399

ANTHEYSTHI KRIYA



The 13 day Anthyesthi Kriya of Late DK Khati (Dil Kumar Khati) ex Chairman, S/o Lt. Padam Singh Khati, R/o Pavitra Bhawan.Opposite Daffodils School, Development Area, Gangtok, East Sikkim. DOB - 5th June 1937 left for his heavenly abode on 13th

January 2021 falls on 25th January 2021 at our residence Pavitra Bhawan, opposite Daffodils school at Development area. All family friends and well wishers are requested to join us in offering prayers for the deceased. We also take this opportunity to thank all those who stood by us during our time of bereavement.

Karuna Khati (Daughter).
Roshan Khati (Son).
Dhiraj Khati (Son).
Srijana Khati (Daughter)
Phone: 9434137305/9734009999

Sunakhari Samaj celebrates 27th Foundation Day

RUDRA KAUSHIK
GYALSHING, 17 JAN:

The week-long 27th foundation day celebrations of Sunakhari Samaj, a Tikjek-based NGO under Yangthang constituency, concluded on Sunday with their area MLA [Yangthang], PHE Minister Bhim

Hang Subba, present as the chief guest.

Sunakhari Samaj is one of the oldest NGOs of Tikjek. The NGO's president, Mangal Singh Limboo, shared that Sunakhari Samaj attaining 27 years of continuous service to the people of Tikjek was worth

a celebration and a moment of pride for its members.

Placing the annual report, he informed that the organization has worked with special focus on nurturing an addition-free society and introducing the young to the joy of sports.

The Minister, in his brief

address, congratulated the society on its anniversary and appreciated its selfless service in different social fields.

Also today, the final match of foundation day celebratory football tournament was played along with a colorful cultural presentation.



NAYA SOCH OFFERS NAMCHI RESIDENTS A CHANCE TO DONATE

Jorethang-based social organization, Kindness & Service Youth Foundation [formerly known as Karuna KS Foundation], under its "Naya Soch-Naya Vichar Sewa Nai Dharma Ho" campaign, held a collection drive at Namchi's Central Park today seeking donations of clothes, ration etc for onwards distribution to those in need and Namchi residents donated with open hearts.

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SIKKIM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
FOOTBALL HOUSE
GANGTOK

SFA'S GRASSROOTS PROGRAM FOR EAST

Sikkim Football Association (SFA) is organising Winter Grassroots Football Training for boys and girls of age group 6-12 years initially for the East District at the following centres. The training will be imparted by the qualified grassroots coaches in the month of February 2021. The interested children may register their name with the following qualified grassroot leaders before 31.01.2021.

- 1) Mr. Anil Tamang (M) 8768400025 for Pakyong
- 2) Mr. Alpan Lepcha (M) 8670645644 for Chujachen/Rongli
- 3) Mr. Rohan Raj Pradhan (M) 7892203613 for Gangtok/Ranipool

(Menla Ethenpa)
PRESIDENT

Basibiyalo releases 3 books,
felicitates one writer



YOGEN THATAL
SINGTAM, 17 JAN:

Basibiyalo, a literary organization founded by Singtam founded by Mohan Pradhan "Neeraj," organized a special function today to mark the release of three books - Pratibha ko Khoji, Raat ko Parada ma Jun Ka Taraharu and the 17th edition of Sanjiwani, all from the pen of Mr

Pradhan [the last one edited by him].

Sanjiwani is tells the story of 23 achievers, their life, journey and struggles.

The event, held at the community hall here, had retired DGP of Nagaland, CP Giri was chief guest accompanied by Chunnilal Ghimirey as guest of honor.

A special highlight

of the day was the felicitation of Sikkim's first blogger and history enthusiast, Shital Pradhan, by Basibiyalo.

A two-minute silence was also observed in the memory of the late Paras Gazmer who passed away recently.

In the course of the day, Mr Pradha "Neeraj" also announced that four more titles by him will also be released soon.

CM ONE MILE RUN AT DUGA



The Dynamic Sporting Club of Duga, East Sikkim, organized the area's leg of Chief Minister One Mile Run on Sunday at Duga School Ground. 84 runners participated in the event in under-14 Boys, Under-14 Girls & Open Boys & Girls categories.

Rethink move to ban poultry sale:
Centre to states amid Bird Flu

NEW DELHI, 17 JAN [NDTV]: Amid the spread of bird flu in different states across the country, the centre today asked state officials to rethink their decision to impose ban on sale of poultry and poultry products and allow the sale of products sourced from avian influenza-free areas.

In its latest status report, the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying said: "Consumption of well-cooked chicken and eggs is safe for humans. Further, consumers should not pay heed to baseless rumours that are unscientific and often lead to confusion. These adversely affect not only poultry and egg markets but also poultry and maize farmers, who are already affected by the COVID-19 pandemic

lockdown."

The confirmed cases of Avian Influenza have been reported in ten states so far, and culling of poultry birds is underway at all the affected epicentres in Maharashtra and Haryana, according to the ministry.

It said the cases have been confirmed in poultry at Central Poultry Development Organization in Maharashtra's Mumbai and in Mandsaur district of Madhya Pradesh till now.

The centre said Avian Influenza has also been confirmed in crows at Panna, Sanchi, Raisen, Balaghat, and in birds at Sheopur and Mandsaur districts of Madhya Pradesh; in Bastar and Dantewade districts of Chhattisgarh and in crow samples

from Haridwar and Lansdowne forest range of Uttarakhand.

Samples from heron birds in Delhi's Rohini also tested positive for the infection.

Samples tested from Rajasthan and Gujarat were found negative for Avian Influenza today, the centre said.

Rapid response teams have been deployed in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

A central team formed for monitoring the situation in the affected areas are visiting the affected sites and conducting epidemiological studies, it added.

The Maharashtra Animal Husbandry Department has started a toll free helpline number for farmers to report any unusual mortality in birds.

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल.- 33004/99

REGD. No. D. L.-33004/99

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

सी.जी.-डी.एल.-अ.-15012021-224436
CG-DL-E-15012021-224436

असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II—खण्ड 3—उप-खण्ड (ii)
PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (ii)

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 155]
No. 155]

नई दिल्ली, बृहस्पतिवार, जनवरी 14, 2021/पौष 24, 1942
NEW DELHI, THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021/PAUSHA 24, 1942

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi the 14th January, 2021

S.O. 175(E).—In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building (widening/two lane with paved shoulder/four laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of NH 510 in the stretch of land from Km 75.000 to Km 90.210 (District Collectorate , West Sikkim.) in the district of WEST DISTRICT in the state of SIKKIM, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section(1) of section 3C of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, District Collector in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under their notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling NH 510 in the stretch of land from Km 75.000 to Km 90.210 NH 510 (District Collectorate , West Sikkim.) in the district of WEST DISTRICT in the state of SIKKIM

State: SIKKIM		District: WEST DISTRICT			
S. No	Survey / Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Local Unit)	Area (in Hectare)
Taluk: Gyalshing					
Village: Sardung					
1	581	Private	Dry	0.0703000(Hectare)	0.0703000
2	581	Private	Dry	0.0322000(Hectare)	0.0322000
3	582	Private	Dry	0.0684000(Hectare)	0.0684000
4	588	Private	Dry	0.0519000(Hectare)	0.0519000
5	588	Private	Dry	0.3046000(Hectare)	0.3046000
6	589	Private	Dry	0.0583000(Hectare)	0.0583000
7	589	Private	Dry	0.3037000(Hectare)	0.3037000
8	590	Government	Dry	0.0019000(Hectare)	0.0019000
Total				0.8913	0.8913

[F. No. NHIDCL/PMU-Gyalshing/Legship-Gyalshing/PKGV1/2020-21/3A]
RAJESH GUPTA, Director

Politics for All

...not a free-for-all and not shallow profiteering

Sikkim enjoys its politics. It revels in its plotting, conspiracies, claims and counter-claims. It does not however bother too much with nuance or accountability, or so it appears. Rides in share-cabs are invariably peppered with loose political gossip, sometimes informed and interesting, often hearsay and conspiratorial and almost always layered with complaints and cribbing. And that is a good thing. No, not the latter bit, but the open mic approach to discussing politics. Until the early nineties, people would whisper the names of leaders and would keep looking over their shoulders even if they were thinking disaffection. That is clearly not the case anymore and people voice political opinions freely and loudly even to strangers (as in the case of share-cabs).

