



**'COLUMBO,' 'MURDER, SHE WROTE' CO-CREATOR WILLIAM LINK DIES**  
pg 08

**9 TIPS TO GIVE YOURSELF THE BEST SHOT AT STICKING TO NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS**  
pg 04

**'CRAZIEST PARTY EVER': SUPERSTAR DJ GUETTA UPBEAT FOR 2021**  
pg 08



# SummitTIMES

Vol 05 | Issue 341 | Gangtok | Thursday | 31 December 2020

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5

## GANGTOK HOSTS STATE-LEVEL TAMU LOCHAR CELEBRATION

# Will unite Gurung community, CM assures

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 30 DEC:**

Chief Minister PS Tamang attended the State Level Tamu Lochar celebrations organised by Akhil Sikkim Gurung (Tamu) Boudha Sangh at Manan Kendra today.

In a Facebook post, the CM wrote, "I stated that our Government stands to unite the Gurung community under one roof. I reiterated that ever since we came to power, we have granted full autonomy to all organisations/ associations and have not discriminated on any basis. Informing them about my recent visits to attend

several religious events in the State, I added that it was pleasant to see people from various communities coming together to celebrate. I urged all to unite and continue in the same spirit and not consider it a festival of just one community but the entire State and termed it as 'Sikkimey Parva'."

In his address, the CM said that the State Government will provide every possible support for the construction of Rodhi Ghar in the State's capital.

"I also informed the gathering about my visit to New Delhi to raise the matter for L.T seat, 11 left

out communities and H.H. the 17th Karmapa's visit to Sikkim. We will continue with our demands and once more visit New Delhi with a delegation. I also added that our energetic Lok Sabha M.P. Shri Indra Hang Subba has been working tirelessly to achieve these demands," the CM wrote on Facebook.

Performances on Ghatu, Tungna and Kauda of the Gurung community along with other communities of the state were part of the program.

Various individuals of the community were also felicitated for their contributions to the State.



**TMC seeks recall of Bengal governor, Dhankhar hits back**

**KOLKATA, DEC 30 (PTI):** West Bengal's ruling TMC Wednesday intensified its war of attrition with Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar, demanding his recall for "transgressing constitutional limits".

An angry Dhankhar shot back, claiming free and fair elections are not held in the state and that it is his duty to ensure people exercise their franchise without fear.

A team of TMC MPs has sent a letter to the President on Tuesday listing "all such transgressions" by Dhankhar in recent times and urged him to take action as per Article 156, Clause 1 of the Constitution, the party's Rajya Sabha MP Sukhendu Sekhar Roy told reporters here.

"The governor holds office during the pleasure of the President as per Article 156, Clause 1. We have urged the President to withdraw the pleasure, which translates into removing this governor," Roy said.

The relevant article of the Constitution relates to a state governor holding office as long as the President does not withdraw the "pleasure".

"We have noticed that since he arrived in the state in July last year, he has been regularly tweeting, holding press meets and participating in TV discussions, where he is regularly passing comments on the functioning of the state government, our officers, ministers, the chief minister, even once on the conduct of the speaker of the assembly. Every such action is violative of his constitutional rights," Roy said.

Alleging that Dhankhar has been making such statements in the public at the behest of the BJP-led government at the Centre to embarrass the TMC government in the state, Roy said, "This had never happened earlier in the 75-year-long history of West Bengal. If he has to say anything, he can communicate that in the way as provided to him by the Constitution, not by tweeting or holding press meets."

Dhankhar, who has been locked in a seemingly interminable battle with the Mamata Banerjee government, shot back, asserting his duty is to ensure that people get the opportunity to exercise their franchise without fear.

"Free and fair elections without fear are not held (in the state)," Dhankhar told reporters during a visit to a temple in the western part of the city.

The governor said it does not concern him for



## SAAA RECEIVES TRIUMPHANT ATHLETES ON RETURN FROM IMPRESSIVE GUWAHATI CAMPAIGN

**GANGTOK, 30 DEC:** Sikkim Amateur Athletic Association gave a warm reception to its squad which returned today from a successful campaign at the 32nd East Zone Junior Athletics Championship 2020 held in Guwahati where they won a gold, a silver and a bronze medal. At a reception held at the Tourism Guest House, Rangpo, this after-

noon, SAAA executive members received the nine-member State team with khadas. Ranjana Tamang won a gold medal in 3,000 meters in U-18 girls' category and Rinchen Lepcha bagged a silver in 1,000 meters and then a bronze medal in 5,000 meters in U-20 boys' category for Sikkim in the championship.

## Two killed in road mishap at Pagla Bhir

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 30 DEC:**

Two persons were killed while three escaped with injuries in a road accident at Pagla Bhir near old Rumtek monastery today. The deceased are Birbahadur Darjee [44] and Munna Sharma [24].

Birbahadur Darjee, Norbu Bhutia, Anil Panchkoti and Joseph Tamang were travelling in an Alto and on their way back from Dhankutey Dara, they gave a lift to Munna Sharma. On the way

to Dhankutey Dara, Anil Panchkoti was driving the vehicle and on the way back, Joseph Tamang, who was learning how to drive, took the wheel.

When they reached Pagla Bhir, Joseph Tamang lost control of the vehicle which fell around 150 feet down the cliff.

Munna Sharma and Birbahadur Darjee died on the spot while the other three got injured and are currently under treatment at Central Referral Hospital, Tadong.

## COVID-19: India records 20,549 fresh cases

**NEW DELHI, DEC 30 (PTI):**

India's COVID-19 caseload rose to 1,02,44,852 with 20,549 new infections being reported in a day, while the number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 98.34 lakh pushing the national recovery rate to 95.99 per cent, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Wednesday.

The death toll increased to 1,48,439 with 286 new fatalities, the data updated at 8 am showed. The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 98,34,141 pushing the national recovery rate to 95.99 per cent, while the COVID-19 case fatality rate stands at 1.45 per cent.

The COVID-19 active caseload remained below 3 lakh for the ninth consecutive day.

There are 2,62,272 active cases of coronavirus infections in the country which comprises 2.56 per cent of the total caseload, the data stated.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19.

According to the ICMR, 17,09,22,030 samples have been tested up to December 29 with 11,20,281 samples being tested on Tuesday.

The 286 new fatalities include 68 from Maharashtra, 30 from West Bengal, 28 from Delhi and 24 from Kerala.

A total of 1,48,43 deaths have been reported so far in the country including 49,373 from Maharashtra followed by 12,092 from Tamil Nadu, 12,074 from Karnataka, 10,502 from Delhi, 9,655 from West Bengal, 8,340 from Uttar Pradesh, 7,100 from Andhra Pradesh and 5,322 from Punjab.

## 53 year old from Gyalshing becomes Sikkim's 127th Covid fatality

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 30 DEC:**

A 53-year-old from Middle Gyalshing in West District succumbed to COVID-19 on Wednesday taking the number of lives claimed by Novel Coronavirus to 127.

She went in for home isolation after testing positive on Tuesday and passed away early this morning.

In his daily health bulletin on Wednesday, Health Department State IEC Officer, Sonam Gyaltsen Bhutia, informed that the patient tested positive in rapid antigen testing at Gyalshing District Hospital and opted for home isolation.

Her passing away is officially being recorded as a COVID-death with co-morbidities as the patient was suffering from Cirrhosis and Chronic Kidney Disease.

In the meantime, Sikkim recorded 13 new cas-

es of novel coronavirus in the last 24 hours taking the tally of confirmed Covid cases in the State to 5,877 on Wednesday.

On the other hand, the number of recovered patients in the State has further increased to 5,124.

There are now 532 active cases of Covid-19 in the State of whom three are currently in the ICU-facility of STNM Hospital.

Mr Bhutia informed that the 13 new cases were reported in the testing of 131 samples on Tuesday, with 10 samples returning positive in RT-PCR screening of 104 samples and three cases being picked up in rapid antigen testing of 22 samples.

While seven of the new cases came from East District, two were reported from West District and four from South Sikkim.

Among the new

cases are two persons from Ranipool, one from Pachey-Pakyong, one from Tathangchen and one from Gairi Gagon-Tadong in East District.

Likewise, two persons from Namchi, two from Ghurpisey and one from Dambudara-Namchi in South District and one person from Middle Gyalshing and one from Labing Gerethang in West District were found positive for COVID-19.

He informed that a 50-year-old male who had given his address as near Ganju Lama Dwar, Deorali, and has tested positive could not be reached over the phone number provided.

He added that 57-year-old Ganga Pradhan from Gangtok, whose status was announced yesterday in the health bulletin, continues to remain unreachable over phone.

## Hyderabad Police arrest 2, including Chinese national, in loan apps fraud

**HYDERABAD, 30 DEC [PTI]:** Two more people, including a Chinese national, were arrested today as part of investigations against instant app-based lenders accused of harassing borrowers over repayment, the police said.

With this, 16 people have been arrested in 27 cases registered by Hyderabad police.

A preliminary investigation into the financial transactions has revealed that close to 1.4 crore transactions, worth nearly ₹ 21,000 crore, have taken place so far, a release from Hyderabad police said.

On December 22, the Hyderabad Police said it had arrested 11 people of five call centres located in Gurgaon, Haryana and Hyderabad, who were being used to persuade, harass and intimidate the loan defaulters.

The call centres were being run on behalf of four companies.

The Cyber Crime Police Station in Hyderabad is probing as many as 27 cases pertaining to issue of loans by alleged unauthorised loan apps and harassment of the borrowers by the companies running the apps through their call centres.

On Wednesday, a 27-year-old Chinese national was intercepted at the Delhi Airport as he tried to leave the country, the police said, adding he was the head of operations of those loan apps being run by the four companies.

Another person, a native of Andhra Pradesh's Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh, who played a key role in operating the call centres, was also arrested, the police said.

With regard to the financial transactions, the police said these volumes of transactions have happened over payment gateways and bank accounts linked to these companies.

A large number of international transactions have also taken place through bitcoins.

Bulk of transactions have taken place over the last six months and further investigation is continuing, the police said. The probe has also revealed that another Chinese national had set up operations in India and is presently abroad, they said.

Since December 25, two Chinese nationals, including a woman, have been arrested in different cases.

**Summit Times**  
**in Nepali**

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**Thank You!**





# Kitam-based NGO Munal celebrates Silver Jubilee

AARON RAI

GANGTOK, 30 DEC:

Munal, a non-political organization based in Kitam, South Sikkim, celebrated its silver jubilee at Munal Bhawan today. Munal was established in 1996 and has since been working extensively in the field of environment in Kitam village of South Sikkim.

Savitri Chhetri, Panchayat President of Kitam Manpur Gram Panchayat, was present as the chief guest of the event. Doctor, SK Dewan and other guests were also present.

The NGO felicitated, Prakash Rana for his contribution to the society and Dr. SK. Dewan was felicitated by the chief guest for his contribution to the society as well as



for his work towards environment conservation.

Similarly, all the Panchayats, including the Panchayat president of Kitam Gram Panchayats, were also felicitated. The organization also felicitated senior citizens of the GPU.

Munal has 38 members and further inducted 10 youths from Munal on the occasion.

Dr. S.K. Dewan, in his address, appreciated the contribution made by Munal NGO and assured support to the organization in coming days.

Similarly, the chief guest, Gram Panchayat President, Savitri Chhetri in her address congratulated the organization and all those who were felicitated. She lauded the contribution made by the organization in environment conservation

and expressed happiness on being a member of the organization.

She also said that she would work closely with the organization in coming days.

Cultural dances were also performed during the program.

## Chamling will soon join BJP, claims KB Rai

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 DEC:

Sikkim Republican Party president, KB Rai today claimed that former Chief Minister and Sikkim Democratic Front president, Pawan Chamling is planning to join Bharatiya Janata Party.

Addressing a press conference today, Mr Rai alleged that a party that used to claim that only a regional party can protect the rights of Sikkimese, could not even

survive 3 months after losing power before giving up on its principles and ideology.

On the other hand, Sikkim is yet to see the "parivartan" that Sikkim Krantikari Morcha had promised, alleged Mr Rai. Further stating that SKM has not brought about any fresh perspective to Sikkim's politics, he alleged that SKM has given two Bhutia-Lepcha seats to a national party.

Mr Rai said that

the state government should frame laws in order to secure the jobs provided under the One Family One Job scheme. Questioning the legality of the 1600 jobs allegedly provided by the SKM government, he said that similar jobs should be provided to the other unemployed youth of the state.

