



CHADWICK BOSEMAN'S BROTHERS REMEMBER THE GIFTED ARTISTE

pg 08

IN THE MIDST OF DEEP GRIEF, A SCHOLAR WRITES HOW HINDU RITUALS TAUGHT HER TO LET GO

04

BEING PART OF BEST CINEMA PRODUCED BY OUR INDUSTRY MATTERS TO ME: AYUSHMANN

pg 08TUES



Summit **T**IMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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COVID claims one more, toll reaches 46

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 05 OCT: Sikkim reported one more COVID-19 related death on Monday when an 84-year-old from Baghey Khola in East Sikkim passed away at STNM Hospital. This is the 46th COVID-19 related death in the State.

In the daily health bulletin on Monday, Health Department State IEC Officer, Sonam G Bhutia informed that the octogenarian, who was admitted to STNM Hospital on 03 October after testing positive for COVID-19 passed away at around 5:30 AM this morning. She had comorbidities of hypertension and asthma.

Meanwhile, 17 new cases of novel coronavirus were reported in last 24 hours, taking the total number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported so far in Sikkim to 3,110.

There are now 598

active cases in Sikkim with 60 more patients getting discharged from isolation wards and covid care centres. Thus far, 2,466 patients have been.

Seven patients are currently admitted in the ICU facility at STNM Hospital.

A total of 38 samples were screened via RT-PCR at the VRD Lab at STNM Hospital on Sunday, of which five returned positive, while two new cases were detected in Truenat testing of 22 samples. Ten more persons tested positive for COVID-19 in rapid antigen testing of 47 samples.

Out of 17 cases, 11 are from East District and six from South Sikkim.

While providing details of the new cases reported in RT-PCR, Mr Bhutia informed that a health-worker from a containment zone in Gangtok and one staff-member from VRD Lab

were found positive.

One person from Amdo Golai, one from Ranipool and one from Burtuk also tested positive for COVID-19 in RT-PCR testing. He mentioned that one person from Melli and one from Singtam were reported COVID-19 positive in Truenat testing.

Likewise, three persons from Upper Ghurpisey, one from below NLA School, Namchi, one from Bhutia Basti near Taxi Stand and one from Nadok Gumpa area in South District were found positive for COVID-19 in rapid antigen testing.

He added that samples of a person from Deorali, one from IBM Colony in Rangpo and one from Girls School road in Deorali given at CRH-Tadong returned positive in RAT.

He informed that one person from Rhenock also tested for COVID-19 in RAT.

BIRTH ANNIV OF FORMER CM LATE NB BHANDARI

CM announces Nar Bahadur Bhandari Fellowship Scheme

GANGTOK, 05 OCT (IPR): A programme to commemorate the birth anniversary of former Chief Minister of Sikkim late, Nar Bahadur Bhandari was held at Chintan Bhawan, Gangtok today.

Chief Minister, Prem Singh Tamang graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Also present in the function were Deputy Speaker, SLA, Sangay Lepcha, Cabinet Ministers, Advisors, Chairpersons, Mayors and Deputy Mayor GMC, Chief Secretary, DGP, Heads of various government departments and senior officials.

On the occasion, Chief Minister launched the Nar Bahadur Bhandari Fellowship Scheme in honour of the former Chief Minister.

The NB Bhandari Fellowship Scheme aims



to provide an opportunity for Sikkim's brightest and most promising Graduate students to pursue higher studies in the top 20 Universities of the world. The mission of this scheme is to provide exposure to Sikkimese students amidst

the finest educators of the world.

The Chief Minister in his address extended his heartfelt tribute and homage to the second Chief Minister of Sikkim, late NB Bhandari, on the occasion of his 80th birth anniversary.

Chief Minister mentioned that NB Bhandari was not only a leader par excellence but also the architect of modern Sikkim. His immense contribution towards the State and its people has been etched in the pages of history and shall always

be remembered with great significance, he added.

The Chief Minister mentioned that late Shri Bhandari was a true son of the soil and loved Sikkim and the Sikkimese people from the depth of his heart. His dynamic leadership during his regime as the Chief Minister stands as a strong foundation and also as an inspiration to emulate. His most notable contribution being the inclusion of the Nepali language in 8th Schedule of the Constitution of India, he stated. He also mentioned that late Shri Bhandari was of a great personality and took each challenge to his stride and emerged victorious in each front.

The Chief Minister said that significant advances **turn to pg 02**

Covid-19 Pandemic: KIIT & KISS Reach the Unreached



The Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted and devastated the normal life and livelihood of people all over the world. Odisha too has been hit hard by the pandemic. Many organizations and individuals have come forward to supplement the Government's efforts to deal with the emergent situation. Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), Bhubaneswar and its sister institution Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), under the leadership of its Founder Prof. Achyuta Samanta, have also taken a series of initiative right from the outbreak of the disease and have been at the forefront of Odisha's war against the coronavirus.

Some humanitarian actions of KIIT & KISS stand out as they have significantly bolstered the health care infrastructure of the State, greatly reduced the suffering of people and touched the lives of the most marginalized and overlooked sections.

In one of the most significant measures in Odisha's war against Covid-19, Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS), a constituent of KIIT Deemed to be University, set up four ultramodern dedicated Covid hospitals with the support of the Govt. of Odisha, located in Bhubaneswar and three tribal-dominated districts of Odisha. The hospitals have a combined bed capacity of 1200. KIMS Covid Hospital in Bhubaneswar, a 500-bedded state-of-the-art facility including 50 critical care beds, is India's first standalone Covid hospital. The quick turnaround time in setting up the Covid Hospitals has saved thousands of lives.

various slums, stranded migrant labourers, who were also provided temporary shelter, and people living in containment zones.

Community outreach activities of KIIT & KISS strived to reach the hardest-hit and commonly overlooked people - transgenders, sportspersons, physically challenged, sex workers, etc. They were provided with allowances to cope with the prolonged lockdown. Food materials and cash to meet other expenses for three months were given to priests and other workers of several spiritual centres in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Puri and nearby towns. The two institutions are providing groceries and cash for miscellaneous expenses to over 40 orphanages, old age homes and leprosy centres in Kandhamal district.

The student community is one of the worst affected groups in the Covid-19 pandemic. KISS is a home for 30,000 tribal students from interior districts of Odisha pursuing their studies from Standard-I to PG/Ph.D. level. Days before the outbreak of the pandemic, they were sent to their respective homes in various districts of Odisha. As the students are in their respective homes, KISS has been sending study materials, dress and generous amount of dry foods at the doorsteps every month since April. The monthly materials also contain sanitary napkins for the adolescent girl students. This will continue until reopening of KISS.

KISS has taken a series of measures to keep its students safe and healthy as well as ensuring that they remain connected to the studies. Prof. Samanta, who has always put the education of these tribal students above everything else, arranged for the textbooks, study materials and dried food items to be provided at the students' doorsteps at the start of the new academic year. KISS was one of the early institutes to begin online classes and has been maintaining the academic schedule perfectly for students of all levels. Inspired by the Prime Minister's call for 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (Self-reliant India), KISS has revved up its vo-

educational skill centre during the Covid-19 pandemic. The centre has been scaled up to become a medium-size industry and is now making 25 different types of vocational products. These products are marketed through well developed distribution channel, besides fulfilling the in-house requirements of KIIT & KISS. The sale proceeds from the centre are expected to make KISS self-reliant in the coming years.

In a unique humanitarian gesture, KIIT Deemed to be University has decided to provide free education to the children of the Covid deceased in Odisha. The facility will be available for two academic years: 2020-21 and 2021-22. The first six months of the ongoing pandemic has made many children orphans. Such children, particularly those belonging to the poorer sections, are suffering an untold tragedy. They are vulnerable to become victims of child abuse and human trafficking. KIIT & KISS have adopted and are taking care of about 100 such orphans and providing them monthly allowance ranging from Rs. 5000 to Rs. 10000, depending upon the family size. As and when the

academic institutions reopen, they will be provided with free education and subsequently complete higher education in KIIT & KISS.

Support to orphans and children of the Covid-deceased has been possible due to its Founder, Prof. Achyuta Samanta's personal childhood experience of hunger and poverty that he had to suffer after he lost his father at the tender age of four. He has always been striving to ensure that no child is deprived of quality education because of untimely death of parents or poverty.

We Must All Become Covid Warriors!

Dr TSULTEM DOMA BHUTIA

Unlike our last Covid posting where we were inundated with COVID-19 positive cases who were asymptomatic or only having mild symptoms with just a handful of cases requiring oxygen support this time the scenario inside the unit had taken a turn for the worse. Almost all the patients were on oxygen support and that too on quite high flow rates. The ICU occupancy was also quite high and unfortunately there was at least one death per day which was a very difficult thing to cope with for all the staff involved in the care of these patients. Almost all the medications which could be potentially useful are being provided for the patients but some of them just don't pull through.

We all know that we need oxygen for survival and a low amount of oxygen circulating in our body, known as hypoxia in medical terms, is a problem. Usually if for any reason the oxygen levels in our body falls our body tries to cope and we start to breathe faster or feel short of breath which alerts us and the people looking after us to the fact that something is wrong. This makes us seek help but the thing with COVID-19 is that one could have a very low oxygen saturation but one would not have the increased work of breathing usually associated with such hypoxia hence it is termed as "happy hypoxia". Therefore many patients present quite late in their illness. By the time they come to be admitted they are already very low on oxygen.