Noticeably though, the motivation to speak is not always the best aspect of this engagement. People continue to arrive at their political positions due to personal profits or losses from associating with a party or a leader. Ideology and vision are deployed more as crutches to justify positions already taken when these should have been arguments which convinced individuals to join different camps. Since this – personal motivation and not interests of wider masses – is how people take sides, leaders and their parties also play it lazy here – expending their energies on name-calling, complaining, ridiculing and blaming instead of refining their ideologies or communicating their plans for Sikkim.

The above rant aside, political engagement has consistently improved in Sikkim if electoral participation is taken into consideration. Voter turnout, much to everyone's surprise, has been improving impressively over the elections even when the electorate was not pulling any surprises. A high turnout is usually seen as a sign of the electorate uniting to shake things up. It had been quite the opposite in Sikkim's case until 2019 and the only explanation that comes to mind is that the electorate here wants a stake, so even when it is a pro-incumbency verdict they are serving up, they want to do so in high numbers. Voter turnout has grown from 65% in 1979, when the first Assembly election as a part of India was held, to handsomely past 80 now. Women, even if their representation in the Legislative Assembly remains noticeably short, are taking to voting in earnest and their turnout has edged past the males who are otherwise traditionally seen as the more politically engaged. While female voters outperformed males 81.31% to 80.31% in election 2014, they dipped only slightly below males in 2019. That said, engagement during elections has been impressive. Now, to keep the engagement consistent beyond the rush of elections.

The point being made here is that people in Sikkim have taken to politics. The irony thus cannot be missed when politics does not engage the people with either matching consistency or the required intelligence. Sloganeering and shallow predictability define "politics" here, and when elections arrive, there is now some muscle as well, but unfortunately, no respect for the real interests of the people. Given the high stakes and short-duration politics that Sikkim's politicians engage in, some amount of violence is now routine when elections arrive, but care needs to be taken to ensure that it does not shoo away the lay people. It could be argued that the slight drop in voter turnout in 2019 was not only because there was violence but also because people were expecting there to be violence. Force the people away, and politics, which is an already small Sikkim, will become the club of an even smaller group promoting even more personal profits and ambitions.

Instead, political actors here need to build on the already expressed interest of people here in politics, democracy and voting. If the leaders remain "old fashioned", the people will need to wrest politics and political debate back from the mischievously inclined because when fists fly, reasoning sinks, and without discussion and debate, there can be no democracy.

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Tuberculosis Kills as Many People Each Year as COVID-19. It's Time We Found a Better Vaccine

ANDREAS KUPZ
THECONVERSATION.COM

In July 1921, a French infant became the first person to receive an experimental vaccine against tuberculosis (TB), after the mother had died from the disease. The vaccine, known as Bacille Calmette-Guérin (BCG), is the same one still used today.

This first dose of BCG was the culmination of 13 years of research and development.

BCG remains the only licensed vaccine against TB and 2021 marks its 100th anniversary.

Today, all eyes are on the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine. But while the number of people who died from COVID-19 in the last year is shocking, TB kills about the same number of people — about 1.5-2 million — each year, and has done so for many decades.

In fact, it's estimated that over the last 200 years, more than 1 billion people have died from TB, far more than from any other infectious disease.

IF WE HAVE A VACCINE, WHY DO SO MANY PEOPLE STILL DIE FROM TB?

Tuberculosis is caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. It's transmitted when a person with active TB coughs up aerosol droplets, which are then inhaled by someone else.

There are about 10 million cases of active TB annually, and it's estimated up to 2 billion people are what's known as "latently infected". That means they are not sick and

do not transmit the disease, but in about 10% of these people the disease reactivates.

In most TB endemic regions of the world, BCG is given to infants shortly after birth. The vaccination prevents childhood versions of TB and saves thousands of children's lives annually.

However, the efficacy of BCG wanes over time. In other words, it stops working. Protection against TB is often lost by adolescence or early adulthood.

Importantly, BCG doesn't prevent active lung TB in adults, the most important driver of ongoing transmission and cause of death.

The World Health Organization has a goal of TB elimination. To do that, we need to find a TB vaccine that also works in adults.

WHY HASN'T BCG BEEN REPLACED WITH A MORE EFFECTIVE TB VACCINE?

Over the last decades only about 15 new TB vaccine candidates have entered clinical trials (versus 63 for COVID-19 in one year).

Worryingly, many of the most advanced TB vaccine candidates work no better than BCG.

Because the current TB vaccine candidate pipeline is relatively small, these setbacks and trial "failures" mean BCG may remain the gold standard for many years to come.

Despite being 100 years old, exactly how BCG vaccine works is largely unknown. It's unclear why BCG usually only confers protection against childhood versions of

TB or why protection wanes in adolescence.

Given those uncertainties, we can count ourselves lucky the bureaucratic hurdles for vaccine development were significantly lower in the 1920s.

If BCG were developed today, it would probably never be used; the current complex regulatory framework for vaccine development and licensing would likely not allow the use of a vaccine for which nothing or little is known about how it works.

The reasons BCG hasn't been replaced with a more effective TB vaccine include:

- the decline of TB in many Western countries in the 20th century

- limited interest from pharmaceutical companies to invest in TB vaccine development

- the fact TB research and pre-clinical vaccine development is logistically challenging and requires special biological containment facilities

- the short-term and fiercely competitive environment for government and philanthropic research funding makes it difficult for academics to commit to TB vaccine research as a career path.

WHERE THERE'S A WILL, THERE'S A WAY

The pace of COVID-19 vaccine development shows what's possible when the political will, pharmaceutical interest and funding is there.

While TB is no longer widespread

in Australia, it is an issue in remote Indigenous communities.

Papua New Guinea, Australia's closest neighbour, has high rates of multi-drug resistant TB and low BCG coverage rates. TB has been introduced into Australia via the Torres Strait, with a high proportion of cross-border diagnoses in North Queensland and over-representation of Indigenous children.

Resistance to current TB treatments increases steadily. Treatment of multi drug-resistant TB is hugely expensive and can take up to two years, requiring multiple antibiotics and close monitoring.

Now is the time to put financial and political will into finding a more effective TB vaccine.

2020 taught us pathogens can cause enormous harm to societies and economies. Investment into infectious disease research and vaccine development represents a fraction of the economic cost of a pandemic.

Tuberculosis is a global threat and a public health concern on a scale similar to COVID-19. The development of a new and effective TB vaccine is crucial if TB is to be significantly reduced, let alone eradicated.

Although the anniversary of BCG is cause for celebration, it should also serve as a reminder more needs to be done to combat this deadly disease.

[the writer is Senior Research Fellow, James Cook University]

No Country is an Island: Collective Approach to COVID-19 Vaccines is the Only Way to Go

MOSOKA FALLAH
THECONVERSATION.COM

As countries across the world begin to purchase and roll out COVID-19 vaccines, a key question is how far the vaccine is from reaching Africa and how accessible it will be for the continent. Moina Spooner, Commissioning Editor with The Conversation Africa, asked Mosoka Fallah, an expert on infectious diseases, to provide his insights.

WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES?

The last I checked, the cost of the current COVID-19 vaccines (which demonstrated the most efficacy) ranged from \$19.50 per dose (Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA vaccine) to around \$37 per dose (Moderna mRNA vaccine).

This is expensive. By comparison, the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine is available at US\$2.00 per dose. The vaccine is used to protect infants, young children, and adults against disease caused by the bacterium *Streptococcus pneumoniae*.

COVID-19 has shattered the already weakened economies of low- and middle-income countries through lockdowns and border closures. This, coupled with massive debt repayment that has handicapped many countries, means that if these nations attempt to buy these vaccines at current market prices, more than half of the world will be plunged into deeper poverty.

Simply put, developing countries can't buy the vaccines outright. The reality is that some contributions will need to be made by the developing country. And a framework for this has emerged, known as COVAX.

In my opinion, this is the best option for developing countries to solve their current dilemma. Another option would be to give countries like South Africa and India intellectual property rights to manufacture the vaccines, a move which was opposed by a number of countries at the World Trade Organisation meeting.

HOW DOES COVAX WORK?

COVAX is co-led by vaccine alliance – GAVI, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations and the World Health Organisation (WHO). As of now, COVAX has 190 participating economies.. The United States has yet to join.

COVAX works by collectively pulling donations from rich developed countries, philanthropists – like the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation – and private donors together. These pooled funds are used to fund the research, development and manufacture of successful vaccine

candidates. Once a vaccine candidate proves to be efficacious, it can be made available to countries irrespective of the financial means to pay.

This method also reduces risk for countries that may have only purchased one or two types of vaccine.