"What happened to SKM's promise of bringing CBI into the state?" Mr Rai added.

## Bhavishya Bharat distributes piglets to SHGs

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 DEC:

Bhavishya Bharat, a developmental organization associated with Teesta Urja Ltd, distributed pairs of male and female Hampshire breed piglets to nine Progress-

sive Women Self Help Groups of Teesta Urja Project Villages of North Sikkim. The program was conducted on 29 Dec at Singhik Panchayat Bhawan which was supported by Teesta Urja Limited.

## Jan Chetana Pariwar holds annual meeting



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 DEC:

The annual general meeting of Jan Chetana Pariwar (NGO) Sajong was held at Sajong Community Hall in East Sikkim today, a press release informs.

The main aims of the meeting were to present the account details, discuss the development of society and upcoming activities of the NGO.

Chief guest, Karma Zigmee Bhutia mentioned about the activity of the Pariwar while Jan Chetana Pariwar president, Bir Man Rai and all members of JCP have decided to work more actively for the development of society and the village.

Total of 7 new families were inducted into JCP during the meeting today.

## 316th birth anniv of Teyongsi Sirijunga celebrated



SUMMIT REPORT

GYALSHING, 30 DEC:

The Limboo community of Sikkim celebrated the 316th birth anniversary of Limboo scholar, linguist and philosopher, Teyongsi Sirijunga at Teyongsi Sirijunga Manghim premises of Martam under Gyalshing

Bermiok constituency, West Sikkim, today.

A library containing Limboo literary works was inaugurated near the Manghim premises and a Limboo calendar was also released.

Organizing committee president, A.B Limboo expressed his grat-

itude to all those who supported the event.

Agriculture Minister and area MLA, Loknath Sharma was the chief guest of the event. Also present were scholars, representatives of various Limboo community organizations and other dignitaries.

## Nepal requests India to procure Covid vaccines for 20% citizens: Report

KATHMANDU, 30 DEC [PTI]:

Nepal has sought India's help to procure coronavirus vaccines for around 20 per cent of its population, in an attempt to ramp up its efforts to contain the deadly virus that has killed more than 1,800 people and infected over 2,60,000 others in Nepal, a media report said today.

Nepal has written to India, requesting to procure COVID-19 vaccines to inoculate around 20 per cent of its population, the Kathmandu Post reported.

Nepal will pay for the vaccines it sources through India, the paper added.

At least two vaccine candidates, including Oxford's AstraZeneca and domestically developed candidate Bharat Biotech's vaccine, are in the final stages of a third phase trial in India.

"To get the vaccines at the earliest, the government has requested the Indian government to buy vaccines for 20 per cent Nepalis," the paper said, quoting a Health Ministry official.

Nepal is also pursuing vaccines made in other countries.

"Around 15 vaccine candidates of different countries and companies are in third phase trials. The government has written to most of the countries for help and to the individual companies to procure the vaccines," said Dr Shyam Raj Upreti, coordinator of Nepal's COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Committee.

Last month, the government sent diplomatic notes to India, China, Russia, the UK and the US - countries whose

vaccines against the coronavirus have either completed the third phase trials or are near their completion - for early availability in Nepal, the report said.

Last month, India assured the people of Nepal that once it rolls out a vaccine against Covid, meeting their requirement will be a priority for New Delhi. "I would like to assure the people of Nepal that once a vaccine is rolled out, meeting Nepal's requirement will be a priority for us," Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla had said in Kathmandu during his visit to Nepal.

The government has estimated that vaccinating 52 per cent of the population would cost ₹ 48 billion, it said. Of Nepal's total population, those below 15 will not be vaccinated as vaccines on trials have not been tested on people below this age.

The World Health Organization has asked the government to prepare for the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines under COVAX programmes in the second trimester of 2021, Mr Upreti said.

Last month, President Bidya Devi Bhandari endorsed an ordinance to amend the Drug Act (1978) to facilitate the use of emergency medicines and vaccines for COVID-19 that have been tested and approved in other countries.

"Health workers who are at high risk of getting infected and passing the infection are the first priority. If health workers get infected, health services will be affected.

## ~ SummitTIMES ~ CLASSIFIEDS

### LAND FOR SALE

Two plots available - 30X40 sq ft and 50X30 sq ft  
Junkeri Dara, Samlik Marchak  
Price negotiable  
Contact : 6296366498,  
9641878315, 9593262407

### LAND FOR SALE

A land measuring an area for 50x32 1/2 at Roadside just below housing colony is for sale. It is just a one minute walking distance from Namchi bazaar taxi stand. Interested party may contact 9593373387 and 9434406761

### LAND FOR SALE

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

### FOR RENT

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

### GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

General land sale at Lower Sichey, suitable for construction, good locality, near the road, Total size: 90x55ft, (30x55ft each plot). genuine person may contact@9734122366.

### BUILDING FOR SALE

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

## Kalpataru Pratishthan holds Annual General Meeting

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 DEC:

Kalpataru Pratishthan held its 4th Annual General Meeting today at CBR Resource Center Samdong Kambal GPU, Raley, East Sikkim.

The meeting was attended by 34 persons and was chaired by MD (SABCO), N. Lepcha as a special invitee, a press release informs.

During the meeting, general secretary, Ganga Pd. Bhattarai placed the annual report with the description of activities held during the year and also presented the statement of accounts till the year end.



The Executive Committee was modified with induction of new members in the committee.

The issue regarding registration of land for the pratishthan was resolved with the unanimous agreement that a new clause be inserted in the constitution that in event of any eventuality of closure of the pratishthan the ownership of the land shall be transferred back to the

donor with all the standing property therein.

The Panchayat President and the members within the Rakdong Tintek to Patuk Singbel assured that they will provide all support to the Pratishthan and its activities.

The Members present unanimously decided to work in collaboration towards achieving the goal of the organization and fulfilling its objectives.

## TMC seeks recall...

whom the people vote, but it is his duty to make sure that they get to exercise their franchise without any intimidation.

He also urged the government machinery to be neutral during the West Bengal Assembly elections likely in April- May next year.

Dhankhar has often accused the state's civil and police administration of succumbing to the pressure exerted by the Mamata Banerjee government.

Roy cited Dhankhar's statement seeking expenditure details of the Bengal Business Summit, his demand for an apology from the chief minister over some of her recent comments and his "threat to 25 IPS officers" as instances of the governor "violating his rights and limitations".

"He has also said it is his duty to ensure free and fair polls. Who is he? It is the domain of the Election Commission. Similarly, only the CAG (Comptroller and Auditor General of India) has the authority to seek details of the expenses of state-organised events like the

Bengal Business Summit," Roy said.

"A constitutional head chosen by the Centre cannot interfere in the functioning of the state in this way. It is akin to interference in the parliamentary system. He is intentionally doing these things. He is not fit to occupy the seat of the governor which he has been occupying," Roy said.

Reacting to the development, BJP national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya said the governor is performing his constitutional duty as he finds that the state government is not performing its functions properly on certain parameters.

"I don't think the TMC's action of moving the President for the removal of the governor will have any impact. The President will go by his own understanding of the governor's role," he told reporters.

"The governor is acting within the constitutional parameters as the head of the state. The TMC is doing this as it is scared," the senior BJP leader added.

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**What is Novel Coronavirus - nCoV?**

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

**Symptoms of nCoV**

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

**Precautions to Prevent nCoV**

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

**Treatment**

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

If you seek help, you may call :

-Toll free no. 104  
District surveillance Officer  
EAST : 7029372100  
WEST : 9593297809  
NORTH : 9641957468  
SOUTH : 7407691463  
New STNM  
AMS : 9434711402

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



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सी.जी.-डी.एल.-अ.-05122020-223534  
CG-DL-E-05122020-223534

बरादारण

EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II—खण्ड 3—उप-खण्ड (ii)

PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (ii)

प्रकाशित के द्वारा

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 3851]

नई दिल्ली, शुक्रवार, दिसंबर 4, 2020/अग्रहायणा 13, 1942  
No. 3851] NEW DELHI, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2020/AGRAHAYANA 13, 1942

## NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 4th December, 2020

**S.O. 4389(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 to Km. 90.21 (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.

[भाग II—खण्ड 3(ii)] भारत का राजपत्र : असाधारण 15

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 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: Lingchom					
1	1262,1263,1256,1258,1259,1260	Private	Dry	0.1493000(Hectare)	0.1493000
2	1262,1263,1256,1258,1259,1260	Private	Dry	0.1657000(Hectare)	0.1657000
3	1264,1267	Private	Dry	0.0529000(Hectare)	0.0529000
4	1264,1267	Private	Dry	0.0429000(Hectare)	0.0429000
5	1265	Government	Wet	0.0446000(Hectare)	0.0446000
6	1265	Government	Wet	0.0248000(Hectare)	0.0248000
7	1269	Private	Dry	0.0317000(Hectare)	0.0317000
8	1270	Private	Dry	0.0135000(Hectare)	0.0135000
9	1271	Government	Wet	0.0139000(Hectare)	0.0139000
10	1271	Government	Wet	0.0077000(Hectare)	0.0077000
11	1272	Government	Dry	0.0493000(Hectare)	0.0493000
12	1272	Government	Dry	0.0440000(Hectare)	0.0440000
13	1289/2021	Private	Dry	0.0347000(Hectare)	0.0347000
14	1289/2021	Private	Dry	0.0253000(Hectare)	0.0253000
15	1290,1291	Private	Dry	0.0522000(Hectare)	0.0522000
16	1290,1291	Private	Dry	0.0574000(Hectare)	0.0574000
17	1294	Government	Wet	0.0347000(Hectare)	0.0347000
18	1294	Government	Wet	0.0192000(Hectare)	0.0192000
19	1317	Government	Wet	0.0044000(Hectare)	0.0044000
20	1317	Government	Wet	0.0036000(Hectare)	0.0036000
21	1319	Private	Dry	0.0394000(Hectare)	0.0394000
22	1319	Private	Dry	0.0041000(Hectare)	0.0041000
23	1323,1324	Private	Dry	0.0318000(Hectare)	0.0318000
24	1323,1324	Private	Dry	0.1136000(Hectare)	0.1136000
25	1325	Private	Dry	0.0025000(Hectare)	0.0025000
26	1325	Private	Dry	0.0383000(Hectare)	0.0383000
27	1325	Private	Dry	0.0416000(Hectare)	0.0416000

THE GAZETTE OF INDIA : EXTRAORDINARY [PART II—SEC. 3(ii)]					
28	1354	Private	dry	0.0452000(Hectare)	0.0452000
29	1354	Private	dry	0.0336000(Hectare)	0.0336000
30	1368,1375	Private	dry	0.0311000(Hectare)	0.0311000
31	1374,1373	Private	dry	0.0246000(Hectare)	0.0246000
32	1374,1373	Private	dry	0.0632000(Hectare)	0.0632000
33	1377,1376	Private	dry	0.0409000(Hectare)	0.0409000
34	1377,1376	Private	dry	0.0352000(Hectare)	0.0352000
35	1380,1379	Private	dry	0.0109000(Hectare)	0.0109000
36	1381	Government	dry	0.0760000(Hectare)	0.0760000
37	1381	Government	dry	0.0760000(Hectare)	0.0760000
38	1382	Private	dry	0.0231000(Hectare)	0.0231000
39	1382	Private	dry	0.0708000(Hectare)	0.0708000
40	1383	Private	dry	0.0371000(Hectare)	0.0371000
41	1383,1383/1341	Private	dry	0.0457000(Hectare)	0.0457000
42	1385	Private	dry	0.0333000(Hectare)	0.0333000
43	1385	Private	dry	0.0767000(Hectare)	0.0767000
44	207	Private	Dry	0.0767000(Hectare)	0.0767000
45	207	Private	Dry	0.0571000(Hectare)	0.0571000
46	213, 214	Private	Dry	0.0708000(Hectare)	0.0708000
47	213, 214	Private	Dry	0.0317000(Hectare)	0.0317000
48	215	Government	Wet	0.0311000(Hectare)	0.0311000
49	215	Government	Wet	0.0078000(Hectare)	0.0078000
50	262	Private	Dry	0.0632000(Hectare)	0.0632000
51	262	Private	Dry	0.0115000(Hectare)	0.0115000
52	289	Private	dry	0.0303000(Hectare)	0.0303000
53	289	Private	dry	0.1595000(Hectare)	0.1595000
54	292	Private	dry	0.0424000(Hectare)	0.0424000
55	294	Private	dry	0.0275000(Hectare)	0.0275000
56	295	Private	dry	0.0457000(Hectare)	0.0457000
57	298/1781	Private	dry	0.0376000(Hectare)	0.0376000
58	299	Private	dry	0.0173000(Hectare)	0.0173000
59	299,300	Private	dry	0.1033000(Hectare)	0.1033000
60	301	Private	dry	0.0356000(Hectare)	0.0356000
61	310/2367	Private	Dry	0.0449000(Hectare)	0.0449000
62	310/2367	Private	Dry	0.0320000(Hectare)	0.0320000
63	310/2369	Private	Dry	0.0243000(Hectare)	0.0243000
64	310/2369	Private	Dry	0.0216000(Hectare)	0.0216000
65	310/2373	Private	Dry	0.0041000(Hectare)	0.0041000
66	310/2373	Private	Dry	0.0320000(Hectare)	0.0320000
67	310/2376	Private	Dry	0.0423000(Hectare)	0.0423000
68	310/2376	Private	Dry	0.0332000(Hectare)	0.0332000