The false sense of security that some have of only people with comorbidities succumbing to the illness is counter-productive to the control of this infection and its consequences. It is indeed true that the worst outcome, that is death, has been noted in those with

pre-existing illness but this is not an absolute. There have been many instances globally where previously healthy people have lost their lives to COVID-19. And more importantly what this notion is doing is that it is making the young people take unnecessary risks and decisions like going out and intermingling with a lot of friends because they think that COVID-19 is not going to harm them. What they are unable to understand is that if they contract the infection they might not become seriously ill but they may spread it to the vulnerable people in the society.

ing our job but at the same time we do not want to be harassed while doing this difficult job. We understand that you may be anxious about yourself or your family falling ill but please know that we are equally anxious for you and them. We do not want more sick people being admitted into the hospital not because we do not want to work but because we genuinely do not want you to fall ill with this potentially fatal infection.

How much worse this pandemic hits our society is ultimately in our hands. We understand that the econo-

your neck or on your chin or only covering your mouth does not qualify as wearing a mask properly. Remember when you wear a mask properly you protect not only yourself but the people around you as well.

Maintain a distance of at least 1 metre between yourself and another person.

Remember to wash your hands with soap and water or use a hand sanitizer.

I know these are things that have been told so often but unfortunately we still have not been able to make it a habit. If we are going to win over this virus we will have to inculcate these steps into our daily life.

Finally it would be great if all of us understood that the unlocking of the lockdown has happened not because Covid 19 is under control or we have found a cure or vaccine for it but because our economy was suffering. The virus is still out there and it is in our hands to control its effects on our society.

We may not be the ones affected today but tomorrow it may be us or our loved ones. On the last night of our duty, there was one patient being shifted to the ICU from the isolation unit as his saturation was not improving even on the maximum flow of oxygen that could be provided in the ward and he was concerned that his watch was left behind at his bedside. Few hours later he passed away and, as the treating doctor pointed out, he was gone but the watch ticked on.

I am hoping and praying that in my next Covid posting I will see a change for the better. I am hoping that all members of our society take this fight against Covid-19 as an individual responsibility and follow safety measures that have been publicised. It is time we all behave like COVID WARRIORS.

[the writer is Pediatrician, STNM Hospital]

VIEWPOINT

The government issuing orders for lockdown gave the healthcare system time to formulate systems in place and train the staff facing this pandemic but everyone has to understand that this is new for all of us, including the healthcare workers. As much as the general public is anxious we are more worried when we see these patients in the isolation units. As much as people become sad and scared when they hear someone died, those working on the patient till he or she died suffer much more. People may think it is easy for the healthcare workers to deal with death but to be honest it is never easy. Every death is a blow for us as well. Every loss means much more to us than it can ever mean to you. Every single staff is putting in their best efforts in these trying circumstances. And while many have been kind to applaud the contribution of the healthcare workers there have been a few instances in the recent past when people, especially those visiting the flu clinic or having patients inside the isolation unit haven't been very kind. To be honest this is our duty and we do not need to be applauded for do-

my has been hit hard and some people are struggling to survive. Since it looks like the virus is going to stay with us for some more time we really do need to be ready to coexist with it but we have to take measures so that it does not overwhelm us. It is never too late to control the spread of the infection. Even though we may not be able to achieve zero cases we may be able to bring down the numbers of those affected significantly so that those few who are infected can receive the care that they need. From the time that Covid 19 was declared a pandemic the measures needed to be taken to control it have been advertised through various mediums. We have to listen to these advices and take them seriously. There need not be lockdown orders but we need to behave as if we are still in the lockdown phase.

Do not go out if it is not absolutely necessary. IF YOUR GOING OUT IS NOT RELATED TO YOUR EARNING FOR YOUR FAMILY OR A HEALTH EMERGENCY YOU NEED NOT GO OUT.

If you do have to go out please wear a mask which covers your nose and mouth. Carrying a mask around

COVID-19 cases in India breach 66-lakh mark

NEW DELHI, OCT 5 (PTI): India's COVID-19 caseload went past 66 lakh, while the number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 55,86,703, pushing the recovery rate to 84.34 per cent, according to Union Health Ministry data updated on Monday.

The total coronavirus cases mounted to 66,23,815 with 74,442 people testing positive for the infection in a day, while the death toll climbed to 1,02,685 with the virus claiming 903 lives in a span of 24 hours, the data updated at 8 am showed.

There are 9,34,427 active cases of the coronavirus infection in the country which comprises 14.11 per cent of the total caseload, the data stated.

COVID-19 case fatality was recorded at 1.55 per cent.

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

According to the Indian Council of Medical Re-

search (ICMR), a cumulative total of 7,99,82,394 samples have been tested up to October 4 with 9,89,860 samples being tested on Sunday.

The 903 new fatalities include 326 from Maharashtra, 67 from Karnataka, 66 from Tamil Nadu, 62 from West Bengal, 52 from Uttar Pradesh, 41 from Punjab, 40 from Andhra Pradesh, 38 from Delhi and 35 from Madhya Pradesh.

The total 1,02,685 deaths reported so far in the country includes 38,084 from Maharashtra followed by 9,784 from Tamil Nadu, 9,286 from Karnataka, 6,029 from Uttar Pradesh, 5,981 from Andhra Pradesh, 5,510 from Delhi, 5,194 from West Bengal, 3,603 from Punjab and 3,496 from Gujarat.

The health ministry stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities.

"Our figures are being reconciled with the Indian Council of Medical Research," the ministry said on its website, adding that state-wise distribution of figures is subject to further verification and reconciliation.

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CM announces

that he implemented during his regime were that of rural development which focused on rural electrification, water supply and rural connectivity in Sikkim. He stressed that Late Bhandari was a disciplinarian and an able administrator, and did not compromise on the quality of administration delivered during his tenure. Even with limited budget during his regime, he didn't falter to deliver basic necessities and connectivity to rural Sikkim.

The Chief Minister mentioned that Sikkim and the Sikkimese people shall always remain indebted to late Shri Bhandari for his tremendous contribution in shaping Sikkim to what it is today.

The Chief Minister also informed that as a mark of respect to late Shri Bhandari, his birth anniversary was declared as a gazetted holiday in Sikkim since last year.

During the programme, a brief power point presentation on NB Bhandari fellowship scheme was delivered by Director, Technical and Higher Education, Yishey D Yongda.

Earlier, the welcome address was presented by the Chief Secretary, SC Gupta. H on the immense contribution made by the former Chief Minister, the Chief Secretary recalled that those of his generation have had the good opportunity to personally interact with late NB Bhandari and he believes that the younger generation must have heard of Bhandari's personality, action, politics and contribution towards the Sikkimese society.

The Chief Secretary expressed that late Shri Bhandari laid the foundation of modern Sikkim and also highlighted on the areas which received tremendous development during Bhandari's tenure. He also mentioned that the emphasis laid down on development and systems created during his tenure is a pillar of foundation for present day administration.

Later, the vote of thanks was proposed by Secretary, Education Department, Anil Raj Rai.

Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases Hospital inaugurated

GANGTOK, 05 OCT (IPR): Governor of Sikkim, Ganga Prasad in the presence of Chief Minister of Sikkim, Prem Singh Tamang inaugurated the Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases Hospital at the STNM Hospital premises, Sochakgang today.

Also present during the inaugural function were Minister for Health and Family Welfare Department, Dr MK Sharma, Minister for Building and Housing Department, Sanjeet Kharel, along with Principal Secretary Health, K Shrinivasulu, DG cum Secretary Health, Dr Pempa T Bhutia, senior officials of Health and line departments, doctors and staff from STNM hospital.

The construction of the building was executed by the Building and Housing Department,



Government of Sikkim along with Civil Engineers Enterprises Pvt Ltd, Kolkata as the turn-key executor.

After the inauguration, Governor and Chief Minister along with other dignitaries inspected the facilities at the hospital in detail.

In his brief interac-

tion with the media, the Chief Minister urged the people to abide the government guidelines for COVID-19 and also called for strict adherence of the standard operating procedures.

DG cum Secretary Health, Dr Pempa T Bhutia informed that the building will cater to CO-

VID-19 patients to counter the challenges posed by the corona virus pandemic once it would start its formal operation.

It was informed that the building has a total of 77 beds which are fully equipped, with a capacity to accommodate 150 beds to tackle any emergency, if arises.

CRC Coordinators visit Changeylakha Primary School

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 05 OCT:

Considering the importance of on-site support to teachers and to ensure the implementation of departmental guidelines for better learning outcome in students, BRC and CRC Coordinators of Regu BAC have initiated an outreach programme by visiting schools, teachers and School Management Committees.

In this regard, CRC Coordinators, Krishna Prasad Dawari and Sita Sharma visited Changeylakha Primary School on 03 Oct, 2020 (Saturday) and attended the staff meeting. The meeting was organized by the school following Covid-19 protocol and was also attended by SMC members.

At the outset, Headmaster of the school, Sanjoy Rai placed a school report where he mentioned allocation of subject to the teachers, mode of teaching being used by the teachers and students' participation in teaching learning.