The plan is to make available the first two billion doses to all members of the coalition. While the targeted two billion doses aren't enough, they plan to target vulnerable populations as the first line of defence.

So far, COVAX has secured contracts of two billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines which will be rolled out when they're delivered. Most of the pre-orders are from AstraZeneca and the Serum Institute of India.

As it stands there are three categories of country that will greatly benefit from COVAX:

- Low-income countries that will access these vaccines they ordinarily cannot afford.

- Rich countries that have not signed bilateral agreements with dedicated vaccine manufacturers.

- Countries that have signed the bilateral agreements who will be assured of a dedicated pipeline once the vaccines are approved.

IS A COLLECTIVE APPROACH THE BEST WAY?

The collective approach has been shown to work under different models and it enhances negotiation for reduced pricing.

For instance, over the past 20 years GAVI has successfully procured vaccines using collective contributions from poorer countries, donor countries and donations. This accelerated the immunisation of children from poor countries.

The World Food Programme does collective procurement of food items during emergencies, obtaining commodities at much reduced prices.

Even with a narrow profit margin, the large market created by a collective approach to COVID-19 vaccinations provides a favourable response from vaccine manufacturers and pharmaceutical companies.

Manufacturing companies are in it for profit. At the current cost only a few countries would be able to buy the vaccine, but through COVAX they are assured of funding for more buyers. COVAX also bears the risk if the candidates do not reach final approval by the regulators in a particular country.

WHAT ARE ITS SHORTCOMINGS?

Despite its altruistic and noble intentions, there are a few challenges that need to be overcome if COVAX is to be a success.

First, the projected funds needed to invest in the research, development and manufacture of these potential vaccines has not been raised.

Though there's a lot of goodwill, it must be matched with financial contributions to meet the costs require to get these vaccines ready. COVAX needs at least US\$4.6 billion in 2021 to procure doses of successful candidates.

Second, the process of identifying, and then approving, successful vaccines is still in its infancy. Only two – Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna – are authorised and recommended to prevent COVID-19. And there are currently more than 50 COVID-19 vaccine candidates in trials, many of which will not be successful. Reports suggest that only 7% of the vaccines in the pre-clinical trial stages would make it to the clinical trial stage. Then only 20% of those candidates will be successful.

This will be a high risk investment that is racing against time.

The recently reported mutated strain of the virus shows why candidates must be quickly identified. The new variant seems to be covered by the existing vaccines but future new strains might not be.

Finally, the failure of the US to join COVAX could challenge the extent to which the coalition can reach resources and funding.

WHAT ARE ITS ADVANTAGES?

Because it involves a large coalition it has the major advantage of coalescing the best of resources, expertise and goodwill.

It also offers a certain insurance for both low-income and rich developed countries to access the approved vaccine for their population.

WILL IT DELIVER?

In spite of all the challenges and the current inequalities created with the approved vaccine candidates, I believe COVAX will deliver.

It will do so because it has built the largest coalition and it's in the best interests of everyone to ensure that COVAX succeeds. Unless nations that have procured the current expensive vaccines become isolated islands, they risk reinfections with new mutated strains. This will continue to present a clear and present danger to our world.

History has repeatedly demonstrated that when humanity comes together to defeat a common enemy, we always win.

[the writer is Part-time lecturer at the Global Health & Social Medicine, Harvard Medical School and lecturer at the School of Public Health, College of Health Sciences, University of Liberia]

Orissa HC asks woman to hand over baby to his father

CUTTACK, JAN 17 (PTI):

The Orissa High Court has allowed a man to take custody of his 15-month-old son observing that continuance of the custody of the toddler with the mother, who is now staying separately, would be detrimental to the child's mental and physical development and may also affect his psychology negatively.

The court direction came after watching a video in which it is seen that the mother was repeatedly torturing and beating the child mercilessly.

A Division Bench of Justices S K Mishra and Savitri Ratho on Friday while allowing a writ of Habeas Corpus filed by one Chakradhar Nayak of Puri district directed his wife to hand over the baby boy to his father within seven days.

"In case of her failure to do so, the police shall take appropriate steps in taking the child from the physical custody of the



mother and handover the child to the father", the high court directed.

"We found from the video that the mother was mercilessly beating the infant on several occasions. Finding the cruelty, torture and assault to the small boy, we directed the police to secure the attendance of the mother along

with the child", the high court said.

Married for over five years now, Chakradhar and Rosalin of Paika Sahi under Gop police station have a disturbed marital life and on one previous occasion, the man was imprisoned briefly after his wife brought dowry charges and domestic violence allegations. The case was, however, closed

and they were reunited following a court-initiated compromise.

The marital discord once again surfaced after the child was born and the woman has since been staying with her parents along with the baby.

Later when Chakradhar learnt that Rosalin is torturing the baby and beating the

infant with an aim to settle scores with her estranged husband, he approached the high court with a habeas corpus writ petition seeking to take possession of his son. Having a retail shop at Bhubaneswar, Chakradhar is now staying with his sister and brother-in-law in the capital city.

Bengal logs 15 more COVID deaths, 609 fresh cases

KOLKATA, JAN 16

(PTI): On the day when West Bengal witnessed the rollout of COVID-19 vaccination, the coronavirus toll in the state rose to 10,041 after 15 more people succumbed to the disease, the health department said.

The tally mounted to 5,64,707 as 609 fresh cases of infection were reported on Saturday, it stated.

Since Friday, 666 recoveries have been reported taking the number of cured people to 5,47,515 in the state. The discharge rate now is 96.96 per cent.

The number of active cases stood at 7,151, the department stated.

Of the fresh fatalities, six were reported from North 24 Parganas district and two from Kolkata. The remaining deaths were registered

in various other districts.

Out of the 15 fatalities, 13 were due to comorbidities where COVID-19 was incidental.

The 609 new positive cases included 186 from North 24 Parganas and 150 from Kolkata, the health department said.

In the last 24 hours, 30,011 samples were tested for coronavirus in West Bengal taking the total number of such tests to 76,21,132.

Jharkhand reports 119 new COVID-19 cases, one death

RANCHI, JAN 17 (PTI): Jharkhand's COVID-19 tally mounted to 1,17,599 as 119 more people tested positive for the infection, a health department official said on Sunday.

The COVID-19 death toll rose to 1,050 as one

more person succumbed to the infection in the last 24-hours, the official said.

Of the fresh cases, Ranchi district registered the maximum number of cases at 71, followed by East Singhbhum (15) and Dhanbad (11).

Jharkhand now has 1,249 active coronavirus cases, while 1,15,300 people have recovered from the disease so far, the official said.

The state tested 13,761 samples for COVID-19 in the last 24 hours, he added.

Tripura begins COVID vaccination drive, 1,399 frontline workers get shots



AGARTALA, JAN 16

(PTI): Mridul Das, a 30-year-old doctor, was the first person to get the COVID-19 vaccine in Tripura on Saturday as the state joined the rest

of the country in rolling out the vaccination programme. The vaccination programme in the state began at 17 sites across eight districts, officials said.

Total 1,399 health workers received the Covishield vaccine on the first day.

Tripura has received 56,500 doses of the vaccine.

After receiving the first shot, Dr Das, serving at a government hospital in Mohanpur in the West Tripura district, told reporters that initially he was tensed but eventually everything went on fine.

He said that the government has taken

the initiative of the vaccination programme after many examinations, so there is no reason to doubt.

"Scientists did several trials and experiments. If we don't trust the vaccine that means we don't trust our scientists. We need to trust them," he added.

Officials said that there were no reports of anyone suffering from adverse effects of the vaccine in the state.

Tripura Congress chief's car attacked, allegedly by BJP supporters

AGARTALA, 17 JAN

[NDTV]: Tripura Congress chief Pijush Biswas suffered minor injuries after his vehicle was attacked Sunday morning. Mr Biswas, who was taken to a local hospital for treatment, alleged the attack was carried out by supporters of the ruling BJP and took place despite police presence.

According to Mr Biswas, who spoke to NDTV via phone, the attack took place outside the Congress' field office in Bishalgarh, which is around 20 km from state capital Agartala. Mr Biswas had travelled there to attend a party meeting.

Dramatic visuals showed the car with the front windshield cracked and shattered in places, shards of broken glass lying on the front passenger seat.



According to reports a number of Congress workers were also injured in the incident, as was a policeman who tried to intervene.

Mr Biswas told NDTV he had filed a FIR (first information report) with the police, who are investigating the incident but haven't yet ascribed

a political motive to the attack.

Tripura Congress has called for a 12-hour statewide bandh to protest the alleged attack.