[भाग II—खण्ड 3(ii)] भारत का राजपत्र : असाधारण 17

69	312/2364	Private	Dry	0.0632000(Hectare)	0.0632000
70	312/2364	Private	Dry	0.0458000(Hectare)	0.0458000
71	313/2365	Private	Dry	0.0685000(Hectare)	0.0685000
72	313/2365	Private	Dry	0.0445000(Hectare)	0.0445000
73	313/2370	Private	Dry	0.0230000(Hectare)	0.0230000
74	313/2370	Private	Dry	0.0135000(Hectare)	0.0135000
75	316,317,318	Private	Dry	0.0253000(Hectare)	0.0253000
76	316,317,318	Private	Dry	0.0576000(Hectare)	0.0576000
77	321, 321/1791	Private	Dry	0.0192000(Hectare)	0.0192000
78	321, 321/1791	Private	Dry	0.0192000(Hectare)	0.0192000
79	328	Government	Dry	0.0050000(Hectare)	0.0050000
80	328	Government	Dry	0.0077000(Hectare)	0.0077000
81	329	Private	dry	0.1649000(Hectare)	0.1649000

82	329	Private	dry	0.0248000(Hectare)	0.0248000
83	537	Private	dry	0.0332000(Hectare)	0.0332000
84	537	Private	dry	0.0312000(Hectare)	0.0312000
85	538	Government	dry	0.0025000(Hectare)	0.0025000
86	538	Government	dry	0.0034000(Hectare)	0.0034000
87	539,540	Private	dry	0.0254000(Hectare)	0.0254000
88	539,540	Private	dry	0.0547000(Hectare)	0.0547000
89	565	Government	Wet	0.0207000(Hectare)	0.0207000
90	565	Government	Wet	0.0060000(Hectare)	0.0060000
91	566	Private	Dry	0.1135000(Hectare)	0.1135000
92	566	Private	Dry	0.0353000(Hectare)	0.0353000
93	580	Private	dry	0.0484000(Hectare)	0.0484000
94	580	Private	dry	0.0188000(Hectare)	0.0188000
95	581	Private	dry	0.0312000(Hectare)	0.0312000
96	582	Private	dry	0.0025000(Hectare)	0.0025000
97	583,585	Private	dry	0.0223000(Hectare)	0.0223000
98	583,585	Private	dry	0.1302000(Hectare)	0.1302000
99	584/1810	Private	dry	0.0494000(Hectare)	0.0494000
100	584/1810	Private	dry	0.0111000(Hectare)	0.0111000
101	587	Private	Dry	0.1172000(Hectare)	0.1172000
102	587	Private	Dry	0.0493000(Hectare)	0.0493000
103	588	Private	Dry	0.0519000(Hectare)	0.0519000
104	588	Private	Dry	0.3046000(Hectare)	0.3046000
105	603	Government	dry	0.0191000(Hectare)	0.0191000
106	603	Government	dry	0.0026000(Hectare)	0.0026000
107	613	Private	dry	0.0448000(Hectare)	0.0448000
108	614	Private	dry	0.0508000(Hectare)	0.0508000
109	617	Private	dry	0.0195000(Hectare)	0.0195000

THE GAZETTE OF INDIA : EXTRAORDINARY [PART II—SEC. 3(ii)]					
110	617,617/2186	Private	dry	0.0423000(Hectare)	0.0423000
111	618	Private	dry	0.0213000(Hectare)	0.0213000
112	618	Private	dry	0.0280000(Hectare)	0.0280000
113	619,620	Private	dry	0.0130000(Hectare)	0.0130000
114	619,620	Private	dry	0.0465000(Hectare)	0.0465000
115	621, 622/1801	Private	dry	0.0292000(Hectare)	0.0292000
116	622	Private	dry	0.0253000(Hectare)	0.0253000
117	622	Private	dry	0.0329000(Hectare)	0.0329000
118	623,624	Private	dry	0.0349000(Hectare)	0.0349000
119	627,628,626	Private	dry	0.0573000(Hectare)	0.0573000
120	629	Private	dry	0.0925000(Hectare)	0.0925000
121	639	Government	wet	0.0057000(Hectare)	0.0057000
122	639	Government	wet	0.0025000(Hectare)	0.0025000
123	652	Government	wet	0.0023000(Hectare)	0.0023000
124	652	Government	wet	0.0019000(Hectare)	0.0019000
125	664	Private	dry	0.0436000(Hectare)	0.0436000
126	665,664	Private	dry	0.0418000(Hectare)	0.0418000
127	676	Private	dry	0.0070000(Hectare)	0.0070000
128	676	Private	dry	0.0306000(Hectare)	0.0306000
129	677,675	Private	dry	0.0090000(Hectare)	0.0090000
130	677,675	Private	dry	0.0583000(Hectare)	0.0583000
131	716/1821	Private	dry	0.0510000(Hectare)	0.0510000
132	717	Private	dry	0.0048000(Hectare)	0.0048000
133	719	Government	wet	0.0026000(Hectare)	0.0026000
134	719	Government	wet	0.0017000(Hectare)	0.0017000
135	721	Private	dry	0.0603000(Hectare)	0.0603000
136	722	Private	dry	0.0037000(Hectare)	0.0037000
137	723	Private	dry	0.0449000(Hectare)	0.0449000

Village: Lungzik					
1	490	Private	Dry	0.0185000(Hectare)	0.0185000
2	518,600,601	Private	Dry	0.0078000(Hectare)	0.0078000
3	518,600,601	Private	Dry	0.1034000(Hectare)	0.1034000
4	519,520	Private	Dry	0.0571000(Hectare)	0.0571000
5	519,520	Private	Dry	0.0410000(Hectare)	0.0410000
6	525	Private	Dry	0.0744000(Hectare)	0.0744000
7	525	Private	Dry	0.0308000(Hectare)	0.0308000
8	526	Private	Dry	0.0577000(Hectare)	0.0577000
9	526	Private	Dry	0.0250000(Hectare)	0.0250000
10	530,528	Private	Dry	0.0502000(Hectare)	0.0502000
11	530,528	Private	Dry	0.0600000(Hectare)	0.0600000
12	531	Private	Dry	0.0402000(Hectare)	0.0402000

[भाग II—खण्ड 3(ii)] भारत का राजपत्र : असाधारण 19

13	532	Private	Dry	0.0665000(Hectare)	0.0665000
14	533	Private	Dry	0.1034000(Hectare)	0.1034000
15	533	Private	Dry	0.0447000(Hectare)	0.0447000
16	534,535	Private	Dry	0.0372000(Hectare)	0.0372000
17	535,534	Private	Dry	0.0410000(Hectare)	0.0410000
18	536	Private	Dry	0.0161000(Hectare)	0.0161000
19	537	Private	Dry	0.0325000(Hectare)	0.0325000
20	538,539	Private	Dry	0.0255000(Hectare)	0.0255000
21	581	Private	Dry	0.0703000(Hectare)	0.0703000
22	581	Private	Dry	0.0322000(Hectare)	0.0322000
23	582	Private	Dry	0.0684000(Hectare)	0.0684000
24	589	Government	Dry	0.0060000(Hectare)	0.0060000
25	589	Government	Dry	0.0162000(Hectare)	0.0162000
26	589	Private	Dry	0.0583000(Hectare)	0.0583000
27	589	Private	Dry	0.3037000(Hectare)	0.3037000
28	590	Private	Dry	0.0684000(Hectare)	0.0684000
29	590	Private	Dry	0.0161000(Hectare)	0.0161000
30	590	Government	Dry	0.0019000(Hectare)	0.0019000
31	590 / 765	Private	Dry	0.0703000(Hectare)	0.0703000
32	590/765	Private	Dry	0.0185000(Hectare)	0.0185000
33	614/1000	Private	Dry	0.0573000(Hectare)	0.0573000
34	614/1003	Private	Dry	0.1881000(Hectare)	0.1881000
35	614/1003	Private	Dry	0.0931000(Hectare)	0.0931000
36	614/996	Private	Dry	0.0576000(Hectare)	0.0576000
37	615	Private	Dry	0.0050000(Hectare)	0.0050000
38	615	Private	Dry	0.0310000(Hectare)	0.0310000
39	620	Private	Dry	0.0457000(Hectare)	0.0457000
40	620	Private	Dry	0.0665000(Hectare)	0.0665000
41	622	Private	Dry	0.0173000(Hectare)	0.0173000
42	622	Private	Dry	0.0728000(Hectare)	0.0728000
43	666,665	Private	Dry	0.1595000(Hectare)	0.1595000
44	666,665	Private	Dry	0.0402000(Hectare)	0.0402000
45	670	Private	Dry	0.0034000(Hectare)	0.0034000
46	670	Private	Dry	0.0502000(Hectare)	0.0502000
47	671	Private	Dry	0.0188000(Hectare)	0.0188000
48	671	Private	Dry	0.0447000(Hectare)	0.0447000
49	685	Private	Dry	0.1302000(Hectare)	0.1302000
50	685	Private	Dry	0.0577000(Hectare)	0.0577000
51	686	Private	Dry	0.0026000(Hectare)	0.0026000
52	686	Private	Dry	0.0139000(Hectare)	0.0139000
53	697	Government	Dry	0.0349000(Hectare)	0.0349000



## Issues – Explaining vrs. Raising

### *Replacing reasoning with rhetoric cannot lead to resolutions*

This might be the Information Age, but there is still a long way to go for it to become the age of understanding. A people fed on headlines and getting issues explained in slogans, leave themselves open to easy excitability and when arguments are thrown from political positions, reasoning gets warped by inferred intents and prejudiced aspersions. With attention spans already shortened by easy distractions, one is left with a situation where faculties in general are not even vaguely conducive to serving better comprehension.

And one speaks not just in the context of Sikkim, but expands it to any development almost anywhere in the world. Take the Donald making headlines for instance – he offered to drain the swamp (of political and economic corruption) in the US of A, but continues to speak (tweet, rather) only of the slights he has suffered and has now become a squatter in White House who will soon need to be flushed out. Since he never explained how he would drain the swamp and just raised the bogey, there is really no way of knowing whether he ever pursued that agenda or not. Closer home, tribal organizations of Nagaland continue with their violent suppression of women's empowerment claiming that it dilutes their "old laws" (yes, even they have old laws, and many of them just as regressive as they are elsewhere), but fail to explain how progress equates to dilution. The Old Laws full-stopped in the sixties when ideas of assisted women's empowerment had not yet come about, especially not in tribal and still feudal societies. In Sikkim, inheritance rights of women remains waylaid as an Act not yet notified and in mindsets still calcified. It should really take more than just a call to sentiments to derail such initiatives. In Sikkim, the current flavor for such raising-without-explaining is the reservation of Scheduled Tribes seats to accommodate the Limboos and Tamangs. Some have even argued that expanding the number of Assembly seats to 40 will dilute provisions of Article 371F but have failed to explain how status quo forever can be a good thing. Or, for that matter, how they make peace with reservations and quotas in every sphere of activity when the only Old Law reservation in Sikkim was with regard political representation. And such penchant for raising and demanding without explaining continues around us in the form of statehood demands and claims surrounding demonetization.