Teachers also placed their grievances and difficulties being faced by them in online teaching like inaccessibility of network connection, unfamiliarity with online teaching-learning, unavailability of smart phone in some students, etc.

CRC Coordinators highlighted in brief about the NEP 2020. The teachers and the SMC members were also acquainted on use of newly developed and supplied textbooks for classes I to III of all the government schools and for classes IV & V for pilot schools.

They also made the gathering aware on the initiative undertaken by the department to help teachers to continue the teaching-learning during the lockdown period

like training programme for teachers through AIR Gangtok, Classes on AIR and cable Television, supply of 'E' contents through laptops by CRCCs and recently supplied Alternative Academic Calendar (AAC) for SA II.

The Coordinators also requested the teachers to implement AAC and in case of any difficulties in curriculum transaction teachers were advised to contact subject experts, faculty of DIET in given contact number for clarification of doubts. Teachers were also encouraged to focus on learning outcome and not only in syllabus coverage and assessment.

Out of twenty students seventeen students are being covered through asynchronous mode of online teaching and offline teaching. One student of class II and two students of class V are not covered through any mode of teaching because of noncooperation of parents.

In the meeting, mapping for coverage of all the students was also prepared and it has been decided to use local resources- senior students from their family, neighbors and home visit by the teachers with following COVID-19 protocol. The school is running with six teaching staff including HM and two non-teaching staff.

Assistant Director, Narad Chettri, Regu BAC also addressed the meeting through phone and interacted with teachers on different issues.

Similar visits will be conducted in others schools under the block by the BRC and CRCCs of Regu BAC on the basis of data analysis of bimonthly report on curriculum coverage and learning assessment submitted by the schools, and support sought by the schools.

Governor announces Rs 1 lakh ex-gratia for Late Basanti Sundas

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 05 OCT:

The Governor of Sikkim, Ganga Prasad has announced an ex-gratia of Rs 1 lakh each to the next kin of Assistant Nursing Superintendent (ANS), Late Basanti Sundas, STNM Hospital, and Late Dil Kumar Rai, IRB Jawan who died due to COVID-19, a press communiqué from Raj Bhavan informs.

In his message to the Governor has said, "Their sacrifice in the fight against Covid-19 will always be remembered by Sikkimese people. They were great warriors who brought glory to the frontline medical

and police fraternity fighting against pandemic. They were a big inspiration to us and we bow to their spirit of service to humanity. My deepest condolences to the bereaved families."

"Late Basanti Sundas (49), Assistant Nursing Superintendent, STNM hospital who passed away on September 18 last month due to Coronavirus at New STNM hospital, Sochakgang. Late Sundas served in the frontline of the war against the pandemic at the emergency ward of New STNM hospital and died of the Corona-virus infection. The deceased has become the

first case of medical fraternity succumbing to deadly virus infection in the State.

Another IRB jawan, Dil Kumar Rai, deployed as Commander of the Static Guard at Melli Check Post, South Sikkim, succumbed to Covid-19 at STNM Hospital Gangtok on September 28.

Meanwhile, the Governor also remembered former Chief Minister of Sikkim, Late Shri Nar Bahadur Bhandari on his birth anniversary. He remembered Late Bhandari's contribution in constitutional recognition of Nepali language in the Eight Scheduled of the Indian Constitution," the release states.

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GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

General land 30X40 (3 Plots) available for sale at Tadong 6th Mile next to Harka Maya College. Flat Land no cutting required. Price 27 Lakhs (negotiable).

Contact: 9800201335

LAND FOR SALE

A land measuring an area for 50x32 1/2 at Road-side 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

Covid-19 Pandemic: KIIT & KISS reach the unreached

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 05 OCT:**

The Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted and devastated the normal life and livelihood of people all over the world. Odisha too has been hit hard by the pandemic. Many organizations and individuals have come forward to supplement the Government's efforts to deal with the emergent situation. Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), Bhubaneswar and its sister institution Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), under the leadership of its Founder Prof Achyuta Samanta, have also taken a series of initiative right from the outbreak of the disease and have been at the forefront of Odisha's war against the coronavirus.

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first standalone Covid hospital. The quick turnaround time in setting up the Covid Hospitals has saved thousands of lives.

The Covid-19 pandemic is not only a global health emergency, it has also caused a grave humanitarian crisis due to prolonged lockdowns and loss of livelihoods for millions. In a mammoth community service response, KIIT & KISS reached out to various groups facing hardship due to the extended lockdown. The intervention included the distribution of food materials and other essentials to over 3 lakh pandemic-hit people, including the disadvantaged people living in various slums, stranded migrant labourers, who were also provided temporary shelter, and people living in containment zones.

Community outreach activities of KIIT & KISS strived to reach the hardest-hit and commonly overlooked people - transgenders, sportspersons, physically challenged, sex workers, etc.

They were provided with allowances to cope with the prolonged lockdown. Food materials and cash to meet other expenses for three months were given to priests and other workers of several spiritual centres in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Puri and nearby towns. The two institutions are providing groceries and cash for miscellaneous expenses to over 40 orphanages, old age homes and leprosy centres in Kandhamal district.

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Khaling attends late CM's birth anniversary observance at Malbaisey

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 05 OCT:**

Political Secretary to the CM, Jacob Khaling, along with Minister Bhim Hang Subba, attended the 80th birth anniversary observance of former Chief Minister Nar Bahadur Bhandari at Malbaisey, West Sikkim, on Monday.

The function was organized to celebrate the life of the Late Chief Minister and acknowledge his contributions not only in the field of politics but also his influence on every sphere of development in Sikkim, informs an SKM press release.



The release adds that the programme was also attended by chairpersons MK Subba, CK Rana and Binod Basnett along with officials from Soreng BAC, Panchayats and local gentry.

After the programme,

the team visited the old Dak Bungalow at Chakhung-Malbaisey for which Rs 35 crore has been allocated for renovation and the foundation stone laying by the Chief Minister is scheduled for 09 October.

Area MLA leads inspection of drinking water supply project in Budang

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 05 OCT:**

A team headed by area MLA, Bishnu Kumar Khatiwara, and including chairperson Karma Tashi Bhutia along with concerned department officials, local residents and panchayats inspected the upcoming drinking water supply project and Dhap Pokhari at Budang under Rhenock constituency.

Beautification of Dhap Pokhari and the drinking water supply project have been a demands going back 25 years. Residents of Budang and Sajong have been facing acute shortage and receive drinking water supply once in 12 days.

While the drinking water supply

project had been sanctioned and tendered by the previous government but has not been executed yet.

While addressing the people Budang, the area MLA assured this project, which will benefit around 300 families, will be fulfilled soon.

He informed that the residents had approached Chief Minister PS Tamang [Golay] with their grievances and although the CM had planned to visit the area on 02 April, the programme was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Today's visit was in pursuance of directions received from the CM, he informed.

Pelling ready to welcome tourists, says PTDA

**PRITAM LAMA
GYALSHING, 05 OCT:**

Pelling's tourism stakeholders are preparing to welcome tourists from 10 Oct onwards. Following the State Government's announcements of resuming tourism in the state, Pelling



Tourism Development Association held multiple meetings with tourism stakeholders of Pelling and various other places in West Sikkim.

Welcoming the state government's decision to resume tourism in the state, Pelling Tourism Development Association announced that they are ready to welcome tourists from 10 October.

PTDA president, Narayan Khatiwada who is also a hotelier and travel agent said that the association plans to strictly follow the SoPs formulated by the government and receive tourists with all precautions in place.

They also plan to organise awareness and sensitization programs for all tourism stakeholders from time to time.

Mr Khatiwada informed that initially ten hotels will be open for tourists since they are eligible as per the SOP guidelines issued by the Sikkim Government. Other hotels and home stays will be ready after that, he said.

"All hotels and resorts will be strictly monitored by the PTDA for safety and precautions. All nearby tourists' places and sightseeing places will be sanitized regularly," he informed.

He further added that tourist vehicles are also ready for local sightseeing and transportation of tourists from Bagdogra airport and railway stations to Pelling.

Home stay owner, Shiva Gurung from Darap who is also the home stay coordinator of PTDA is also ready to welcome guests at their homestay.

"Most of the home stay owners are ready to receive tourists," said Mr Gurung.

Tour and travel operators from Pelling also requested the state government to open tourist destinations that have banned entry of tourists.

A trekking and travel agent from Yuksam, Kiran Gurung appealed to the state government to open Dzongri-Goechala trekking trail inside Khangchendzonga National Park (KNP) for Dzongri-Goechala trekking.

"We are totally dependent on tourism. Our livelihood directly depends on adventure tourism and organising trekking," he said.

It may be mentioned that many tourist destinations have banned entry of tourists till the end of this year for fear of tourists bringing in COVID-19. Yuksam is one of such places.

On tourist destinations in the state banning entry of tourists, Mr Khatiwada said that it is illegal to do so.

"We must follow the State Government's decision. Decision of Sikkim Government decision is always in favour of its people. Once we read the SOP issued by the Sikkim Government we will come to know how safe and secure the procedures will be to operate tourism. I recommend people to go through the SOP issued by the Sikkim Government once," he said.

A tourism entrepreneur, Lalong Subba from Uttarey and cab driver, Bhim Shankar also supported the decision of Pelling Tourism Development Association.