Mr Biswas, who was appointed to his current post in December 2019 after the resignation of Pradyot Deb Barman,

has been actively trying to restore Congress to a position of power in the state. He has travelled across the state extensively since taking over the President's post.

On Friday Mr Biswas was also leading agitations against the centre's agriculture laws.

He led a march from the Mahatma Gandhi statue in Agartala to Raj Bhavan - the official residence of Governor Ramesh Bais.

Last month Tripura opposition leader Manik Sarkar accused the BJP of a preplanned attack on CPI(M) workers as they were holding a condolence meeting for those died during the farmers' protest against the centre's new agriculture laws.

The alleged attack took place at the residence of Pabitra Kar, the Tripura Secretary of the All India Kisan Sabha, Mr Sarkar was quoted by news agency PTI.

BJP spokesperson Nabendu Bhattacharya denied the charges and instead alleged that his party workers had been attacked by CPI(M) activists.

Odisha reports 183 fresh COVID-19 cases, one more death

BHUBANESWAR, JAN 17

(PTI): Odishas COVID-19 tally on Sunday mounted to 3,33,310 after 183 more people tested positive for the virus, while a fresh fatality pushed the death toll to 1,900, a health department official said.

Of the 183 new cases, 106 have been reported from different quarantine centres, while 77 detected during contact tracing.

Angul district recorded the highest

number of 20 new cases, followed by Sambalpur (19) and Sundergarh (18).

The Health and Family Welfare department expressed regret over the death of a 52-year-old male COVID-19 positive patient from Bhubaneswar, who was also suffering from diabetes, hypertension, chronic kidney disease, and had undergone renal transplantation.

With this fatality, Odishas coronavirus

death toll climbed to 1,900.

Besides, 53 other COVID-19 positive patients have also died due to comorbidities, he said.

Of the total 1,900 fatalities reported so far, Khurda district, of which the state capital Bhubaneswar is a part, accounted for 334 deaths followed by Ganjam (248), Sundergarh (171), Cuttack (140) and Puri (1,171).

Twenty-five other districts reported

fatalities below 100, he said.

Currently, the number of active coronavirus cases in the state stands at 2,039, while as many as 3,29,318 patients have recovered till date.

The state has so far conducted over 73.76 lakh sample tests for COVID-19, including 30,798 on Saturday.

Odishas positivity rate stands at 4.52 per cent, the data released by the Health and Family Welfare department said.

Mizoram logs 8 new cases, tally rises to 4,322

AIZAWL, JAN 17 (PTI):

Mizoram on Sunday reported eight new COVID-19 cases, taking the state's tally to 4,322, an official said.

Of the eight cases, seven were reported from Aizawl district and one from Kolasib district, he said.

Six cases were confirmed at Zoram Medical College's RT-PCR laboratory and two were detected through Rapid

Antigen Test from Aizawl and Kolasib district.

Mizoram now has 85 active COVID-19 cases, while 4,228 people have recovered from the virus and the coronavirus recovery rate in the state is 97.83 per cent, the official said.

The CCOVID-19 death toll in Mizoram is nine so far.

The state has tested 1,92,766 samples till date, of which 2.24 per cent was found positive for COVID-19.

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Guardiola has turned City away from pressing and back to passing

JONATHAN WILSON
LONDON, 17 JAN [THEGUARDIAN]: Ominously, Manchester City have eased towards the front of the title race. They went into the weekend third, just four points behind the Premier League leaders, Manchester United, with a game in hand. Their next five league games are against sides in the bottom half and Aston Villa. Had Liverpool beaten them on 8 November, rather than drawing 1-1, their lead over City would have been eight points. As it is, by the time City face Liverpool on 6 February, there's a good chance they will be top of the table. That, really, is a triumph of coaching.

It's a triumph of resources as well because almost everything in modern football is (and let nobody ever forget the origin of those resources). The signing of Rúben Dias has been a triumph, not just for his own performances but for the way he seems to have galvanised the entire backline, John Stones in particular. That he is not playing in the position initially envisaged (operating on the left rather than the right of the centre of defence) is a quirky detail rather than something that calls the planning into doubt.

Other recent recruitment, though, has been less effective

and City are probably still short of a left-back, a holding midfielder, a centre-forward and, arguably, a wide forward. It's still a very good squad, but it is not very good by the standards of the super-clubs.

When City drew at home to West Brom a month ago, it was reasonable to ask – and the bar is exceptionally high – whether this was the worst side Pep Guardiola had managed. Since then, however, City have won seven out of seven, including away performances at Chelsea in the league and Manchester United in the Carabao Cup that suggested a side near their best.

This has not been in any sense a normal season. The usual rules don't apply. The truncated pre-season and the compressed calendar have made a material difference to how teams play. Players are exhausted. Injuries are rife. The constant churn of two games a week has made it harder for those sides who tailor their press precisely to the opposition.

The result was, initially, wildness, as United, Liverpool and City let in five or more in a game. A retrenchment followed: after all the excitement about the glut of goals in that first month, average goals per game is back down to 2.75 – 0.03 more than



last season; 0.07 less than the season before.

Even teams who would usually play a high line as a matter of course have been dropping off. It is not quite true to say that the wheel of evolution has been rolled back a decade, for teams now play with the knowledge of what is possible with pressing, but nobody is pushing the boundaries as they were. Pressures in the Premier League are down almost 23% on 2018-19.

Liverpool and City had found a way of playing that brought them points totals in the high-90s, unusually high tallies that spoke of the depth and quality of their squads and the intelligence and effectiveness of their approaches.

If United keep gathering points at the current rate, they will amass 80. Realistically, it will probably take a few more than that to win the

title as the better teams settle in the second half of the season, but these are highly unusual times and that makes this season far more of a test of a coach's ability to adapt and improvise than normal.

Fortunes and expectations have changed quickly. Long-term planning and the capacity to instil a philosophy are not unimportant, but they are perhaps less immediately relevant. The sense is that Guardiola would have adapted anyway. The side he sent out against Lyon in the Champions League quarter-finals last season was an indication of how concerned he had become by City's vulnerability to the counterattack.

The question then became how to reinforce the area in front of the back four without detracting too much from the aggression of the press and without

restricting Kevin De Bruyne. There will be serious tests ahead, against Liverpool and, in the game after that, Tottenham, then in Europe. But the way City negated United, who beat them three times last season, suggested the slight change in Ilkay Gündogan's role, to a sort of deep-lying No 8, or pivote-plus, is working.

There has been another change. "We were running too much," Guardiola said before the Brighton game. "Without the ball you have to run. But with the football you have to walk, or run much less: stay more in position and let the ball run, not you."

A major factor in West Germany's adoption of their curious pressing-less version of Total Football in the 70s were the matches the national side played in León during the 1970 World Cup. In ferocious heat, some relief was offered by the

shadow provided by the grandstand, and players learned how, by smart passing and movement, they could manipulate the game to be played in the shade. External factors can encourage change.

There were always two aspects to the football played by Guardiola's Barcelona. There was pressing and there was possessing. They won the ball with the press and they then kept it with their passing and movement.

Over the past decade, with the rise of the German school, the emphasis in elite football has switched more to regaining than retaining possession. But over this past month, as circumstances have demanded a less energetic approach, the needle has perhaps flickered back.

It helps City that playing Raheem Sterling on the right and Phil Foden on the left, their "natural" sides, as City did against Chelsea and United, widens the pitch and stretches the opposing defence. It's a step back to the more traditional Dutch approach. It makes passing easier, but just as significant that passing has once again become a priority.

Making the ball do the work may sound like traditional wisdom, but for City a refocus has been effective.

Jürgen Klopp needs faltering Firmino, Mané and Salah to spark again

ANDY HUNTER
LONDON, 17 JAN [THEGUARDIAN]: A fair amount has altered since Mohamed Salah steamed through on David de Gea's goal to seal Liverpool's 2-0 win against Manchester United almost exactly one year ago. There were 52,916 supporters allowed inside Anfield on that different planet, Alisson could sprint the length of the pitch to embrace the goalscorer without fear of government censure and Liverpool fans finally acknowledged in public that the Premier League title was theirs after a 30-year wait. Of the many changes in Jürgen Klopp's world since last receiving Ole Gunnar Solskjær at Anfield, it is the dilution of that fierce belief into creeping doubt that will irritate most.

According to Klopp, the perception of Liverpool's current position and form does not tally with reality. Whereas United arrive on Merseyside on Sunday emboldened by leading the Premier League after as many as 17 matches for the first time since 2013, and optimism abounds at Manchester City following seven successive victories in all competitions, Liverpool are floundering after three league games without a win despite being sandwiched between their two rivals and three points off the summit.