In Sikkim, as also in its immediate neighbourhood, inherent paranoia and sentimentality are teased often to foist issues, which, even when vaguely argued by its promoters, snowball into complicated puzzles that become more confounding and intractable as more people join the debate. Issues rarely get resolved with such approaches, and this serves the interests of lazy politics rather well because it sets up issues for easy invocations in the future. While it would be easy to dismiss these complications to political gimmicks born from 'ulterior motives', more often than not, these are situations which have been run to the ground after being born of genuine concern. In all of these, a resolution slips through the fingers because the public debate that is required for any sensitive and emotional issue to be resolved, is left wanting. Following a projected public outcry, the matter starts getting directed by leaders, both, from the ruling as well as Opposition camps, and the public involvement, without which a result is not possible, gets sidelined. The pursuit, once such issues enter the political rhetoric, becomes one of extending the debate and scoring points, not resolving it or even refining it or finding closure. One has seen this routine get played out too often in the past, not to cringe when a new opportunity stands on the brink of being similarly distracted.

### WRITE US:

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



# 9 tips to give yourself the best shot at sticking to new year's resolutions

JOANNE DICKSON  
*theconversation.com*

For many cultures, the dawn of the new year is marked not only with celebration, but also the opportunity for personal reflection and growth.

But as the year progresses, our initial drive for self-betterment can falter.

The good news is our tendency to give up can be circumvented. There are various ways we can strengthen our commitment to our new year's goals.

#### A MISMATCH BETWEEN AIM AND ACTIONS

In early 2020, my colleagues and I surveyed 182 participants to study personal goal factors which promoted well-being and sustained people's pursuit of their most important new year's resolution.

We found 74% of participants listed their most important resolution as the same, or nearly the same, as in the previous year.

More than half of the resolutions focused on either "diet" (29%) or "exercise" (24%). This suggests health-related goals tend to get rebooted each year — perhaps because New Year's Day follows plenty of end-of-year festivities and feasting.

Furthermore, despite the participants reporting a strong commitment to their listed resolution, about two thirds gave up within one month. Other studies have shown similarly high rates for not sticking with new year's resolutions.

If you are wanting to set yourself a resolution for 2021, a good place to start is to reflect on the year that was.

Our personal reflection on 2020, and the key lessons we took away from it, will help determine our hopes and visions for the year ahead.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, 2020 was marked by prolonged lockdowns, isolation, loss and shifts in opportunity. But personal growth and strength can stem from such experiences, as past research has revealed.

Living though difficult and stressful times can pave the way for a greater appreciation for life,

deeper self-understanding, and increased personal resilience (which means being able to bounce back quicker).

When setting resolutions, it's important they're linked to meaningful goals and values that can sustain motivation.

For example, the resolution to "lose five kilos" will more likely endure in the face of obstacles, difficulties or other competing resolutions if it's linked to higher personal values, such as beliefs about one's health or appearance.

Our study also found "goal flexibility", which refers to being able to adapt to various situations, was positively associated with mental well-being. In turn, this was associated with a greater chance of sticking to new year's resolutions.

So being adaptable in the process of meeting your goals will not only improve your general well-being, it will also help you pursue your new year's resolutions.

#### TIPS FOR SETTING YOUR 2021 NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

When it comes to sticking to resolutions, insight gleaned from psychology research can be distilled into several practical and easy-to-apply tips.

1) Set resolutions that match your deeper values

Your personal beliefs and hopes have a key role in sustaining your motivational impetus and keeping you focused. This form of motivation is associated with increased personal well-being.

2) Try to set "new" resolutions

This is preferable to recycling old ones. If you still want to pursue a resolution from last year, try to be more specific in your approach.

3) Set resolutions as specific plans

These should account for factors such as time, place and people. Specific plans provide the mental cues needed to stick to our goals.

This is because they're also less mentally taxing than more vague or generic plans that require further thinking. For instance, consider this resolution:

I will walk for at least 30 minutes around

the nearby lake with my friend Sam on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings.

It already sets a framework that provides plenty of mental cues and strategies on which to follow up. Also, including another person in the plan also sets a greater sense of responsibility, accountability and social enjoyment — compared with a more vague resolution such as:

I'll go on more walks this year.

4) Identify and imagine your desired positive outcome

Visualising your goals will help keep you focused on identifying the specific resources your resolution requires. It will also help mobilise a sustained pursuit of the goal.

5) Reward small gains along the way

Enjoying small progress gains is not only pleasurable, it will also help to motivate you.

6) Set resolutions you want to pursue, rather than those you think you should

Research consistently shows pursuing freely chosen goals that are internally motivated enhances well-being. Meanwhile, goals that are externally motivated are associated with psychological distress and are less likely to be achieved.

Examples of external motivation include doing something because the situation demands it, because it might please someone else, or to avoid shame or guilt that may arise if it isn't done.

7) Be flexible

If your resolution isn't working for you, reset it or adjust it to make it more meaningful and/or achievable.

8) Be realistic

The more realistic your resolution is, the more achievable it will be and the less likely you are to set yourself up for failure.

9) Learn from past failures

Instead of engaging in self-criticism and negative self-evaluation, a positive attitude towards failed resolutions can help you do better next time.

[the writer is Associate Professor of Psychology, Edith Cowan University]

# No Spare Change: How Charities, Buskers and Beggars Aren't Feeling So Festive in Our Cashless Society

SPENCER M. ROSS &  
SOMMER KAPITAN  
*theconversation.com*

Collectors for the Paralympic Games carried donation buckets ahead of the recent Santa parade in Auckland, asking for gold coin donations. Onlookers shrugged them off: "Sorry, no cash on me!"

To the rescue, a charity volunteer waved a contactless "tap-and-go" machine that could connect straight to users' bank accounts. But only a few people reached for their wallets to pull out their cards.

This anecdote reflects a global trend. As the Salvation Army reports, the usual American holiday fundraising drive has struggled in 2020, with 50% fewer donations than last year.

Cash is changing hands less frequently than ever before. In the US, it accounted for 30% of retail purchases in 2020, down from 40% in 2009. In the UK, the change has been even more rapid: only 23% of payments are made in cash, down from 60% in 2009.

We may be becoming a cashless society, but our research shows people are also less receptive to using contactless technology when casually solicited by charities. What happens when your traditional business model relies on bills and coins?

#### CASH IS RUNNING OUT

Cheques and bank cards have

been around for decades, but financial technology (fintech) innovations have increased exponentially in recent years. From tap-and-go card readers at retail sites and e-banking apps on smart phones, to peer-to-peer payment apps such as Venmo and PayPal that allow one-touch cashless money transfers, it's a digital consumer world.

COVID-19 has further fuelled the cashless revolution. In the early days of the pandemic, the World Health Organization had to deny reports that cash was spreading the coronavirus, but advised people to wash their hands after touching real money. Digital finance and fintech apps saw a 24-32% boost in daily download rates as the pandemic surged.

The declining velocity of cash transactions even led to the US Federal Reserve rationing certain denominations in mid-2020, telling commercial banks it was running out of spare change. Cash withdrawals fell precipitously in the UK, with 40% fewer people withdrawing money from ATMs than in 2019.

By November, "contactless preferred" signs had become the new norm for consumers.

#### OVERCOMING CONSUMER RESISTANCE

While retailers and online merchants have benefited from cashless payment options, donation-seekers

are left rattling an empty cup.

Aside from people carrying less cash, our research suggests another major reason is that people simply don't expect to see beggars or buskers with a swipe machine, or a QR code or Venmo symbol on their signs.

We tested this using simple measures of reaction time. People responded faster to cashless options in retail settings or with institutional charities, but took the longest to respond in casual situations, such as street appeals or requests for cash outside malls and shops.

This makes sense: it feels relatively normal at a formal charity gala, for instance, to use cashless payment methods. For casual fundraisers and the needy, however, it is a major obstacle.

Unlike other kinds of charitable donation, giving to the homeless and needy is almost exclusively impulsive. People typically donate spare change if and when they have it. It's hardly surprising, then, that beggars and panhandlers have been seeing less spare change since 2015.

#### A QUESTION OF TRUST

However, there are initiatives aimed at helping donation-seekers adapt to the new normal. Salvation Army bell ringers in the US now accept Apple Pay and Google Pay, while some buskers list their Venmo handles on their instrument cases.

In China, WeChat QR codes are distributed to the homeless to allow mobile donations. And in California, 32% of homeless people have been gifted smart phones from social programs to help them access social and governmental services.

Dipjar is a one-swipe credit card machine that bundles transactions for non-profit organisations. And The Busking Project offers a peer-to-peer payment app that allows fans to connect to street performers and make in-app donations.

Yet scepticism and prejudice tend to greet old-fashioned donation-seekers using modern payment methods. There is an element of trust involved in swiping a credit card, and our research suggests these solutions will have limited practical effect for the foreseeable future.

We need to remember, of course, that consumer acceptance of credit, swipe and other non-cash payment methods has evolved over 50 years. The next time a worthy group or needy individual asks for your help and presents a swipe machine or an app, your response will help determine the pace of this next evolutionary step.

[Spencer M. Ross is Assistant Professor of Marketing, University of Massachusetts Lowell; Sommer Kapitan is Senior Lecturer in Marketing, Auckland University of Technology]



# CM calls on Governor to extend New Year greetings

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 30 DEC:**

Chief Minister, PS Tamang called on Governor, Ganga Prasad at Raj Bhawan today. It was a courtesy call by the Chief Minister to extend New Year Greetings to the Governor, informs a press release from the Chief Minister's Office.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister informed the Governor about various initiatives and developmental activities undertaken by the State Government in the field of Health, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Education and many other departments to address the basic needs and welfare



of the people of Sikkim.

He also informed about several measures and noteworthy achievements of the Government for the benefit of the Sikkimese society.

The Governor also

shared suggestions and requested to take all possible measures for the prevention of

COVID-19. He also advised to carry forward the sustainable developmental works rendered towards the upliftment and prosperity of the

people in the State.

During the meeting, both the Governor and the Chief Minister also exchanged New Year's greetings.

## CM's Sakewa greetings

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 30 DEC:**

Chief Minister, PS Tamang has extended his warm greetings and best wishes to the people of Sikkim on the occasion of Sakewa, an official communiqué informs.

In his message, the

Chief Minister "wishes for positivity to spread over everyone's life and fill it with success and glory and mark the beginning of life, fortune and success. He also offered his prayers for the well-being and prosperity of the State."

## 7 new cases push COVID-19 tally of Andamans to 4,936

**PORT BLAIR, DEC 30 (PTI):** The COVID-19 tally of Andaman and Nicobar Islands rose to 4,936 on Wednesday as seven more people tested positive for the infection, a health official said.

All the fresh infections were detected during contact tracing, he said.

Eight more people have recovered from the disease, the official said.

The archipelago now has 63 active cases, while 4,811 people have recovered and 62 patients have succumbed to the infection so far, he said.

The administration has tested over 1.79 lakh samples for COVID-19 so far, the official said.

## Assam reports 66 new COVID-19 cases, two more deaths

Guwahati, Dec 29 (PTI): Assam's COVID-19 caseload rose to 2,16,063 as 66 more people tested positive for the disease on Tuesday, while two fresh fatalities pushed the death toll to 1,040, Health and Family Welfare Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

Two women, aged above 60, succumbed to the disease, the minister said, adding that the fatalities were reported from Sivasagar and Dhubri districts.

"Sad to share the demise of two #COVID patients today..Condolences and Prayers," he said on Twitter.

The current fatality rate in the state is at 0.48 per cent. The new cases were detected out of 23,238 tests conducted during the day with a positivity rate of 0.28 per cent, he said.

The fresh cases include 29 from Kamrup Metropolitan district.

Eighty-seven people were cured of the disease and discharged from various hospitals during the day, taking the total number of recoveries to 2,11,720.

The recovery rate among coronavirus patients in the state is at 97.99 per cent. Assam now has 3,300 active cases, accounting for 1.52 per cent of the total caseload, and three patients have migrated to other states. The state has so far conducted 59,33,893 sample tests for COVID-19.

## Free, fair elections are not held in Bengal: Dhankhar

**KOLKATA, DEC 30 (PTI):** West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Wednesday alleged that free and fair elections are not held in the state, and it is his duty to ensure that people get the opportunity to exercise their franchise without fear.

"Free, fair elections without fear are not held (in the state)," Dhankhar told reporters during a visit to a temple in the western part of the city.

The governor said it does not concern him for whom the people vote, but it is his duty to make sure that they get to exercise their franchise without any intimidation.

He also urged the government machinery to be neutral during the West Bengal Assembly elections scheduled in April-May next year.