Shantinagar observes birth anniversary of Nar Bahadur Bhandari



**SUMMIT REPORT
SINGTAM, 05 OCT:**

The 79th birth anniversary of Nar Bahadur Bhandari, the second Chief Minister of Sikkim, was observed by members of Shantinagar Gaon Sudhar Samiti, Singtam, today.

A short felicitation program and distribution of certificates and mementos of Nepali Bhasa Diwas were presented. Sanjay Agarwal and KB Chettri were the chief guest and guest of honour and Dr Bhumika Dulal, special guest for the function.

The program started with a two-minute silence observed in the memory of SGSS advisor, Dr AH Khan.

Dr Khan was a popular physician and known to all for his simplicity. He was a sportsperson and impressed with his skills in cricket and bad-

mintion.

Khadas were offered to a portrait of NB Bhandari and SGSS president, Krishna Chettri, presented the welcome speech.

A highlight of the program was the felicitation of senior journalist, Sanjay Agarwal and Principal Singtam SSS, KB Chettri.

Six Nepali poets who had participated in the online Nepal poem recitation exhibition on the occasion of Nepali Bhasa Diwas were presented certificates and mementoes. The poets were Surya Kharel, Nishant Dulal, Anand Chettri, Lokesh Mukhia, Ayushman Chettri and Padam Parajuli.

A resident of Shantinagar, Dr Bhumika Dulal was presented a Letter of Appreciation to celebrate completion of her MBBS degree. She is the first medical doctor from Shantinagar.

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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

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

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.

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**

Media Should Invite More Criticism

There can, after all, be no improvement without analysis

The news media is introduced as the fourth estate, the fourth pillar holding up the shelter of democracy.

Interestingly, while the other “estates” of democracy – the judiciary, the executive and the legislative – have a screening process to get where they do and are also occasionally held accountable for their actions in a formal way in the public domain, the news media is an equal opportunity sector where anyone can get in and appears to work unfettered and is technically answerable to no one. In a perfect world, this is how things should be with “open access” graduating to meritocracy and excellence in this estate. The watchdog in a true democratic system should not be subservient to anyone or anything if it is to deliver on its responsibilities properly. It is, however, not a perfect world that we live in, so checks and balances are required at every level. One could argue that the readers are the best agency to rein in the media when the power of the pen goes to their head. And, in a way they are. No matter how sensational its content, a newspaper, news channel or any other vehicle of information loses credibility in the reader’s mind if it keeps reporting rumours for facts and highlighting trivialities as issues. Readers might turn to them for entertainment, but will take the information with a pinch of salt. And, with so many other modes of entertainment available nowadays, even that USP becomes a liability very fast. So, yes, readership/ viewership (or followers if you are more SocialMedia inclined) is the one factor that fixes accountability on newspapers.

Obviously, sometimes, just this much is not enough. Readership is not respected to the extent it should be – neither in Sikkim nor in India as a whole. While simple numbers are enough to decide readership in Sikkim, at a national level it becomes slightly more complicated. The numbers game that media houses indulge in to inflate circulation is no secret and it is perhaps for this reason that an editorial post common in West is now being toyed by some newspapers in India too. The Hindu had started the ball rolling with the offer to appoint a Reader’s Editor, an Ombudsman of sorts. This was a brave decision as the Reader’s Editor, the in-house critic, is expected to be scathing in her/his analysis of the newspaper. That experiment has played out to mixed results, but is worth exploring on wider scale. A Reader’s/ Public Editor does not only question and challenge the veracity of news-reports, but also pulls up the intents and vested interests behind the highlighting, prominence and display of certain stories. That is not all, s/he is also allowed to question journalistic ethics of the newspaper and also air opinion when some stories are downplayed or dropped. S/he does all this not in internal memos, but in a space allotted in the newspaper. In the public domain. Reader’s Editors in the West have been known to be extremely sharp in their criticism. Their performance in India leaves a lot to be desired but is a necessary undertaking. It is also unlikely to happen with any significance because media criticism/ analysis is still a rare animal in media circles. Some online platforms are trying to correct this, but their reach is still limited.

The reason this is being shared here is to highlight the fact that there can be no improvement without criticism. And, there is no such thing as “positive criticism.” Criticism is criticism, its positivity or negativity depends on the target of the criticism and how it is used. Newspaper reports are not the final word. Everyone knows that, and since there is still a lot of room for improvement as far as our conduct is concerned, we, in the media, should invite more responses. To begin with, there will be crude and poorly informed outbursts, but if we give it time, discussions on newspapers in the public domain will soon become more coherent and, yes, “constructive”.

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

Nobel Prizes have a diversity problem even worse than the scientific fields they honor

MARC ZIMMER
theconversation.com

In 2007, I served as a consultant for the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences’ deliberations about the Nobel Prize in Chemistry. As a result, I was invited to attend the Nobel ceremonies. Staying at the Grand Hotel with all the awardees, I got to see how scientists – excellent but largely unknown outside their fields – suddenly became superstars.

As soon as they’re announced annually in early October, Nobel laureates become role models who are invited to give seminars all around the world. In Stockholm for the awards, these scientists were interviewed on radio and television and hobnobbed with Swedish royalty. Swedish television aired the events of Nobel week live.

As a chemist who has also investigated how science is done, seeing scientists and their research jump to the top of the public’s consciousness thanks to all the Nobel hoopla is gratifying. But in the 119 years since the Nobel Prizes were first given out, only 3% of the science awardees have been women and zero of the 617 science laureates have been Black. The vast majority of those now-famous role model scientists are white men.

This is a problem much larger than simply bias on the part of the Nobel selection committees – it’s systemic.

NOBELS STILL REFLECT ANOTHER TIME

Five Nobel Prizes were established according to inventor Alfred Nobel’s will. The first prizes in chemistry, literature, physics and medicine were awarded in 1901. Each prize can be awarded to no more than three people, and prizes may not be awarded posthumously.

Just as with the Oscars for the movie industry, there is pre-Nobel buzz. Scientists try to predict who will be awarded the year’s chemistry, physics and medicine prizes. In the days and weeks following the announcement of the awards, there is a thorough analysis of the winners and their research, as well as sympathizing with those who

were overlooked.

It doesn’t take a very detailed investigation to see that women and Black scientists are not proportionally represented among the laureates, that the United States is home to more winners than most countries and that China has surprisingly few science Nobel laureates.

Nomination to receive a Nobel Prize in science or medicine is by invitation only, and information about the nomination and selection process cannot be revealed until 50 years have passed. Despite this confidentiality, based on the list of laureates it’s clear that nominations tend to favor scientists working at elite research institutions, famous scientists who are good at self-promotion and those well known to their peers. Predictably, these tend to be older, established white men.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and the Nobel Assembly at the Karolinska Institute are in charge of selecting the Nobel winners for chemistry and physics, and for medicine, respectively. They’re aware that they have a “white male problem,” and starting with the 2019 nominations have asked nominators to consider diversity in gender, geography and topic. One year in, it hasn’t yet been reflected on the dais. There were no Black or female award recipients in physics, chemistry or medicine at the December 2019 Nobel ceremonies.

So what’s going on? Why does the list of Nobel laureates seem to mirror the scientists of Alfred Nobel’s day more than the world in 2020?

STEM IS MORE DIVERSE THAN NOBELS, BUT...

A 2017 National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics report shows that while white men make up only one-third of the U.S. population, they constitute at least half of all scientists.

There’s no good reason students from underrepresented groups wouldn’t start out aspiring to careers in science, technology, engineering and math fields at the same rates as their nonminority peers. But minorities, who comprise 30% of the U.S. population, make up only 14% of master’s students and just 6% of all Ph.D. candidates. In 2017, there

were more than a dozen areas in which not a single Ph.D. was awarded to a Black person, and these are primarily within the STEM fields. Only 1.6% of chemistry professors at the top 50 U.S. schools are Black. This gap hasn’t changed much in the last 15 years. There are not enough Black full professors in the sciences at elite universities where the networks and reputations critical for winning a Nobel are made.

There are many reasons for these dismal numbers: poverty, sub-par preparation in largely minority-serving schools of all levels and scarcity of role models and mentors. Stereotype threat, in which negative stereotypes lead to academic underperformance, can kick in, as can impostor syndrome, when a person feels inadequate despite evident success. Blatant discrimination and numerous microaggressions can also prevent scientists from minority groups from performing to their potential.

Though women make up more than half of the general population, they too count as an underrepresented group in many STEM disciplines. Just three women out of 213 physics Nobel laureates is obviously a disproportionately low number. Only five women have won in chemistry, and 12 in medicine. It’s hard not to think that many distinguished and immensely qualified female scientists must have been overlooked over more than a century of prizes.

The list of STEM Nobel laureates since 1901 sends the wrong message to young people, funding agencies, editorial boards and others about who does noteworthy science. Perhaps much more important, it is indicative of many biases and inequities that plague women and minorities in science. Colleges and universities host programs to support underrepresented groups in the sciences, but they are just Band-Aids on much bigger systemic issues in society. Without economic equity and educational parity, it will be hard to achieve Nobel diversity.

[the writer is Professor of Chemistry, Connecticut College]



In the midst of deep grief, a scholar writes how Hindu rituals taught her to let go

KETIKA GARG
theconversation.com

Cultures have built elaborate rituals to help humans process the grief of losing someone.