At least that is how Klopp assesses the external mood. The champions, he believes, are being held to last season's imperious standards and receiving no allowances for the various mitigating factors behind this term's grind. His team, he insists, have performed poorly twice during the downturn that has offered hope to both sides of the Manchester divide – throughout the 1-1 draw at Fulham on 13 December and in the second half of the 1-1 draw with West Brom a fortnight later.

The Liverpool manager's views are also open to debate, although perhaps the most misleading theory surrounding the champions' recent dip is that well-publicised problems in defence are the root cause. The lauded attack that has compensated for defensive holes for much of the campaign is chiefly responsible and Diogo Jota's absence has been felt more over the past few weeks than even the seismic loss of Virgil van Dijk.

Liverpool's defensive recovery has been impressive by any standards since the 7-2 aberration at Aston Villa. That is has followed injuries to Van Dijk, Joe Gomez and Joel Matip, required the inexperienced Rhys Williams and Nat Phillips to partner the midfielder Fabinho in central defence, plus Jordan Henderson, and included the rarity of a struggling Trent Alexander-Arnold underlines the formidable quality of the squad.

Having conceded 11 goals in the first four games of the title defence, up to and including the 11th minute of the Merseyside derby when Van Dijk was forced off, Liverpool have shipped 10 in 13

matches subsequently. Only Manchester City have conceded fewer goals – six – than Liverpool have done since losing their key central defender.

That resilience has kept them in the hunt and given Mohamed Salah, Sadio Mané, Roberto Firmino and Jota the platform for a combined 29 Premier League goals. Between them, Liverpool's front four are responsible for 78% of the team's league goals (United's main four strikers – Marcus Rashford, Edinson Cavani, Anthony Martial and Mason Greenwood – account for 34% of their total, 13 goals). With the established front three suffering a collective drop-off, Jota sidelined and the supporting cast ineffective, the problems in the final third have been glaring of late.

Firmino, Mané and Salah need to spark again and they have made a habit of doing so in decisive contests, for Liverpool to dismiss United as a fleeting challenger and respond to the re-emerging threat from City.

The destructive quality that punished Leicester, Wolves and Crystal Palace, when Takumi Minamino started in place of Salah at Selhurst Park, was painfully absent against West Brom, Newcastle and Southampton. Klopp described the performances at St James' Park and St Mary's as "good" and "a normal away game" respectively, albeit while criticising a lack of composure in front of goal, poor decision-making and inaccuracy in both.

Liverpool have failed to score in back-to-back Premier League games for the first time since May 2018. Having been at their clinical best in the rout of Palace, scoring seven times from eight shots on target, they have managed seven attempts on target in their past three matches. There was only one at Southampton, from Mané in the 75th minute, their latest for a first shot on target in a league game for more than five years.

Jota has been a telling loss. The Portugal international scored nine goals in 17 appearances following his £41m arrival from Wolves, including decisive winners in successive home league games against Sheffield United and West Ham. His seamless introduction put more pressure on the first-choice front three than Divock Origi or Minamino, allowed Klopp to cover the defensive issues with even more firepower and provided a potent alternative to Firmino during what has been a relatively subdued season by the Brazilian.

The striker has yet to resume full team training after sustaining a knee ligament injury in the final Champions League group game at Midtjylland on 9 December. It is not being wise after the event to question Klopp's selection for that dead-rubber. It was bewildering at the time to see Jota, Alexander-Arnold, Fabinho and Salah start while their manager was railing against the demands on his players, even though he did make eight changes to the team that dismantled Wolves three days earlier.

Australian Open arrivals hit by 3 COVID-19 positive tests

MELBOURNE, JAN 17 (AP): Three coronavirus cases have been detected among charter flights carrying tennis players, coaches and officials to Melbourne for the Australian Open, forcing 47 players into strict hotel quarantine.

The players from the two affected flights arriving from Los Angeles and Abu Dhabi were in a strict 14-day quarantine, unable to leave their hotel rooms or practice, health authorities and tournament organizers said Saturday. The Australian Open starts on Feb. 8.

Health authorities said two positive COVID-19 cases emerged from a charter flight from Los Angeles. The third positive test was from a flight from Abu Dhabi in the past 24 hours, Tennis Australia said.

The coach of Canadian star Bianca Andreescu said he has tested positive after arriving from Abu Dhabi.

Sylvain Bruneau said the rest of my team is negative."

Andreescu will quarantine at her hotel, her agent, Jonathan Dasnieres de Veigy, said in a text to The Canadian Press.

Authorities earlier said that all passengers from the Los Angeles flight would go into the 14-day hotel quarantine.

"All remaining 66 passengers on the flight

have been determined to be close contacts," Victoria state's health department said in a statement about the Los Angeles flight.

"Any players and support people will not be able to leave quarantine to attend training. The remaining flight crew all tested negative and were permitted to fly out without passengers directly to their home port."

Australian Open tournament director Craig Tiley issued a statement saying the 24 players who were on that flight will not be able to leave their hotels rooms for 14 days and until they are medically cleared.

"We are communicating with everyone on this flight, and particularly the playing group whose conditions have now changed, to ensure their needs are being catered to as much as possible, and that they are fully appraised of the situation," Tiley said.

Later Saturday, Tennis Australia said 23 players were among the 64 people on the flight from Abu Dhabi.

"All passengers from the flight are already in quarantine hotels and the positive case, who is not a player and had tested negative before the flight, has been transferred to a health hotel," Tennis Australia said.

Kei Nishikori,



the 2014 U.S. Open runner-up who tested negative for COVID-19 after having two positive tests, and two-time Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka were reported by local media to be among a group of players who arrived on the flight from Los Angeles.

British player Heather Watson said on Twitter that she and others who arrived from Abu Dhabi "are NOT allowed out (of) our rooms. She posted the notification that she and others who were on the flight received informing them of the quarantine.

"The Chief Health Officer has reviewed the flight and has determined that everyone on board needs to isolate and will be confined to their rooms for the 14-day quarantine period," said the notification, which Watson posted.

"We are aware of the major impact this has on your preparation for the Australian summer, it continued, pledging to do everything we can to mitigate this impact."

Being unable to leave their room would mean the only workouts they'd be able to have would be on an exercise bike left in the rooms of all of the players.

Other players will be allowed to train under strict conditions and with supervision for up to five hours a day.

Several players in quarantine, including Sorana Cirstea of Romania, Belinda Bencic of Switzerland and Yulia Putintseva of Kazakhstan complained in social media posts that the rules seemed to have changed between what they saw before traveling to Australia and what was being imposed in Melbourne.

Cirstea posted on Twitter: "If they would have told us this rule before I would not play Australia...I would have stayed home. They told us we would fly at 20% capacity, in sections and we would be a close contact ONLY if my team or cohort tests positive."

Azarenka, who won the tournament in 2012 and 2013, tweeted Friday: Made it to Melbourne! Thank you everyone so much for making it happen. I can only imagine how many hours of work and compromise it took for us to be here! Thank you."

She included what appeared to be a selfie next to a window with downtown city views. Azarenka has not tweeted again since.

The 15 charter flights and the early arrivals are all part of Tennis Australia's attempt to hold the tournament despite a general ban on international arrivals

into the country.

Australia has done a good job of containing the coronavirus, with 909 deaths nationally. Victoria state, which has as its capital Melbourne, accounted for 810 of those during a deadly second wave three months ago which resulted in overnight curfews and lockdowns for the city.

Five-time finalist Andy Murray's status for the tournament was put in doubt after he tested positive for COVID-19 only days before his planned flight to Melbourne.

Also, Americans Madison Keys and Tennys Sandgren returned positive tests, but Sandgren was given permission to fly.

Sandgren originally tested positive in November, and Victorian state health authorities determined he was no longer contagious though still shedding viral particles.

The charter flights to Australia were restricted to 25% capacity, and arrived over a 36-hour period ending early Saturday.

Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Serena Williams are among a group of players involved in an exhibition event in Adelaide, South Australia state, on Jan. 29. Those players flew straight to Adelaide to begin their hotel quarantine period.

Biden ropes in 20 Indian-Americans in his administration, 17 at key WH positions

LALIT K JHA
WASHINGTON, JAN 17 (PTI): Less than 100 hours ahead of his historic inauguration, US President-elect Joe Biden has either nominated or named at least 20 Indian Americans, including 13 women, to key positions in his administration, a new record in itself for this small ethnic community that constitutes one per cent of the country's population.