The Trinamool Congress, which has been at loggerheads with Dhankhar since he became governor in July last year, has urged President Ram Nath Kovind to remove him, claiming that he has been working in an unconstitutional manner.

"Since taking over, the governor has been making wild allegations in a totally unconstitutional manner, against the state administration and the police," TMC spokesperson and Rajya Sabha MP Sukhendu Sekhar Roy said.

## Books tells tale of Bengal's Bike Ambulance Dada

**NEW DELHI, DEC 30 (PTI):** A new book documents the journey of Padma Shri awardee Karimul Hak, who has saved hundreds of lives with his free bike-ambulance service from his village in West Bengal to the nearest hospital.

"Bike Ambulance Dada, The Inspiring Story of Karimul Hak: The Man Who Saved 4000 Lives" is an authorised biography of this man by journalist-turned-social entrepreneur Biswajit Jha, published by Penguin.

Twenty-five years

ago, Hak lost his mother because he could not afford an ambulance and there was no other way to take her to a hospital. However, when his co-worker fell sick, Hak resolved to ensure that history did not repeat itself.

The tea garden worker started this free bike-ambulance service in an attempt to fill the gap the insufficient rural healthcare created.

Jha says he wanted more and more people to know about the selfless work of Hak despite himself facing tremendous hardship and limita-

tions throughout his life. "Hak's life is living proof that you don't have to be an extraordinary person to do extraordinary work. You can be ordinary and still do outstanding work for people. His life is an inspiration for all of us," the author says.

Tarini Uppal, editor of the book, says, "When I received this book, I hadn't heard of Karimul Hak but when I finished reading it, I was full of hope that there is good in the world. This is a real life hero amongst us whose story deserves to be read by many.

## RJD seeks to fish in troubled NDA waters in Bihar

**PATNA, DEC 30 (PTI):** Defection of JD(U) MLAs to the BJP in Arunachal Pradesh and the resultant cold vibes between the partners in the ruling coalition in Bihar, seem to have kindled fresh hopes in the RJD which has ended up heading the opposition here despite being the single largest party.

Shyam Rajak, a former national general secretary of the JD(U) who joined RJD shortly before the recent assembly elections, on Wednesday sought to fish in the troubled waters with the claim that 17 MLAs of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's party were willing to cross over.

"They are all feeling stifled in the current dispensation where the CM appears to have capitulated before a domineering BJP. They are willing to switch sides as soon as possible," Rajak, who was the JD(U)'s deputy leader in the previous assembly, said here.

He claimed en masse defection of the JD(U) MLAs has been put on hold since the RJD hoped that more would like to follow suit soon which would "raise the number sufficiently enough to cause a split, tenable under the anti-defection law" in the party which has 43 MLAs.

Rajak's claim is the latest in a series of averments by RJD leaders, following the defection of six of the seven JD(U) MLAs in Arunachal Pradesh to the BJP.

At the JD(U) national executive meeting here on Sunday, the party adopted a resolution condemning the "violation of the spirit of coalition politics" in the north-eastern state.

K C Tyagi, the party's outspoken national general secretary and spokesman, asserted that events in Arunachal will not cast a shadow in Bihar but admitted that the JD(U) had felt "aahat" (hurt).

BJP leaders here have insisted that the party "did not poach" the JD(U) MLAs in Arunachal Pradesh where legislators recently switched sides of their own accord. However, RJD national vice-president Shivanand Tiwari has maintained that a common link ran through the Arunachal Pradesh defections and the rebellion by Chirag Paswan's LJP in Bihar.

"The LJP could not have done what it did in the assembly polls without the BJP's tacit approval. And the JD(U) bore

the brunt, finishing with a tally that is less than that of the BJP," Tiwari, who was formerly with the JD(U), said.

The veteran socialist has been of the view that the BJP was trying to "settle old scores" with Nitish Kumar who had snapped ties with it in 2013 disapproving of the ascendance of Narendra Modi "a man who does not forget and forgive". Tiwari had said that if the chief minister chose to pull out of the NDA, there will be a realignment between the RJD and the JD(U), "but the ball is in his court, he has to decide what matters to him his dignity or the trappings of power".

Recently, Uday Narayan Chaudhary, another former confidant of Nitish Kumar who has been with the RJD for the past few years, decided to up the ante.

"Nitish Kumar should give up the chief minister's chair and pull out of the NDA. He should help Tejashwi Yadav form the new government and the RJD would return the favour by backing him as prime ministerial candidate in 2024," Chaudhary, a former state assembly speaker, had said.

RJD spokesman Mrityunjay Tiwari was quick to assert "as the party's authorised spokesman I can say this is a personal opinion. Whom to support as a prime ministerial candidate is a decision only the national leadership can take". He, however, said he agreed with Chaudhary's contention that Kumar should help Yadav become the chief minister.

"The NDA is unstable and our leader is bound to form a government in the not so distant future. It will only be appropriate for Nitish Kumar to be on the right side of history," said the RJD spokesman. Meanwhile, the NDA in Bihar has expressed bemusement at the buoyancy in the RJD camp and accused the opposition party of being "desperate for power".

"They are doling out offers of prime ministership despite having themselves been rejected by the people. They should give up their antics and consult a good astrologer instead," said JD(U) MLC and spokesman Neeraj Kumar.

BJP spokesman Nikhil Anand said most of the noise in the RJD camp is emanating from leaders who are feeling short-changed by the party leadership which cares little for those not belonging to the family of its jailed supremo Lalu Prasad.

## Tika Maya Subba Meritorious Award for 3 students



**BIKASH CHETTRI  
NAMCHI, 30 DEC:**

Tika Maya Subba Meritorious Award Trust Kitam, South Sikkim, organized the 7th Tika Maya Subba Meritorious Award ceremony today at Mayal Lyang Children's Home.

In the programme, the 7th Tika Maya Meritorious Award was presented to two students of Kitam Senior Secondary School who have excelled in the 2020 board examination, one 'home topper' student of the same examination belonging to Mayal Lyang Children's Home and a student of Namchi Girls Senior Secondary School.

Altogether three students who were toppers in their respective institutions were awarded

with certificates and cash prize of Rs 5000 each.

Chairperson of State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR), Roma Tamang, attended the programme as the chief guest along with the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha's women's wing convenor and general secretary as guests.

The members of Tika Maya Subba Meritorious Award Trust who are the family members (sons, sons-in-law, daughters and daughters-in-law, and grandchildren) of Late Tika Maya Subba of Kitam bazaar were present in the programme as the hosts.

The children of Mayal Lyang Children's Home presented two cultural shows, while the director of the children's home,

Suk Tshering Lepcha offered prayers for Late Tika Maya Subba and her family.

Son of Late Tika Maya Subba hosted the program while her second daughter-in-law Prameela Rai read out her short biography. The family members also handed cash support to Mayal Lyang Children's Home, and also to the kids who presented the cultural shows. The gift boxes brought for the children were handed over to the owner of the Children's Home.

The chief guest in her address, congratulated the family for instituting this award in memory of their mother.

The awardee belonging to Mayal Lyang Children's Home thanked the organizers for their support.

## Bengal reports first case of new COVID strain

**KOLKATA, DEC 30 (PTI):** West Bengal has reported its first case of a mutant coronavirus strain that surfaced in the United Kingdom, a senior health official said on Wednesday.

The patient, son of a senior official of the state Health Department, tested positive for the Variant of Concern 202012/01 (VOC-202012/01) mutant coronavirus strain after returning from London 10 days ago, the official said.

"The youth is undergoing treatment at the Calcutta Medical College and Hospital's super-specialty section. He is under observation. We have advised all those who have come in contact with him to isolate themselves," the official told PTI.

He had tested positive for COVID-19 at the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport on the day of his return to Kolkata, he said.

"As he had returned from the UK, we had sent his samples to Kalyani's National Institute of Bio-medical Genomics for

genetic analysis as per the protocol set by the Centre.

"The new strain of the coronavirus was detected during his genetic analysis. We had sent the report to Delhi-based National Centre for Disease Control, which has asked us to put him under strict isolation," the official said.

Six others who had come in contact with the youth at the airport also underwent genetic analysis but tested negative for the new COVID strain, he said.

The youth, however, was not having "serious health issues" and was "quite okay" at the moment, the official said.

The state Health Department has decided to prepare a list of passengers who had shared the flight with the infected youth, he said.

The administration is also planning to screen the officials and the crew of the flight who had come in contact with the youth, the official said.

"We are trying to locate them and find out about their health con-

ditions, depending on which we will decide whether to conduct any medical examination. We will ask them to stay under home isolation," he said.

Twenty cases of the mutant coronavirus strain have so far been reported across the country, of which eight were detected in Delhi and seven in Bengaluru.

The mutant strain VOC-202012/01 is defined by a set of 17 changes or mutations.

More than 40 countries including India have banned travel to and from the UK, a move several scientists said was necessary in view of the rapid spread of the VOC-202012/01, which was first detected on September 21.

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## Manchester United go second as late Rashford winner sinks Wolves

**MANCHESTER, 30 DEC (REUTERS):** Manchester United climbed two places up to second in the Premier League after Marcus Rashford scored deep into stoppage time to give them a fortuitous 1-0 home win over Wolverhampton Wanderers on Tuesday.

The result left United on 30 points from 15 games, two behind champions and leaders Liverpool who visit Newcastle United on Wednesday, while Wolves stayed 12th on 21 points.

Rashford gave United the win when it seemed the game was heading for a goalless stalemate, with his left-footed shot taking a deflection off Romain Saiss and beating goalkeeper Rui Patricio at the near post.

Rashford acknowledged United ground out the win after a laboured performance although manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer deployed an adventurous formation with three forwards behind striker Edinson Cavani.

"Today was tough but we expected a tough game and managed to get over the line," Rashford told the BBC. "It's the deciding goal. Probably not the most beautiful but we will take what we can get and move on."

"We can't look too far ahead. We are a team that is still doing a lot of work on ourselves. We have to take it one game at a time but if we can keep finding ways to win like this we will see where we are at the end of the season."

The visitors missed several chances in the first half as they stifled United with crisp one-touch passing but the best opportunity fell to the home side when Patricio kept out a Fernandes sitter in the 34th minute.

At the other end, United keeper David De Gea parried shots by Ruben Neves and Pedro Neto while Saiss headed a Joao Moutinho free kick onto the top of the crossbar.

Patricio also clawed out a vicious long-range effort by Paul Pogba in the 75th minute and Wolves seemed to have done enough to earn a point after soaking up United pressure in the closing stages.

But they were undone from a seemingly innocuous move as Rashford picked up a long Fernandes pass on the right, cut inside and with little support in the penalty area, he hit a hopeful shot which wrong-footed Patricio.

Wolves manager Nuno Espirito Santo rued his team's lapse of concentration in the dying minutes but added they needed to put the disappointment behind them quickly amid a busy festive schedule.

"This is football and a learning process," the Portuguese told Amazon Prime. "It's cruel in the moment but you can't stay feeling sorry. You have to move forward. We created chances. Sometimes we should finish more."

# Athletes Act: Stars rise up against racial injustice in 2020

**OKLAHOMA CITY, DEC 30 (AP):** As the NBA neared its restart in late July, its players vowed to keep the calls for social justice reform at the forefront in the wake of the police killings of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor.

The basketball stars weren't the only athletes to act.

In a most unusual year already thrown into chaos by the coronavirus pandemic, many athletes took unprecedented steps when a nationwide reckoning on race spilled into the streets of American cities after the death of Floyd, a Black man, during a May arrest in Minneapolis.

Normally focused on the games they play, this time the sports world stood up U.S. Open tennis champion Naomi Osaka, NASCAR's Bubba Wallace, the NFL's Malcolm Jenkins and Kenny Stills, WNBA star Nneka Ogwumike, and basketball's Chris Paul, LeBron James and Steph Curry were among the most prominent players to help turn protest cries of "Black Lives Matter," "Say His Name" and "Say Her Name" into tangible action.

The NBA painted "Black Lives Matter" on the courts inside their Orlando, Florida, "bubble" and social justice messages were emblazoned on the backs of jerseys. Players and coaches during "The Star-Spangled Banner" locked arms and knelt.

Kneeling, which drew the ire of President Donald Trump and several team owners when NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick started doing it in 2016 to protest racial injustice, became a ubiquitous



gesture during the national anthem this year -- and during rallies after Floyd was killed by a white police officer who pressed a knee against his neck for nearly eight minutes.