Rituals can hold the core beliefs of a culture and provide a sense of control in an otherwise helpless situation. I came to understand this when I lost my mother last year and participated in the primary Hindu rituals of death and grief.

The cultural practices and experiences helped me find meaning in my loss.

BODY AND SOUL

Many Eastern religions do not bury their dead; instead, they cremate them. Most Hindus consider this to be the final sacrifice of a person.

The Sanskrit word for death, “dehanta,” means “the end of body” but not the end of life. One of the central tenets of Hindu philosophy is the distinction between a body and a soul. Hindus believe that the body is a temporary vessel for an immortal soul in the mortal realm. When we die, our physical body perishes but our soul lives on.

The soul continues its journey of birth, death and rebirth, in perpetuity until a final liberation. This is at

the heart of the philosophy of detachment and learning to let go of desires.

Scholars of Indian philosophy have argued about the importance of cultivating detachment in the Hindu way of life. An ultimate test of detachment is the acceptance of death.

Hindus believe that the soul of the deceased stays attached to its body even after its demise, and by cremating the body, it can be set free. As a final act, a close family member forcefully strikes the burning corpse’s skull with a stick as if to crack it open and release the soul.

To fully liberate the soul of its mortal attachments, the ashes and remaining bone fragments of the deceased are then dispersed in a river or ocean, usually at a historically holy place, like the banks of the River Ganges.

KNOWLEDGE WITHIN RITUALS

Someone from a different tradition might wonder why a ritual should ask mourners to destroy the body of their loved ones and dispose of their remains when one should be caring for all that remains of the dead?

As shocking as it was, it forced me to understand that the burning corpse is only a body, not my mother,

and I have no connection left to the body. My Ph.D. studies in cognitive sciences, a field that seeks to understand how our behavior and thinking are influenced by interactions between brain, body, environment and culture, made me look beyond the rituals. It made me understand their deeper relevance and question my experiences.

Rituals can help us understand concepts that are otherwise elusive to grasp. For example, scholar Nicole Boivin describes the importance of physical doorways in rituals of social transformation, like marriage, in some cultures. The experience of moving through doorways evokes transition and creates an understanding of change.

Through the rituals, ideas that were abstract until then, such as detachment, became accessible to me.

The concept of detachment to the physical body is embodied in the Hindu death rituals. Cremation creates an experience that represents the end of the deceased’s physical body. Further, immersing ashes in a river symbolizes the final detachment with the physical body as flowing water takes the remains away from the mortal world.

Dealing with the death of a loved

one can be incredibly painful, and it also confronts one with the specter of mortality. The ritual of liberating the soul of the dead from its attachments is also a reminder to those left behind to let go of the attachment to the dead.

For it is the living who must learn to let go of the attachment to the dead, not the long-gone soul. Cultural rituals can widen one’s views when it is difficult to see past the grief.

Standing at a place where millions before me had come and gone, where my ancestors performed their rites, I let go of my mother’s final remains in the holy waters of the river Ganges.

Watching them float away with the waves of the ancient river helped me recognize that this was not the end but a small fragment in the bigger circle of life.

As the Hindu text, the “Bhagavad Gita” – The Song of God – says of the soul,

It is not born, it does not die;
Having been, it will never not be.
Unborn, eternal, constant and primordial;
It is not killed, when the body is killed.

[the writer is Ph.D. Student of Cognitive Science, University of California, Merced]

India funds restoration of pagodas in Myanmar

NEW DELHI, OCT 5 (PTI): The Indian government is working on the restoration and conservation of pagodas in Myanmar that suffered damages due to a severe earthquake four years ago, officials said.

The project, fully funded by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), had commenced in January 2020, but had to be suspended after the coronavirus pandemic hit the world earlier this year.

After a brief disruption due to the pandemic followed by suspension of work owing to extreme weather conditions, the Indian government has restarted the restoration and conservation of pagodas in Myanmar, officials said.

Located in the ancient city of Bagan, which is a UNESCO World Heritage City, the Archeological Survey of India has taken up the renovation of 12 pagodas in the first phase.

Pagodas in Myanmar typically house Buddhist relics, including relics associated with Buddha.

Dozens of ancient structures dotting the plains of Bagan had suffered damages when a 6.8-magnitude earthquake struck central Myanmar in August 2016.

There are more than 2,200 pagodas, temples,



monasteries and other historical structures built between 11th and 13th centuries in the spectacular plains of Bagan.

According to officials, during the India visit of Myanmar President Htin Kyaw, India had agreed to offer technical and financial help for the conservation and restoration of the damaged structures and paintings at the site.

"A Memorandum of Understanding was subsequently signed between India and Myanmar for the conservation of earthquake-damaged Pagodas in Bagan in May 2018. The ASI identified 12 pagodas to be renovated in the first phase at (an expenditure of) Rs 21 crore, which was

funded by MEA," an official said.

Due to extreme weather conditions, it becomes difficult for conservation experts and workers to carry out any restoration work in Bagan for a period of four months between June and September every year as greater variation in relative humidity affects masonry elements.

"The effective working condition at Bagan is from around October to May every year," the official said.

The ASI had also taken up the conservation work of historical Ananda Temple, a prominent Buddhist pilgrimage centre and a masterpiece of Mon architecture

built in the 12th century. While the structure had suffered damages in an earthquake in 1975, the restoration work was started in May 2012.

The conservation and restoration of the Ananda Temple was completed in 2018 at a cost of Rs 11.54 crore.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had also visited and offered prayers at this historic temple during his trip to Myanmar in 2017.

Senior MEA officials said India has deep cultural ties with Southeast Asian countries and from time to time it carries out restoration work at temples overseas.

Several other overseas restoration and con-

versation works taken up by ASI include Angkor in Cambodia, Cham Monuments in Vietnam, Thiruketeswaram Temple in Sri Lanka, Wat Phou Temple Complex in Laos, and Pashupatinath Temple in Nepal.

The MEA, as part of its diplomatic outreach, allocates funds for such projects and the Ministry of Culture implements them through ASI, which has the technical expertise for such works.

The MEA had also allocated about Rs 80 lakhs for the renovation of stone inscription temples and Zayat of King Bagydaw and King Mindon at Bodh Gaya. The project was completed in 2018.

Bye-election to 2 Assembly seats likely to see multi-cornered contest

KOHIMA, OCT 04 [NAGALANDPAGE]: Multi-cornered contest is expected in both Assembly seats due for bye-election on November 3 in the State.

Election temperature is heating up in both the Assembly constituencies but political parties are yet to finalize the names of candidates. The key players would be NDPP and the BJP ~ the main allies of the ruling People's Democratic Alliance (PDA).

BJP will contest in the Kiphire-Pungro constituency while NDPP will field a candidate in the Southern Angami-1 constituency. In both constituencies reportedly there are several intending candidates seeking tickets for BJP and NDPP. But the parties are yet to finalize the names of candidates.

Sources said opposition Naga People's Front

(NPF) and the Congress may also contest.

BJP and NDPP sources said there are several intending candidates seeking tickets and that there was no consensus among leaders on choosing candidates.

In the Kiphire-Pungro constituency there were nearly a dozen intending candidates seeking BJP ticket. There was no report of takers for NPF and the Congress tickets. BJP source said there was no consensus among party leadership on choosing the candidate but added that saffron leaders will not take any risk that could cost the party.

Winning the Kiphire-Pungro constituency would be another feather in the party's cap when the party is trying to consolidate its hold in the State. The party holds the remote control in

Chief Minister, Neiphiu Rio PDA Government. The BJP has 12 MLAs in the Assembly.

NDPP source also said there are more than one intending candidate seeking the party ticket but Chief Minister, Rio is likely to take the final call.

Both the seats have remained vacant after the demise of NPF lawmaker, Thorechu and former Speaker, Vikho-Yhosho.

The schedule for the bye-election was issued in the Gazette notification on October 9, last date of nomination - October 16 and scrutiny - October 17. Last date of withdrawal is October 19, date of poll is November 3 and counting will be on November 11.

Model Code of Conduct is already in force in Kiphire and Kohima districts.

Rose Valley returned Rs 10,500cr to investors: ED

KOLKATA, OCT 5 (PTI): Rose Valley, which is under the concurrent probe of the CBI and ED for allegedly defrauding investors, has already returned around Rs 10,500 crore out of Rs 17,520 crore raised from them, an official said on Monday.

He said the ED had also attached properties worth Rs 4,500 crore and filed two prosecution complaints with the designated Prevention of Money-Laundering Act

(PMLA) court.

"Out of Rs 17,520 crore raised by Rose Valley, which has been in operation since 1999, around Rs 10,500 crore has already been returned to investors," the ED official said.

The probe into the Rose Valley scam started six years ago.

The official said the second prosecution complaint is against all those who have been accused, including the owner of

Rose Valley, who is still in jail. "The designated court has given a date in November for hearing on the complaint, which had been filed by SEBI," he said, adding, the court would also frame charges against the accused on the day of hearing.

The official said there have been instances of forging of documents and cheating by "some unscrupulous elements who are trying to derail the session trial".

Assam Rifles jawan killed, another injured in militant ambush in Arunachal

ITANAGAR, OCT 04 [PTI]: An Assam Rifles personnel was killed and another injured in an ambush by insurgents in Arunachal Pradesh's Changlang district on Sunday, a senior police officer said.