As many as 17 of them would be part of the powerful White House complex.

The January 20th inauguration, the 59th in all, wherein Biden would be sworn in as the 46th President of the United States is already historic in the making as for the first time ever a woman Kamala Harris would be sworn as the vice president of the country.

Harris, 56, is also the first ever Indian-origin and African American to be sworn in as the vice president of the United States.

It is also for the first time ever that so many Indian-Americans have been roped into a presidential administration ever before the inauguration. Biden is still quite far away from filling all the positions in his administration.

Topping the list is Neera Tanden, who has been nominated as Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget and Dr Vivek Murthy, who has been nominated as the US Surgeon General.

Vanita Gupta has been nominated as Associate Attorney General Department of Justice, and on Saturday, Biden nominated a former foreign service official Uzra Zeya as the Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights.

The dedication that the Indian-American community has shown to public service over the years has been recognised in a big way at the very start of this administration! I am particularly pleased that the overwhelming majority are women. Our community has truly arrived in serving the nation, Indiaspora founder M R Rangaswami told PTI.

Mala Adiga has been appointed as Policy Director to the future First Lady Dr Jill Biden and Garima Verma would be the Digital Director of the Office of the First Lady, while Sabrina Singh has been named as her Deputy Press Secretary.

For the first time ever among the Indian-Americans include two who trace their roots to Kashmir: Aisha Shah, who has been named as Partnership Manager at the White House Office of Digital Strategy, and Sameera Fazili, who would occupy the key position of Deputy Director at the US National Economic Council (NEC) in the White House.

Uganda says president wins 6th term as vote-rigging alleged

KAMPALA, JAN 17 (AP) Ugandas electoral commission said Saturday that President Yoweri Museveni won a sixth five-year term, extending his rule to four decades, while top opposition challenger Bobi Wine dismissed cooked-up, fraudulent results and officials struggled to explain how polling results were compiled amid an internet blackout.

In a generational clash watched across the African continent with a booming young population and a host of aging leaders, the 38-year-old singer-turned-lawmaker Wine posed arguably Museveni's greatest challenge yet.

The self-described ghetto president had strong support in urban centers where frustration with unemployment and corruption is high. He has claimed victory.

In a phone interview from his home, which he said was surrounded by soldiers who wouldn't let him leave, Wine urged the international community to please call Gen. Museveni to order by withholding aid, imposing sanctions and using Magnitsky legislation to hold alleged human rights users accountable.

Wine repeated that all legal options are being considered, including challenging the results in court and calling for peaceful protests.

The electoral commission said Museveni received 58 per cent of ballots and Wine 34 per cent, and



voter turnout was 52 per cent, in a process that the top United States diplomat to Africa called fundamentally flawed.

The commission advised people celebrating to remember COVID-19 precautions, but reaction in the capital, Kampala, was muted.

At one point, hundreds of Museveni supporters on motorcycles sped by, honking and chanting. The military remained in the streets.

AP journalists who tried to reach Wine's home on Kampala's outskirts were turned away by police. Wine has said he is alone with his wife, Barbie, and a single security guard after police told a private security company to withdraw its protection ahead of Thursday's election.

I'm alive, Wine said. After declaring the world is watching on the eve of the vote, he said I dont know what will happen to me and my wife" now.

He said he won't leave Uganda and abandon its 45 million people to the

kind of treatment he has faced.

The vote followed the East African countrys worst pre-election violence since the 76-year-old Museveni took office in 1986.

Wine and other candidates were beaten or harassed, and more than 50 people were killed when security forces put down riots in November over his arrest. Wine, whose real name is Kyagulanyi Ssentamu, was detained several times while campaigning but never convicted. He said he feared for his life.

This month, Wine petitioned the International Criminal Court over alleged torture and other abuses by security forces and named several officials including Museveni.

In response to his allegations of vote-rigging, Ugandas electoral commission said Wine should prove it. Wine says he has video evidence and will share it once internet access is restored.

Museveni said in a

accreditation to most members of the U.S. observer mission, leading the U.S. to call it off. The European Union said its offer to deploy electoral experts was not taken up.

Ugandas electoral process has been fundamentally flawed, the top US diplomat for Africa, Tibor Nagy, tweeted, warning that the US response hinges on what the Ugandan government does now.

The US State Department urged independent, credible, impartial, and thorough investigations into reports of irregularities.

It condemned the continuing attacks on political candidates and called for the immediate restoration of the internet and social media.

We reiterate our intention to pursue action against those responsible for the undermining of democracy and human rights in Uganda, it said.

Museveni, once praised as part of a new generation of African leaders and a longtime US security ally, still has support in Uganda for bringing stability.

He once criticized African leaders who refused to step aside but has since overseen the removal of term limits and an age limit on the presidency.

He alleged repeatedly that foreign groups were trying to meddle in this election, without providing evidence. He accused Wine of being an agent of foreign interests. Wine denies it.

national address that I think this may turn out to be the most cheating-free election since 1962, or independence from Britain.

The electoral commission deflected questions about how countrywide voting results were transmitted during the internet blackout by saying we designed our own system.

We did not receive any orders from above during this election, commission chair Simon Byabakama told reporters, adding his team was neither intimidated nor threatened.

While the president holds on to power, at least nine of his Cabinet ministers, including the vice president, were voted out in parliamentary elections, many losing to candidates from Wines party, local media reported.

Tracking the vote was further complicated by the arrests of independent monitors and the denial of

Guatemala tries blocking caravan of 9,000 Honduran migrants

SONNY FIG
GUATEMALA CITY, JAN 17 (AP): Guatemalan soldiers blocked part of a caravan of as many as 9,000 Honduran migrants Saturday at a point not far from where they entered the country seeking to reach the US border.

The soldiers, many wearing helmets and wielding shields and sticks, formed ranks across a highway in Chiquimula, near the Honduras border, to block the procession of migrants.

Guatemala's immigration agency distributed a video showing a couple of hundred men scuffling with soldiers, pushing and running through their lines, even as troops held hundreds more back.

Guatemala's President Alejandro Giammattei issued a statement calling on Honduran authorities to contain the mass exit of its inhabitants.

On Friday, the migrants entered Guatemala by pushing past about 2,000 police and soldiers posted at the border; most entered without showing the negative coronavirus test that Guatemala requires.

The government of Guatemala regrets this violation of national sovereignty and calls on the governments of Central America to take measures to avoid putting their inhabitants at risk amid the health emergency due to the pandemic, Giammatteis statement continued.

Guatemala has set up almost a dozen control points on highways, and may start busing more migrants back to Honduras, as it has done before, arguing they pose a risk to themselves and others by travelling during the coronavirus pandemic.

Governments throughout the region have made it clear they will not let the caravan through.

Mexico continued

to drill thousands of National Guard members and immigration agents on its southern border, in a show of force meant to discourage the caravan from crossing into Mexico.

On Friday night, two groups of more than 3,000 Honduran migrants each pushed their way into Guatemala without registering, part of a larger migrant caravan that had left the Honduran city of San Pedro Sula before dawn. A third group entered Guatemala Saturday.

The Honduran migrants are trying to cross Guatemala to reach Mexico, driven by deepening poverty and the hope of a warmer reception if they can reach the United States border. However, several previous attempts at forming caravans have been broken up by Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras.

On Friday, the migrants set out at about 4 am from San Pedro Sula, young men and entire families carrying sleeping children. Some quickly caught rides while others walked along the highway escorted by police.

Major Garcia, a 19-year-old laborer from San Pedro Sula, carried a purple knapsack as he walked along the highway early Friday. He said he was scared about the journey, but willing to run the risk (Hurricanes) Eta and Iota destroyed all of our homes, he said. Theres no choice but to leave, said 25-year-old Oscar Zaldivar, a driver from Cofradia. You have to leave here, this country because were going to die here.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said in a statement Friday that "The combination of COVID-19, social exclusion, violence and climate-related disasters that occur at the same time with a magnitude seldom seen before in Central America raises new humanitarian challenges.

Alexei Navalny to fly into Moscow in challenge to Putin

ANDREW ROTH
MOSCOW, 17 JAN [THEGUARDIAN]: The Russian opposition politician Alexei Navalny is expected to return to Moscow on Sunday evening nearly five months after a suspected poisoning by Russia's FSB spy agency left him fighting for his life.

Navalny's return is a direct challenge to Vladimir Putin and the Kremlin, which has sought to keep the opposition leader in exile by indirectly threatening him with prosecution and jail time if he comes back.

Navalny is expected to land at Moscow's Vnukovo airport at 4.20pm GMT on a flight from Berlin, where he has been recuperating from the poisoning attack since August.