As excitement built as games returned, another sobering moment pushed the sports world to mobilize. Jacob Blake, a Black man, was shot seven times by police on Aug. 23 in Kenosha, Wisconsin, leaving him paralyzed from the waist down.

"We all hurt," Chris Paul, president of the National Basketball Players Association, said at the time.

"We're all tired of just seeing the same thing over and over again, and everybody just expects us to be OK just because we get paid great money. We're human. We have real feelings."

Three days later, the Milwaukee Bucks refused to play

against the Orlando Magic and demanded Wisconsin officials address police brutality. The whole league shut down temporarily, with other sports such as Major League Baseball, the WNBA, the National Hockey League and the National Football League halting games and practices.

Paul met with NBA players, and they decided awareness wasn't enough anymore. "We're about action," Paul said.

"And that's what our meeting was about. It's about real action. We've been saying this, we've been saying that, but what's the action?"

Paul later backed up his words. He joined nearly 2,500 people on a march to a voting site in North Carolina. More than 20 NBA teams eventually signed on to host voting or other election-related activities including voter registration and poll worker training

in their arenas or practice facilities. James, The AP's Male Athlete of the Year, already had started More Than A Vote. The organization dedicated to maximizing Black turnout in November drew more than 42,000 volunteers to work at polling stations.

In August, Curry appeared with his wife, Ayesha, and their two daughters in a video endorsing president-elect Joe Biden during the Democratic National Convention.

Osaka whose father is Haitian and mother is Japanese declared she would not play her semifinal of a U.S. Open tuneup tournament after Blake's shooting. Other tennis players expressed support and the tournament was halted for one day, prompting Osaka to remain in the draw.

The AP's Female Athlete of the Year later won the U.S. Open tournament while wearing a mask with the name of

Tamir Rice, a 12-year-old boy killed by police in Ohio in 2014.

Throughout the event, Osaka wore masks honoring Black victims of violence -- a different one for each of the seven rounds it took for her to win the tournament. The names were Taylor, Elijah McClain, Trayvon Martin, Ahmaud Arbery, Floyd, Philando Castile and Rice.

On Election Day, there were no games or practices in major college and pro sports. Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes urged fans to vote at Arrowhead Stadium. WNBA player Chiney Ogumike and former WNBA player Tamika Catchings signed up to be poll workers.

Stills was one of 87 demonstrators arrested at a protest march at the house of Kentucky's attorney general to demand justice for Taylor, who was shot and killed

by police in Louisville when they burst into her home in a botched raid.

In the WNBA "bubble," players wore jerseys with Taylor's name on the back and warmup shirts with "Black Lives Matter" on the front and "Say Her Name" on the back.

"Black Lives Matter" also was featured prominently on the league's courts.

Wallace, the only full-time Black driver at the NASCAR national level, first began speaking out against racial injustice in America in the spring.

His car featured a "Black Lives Matter" paint scheme. In June, he successfully called on NASCAR to ban the display of the Confederate flag at races.

"If I feel something is right, say it, and that's it," he said. "It doesn't need to be for the press or the cameras or the attention. It's Bubba Wallace and I say what I want to."

## Indian women's hockey team to resume international competition with tour of Argentina in January



**NEW DELHI, DEC 30 (PTI)** Indian hockey will hit the restart button and begin the Olympic preparations when the women's team travels to Argentina next week for its first tour in nearly a year after the COVID-19 pandemic abruptly halted all competitions around the world.

A core group of 25 players and seven support staff will leave from New Delhi on January 3. The Indian women's team will compete in eight matches against hosts Argentina, starting from January 17.

"We have a little over 200 days before we arrive in Tokyo for the Olympic Games in July 2021 and it was very important to play matches against a strong team like Argentina," Indian women's hockey team captain Rani said in a release issued by Hockey India.

"The team is really excited for this opportunity and has been keenly looking forward to this tour, this exposure will make us understand the level we are at after nearly a five-month long National Coaching Camp in Bengaluru."

The Indian women's team last participated in an international tour in January this year when it travelled to New Zealand for a five-match series. It played both New Zealand and Great Britain in the five-match series and were victorious in three of them.

"I am happy that after one year we are able to play international matches. This tour will give us information for the next step to be made in our preparations for the Tokyo Olympic Games," said chief coach Sjoerd Marijne.

Hockey India and the host National Association have planned to create a bio bubble in Argentina for both the teams.

The Indian women's team will be staying in a hotel where provisions to have separate rooms/halls for the team for all the meals, team meetings, sessions etc have been made.

The accommodation will be on twin sharing basis, where the room sharing partners will remain same throughout the tour who will also be same even in case of the

seating arrangement in the team coach/bus, this has been planned carefully keeping in mind all necessary requirements.

"This tour has been planned very carefully keeping in mind the safety of players and we are truly grateful to Hockey India and SAI for ensuring we resume competition despite the ongoing pandemic," Rani said.

Among other protocols, the team members will not be moving out of the bubble and meeting any third-party source as even while travelling to the match/training venue the team will be travelling in a dedicated transport which will only take upto 80% capacity.

The entire Indian contingent will undergo COVID-19 RT-PCR Test 72 hours prior to their departure from New Delhi.

There is no requirement of quarantine upon arrival in Argentina but the team will still be following all safety and health measures as advised by the respective Governments of India & Argentina.

## Australia Joe Burns, bring back Warner in fold along with Pucovski

**MELBOURNE, DEC 30 (PTI):** Australia on Wednesday brought back David Warner and Will Pucovski to bolster their under-fire batting lineup for the remainder of the Test series against India and dropped struggling opener Joe Burns.

Burns just has a half-century to show in his four innings and has been struggling for form for some time now. He has managed scores of 8, 51 not out, 0 and 4 in Adelaide and Melbourne. The series is locked 1-1 after India won the second Test in Melbourne on Monday.

With Warner, who missed out a major chunk of the India assignment due to a groin injury, looking fit for the job, dropping Burns was an easy decision to make.

"Joe Burns has been released from the squad and will return to the Brisbane Heat. Unfortunately, Joe's returns haven't been what he or the selectors would like or what we consider he is capable of," National selector Trev-



or Hohns said in a statement. "David Warner, Will Pucovski and Sean Abbott will rejoin the squad in Melbourne tomorrow evening in preparation for the Sydney Test," he added.

Hohns said Warner would be given every chance to be back in the XI for the third Test starting January 7 in Sydney.

"David has made strong progress in his recovery from injury and will be given every chance to play in Sydney with another seven days until the match. Sean has fully recovered from a calf strain and is also available for selection."

Talking about Pucovski, who suffered a concussion

during a practice game, Hohns said, "Will is in the final stages of the graduated return to play protocols and has been symptom free for some time. He will be fit to play in Sydney subject to completing the return to play protocols and an independent assessment."

Updated Australia Squad:

Tim Paine (c), Sean Abbott, Pat Cummins, Cameron Green, Marcus Harris, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Moises Henriques, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Michael Neser, James Pattinson, Will Pucovski, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Mitchell Swepson, Matthew Wade and David Warner.

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# China sentences 10 seeking to flee Hong Kong to prison terms

HONG KONG (AP): A Chinese court on Wednesday sentenced 10 pro-democracy activists and protesters who sought to flee Hong Kong by speedboat to between seven months and three years in prison, in a case with major political overtones for the territory.

The Yantian District Court in the southern city of Shenzhen gave the harshest sentences to the two accused organizers of the ill-fated Aug. 23 attempt to reach self-ruled Taiwan. Relatives said all defendants pleaded guilty, a move apparently aimed at receiving lighter sentences.

The defendants are believed to have feared they would be prosecuted for their activities in support of Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement. Hong Kong media reports said at least one may have had a warrant out for his arrest under a tough new national security law imposed on the semi-autonomous territory by Beijing in June.

The organizers received sentences of two and three years, while the eight other participants were given seven months in prison.

They were among 12 people on board when their boat was stopped by Chinese authorities. The court said it held a private hearing for two minors and would not charge the them for illegally crossing the border even though they had admitted guilt.

The two youngest detainees – aged 17 and 18 – were handed over



to Hong Kong police by mainland authorities on Wednesday.

They could face additional charges in the city for absconding, police said at a news conference in Hong Kong.

"We will bring this issue up to the court tomorrow and apply to the court to remand these two persons in jail custody," said Cheng Lai-ki, chief superintendent of the Commercial Crime Bureau.

The pair were given the chance to speak with their families by phone, and relatives will be able to visit them on Wednesday, police said.

Relatives of Wong Wai-yin and Li Tsz-yin, who received prison sentences of seven months, said in a voice recording that they hoped the mainland government would give clear instructions on visiting rights.

The recording was released by the 12 Hong-kongers Concern Group,

which is assisting the families.

The father of Cheng Tsz-ho, who also was sentenced to seven months, said that every day is an injustice, according to the recording.

Relatives of the accused said they were prevented from hiring their own lawyers and that the charges are politically motivated. The defendants could have been sentenced to up to a year in prison for crossing the border and seven years for organizing the trip.

They were picked up after entering mainland Chinese waters for crossing the maritime border without permission. While Hong Kong is part of China, travelers must still pass through immigration when going to and from the mainland, which surrounds Hong Kong by land and sea.

The sentences appear to be a warning to opposition activists against trying to evade enforce-

ment of the national security law.

"China is a country under rule of law, where laws must be followed and violations must be punished. China's judicial organs handled the case in strict accordance of law," China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said at a daily news conference.

Hong Kong has already frozen assets and issued arrest warrants for several government opponents who have fled abroad, including to the United Kingdom, which governed the territory until the handover to Chinese rule in 1997.

Hong Kong was promised it would be allowed to maintain its separate political, economic and social systems for 50 years following the handover, including considerably greater freedoms of speech and protest than permitted in mainland China. Critics say Chinese moves,

including the imposition of the national security law, widespread arrests of critics and the cancellation of elections for the Legislative Council, have all but nullified that pledge.

The U.S. and several European countries have called for the 12 to be released and returned to Hong Kong, saying their trial was not fair. Along with not being able to pick their own legal representation, their access to government-appointed lawyers was heavily restricted, the European Union said in a statement.

"The defendants' rights to a fair trial and due process - in accordance with international human rights law and as provided by China's Criminal Procedure Law - have not been respected. We call on China to guarantee procedural fairness and due process of law for these individuals," the EU said.

## Argentine Senate approves bill legalising abortion

**BUENOS AIRES, DEC 30 (AP):** Argentina's Senate has passed a law legalising abortion, a victory for the women's movement that has been fighting for the right for decades.

Under Wednesday's majority vote, abortion is legalised up to the 14th week of pregnancy, and is also legal after that time in cases of rape or danger to the mother's life.

The vote was passed with 38 votes in favor, 29 against and one abstention, after a marathon 12-hour session that began late Tuesday.

It was already approved by Argentina's Chamber of Deputies and has the support of President Alberto Fernandez, meaning the Senate vote is its final hurdle.

Argentine senators debated for hour after hour over legalising abortion, wrangling into the early hours of Wednesday before a vote that marked the culmination of a decades-long fight by women's groups in Pope Francis' homeland and have repercussions across a continent where the procedure is largely illegal.

## Chinese vaccine shipment arrives in Turkey

**ANKARA, DEC 30 (AP):** A first batch of vaccines developed by Chinese biopharmaceutical company Sinovac has arrived in Turkey, after a two-week delay.

A plane carrying 3 million doses of the CoronaVac vaccine landed in the capital Ankara early on Wednesday. The first shipment was initially scheduled to arrive on December 11 but Turkish officials said problems concerning permits, followed by a COVID-19 case in Beijing customs and high alert against infections there, caused the delay.

Turkey has signed a

deal for 50 million doses of the vaccine, which the country says has an efficacy rate of 91.25 per cent based on early results of late-stage trials conducted in Turkey.

The vaccine will now be examined by two public health agencies before the government gives its formal approval for inoculations, starting with health care workers.

Turkey has also reached an agreement with Pfizer BioNTech, which is to provide 4.5 million doses of its vaccine until the end of March and the option to buy up to 30 million doses later in the year.

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## Greek nurse erects ICU at home to treat relatives with virus

**AGIOS ATHANASIOS, GREECE (AP):** What does a medical professional do when his wife and in-laws contract the disease at the center of a monthslong pandemic?