Militants of proscribed outfits ULFA (I) and NSCN (K) are suspected to have been involved in the ambush, he said. The slain jawan has been identified as Havildar Birendra Singh Yadav, district Superintendent of Police Mihin Gambo said.

"The ambush took place near Tengmo vil-

lage in Jairampur subdivision around 9 am when the Assam Rifles personnel were returning to their camp in a water tanker after fetching water," the SP said.

The exchange of fire lasted for around 30 minutes, the officer said.

The injured jawan has been admitted to a hospital, Gambo said, adding casualties on the militants' side is not immediately known.

A massive combined search operation by Assam Rifles, the state police and the CRPF is underway, the SP added.

BJP leader shot dead in West Bengal, Vijayvargiya demands CBI inquiry

KOLKATA, OCT 5 (PTI): A local BJP leader in West Bengal was shot dead on Sunday by two bike-borne assailants near Titagarh in North 24 Parganas district, police said.

The duo opened fire at Manish Sukla, a local councillor, on B T Road in the evening, following which he was taken to a private hospital, where he was declared brought dead, they said.

The BJP leadership blamed the Trinamool Congress for the incident, but the ruling party has rubbished the accusation.

"It is shameful that the TMC has now started politics of annihilation of political opponents. We don't have any faith in local police as this happened in front of the po-

lice station. We want a CBI inquiry," BJP national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya said.

BJP MP Arjun Singh also held the TMC responsible for Shukla's "killing" and claimed that shots were fired at him from a carbine.

Shukla, who switched over to the saffron party last year, was considered to be close to Singh.

Senior TMC leader Nirmal Ghosh said the incident was a result of infighting within the BJP and allegations against his party were baseless.

A huge police contingent was rushed to the spot after Shukla was gunned down around 9.30 pm.

"We have started an investigation and will look at all possible an-

gles," a senior police officer said.

The BJP has called a 12-hour bandh in Barrackpore area on Monday in protest against the incident.

Meanwhile, Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar expressed concern over the law and order situation in the state and summoned the Additional Chief Secretary, Home, and the DGP on Monday morning.

"ACS Home @MamataOfficial and DGP @WBPolice have been summoned at 10 am tomorrow in the wake of worsening law and order situation leading to the dastardly killing of Manish Shukla, Councillor, Titagarh Municipality in political party office," Dhankhar said in a tweet.

Odisha reports 2,617 new COVID-19 cases, 17 fatalities

BHUBANESWAR, OCT 5 (PTI): At least 2,617 more people tested positive for COVID-19 in Odisha on Monday, which raised the tally to 2,35,330, while 17 fresh fatalities pushed the death toll to 924, a health department official said.

Of the new cases, 1,521 were reported from various quarantine centres and the rest were detected during contact tracing, he said.

Khurda district, of which state capital Bhubaneswar is a part, reported the maximum number of new cases at 506, followed by Bargarh at 148.

"Regret to inform the demise of seventeen #COVID-19 positive patients while under treatment in hospitals," the Health and Family Wel-



fare Department said on Twitter.

Of the 17 fatalities, three each were registered in Cuttack and Puri districts, two each in Balasore, Boudh and Khurda and one each in Angul, Keonjhar, Nabarangpur, Rayagada and Sundargarh.

Ganjam district alone reported 221 of the 924 deaths in the state, fol-

lowed by Khurda at 151 and Cuttack at 80.

Odisha currently has 32,051 active cases, while 2,02,302 people have recovered so far.

Fifty-three coronavirus patients have died due to comorbidities, according to the official.

As many as 34.82 lakh tests have been conducted so far, including 41,567 on Sunday.

Meghalaya reports 111 new COVID-19 cases, one more death

SHILLONG, OCT 5 (PTI): At least 111 people tested positive for COVID-19 in Meghalaya on Monday, which pushed the tally to 6,820, while one more fatality raised the toll in the northeastern state to 59, a health department official said.

East Khasi Hills, of which state capital Shillong is a part, continues to be the worst-affected district with 72 fresh cases, Health Services Director Aman War said.

Ri Bhoi accounted for 19 new cases, followed by East Jaintia Hills at 10, East Garo Hills at six and West Garo Hills District at two. One each was re-



corded in South West Garo Hills and South West Khasi hills, War explained.

Altogether 98 patients have been cured of the disease on Monday, increasing the total

number of recoveries to 4,491.

Meghalaya currently has 2,270 active cases.

As many as 1.6 lakh samples have been sent for COVID-19 examination so far, War said.

16 new COVID-19 cases in Andamans; tally rises to 3,884

PORT BLAIR, OCT 5 (PTI): The COVID-19 tally of Andaman and Nicobar Islands rose to 3,884 on Monday as 16 more people tested positive for the virus, a health official said.

Twelve new patients were detected during contact tracing, while four have travel history, he said.

Seven more people were cured of the dis-

ease, the official said.

The Union territory now has 182 active coronavirus cases, while 3,649 people have been cured of the disease and 53 patients have succumbed to the infection so far, he said.

The administration had till Sunday sent 62,103 samples for COVID-19 tests, of which 10 reports were awaited, the official added.

44 new COVID-19 cases detected in Ladakh

LEH, OCT 5 (PTI): Forty-four new cases of coronavirus were detected in Ladakh, taking the infection tally in the Union Territory to 4,521, officials said on Monday.

With 39 more patients cured of the contagion, the number of active cases in the region stands at 1,106 773 in Leh district and 333 in Kargil district, the officials said.

They said 37 per-

sons tested positive for COVID-19 in Leh district and another seven in Kargil district during the past 24 hours.

Ladakh had reported 61 COVID-related deaths, while 3,354 patients had recovered from the infection till Sunday evening.

The officials said 33 COVID patients were discharged in Leh and six others in Kargil on Sunday after their treatment.

THE BIRDS HAVE LOST THEIR WAY
EDITED BY TSHERING EDEN AND PEMA WANGCHUK

Eight essays put the spotlight on the journey caused by hydro projects in Sikkim and the region, the cost exacted by this "development" and some of the stories it birthed, not all of which have been shared before. Also finding place in this collection is the arrival of Climate Change and its impact on Sikkim and how the State could negotiate with this new disruption.

ESSAYS ON TEESTA, HYDEL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN SIKKIM

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Will most unpredictable Premier League season produce surprise champions?

PETER HALL
LONDON, 05 OCT [REUTERS]: The most astonishing set of results yet, in an already very unpredictable Premier League season, and the different environment in which the English top flight is operating have raised the prospect of unexpected champions.

With Manchester City having conceded five goals at home for the first time in 438 games at the Etihad Stadium last weekend against Leicester City, champions Liverpool continued the trend of extraordinary results at Aston Villa.

In their remarkable 7-2 defeat on Sunday, Liverpool became the first reigning English top-flight champions to ship seven goals in a league match since Arsenal against Sunderland in 1953, but goals flowing this season are anything but abnormal.

The result came hours after Manchester United suffered their joint-heaviest Premier League defeat against Tottenham Hotspur, a 6-1 drubbing, with both games contributing to a total of 41 goals in a



single Premier League round of matches.

It is just three short of the Premier League record for goals in a single game week -- which was set last month. This season has been anything but predictable, but it has only enhanced the excitement.

"I want the Premier League to be a bit more like this season," former Liverpool defender Jamie Carragher told Sky Sports. "When you are talking about 95 points to win the league, it is remarkable, but in some ways it kills the Premier

League. "I'd like to go back to when winning the league was mid-80 points. It just means you lose more games and there is more excitement, and the teams who finish fourth, fifth and sixth are not as far behind.

"I think this season could be unique."

With no fans in stadiums to add pressure as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, home advantage is not as important this season as fewer matches, on average, are being won by home teams than in any of the

last five seasons.

Also, with less time to fit fixtures in, clubs are going from game to game, with little time to regroup, ensuring matches in the empty stadiums have a distinct training-ground game feel, which has helped increase the volume of goals.

Carragher believes if teams like Villa, who only just avoided relegation in the Premier League last season, can humble Liverpool like they did on Sunday, with Everton remaining top of the table, we could be in for more

surprises to come. "There was no pre-season, it is a condensed league to get all the fixtures in," Carragher added. "There is no time for coaches to work with their teams on the training pitch to iron out defensive frailties, as we have seen with almost every team this season.

"We might get a Leicester season (they won Premier League title in 2015-16) and get a new champions, and even a strange top four, and I think that bodes well for the Premier League this season."

Napoli set to be handed 3-0 loss for failing to show at Juve

TURIN, OCT 5 (AP): Napoli is likely to be handed a 3-0 loss by the Italian league's judge for failing to show for its Serie A match at Juventus.

Napoli did not travel to Turin for the game after local health authorities ordered the squad into quarantine after two players tested positive for the coronavirus midfielders Piotr Zielinski and Eljif Elmas.

Juventus followed its regular match-day routine on Sunday and arrived at the stadium for the scheduled 8:45 p.m. (1845 GMT) kickoff.

In somewhat farcical scenes, several players walked out onto the field while a limited number of fans watched from the stands.

It will not be known whether Juventus will be awarded a 3-0 win by default or if the match has simply been postponed until next week's disciplinary commission, where Napoli will make its case.