It appears likely that he will be taken into custody on arrival. Moscow's prison service says that it has orders to detain him for parole violations that could lead to up to three and a half years in prison, and the Investigative Committee says it is investigating him for massive fraud



in a separate case that could carry a decade-long sentence.

"The question of returning or not was never before me," Navalny wrote in an online post earlier this week, calling on supporters to "meet me" at the airport. Russian police have said they have begun detaining his supporters travelling to Moscow for planning to hold an "illegal" rally. The airport has said that it cannot host mass events due to the coronavirus epidemic.

The Kremlin is likely to seek retaliation for a Bellingcat investigation that traced an FSB hit

team which shadowed Navalny around Russia for years. Navalny himself elicited a confession by telephone from one of the men who took part in the operation.

The revelations were deeply embarrassing for the Kremlin. Putin called the report a "falsification" and accused Navalny of being backed by western intelligence agencies. Investigators have also refused to open a criminal case about Navalny's poisoning, saying they had "[no] concrete evidence about circumstances indicating the signs of criminal activity by members of Russia's FSB"

Doctors at Berlin's Charité clinic have described the poison used against Navalny as one of the novichok series, similar to the one used in the 2018 attack in Salisbury.

On the eve of his arrival, Navalny wrote posts thanking Germans for their hospitality and promising supporters that he would indeed be flying into Moscow on Sunday.

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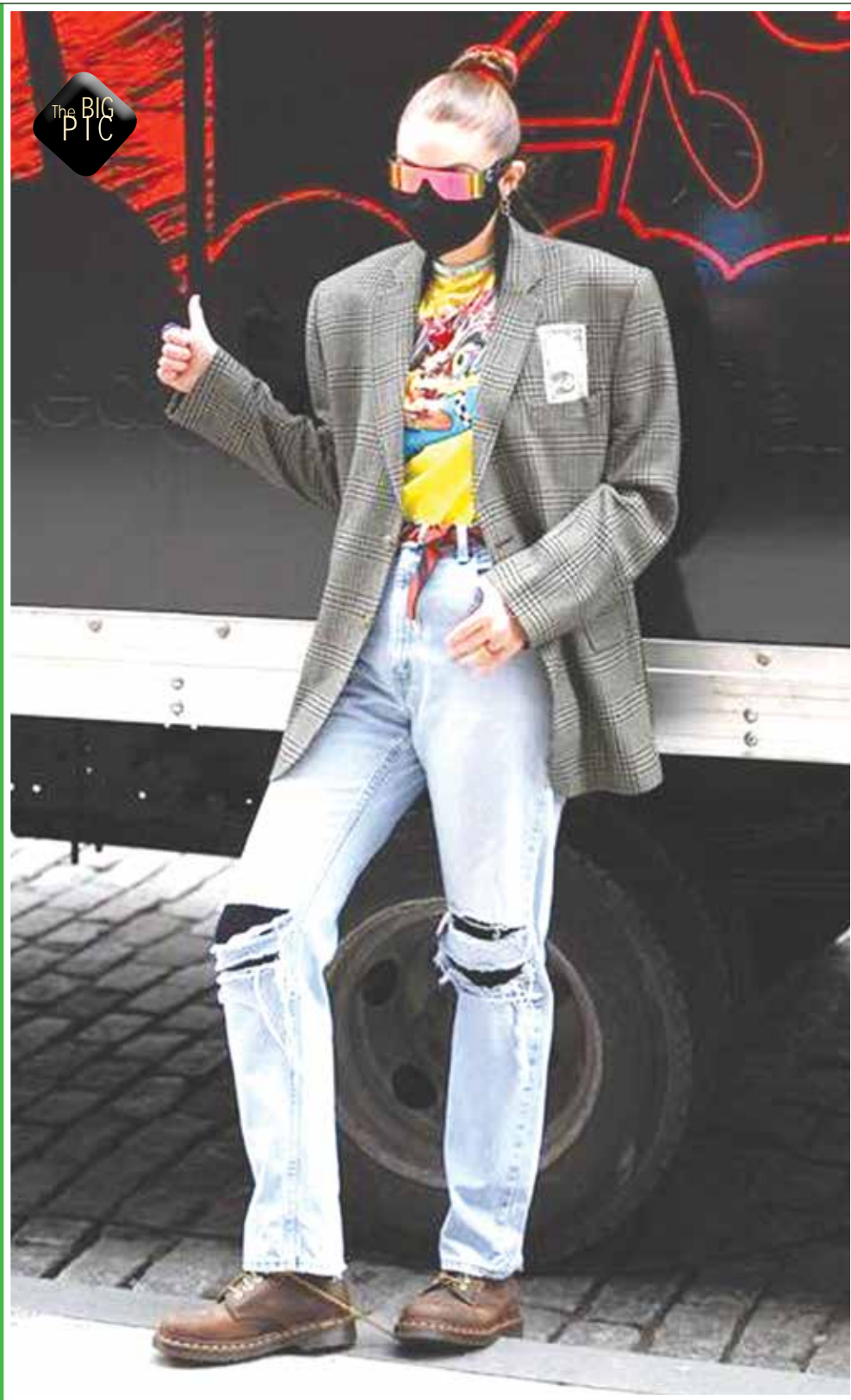
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THUMBS UP! Gorgeous gal Gigi Hadid is seen checking out a promo truck for Zayn's new single, "Nobody is Listening," in New York City.

How Gabrielle Union and Dwyane Wade Become One of Hollywood's Biggest Success Stories

Gabrielle Union doesn't do passive.

When she found herself unfavorably comparing her successes to others—"I felt like you see everyone is having so much more," the actress admitted on the Today show in 2018—she decided to implement a change.

Turning to her vision boards, she stopped "chasing after specific things and asking for stuff," she explained, adding that she pared down her desires to one specific request. "I asked for more joy, peace and grace," she noted. "And it's been coming in abundance."

Take her six-plus-year marriage to NBA champ Dwyane Wade. Having weathered a lawsuit from his ex-wife, a brief pre-engagement split and what the We're Going to Need More Wine author describes as "eight or nine miscarriages" in their decade-plus together, they're still rolling.

The actress and the retired NBA guard are the type of enviable power couple that can't seem to stop bragging on each another. (In one Instagram referencing his stints in Chicago and Cleveland, the pro wrote, "Get you a 'woman' who supports you—even if you



take her out of her newly built dream home and the sunshine in Miami.") And they always seem like they're just having more fun than everyone else.

Which, they kinda are.

Because when you've been through enough tough stuff—the really hard, crushing moments—every other minor inconvenience is put into the proper perspective. The big joys have their place, too, with Nov. 7, 2018 rightfully earning a spot in the highlight reel of their lives.

Tyler Hubbard, Tim McGraw call for unity on new duet

Isolating alone on his tour bus parked outside his home last year, Tyler Hubbard, one-half of the popular country duo Florida Georgia Line, felt weighed down with emotion about the division in America in 2020.

In November, Hubbard had tested positive for COVID-19, the devastating coronavirus that became one of many issues, including politics and racial injustice, that had turned people against one another.

"I think that 2020 and the state of the country was heavy on my heart, just like it is heavy on everybody's heart," Hubbard said. "I probably take for granted and forget how many other people are actually going through that and having the same emotions."

Luckily, years of touring made him adept at writing and recording while on a bus, so he funneled his thoughts into a new song, "Undivided," a call for unity when the nation looks at its most fractured. It was released Wednesday.

After finishing the song with songwriter Chris Loocke, Hubbard pitched it to his Big Machine label mate Tim McGraw, who said the lyrics about empathy and letting God unite people again had him thinking about his own perceptions about the world.



"It's not beating people up and it's not political," said McGraw. "It's more about the social fabric that we all rely on and the social contracts that we all rely on that hold us together and keep us sort of tethered to each other in a positive way."

The song comes out just a week after a violent mob rioted at the U.S. Capitol, spurred on by politicians' false claims of election tampering, Hubbard said the



timing for the song is just right, even when there is so much noise to break through.

"I've kept the TV off for the last couple of weeks, but I still caught the news about the Capitol and it's just so sad," Hubbard said. "But it did remind me, 'OK this message is still needed.' It's not like 2021 hit and all of the sudden everyone's unified again. It's gonna take some time rebuild and repair."

Celebrity Stylist Brad Goreski Reveals His Predictions for a New Era Fashion

Lights, camera... glam!