Gabriel Tachtatzoglou, a critical care nurse, did not feel good about the treatment options available in Greece's second-largest city when his wife, both her parents and her brother came down with COVID-19 in November. Thessaloniki has been among the areas of Greece with the most confirmed coronavirus cases, and hospital intensive care units were filling up.

Tachtatzoglou, who had to quarantine and could not go to work once his relatives tested positive for the virus, decided to put his ICU experience to use by looking after them himself.

That decision, his family says, probably saved their lives. "If we had gone to the hospital, I don't know where we would have ended up," Polychoni Stergiou, the nurse's 64-year-old mother-in-law, said. "That didn't happen, thanks to my son-in-law."

Tachtatzoglou set up a makeshift ICU in the downstairs apartment of his family's two-story home in the village of Agios Athanasios, located about 30 kilometers (nearly 20 miles) from

the city. He rented, borrowed and modified the monitors, oxygen delivery machines and other equipment his loved ones might need.

He also improvised. Out of a hat stand, he fashioned an IV bag holder. At one point, the repurposed pole supported four bags dispensing antibiotics, fluids to address dehydration and fever-reducing medicine.

"I've been working in the intensive care ward for 20 years, and I didn't want to put my in-laws through the psychological strain of separation. Plus, there was already a lot of pressure on the health service," Tachtatzoglou told the AP in an interview.

In most countries, doctors and nurses are discouraged from treating close relatives and friends on the theory that emotional bonds could cloud their judgment and affect their skills. Tachtatzoglou says he remained in daily contact with doctors at Papageorgiou Hospital, the overwhelmed facility where he works, while caring for his sick family members, and that he would have hospitalized any of the four if they needed to be intubated.

"I looked after them up until the point where it would pose no danger," he said. "At all times, I was ready to move them to the hospital, if needed."

Greece, which has a population of 10.7 million, spent the first phase of the coronavirus pandemic with some of the lowest infection rates in Europe. As cold weather set in, the number of confirmed cases and virus-related deaths began doubling. The country's cumulative death toll in the pandemic went from 393 on Oct. 1 and 635 a month later to 2,517 on Dec. 1. As of Tuesday, it stood at 4,730.

With ICU wards in Thessaloniki pushed to capacity, COVID-19 patients deemed too sick to wait for a bed were taken to hospitals in other parts of Greece, riding in torpedo-shaped treatment capsules. Meanwhile, the situation for Tachtatzoglou's family deteriorated as his wife and in-laws fell ill in alarming succession.

Tachtatzoglou said he agonized constantly over whether to transfer his relatives to hospitals in Thessaloniki, knowing it would mean they would not be able to see each other and might get moved to a hospital farther away. "We were reduced to tears. There were times when I was desperate, and I was really afraid I would lose them," the nurse said.

They all pulled through, although Tachtatzoglou eventually became infected with the virus himself.

## UK approves use of 2nd COVID-19 vaccine with easier storage

**LONDON (AP):** Britain on Wednesday became the first country to authorize an easy-to-handle COVID-19 vaccine whose developers hope it will become the "vaccine for the world." The approval and a shift in policy that will speed up rollout of the vaccine in the U.K. comes as a surge in infections threatens to swamp British hospitals.

The Department of Health said it had accepted a recommendation from the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency to authorize emergency use of the vaccine developed by Oxford University and U.K.-based drugmaker AstraZeneca.

"The rollout will start on Jan. 4 and will really accelerate into the first few weeks of next year," British Health Secretary Matt Hancock told Sky News. Britain has bought 100 million doses of the vaccine.

AstraZeneca chief executive Pascal Soriot told BBC Radio 4 the company could start shipping the first doses of the vaccine Wednesday or Thursday "and the vaccination will start next week and we will get to 1 million — and beyond that — a week, very rapidly."

Hundreds of thousands of people in the U.K. have already received a different vaccine, made by U.S. drugmaker Pfizer and German firm BioNTech.

Soriot said it was "an important day for millions of people in the U.K. who will get access to this new vaccine. It has been shown to be effective, well-tolerated, simple to administer and is supplied by AstraZeneca at no profit."

Coronavirus vaccines have typically been given in two doses, with an initial shot followed by a booster about three weeks later.

But in a change of approach, the British government said that with the AstraZeneca vaccine it would prioritize giving as many people as possible a single dose, which is believed to give a large measure of protection against the virus. It said people at the highest risk would get priority, and everyone would get a second jab within 12 weeks of the first.

The new strategy comes against a backdrop of soaring infections in the U.K. The number of hospitalized COVID-19 patients has surpassed the first peak of the outbreak in the spring, with authorities blaming a new, more transmissible variant of the virus, first identified in southeast England, for the spike.

Oxford University's Dr. Andrew Pollard, one of the leaders of the development team, offered hope the newly approved vaccine will help.

"At the moment, there's no evidence that the vaccines won't work against the new variant," Pollard told Radio 4. "But that is something which we have to look at. We can't be complacent about this variant or perhaps future variants."

Partial results from studies in almost 24,000 people in Britain, Brazil and South Africa suggest the shots are safe and about 70% effective for preventing illness from coronavirus infection.

That's not as good as some other vaccine candidates, but Soriot recently told the Sunday Times newspaper that he was confident the vaccine would prove as effective as its rivals.

The Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine is expected to be relied on in many coun-

tries because of its low cost, availability and ease of use. It can be kept in refrigerators rather than the ultra-cold storage some other vaccines require. The company has said it will sell it for \$2.50 a dose and plans to make up to 3 billion doses by the end of 2021.

"We have a vaccine for the world," said Pollard.

Researchers claim the vaccine protected against disease in 62% of those given two full doses and in 90% of those initially given a half dose because of a manufacturing error. However, the second group included only 2,741 people — too few to be conclusive.

Questions also remain about how well the vaccine protects older people. Only 12% of study participants were over 55 and they were enrolled later, so there hasn't been enough time to see whether they develop infections at a lower rate than those not given the vaccine.

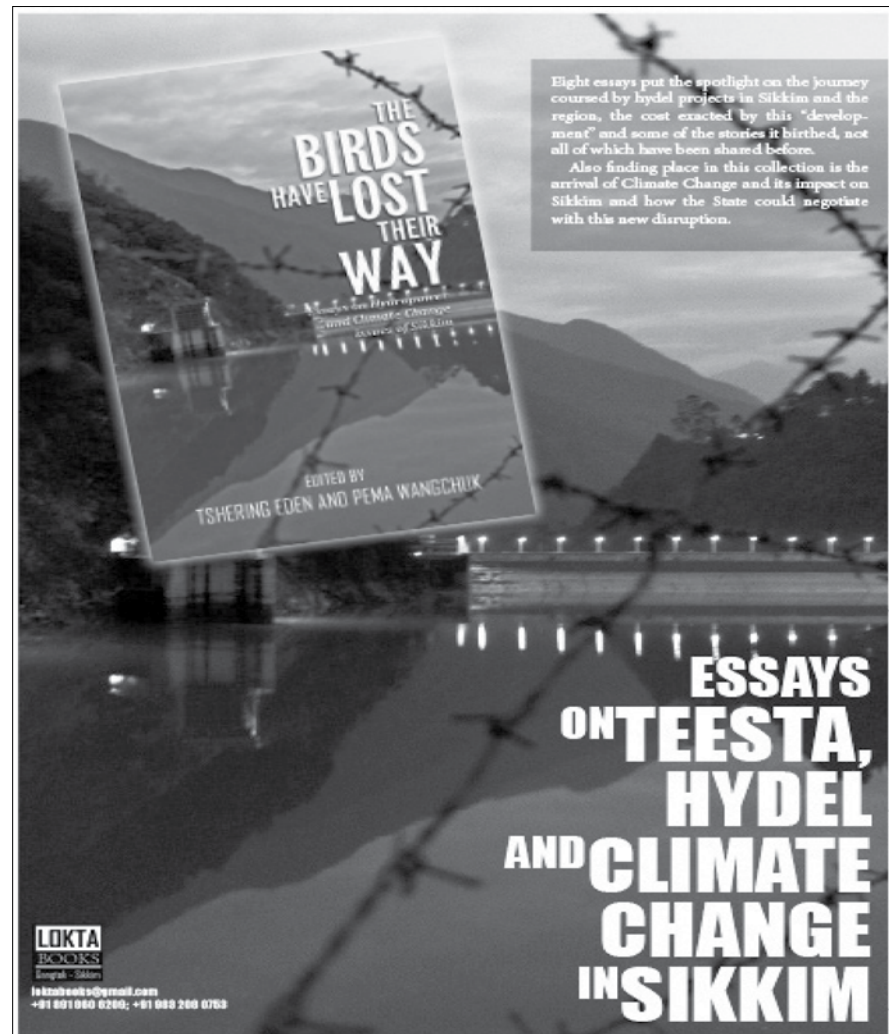
Researchers also were criticized for lack of information in September, when studies were suspended because a participant suffered a serious illness. AstraZeneca initially declined to provide further details due to patient confidentiality.

Ultimately, the trials resumed after regulators reviewed safety data and decided it was safe to continue. Published partial results show no hospitalizations or severe disease among those who received the vaccine. A separate study testing the AstraZeneca vaccine in the U.S. also is underway.

The vaccine will become the second COVID-19 vaccine in use in Britain. On Dec. 2, regulators gave emergency authorization to the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. Having another vaccine available means that more people can get protection, said Sarah Gilbert, an Oxford scientist involved in the AstraZeneca project. It takes a different approach than the Pfizer-BioNTech one or another developed in the United States from Moderna Inc. The ultra-cold storage those other vaccines need is "very impractical" in developing countries, said Dr. Gillies O'Bryan-Tear, chair of policy and communications for Britain's Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine. It means the AstraZeneca one "may reach more parts of the world than the Pfizer one," he said.

Britain's action likely means the World Health Organization will soon clear the AstraZeneca vaccine for use in a global effort to help poor countries, called COVAX. The initiative, led by WHO and the vaccines alliance GAVI, has secured access to at least 100 million doses of the vaccine, with options and other deals to buy more. But none can be distributed until green-lighted by WHO.

The U.N. health agency does not license or regulate vaccines itself, but typically evaluates vaccines once they have been approved by an agency such as the U.K. regulator or the European Medicines Agency. WHO experts conduct their own evaluation of whether or not the risks of a vaccine outweigh its benefits and then make a recommendation for the shots to be "pre-qualified" so they can be bought by donors for developing countries.







**ON THE GO!** The singer and performer, Jennifer Lopez wears a green sweatsuit and white sneakers under a fuzzy coat vest while out in NYC.

## 'Craziest party ever': Superstar DJ Guetta upbeat for 2021

**PARIS (AP):** Superstar DJ David Guetta has been brought back to Earth by the coronavirus pandemic and says his music has benefited as a result.

Back in his native Paris to record a New Year's Eve show, the composer of ear-worm dance hits said he has produced "tons of new music" while hunkering down during the pandemic.

The French DJ says he spent much of 2020 in Miami. By bringing the nightclubbing industry to a halt, the virus has been bad for his business of globe-trotting from party to party.

But Guetta says being stuck at home got creative juices flowing.

"I realized how my lifestyle is not healthy, the fact that I am constantly on a plane, being jet-lagged and all of this, you know? Just to be able to wake every day at the same time, in the same bed, and go make music after my breakfast, that was kind of crazy. I haven't done this for 20 years," Guetta told The Associated Press before recording his show at

Paris' Louvre Museum on Tuesday night.

"I am one of the lucky ones. I have money on the side, I didn't need to stress about how am I going to eat next week or next month," he said. "But I have to say, as an artist, it was incredibly creative."

With lights and lasers slicing through the darkness of Paris, but with no crowds because of a virus curfew, Guetta recorded his hour-long show in front of the futuristic glass pyramid that covers the main entrance to the Louvre, home to the "Mona Lisa" and the world's most-visited museum before virus lockdowns closed its doors this year.

Guetta's show will be streamed on multiple platforms, part of pandemic-altered New Year's festivities this year.

Like night owls everywhere, Guetta is hoping 2021 will be better, with a victory over the virus that would allow for the reopening of dance venues and "the craziest party ever."

"I told my kids already, I'm like: 'Listen, guys, enjoy while I am here because when they open, I'm gone.' I'm going to play every single day," he said. "People are going to party like they have never partied before."



## 'Columbo,' 'Murder, She Wrote' co-creator William Link dies

**LOS ANGELES (AP):** William Link, who co-created the hit series "Columbo" and "Murder, She Wrote" and made 1970s and '80s TV movies about social issues then largely shunned by television, has died. He was 87.