"The sporting rules are clear and say that if a team does not show up, they face disciplinary sanctions," Juventus president Andrea Agnelli said.

"The Sporting Judge will speak tomorrow, and based on his decision, there will be further reflections.

"It is evident that the fact that a team does not reach a stadium to play a planned match does not give a great image of Italian soccer, but we are provincial and we care little about what happens outside our borders, without considering the damage we do to soccer internationally."

Vincenzo Spadafora, Italy's sports minister, said he would also speak about the issue with the heads of the Italian soccer federation and the league, in two meetings already scheduled for Monday.

"The protocol proposed by the FIGC and validated by the Technical-Scientific Committee tried to make Italian soccer safe to allow the restart that everyone wanted," Spadafora said Sunday.

"It's clear however that the situation in general over the past few weeks has become even more complex, so much so that it hasn't left even the world of soccer immune despite the rigid rules.

"I want to make a really clear appeal for the much more important interest of health to prevail over whatever other logic or vested interests."

Napoli had requested that the match be postponed and club president Aurelio De Laurentiis had also contacted Juventus asking the same.

"He texted me a couple of days ago, asking me to postpone the match," Agnelli said.

"My answer was that Juventus abides by the regulations."

The Italian league's protocol for COVID cases is the same as UEFA rules. If a team has 13 available players, including at least one goalkeeper, the game can go ahead.

"In regards to Napoli's official request the Lega Serie A clarifies that the current system of rules must guarantee the health of everybody, equal treatment for all clubs and the respect of the principals of sportsmanship," read a statement by the league's governing body.

"On that matter it is opportune to remember that the statement issued by Campania health authorities only asks fiduciary isolation for the close contacts of Piotr Zielinski.

"Therefore, in this case the FIGC protocol agreed with the Technical-Scientific Committee should be applied. The protocol provides certain and mandatory rules that allow league matches to go ahead even if there are positive cases in the group, fielding the players who tested negative through exams undergone within the time range given by the health authorities."

The entire Napoli team has been tested constantly after Napoli played Genoa last weekend. More than 20 Genoa players and staff members have tested positive. Genoa's match at Torino on Saturday was postponed.

"The Lega Serie A did also approve a precise set of rules to adopt if there are several positive cases and that can lead to the postponement of the match only if there are specific conditions which, at the moment, don't apply to Napoli's case," continued the governing body's statement.

Star-struck Korda asks Nadal for autograph after Paris rout

PARIS, OCT 5 (AP): It's not often that a tennis player calls being on the wrong end of a 6-1, 6-1, 6-2 Grand Slam result "super awesome" or "definitely the best moment of my life."

It's also rather rare for a player to go up to the net and ask the guy who just beat him for an autographed shirt.

Sebastian Korda, the 20-year-old American qualifier who lost to Rafael Nadal by the above scoreline in the French Open's fourth round Sunday, still was beaming afterward.

"Ever since I was a kid, I mean, I was in love with him and everything about him. I would watch every single match. Doesn't matter who he was playing or what tournament he was playing. He was the guy for me," said Korda, whose cat is named after the 12-time champion at Roland Garros. "It was an unbelievable moment for me and I couldn't have written it any better."

Imagine how he might have reacted if he'd been in the room for Nadal's post-match news conference, when this assessment of Korda was offered: "I really predict that he going to have a very good future."

The 213th-ranked Korda was the youngest American man to make it to the fourth round in Paris since 1991 and made sure to soak up every moment in Court Philippe Chatrier on Sunday, even if that kept kicking loose dirt off the clay surface felt "like a tornado, sometimes," he said.

After feeling tight in warmups, Korda -- whose father, Petr, won the 1998 Australian Open and was a finalist at the 1992 French Open, and whose mother, Regina, was ranked in the Top 30 -- loosened up and hung in there with Nadal at the outset.

Harry Kane stars in Tottenham's 6-1 thrashing of hapless Manchester United



JAMIE JACKSON
MANCHESTER, 05 OCT [THE-GUARDIAN]: Farcical, hapless and concerning: three words to describe an absolute horror show from Manchester United, who on this evidence would struggle to give a parks team a contest. This was the first time since November 1957 -- also against Tottenham -- that they conceded four in the first half and when Harry Kane scored a late penalty United had equalled their record Premier League defeat, having also gone down 6-1 here to Manchester City in 2011.

Every side can have an off-day and while Spurs deserve plaudits for ruthlessly punishing their hosts, the real question is where Ole Gunnar Solskjær's side go next. The manager has the international break to digest this but though Porto's Alex Telles and Edinson Cavani are close to joining, a left-back and a 33-year-old striker hardly appear the answer.

Solskjær's sole change was to bring in Eric Bailly for Victor Lindelöf, which meant Donny van de Beek had to keep waiting for his first league start for United. José Mourinho again had no place for Dele Alli though Son Heung-min was passed fit as Spurs set out to avenge last season's loss in the corresponding fixture. This they would do far too easily.

Yet within 30 seconds of kick-off Spurs' hopes took a hit when United were awarded a penalty. Bruno Fernandes passed to Anthony Martial and as the No 9 ran at goal Davinson Sánchez fouled him and Anthony Taylor pointed to the spot. Up stepped Fernandes

to pause, wrong-foot Hugo Lloris, and beat the No 1 to his left. If this was poor from Spurs what followed was embarrassing from United; within seven minutes they were behind. Spurs' equaliser might have been found in a West End comedy. Bailly and Harry Maguire proved amateur with headers, the latter attempting one back to David de Gea. It was too weak, Luke Shaw tried to hold off Eric Lamela -- he could not -- and the ball broke to Tanguy Ndombele, who smashed home.

How Aaron Wan-Bissaka must have been relieved at being the sole member of United's back four not complicit. Yet when Spurs took the lead there were similar shades of embarrassment. Maguire once more was chief culprit. This time he hacked down Kane, who bounced to his feet and took the resultant free-kick quickly as United slept, and in race Son to beat Bailly and Shaw for pace before he scored.

United's response was to hem Spurs in around their area. Fernandes tried to find a pass, and Martial and Mason Greenwood had shots. But then came more calamity from the home side. A Lamela ball split United asunder and left Nemanja Matic in a race with Son; there was only one winner. Luckily for United Son overran the ball and De Gea collected.

Yet after Maguire was spun too easily by Kane -- a running theme -- the striker found Aurier and his shot was punched out by De Gea. Moments later Lamela's effort was deflected off Bailly and from here United descended into utter

shambles. When the corner was taken a Bailly block led to another, except before it could be taken Lamela shoved Martial and moved his arm to the striker's head. The Frenchman retaliated with a hand to the face of the Argentinian, who dropped as if hit by a George Foreman haymaker and Taylor sent Martial off.

United's morale and spine collapsed totally. Bailly, enduring an awful outing, received a goal-kick from De Gea and hit a pass across his area. It was aimed at Matic but Kane intercepted and found Son, who passed it back and the No 10 hammered home. By half-time, United had conceded once more. Again the defensive effort was close to laughable. Son was the scorer, yet the way Matic and Bailly allowed the South Korean to drift to the near post and beat De Gea deserved an inquest. At the break it could have been eight and Solskjær walked off looking as livid as he ever has.

For the second half he introduced Scott McTominay and Fred for Fernandes and Matic. This did zero to stem the white wave as Aurier roved in behind Pogba to latch on to a Pierre-Emile Højbjerg pass and hit home. Spurs were lounging in deckchairs and toying with United in a manner that Mourinho, Solskjær's predecessor, surely enjoyed.

McTominay and Fred showed edge and venom in the challenge. But the deep-lying issue is United's powder-puff rearguard and its lack of bloody-mindedness. When Kane hit the sixth from the spot Mourinho smirked. Who could blame him?

Ollie Watkins and Aston Villa stun Liverpool in 7-2 rout of champions

DAVID HYTNER
ASTON, 05 OCT [THE-GUARDIAN]: In these disorientating times it can feel as if all reference points have been scrambled. Aston Villa are not supposed to destroy Liverpool, the remorseless title-winning force shaped by Jürgen Klopp, making their star-studded back four look like rabbits in front of floodlights. But on an extraordinary night at Villa Park -- a sadly silent Villa Park -- that is precisely what happened.

Ollie Watkins, the £28m arrival from Brentford, helped himself to a hat-trick before half-time while Jack Grealish, the game's outstanding performer, scored two and contributed three assists. Villa have now won three out of three at the start of a top-flight season for the first time since 1962.

But they are merely the headline details. The story was about how Villa asserted themselves from the first whistle, tearing Liverpool's high defensive line to pieces and making one of the loudest statements of their recent history.

Villa's previous conquests had been Sheffield United and Fulham -- teams at the foot of the table. As Dean Smith, the manager, had noted, Liverpool would be a "great marker to see how far we have moved on".

This was a performance and result to send expectations into orbit.

What on earth happened to Liverpool? They badly missed the presence of the goalkeeper,

Alisson, who enables them to play their high line. He damaged a shoulder in training and is out for four-to-six weeks but that only goes some way towards explaining the shambles on display.

The tone was set by Villa's opening goal and it was a personal disaster for Adrián, Alisson's deputy. He was guilty of playing a loose pass from his own line straight to Grealish, who worked it back inside for the unmarked Watkins to finish. Bad concessions can happen but what was unacceptable, to paraphrase Klopp -- and so unusual -- was Liverpool's lack of a response, the lack of aggression. Villa were 4-1 up at half-time, with Grealish close to unplayable.