With awards season on the horizon, Brad Goreski is spilling the tea on his fashion predictions with E! News. Whether the celebrity stylist is dressing the biggest and brightest stars in entertainment or commenting on their style choices, there's no denying he's a red carpet pro.

That's why he's giving pop culture fans a taste of what's to come in the next couple of months when the Golden Globes, Grammys and more shows are scheduled to air. However, given the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, Brad also understands just how much fashion has evolved in the last year.

"The red carpet dressing is very interesting because the rules are completely broken now," he tells E! News. "We've seen everything from people wearing custom pajama sets to

other people wearing custom couture gowns."

Despite this new era of red carpet style, Brad explains why it's something worth celebrating. As he describes, "I think it's really great that each individual can exercise their personal style and how they feel in this moment of the virtual world."

"For the upcoming award season, I've been getting emails from designers about dressing some of my clients and I think design houses are still willing to make custom gowns if a celebrity wants it," he points out. "I also think they're willing to make something that's more low-key."

"But," he continues, "I think that element of spontaneity and not knowing what to expect is a little exciting because we don't really know how we're going to see celebrities look."

When it comes to trends, Brad

explains there's "a lot of optimism in fashion right now." From look-at-me prints to larger-than-life silhouettes, the fashion expert notes this is a time to get out of your comfort zone.

"There's a lot of bright colors," he shares, before adding his other predictions, "There's another big push for florals again this year. Everything from very feminine day dresses to athleisure, like all floral sweat suits. The bold shoulder is definitely here to stay, which is great for the Zoom culture we're living in right now."

"Pastels are also super big," he continues, "I like all the pale pink, pale lavender, pale greens, pale yellows, there's something super romantic about those. Tie dye is definitely here to stay as well and I'm also loving the patchwork trend—whether it's a patchwork suede bag or boot."

Master box office collection Day 4: Vijay film continues to rule ticket counters

The winning streak of Vijay-starrer Master continues at the box office. In Chennai, the film managed to rake in over a crore on Saturday as well, taking the film's total collection in the city to Rs 4.39 crore.

Film trade analyst Kaushik LM shared on Twitter, "#Master continues the 1 CR+ streak in Chennai city, for the 4th successive day. Satday - 1.06 CR 4-days total Chennai city gross is 4.39 CR #MasterPongal."

Also, the film has

managed to attract the audience in the international markets as well. Theaters in Singapore, Australia and New Zealand witnessed a good footfall. "#MasterFilm continues to set the Box office on fire in Overseas Markets..#Singapore - Crosses SG\$1 Million..#Australia - Crosses A\$600,000..#NewZealand - Crosses NZ\$100,000.." film trade analyst Ramesh Bala tweeted.

Directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj, the film, also starring Vijay Sethupathi,

Malavika Mohanan, Arjun Das, Andrea Jeremiah and Shanthanu Bhagyaraj, has grossed over Rs 100 crore worldwide in just three days.

Master has received a mixed response from the film critics. In his review of the film, indianexpress.com's Manoj Kumar R wrote, "Lokesh Kanagaraj had promised a Vijay film which would be very different from movies that Vijay usually does. Did he deliver on his promise? Yes. Master is the most fun, sensible, enjoyable and good

looking movie that Vijay has done in a long time."

He added, "That said, Master is neither completely a Vijay film nor entirely a Lokesh Kanagaraj film. Lokesh's self-imposed limitations and obligation to be in fan-service undermine the film's impact. He has used so many good talents as just fillers and wasted resources on ideas that don't take the story forward. And, those are not the qualities of Lokesh who made Maanagaram and Kaithi."

ARIES:

This year is all about you, you, you! Transformation is going to be a big theme, Aries, and you plan to dedicate yourself to the inner work required to be the most magnificent version of yourself. Just keep in mind that all work and no play will make Jane a dull girl. So, be present to what each moment is offering you—not just the joy, but the sadness, the loneliness, and the melancholy too. It is by embracing the human experience in its entirety that you will be able to create heaven on earth.

TAURUS:

Do you remember what happened the last time you decided to ignore your intuition? The cards are warning you against repeating old mistakes, Taurus. Trust your connection with the Divine. Trust the messages that are being brought to your attention by your higher self. Taking the steps that you are being guided towards will help prevent colossal damage. You're also being encouraged to play the role of secret keeper. There are some things that are not meant to be revealed yet, and you are in awareness of what these things are.

GEMINI:

It is said, when you feel good, you look good. Your mood exactly, Gemini. Sunday sees you prioritising health and wellness. Punishing workouts, however, are so 2000-and-late. You want to put on your Aladdin pants and choreograph your own belly dance routine. A bhangra session in your living room—preferably with your soul crew—is another idea you could be flirting with. PS: Let those feel good hormones remind you that movement meditation is the best way to get out of a funk.

CANCER:

What if we're all just living in a simulation? What if the things we

give so much importance to are not the things that will matter in the end? Pay attention to what you are giving all your time and attention to, Cancer. By looking at the flaws of others through a microscope, you could be magnifying them beyond measure. Today, the cards are urging you to adopt 'acceptance' as your magic word and hold space for the people in your life to be exactly who they are. In doing so, you will watch the negative emotions associated with this situation transmute into something higher.

LEO:

Have you walked into an unfamiliar room and felt as if you've been here before, or met somebody for the first time and been overwhelmed with a sense of familiarity? Leo, you are a multidimensional being who is becoming aware of their multidimensional nature. So, pay attention to the tasks that are beginning to feel familiar despite their unfamiliarity. There's a good chance you may have excelled at the same in another lifetime, or another time and space dimension. PS: It's time to uncover your hidden gifts and consciously integrate them into your existing repertoire.

VIRGO:

Maybe you're not exhausted because you're doing too much. Maybe you're exhausted because you're doing too little of what sets your soul on fire. Today, the cards are urging you to be mindful of what you are saying yes to. Every time you say yes to something that doesn't feel right, you end up saying no to something that is right for you. Word for the wise: let go of the need to please everybody, and focus on what you have come here to do. Some of you could be struggling with the unrealistic demands of your family too. In such a case, it's best to communicate your boundaries in a firm, but gentle manner.

LIBRA:

It's time to bring your A-game when it comes to social media. No, we're not talking about taking your VSCO cam skills up a notch. We're talking about truth, authenticity and vulnerability—about telling your story as it is meant to be told. You are who you are, Libra, and you have nothing to apologise for. Some of you could be thinking about taking the publishing world by storm, working on a script or starting your own podcast. Consider this as a green flag from the Universe, wild one!

SCORPIO:

You're spending too much time worrying about 'the how' and 'the why'. You're spending too much time thinking about the ways in which the given project is unlikely to work out. The truth is, you are where you are because you are meant to be here. Giving this idea a concrete form is a part of your soul's mission. So, don't waste time going back and forth on your decision. Simply take a giant leap towards the future you have envisioned for yourself and know that you are held and supported.

SAGITTARIUS:

Sometimes life feels like an uphill trek. No matter what we do, the fruits of our labour seem to evade us. At other times, life shows us the true meaning of benevolence by opening significant doors, as if magically, for our evolution and growth. The latter holds true for you, Sagittarius. So, open your eyes to all the ways in which you are being loved and supported. When things work out seamlessly for you, take it as a sign that you are on the right path and that the Universe wants you to claim what's truly yours.

CAPRICORN:

Matters of the heart are taking centre stage, Capricorn. Your

tribe is showing up for you in a whole new way. Allow yourself to receive the love you have been giving others, and know that you deserve every bit of the goodness you have attracted into your experience. Life may not be perfect, but it is flawsome in every way and you know that you'll get through this. PS: your angels and guides are also offering you the health and support you need at this moment.

AQUARIUS:

Sometimes, you've just got to put binaural beats on and surround yourself with those amethyst rocks as you put your phone on flight mode. It's a 'World, hold on!' kind of day, and you're learning to prioritise the most important person in your life, aka yourself! Remember, the world works inside out and that the microcosm affects the macrocosm. Therefore, being in a space of fullness allows us to hold space for others in the best possible way. Meditation and mindfulness are also going to be on your agenda today. You don't have to be a yogi to experience transcendence. Close your eyes and allow the mysterious forces above to guide you. Oh, the things you will see and hear when you tune out the chatter of your monkey mind!

PISCES:

Just because your ancestors suffered the consequences of being a certain way, does not mean you have to. Free yourself from the old story, Pisces, as you write a brand new one for yourself. You are deserving of love, you are deserving of material wealth, and you are deserving of success. You are worthy of living a life that's full of abundance and grace. So, allow yourself to receive what the Universe is offering you and know that you are loved and protected in every way.