Link died of congestive heart failure Sunday in Los Angeles, his wife of more than 40 years, Margery Nelson, said in a statement Tuesday.

The family helped Link mark his Dec. 15 birthday by playing YouTube videos of interviews in which he recounted his long career, said his niece, Amy Salko Robertson.

"He loved it. It was the best birthday present we could have given him," she said.

"Columbo" was a highlight of Link's award-winning body of work. The series featured a brilliant, deceptively unkempt police detective that he and his longtime writing-producing partner, Richard Levinson, originally created for a 1960 TV anthology episode.

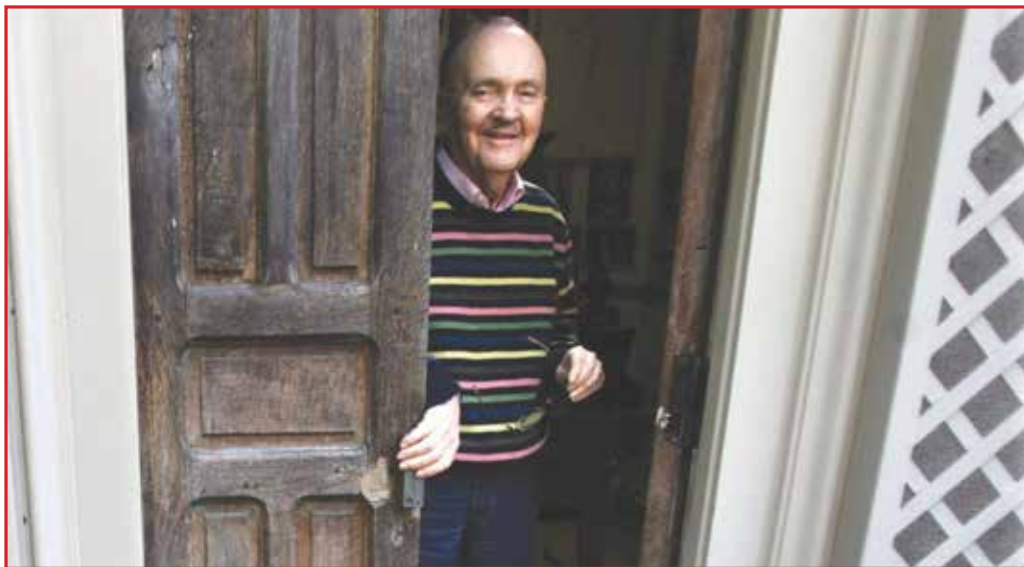
The pair earned a writing Emmy for the series, with four acting trophies going to star Peter Falk. He played the role in the 1971-78 "Columbo" run on NBC and when the crime drama moved to ABC from 1989 to 2003 as more occasional TV movies.

Link and Levinson, Philadelphia-area natives who met as mystery-loving teens and soon began collaborating on stories and radio scripts, aimed to produce more than entertainment, Salko

Robertson said in an interview.

The fight "for justice and equality" was a central theme in their projects, she said — including "Columbo," which tended to pit the wily detective against

"Murder, She Wrote," with film and stage star Angela Lansbury as an amateur sleuth, was created by Link, Levinson and Peter S. Fischer. The series was a durable, 12-season success for CBS,



wealthy and powerful criminals.

The collaborators' TV movies included 1970's "My Sweet Charlie," a rare small-screen depiction of an interracial romance that earned them a writing Emmy, and "That Certain Summer" (1972), a groundbreaker for its sympathetic portrayal of gay characters. Dramas such as those "were not getting on TV, and they really fought for them," said Salko Robertson, a producer who handled business matters for her uncle.

Link, an Army veteran, and Levinson wrote and were executive producers for the Emmy-winning "The Execution of Private Slovik" (1974), about a WWII soldier who became the first executed for desertion since the Civil War.

## Russell Wilson Shares Emotional Tribute to Kobe Bryant and GiGi: 'There's Hope'

In a powerful video dedicated to Kobe Bryant and daughter Gianna, Russell Wilson credited the late NBA star for inspiring him and helping him keep his priorities in check.

Russell Wilson offered a heartfelt message of optimism and reflection after a pivotal moment in his professional life.

The NFL quarterback posted a video to Instagram on Tuesday, Dec. 29 of himself wearing a Kobe Bryant jersey and a pair of the "Grinch"-style Nikes that the NBA superstar had popularized. Next month will mark a year since Kobe and 13-year-old daughter Gianna Bryant died in a tragic helicopter crash.

"Dear Kobe & GiGi... Thanks for being an inspiration. #Mamba #24 #8 #2," Russell captioned the somber tribute that began with him walking into the stadium, accompanied by orchestral music. The footage was recorded at Lumen Field, home to Russell's Seattle Seahawks, and the message came two days after his team clinched a spot in the playoffs by capturing the NFC West title with

a hard-fought win over the Washington Football Team.

"Your family means a lot to my family," Russell said about the late athlete who often referred to himself as Black Mamba. "We love you all. For this game, we had to bring the Mamba mentality."

The 32-year-old eight-time Pro Bowler and husband to singer Ciara shared that Kobe was on his mind during the final play of Sunday's big game. Ciara and Kobe's widow, Vanessa Bryant, are close friends and posted photos over the weekend of their recent ski getaway in Montana.

"This is what I really found out in 2020: Life is so much bigger than just this game," Russell continued. "It comes down to our family, it comes down to our loved ones, it comes down to grace, it comes down to how we treat each and how we love one another. And the one thing that I've found out and really understood in 2020 is, nothing's promised. Nothing's promised. The good thing is, there is hope. Hope lies in god, it lies in our faith, it lies in a new day."

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## Diddy providing some COVID-19 relief for Miami neighborhood

**MIAMI (AP):** Rapper Sean "Diddy" Combs provided some coronavirus relief in a Miami neighborhood on Tuesday, handing out \$50 bills amid a crowd of hundreds. He was joined by his children at the event set up to help Overtown neighborhood residents facing economic hardship during the pandemic.

In addition to the cash, \$50 Publix supermarket gift cards and bags containing

hygiene products also were handed out.

Diddy's charitable foundation is also working with music festival and nightlife organizer Michael Gardner and the local group Teens Exercising Extraordinary Success to provide rental assistance for 175 families.

Diddy wore a clear face shield and black gloves as he worked his way through the crowd, greeting fans and families.

## Miley Cyrus Shoots Her Shot with Harry Styles and Fantasizes About "Sharing a Life Together"

Miley Cyrus had zero hesitation when asked if she'd be interested in kissing Harry Styles, and then went into more detail about the potential advantages of living with him. Miley Cyrus wouldn't mind hearing Harry Styles say that he just wants to adore her.

The 28-year-old Hannah Montana alum took part in a recent holiday-themed interview with British radio network Heart, revealing some interesting info about Miley's desires. When host Mark Wright asked whether she would rather kiss Justin Bieber or the former One Direction standout, Miley could not have been more certain about her

answer. "Harry, that's easy," she replied. "Justin Bieber I've known way too long, and it's like a family. Harry Styles! He's looking really good." She punctuated that last sentence with a wink and a finger gun, so you know she meant it.

And in case anyone was still confused as to her choice, the always quick-witted "Midnight Sky" performer added for emphasis, "Really good. I'm into the fishnets."

Clearly, the 26-year-old "Adore You" vocalist is having quite a moment. He has been earning praise in equal measure for both his music and his gender-fluid fashion sense, and Miley seems to approve of it all.

**Aries:** Why wait until the sun goes down to bring the bubbly out? Joy and celebration are big themes for you under the influence of this full moon. You're in the mood to get the party started exactly where you are, in the company of your main crew. It hasn't been the best of times, but why should that keep celebrating what this moment is offering you? Gratitude is the magic word that promises to bring about a positive change.

**Tip:** You're in the mood to get the party started exactly where you are.

**Taurus:** If creating vision boards alone could help our dreams manifest in reality, our lives would look a lot different, Taurus. The key to creating a shift is aligning action with intention. Not that we need to tell an earth sign the importance of putting in the work! So kiss your complacency goodbye as you get down and dirty with your work. A detail-oriented approach is sure to give you an edge over your competition.

**Tip:** Get down and dirty with your work.

**Gemini:** The older we get, the more we become set in our ways, which in turn keeps us from embracing the new in its entirety. Could this be a battle you're struggling with privately? Are you resisting the opportunity to grow in a different way? Today, the cards are reminding you while that the rules are

sacred, they can be bent. So, approach the given problem with a beginner's mindset no matter what your modus operandi has been in the past. You won't be disappointed—we promise!

**Tip:** Approach the given problem with a beginner's mind.

**Cancer:** The relationship you share with your mentor is truly a special one. You may not agree with everything they say and do, and that's okay. But you honour and acknowledge the guidance they share with you, as you know it comes from a higher place. Word to the wise: Listen to what they have to say about a given situation. Sometimes, sticking to the rulebook is the best to get out of the maze.

**Tip:** Pay attention to what your mentor has to say.

**Leo:** Collaboration of all kinds are blessed as a result of this cosmic climate, and you're in the mood to approach people who inspire you to become a better version of yourself. Leo, this is your chance to bag a project that satisfies you both creatively and financially. So, don't shy away from playing the role of the initiator. PS: Now is not the time to let your fears and inhibitions interfere with what you're meant to create.

**Tip:** A one-of-a-kind collaboration may be on the cards.

**Virgo:**

There was a time when you looked for external validation and allowed the world to determine how you feel about yourself. But, the new you is all about standing in your glory and embracing your glory in its entirety. Self-acceptance is seldom easy, given the garbage ideas we've been fed as kids. But you're determined to work through the limitations and love yourself a little more, every single day.

**Tip:** It's all about self-love, baby!

**Libra:**

It's never about other people, Libra. Their hopes, dreams, and desires have nothing to do with your reality. So, let go of the need to please everybody around you or live up to their expectations. The truth is, you won't be able to, no matter how much you try. What you need to do instead is take a long, hard look in the mirror and ask yourself the question: what are the ways in which I am holding myself back? The time to unleash your true potential is right now and in this moment.

**Tip:** Break past the limitations created by your own mind.

**Scorpio:**

Truth bomb, Scorpio: you will never agree about everything with the people in your life. How incredibly boring would life be if you did! So embrace the differences. Embrace what makes you, you, and what makes them, them. The energy of acceptance and unconditional

love will only make your bond grow stronger. Some of you could be going back and forth on a certain decision. Word to the wise: Your instinct never lies. So go with your first thought. You will not be disappointed.

**Tip:** The differences are presenting you with an opportunity to grow.

**Sagittarius:**

You've been through it all, Sagittarius. The goth phase, the 'what is the meaning of life' phase and the 'only bad things happen to me' phase. But the end of the year finds you in the mood for something different. You're feeling inspired to make love to life and all of its myriad colours. You understand that each moment is a gift from the divine forces and so you want to experience what they have to offer in their entirety. You're also feeling a stronger connection with your spirit guides and you know you'll get through this.

**Tip:** You're in the mood to make love to life.

**Capricorn:**

Here's the thing, Capricorn: you cannot do everything even if you want. You cannot please everybody despite your best intentions. Be mindful of what you're committing to and whether or not the given task aligns with your goals. Remember, every time you say 'no' to something that feels off, you will be making space for something you feel truly aligned with.

**Tip:** Beware of overcommitting.

**Aquarius:**

The older we get, the more we become set in our ways, which in turn hinders growth and keeps us from embracing the many gifts life has to offer. How do you approach the new, Aquarius? Do you look at it through the lens of suspicion, or welcome it as an opportunity to grow? Today, the cards are urging you to leave the familiar behind, venture into uncharted territories, and allow yourself to be pleasantly surprised. Golden words by Socrates to inspire you on this journey, "I am the wisest man alive, for I know one thing, and that is that I know nothing at all."

**Tip:** Make love to the unknown.

**Pisces:**

Health and wellness is a big theme at the Pisces HQ, and you're thinking about all the ways in which you can care for your body better. Remember, it's seldom about making drastic changes. Taking small steps in the right direction is the key to bringing about a shift, Pisces. According to Ayurveda, there are three kinds of body constitutions (based on your elements) and these are vatta, pitta, and kapha. Understanding which of these categories you fall in will help you make the right dietary changes. PS: It's always a good idea to approach a practitioner you trust.

**Tip:** It's time to make positive lifestyle changes.