His ability to drift away from opponents, to find spaces when it looked overcrowded, was an outstanding feature of the game. Each time his team went forward in the first half, the alarms bells rang in the Liverpool defence. It has been a long time since they looked so uncomfortable. Their structure was in tatters.

The crazy thing was that Villa ought to have had more before the interval, with Ross Barkley blowing two gilt-edged chances. The loan signing from Chelsea, who went straight into the line-up for a debut, was particularly aggrieved to have dragged wide on eight minutes from Grealish's pass.

At the time it was easy to think that Villa would regret that mo-

ment. Instead, they set about creating more and scoring more. Watkins's second was a beauty, beginning with how Grealish sent him clear of Virgil van Dijk on the left. Watkins cut inside back inside the Liverpool captain before picking out the far, top corner.

It was not as if Liverpool did not have their openings in the first-half. Even without Sadio Mané, who has tested positive for coronavirus, they brought menace. Their only reward before the interval came when Mohamed Salah lashed home for 2-1 after a Naby Keita shot had been blocked but Roberto Firmino twice extended Emiliano Martínez while the Villa goalkeeper had to be alert to tip over a Diogo Jota chip and also save from Andy Robertson. Martínez got away with a poor clearance, too, with Firmino delaying before Keita had his shot blocked.

Villa turned the screw. John McGinn's goal for 3-1 contained a slice of luck, his shot from a half-cleared corner deflecting heavily off Van Dijk to beat Adrián, and the fourth came when Trezeguet got around the back to return Barkley's deep free-kick for Watkins to head home. Liverpool's defenders seemed to watch it happen in slow motion. What was going on?

Smith said it was surreal in the dressing-room at half-time but he wanted to remain on the front foot and things would get even better.

Chadwick Boseman's brothers remember the gifted artiste

NEW YORK, OCT 5 (PTI): Hollywood star Chadwick Boseman's brother Derrick Boseman recalled the last conversation he had with the Black Panther star, who died at the age of 43 after losing his fight with colon cancer in August.

Boseman was diagnosed with the disease in 2016 but shared the diagnosis only with close family and friends.

In an interview with the New York Times, Derrick, Chadwick's eldest brother, remembered the last time he spoke to the actor.

Man, I'm in the fourth quarter, and I need you to get me out of the game," the pastor, 54, remembered his youngest brother saying.

Derrick recalled asking Chadwick what he meant, "but then realised that he was tired. He was ready to go."

When he told me that, I changed my prayer from, God heal him, God save him,' to God, let your will be done'. And the next day he passed away, Derrick, a pastor, told the Times.

Recalling his childhood, Derrick said

Chadwick was talented from a young age. Chad was gifted. He's probably the most gifted person I've ever met.

Chadwick's other brother, Kevin

a celebrity, You have to start sharing that person with the world; I always endeavored to just treat him like my brother.

A lot of people think making it



Boseman, also spoke to the Times about the actor. I have been trying to remember Chad and not Chadwick, Kevin, 48, said.

And there's just been a lot of Chadwick in the air. Kevin, who's also an actor and writer, said when someone becomes

means becoming an A-list movie star. I didn't force that. I just knew that if Chad wanted to work in the arts, he would find a way and take care of himself. He always did his best. His best was incredible, Kevin said.



FUN IN THE SUN! The Brazilian model, Alessandra Ambrosio is seen dancing on the beach in Los Angeles.

Actor Thomas Jefferson Byrd killed in Atlanta: report

NEW YORK, OCT 5 (PTI): Actor Thomas Jefferson Byrd, who worked in several of Spike Lee's films, was killed in Atlanta on Saturday, the Variety reported quoting the Atlanta Police Department. Byrd was 70.

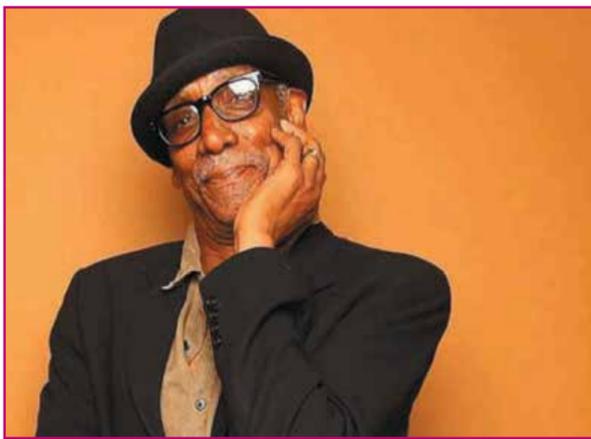
to the scene and pronounced him dead from multiple gunshot wounds to the back. The Atlanta police Homicide detectives are working to determine the circumstances surrounding the incident and the investigation in the case is ongoing.

Byrd featured in several of Lee's films such as Clockers, Bamboozled, Ray and Brooklyn's Finest.

The director remembered Byrd in a tribute on his Instagram page on Sunday.

I'm so sad to announce the tragic murder of our beloved brother Thomas Jefferson Byrd last night in Atlanta, Georgia. Tom is my guy.

"Here below you see him as the frightening character Errol Barnes in CLOCKERS'. Brother Byrd also did his thing in my joints CHI-RAQ, SWEET BLOOD OF JESUS, RED HOOK SUMMER, BAMBOOZLED, HE GOT GAME, GET ON THE BUS, GIRL 6 and CLOCKERS. May we all wish condolences and blessings to his family. Rest in peace brother Byrd, Lee wrote.



The publication said the police officers were dispatched to 2259 Belvedere Ave. on Saturday, responding to a call about an injured person at 1.45 a.m. Upon arrival, the officers found Byrd lying unresponsive at the location.

Emergency medical services responded

MUMBAI, OCT 5 (PTI): Actor Ayushmann Khurrana on Monday said he is fortunate to have worked with some of the most "visionary filmmakers" of Bollywood, including director Sriram Raghavan, with whom he collaborated for the National Award-winning "Andhadhun". Released on October 5, 2018, the black comedy thriller earned critical acclaim and went on to become one of the biggest hits of the year.

"Andhadhun" earned Khurrana his maiden National Award for his performance, while also bagging top honours in the best Hindi film and screenplay category at the 66th National Awards.

On the film's second anniversary, the actor said it was his privilege to team up with a prolific filmmaker like Raghavan.

"I have been fortunate enough to work with some of the best, visionary filmmakers of our time and I'm honoured that I got the opportunity to work in a Sriram Raghavan film.

"Yes, I'm known for my progressive social entertain-

ers that leave a message but what matters most to me is being a part of the best cinema that is produced by our industry," Khurrana said in a statement.

The film, also featuring Tabu, Radhika Apte and Anil Dhawan, is a murder-drama at the centre of which is a pianist (Khurrana), who may or may not be blind.

The 36-year-old actor described Raghavan as a "master" of psychological thrillers and said "Andhadhun" was a learning experience for him.

Khurrana said the film offered him the opportunity to push himself further.

"I like to experiment, mix it up and push the envelope as an artiste and 'Andhadhun' gave me the opportunity to do something that I had never done before. I thank Sriram sir for his faith in me and I can't wait to collaborate with him again, hopefully soon," he added.

The actor was last seen on the big screen in this year's "Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan", while his other release, "Gulabo Sitabo", released on Amazon Prime Video.

Being part of best cinema produced by our industry matters to me: Ayushmann



Manav Kaul tests negative for COVID-19

MUMBAI, OCT 5 (PTI): Actor Manav Kaul says he has recovered from coronavirus, less than two weeks after he tested positive for the disease.

Kaul, along with actor Anand Tiwari, tested positive for COVID-19 on the sets of their upcoming film "Nail Polish" on September 23.

The "Ghoul" actor took to Instagram on Sunday night to share a health update.

"I was Covid positive and now I have tested negative. For the first time I feel so much happiness in being negative," he wrote alongside his selfie.

Kaul, 43, further expressed gratitude towards his fans for their prayers and best wishes.

"We are all together in this pandemic. Take care of yourself and your loved ones. If we support each other, we will get through this difficult time. The warmth of your affection reached me, maybe that's why I could recover soon. Thank you," he added.

The actor, known for films "Tumhari Sulu" and "Music Teacher", also gave special thanks to his friend, Dr Brijeshwar Singh and Dr Amar Khan for their service throughout his treatment.

Alex Pettyfer, Toni Garrn are married



LOS ANGELES, OCT 5 (PTI): Actor Alex Pettyfer and model Toni Garrn have tied the knot, almost a year after they announced their engagement.

The couple, who exchanged vows in Hamburg, Germany, took to Instagram on Sunday to share the news.

Pettyfer, 30, shared a picture of him kissing his wife and captioned it: "Mr & Mrs Pettyfer".

Garrn, 28, posted the

same photo and wrote: "Now you really get to call me wifey". The "I Am Number Four" star proposed to Garrn last year on Christmas Eve and the duo made things social media official on New Year's Eve.

They got engaged after dating for 10 months.

Pettyfer and Garrn were first spotted attending Elton John's Oscars party together in February 2019.

ARIES:

The truth is, you already know what needs to be done here. You're letting the opinions of others (and your own fears) mess with you majorly, Aries. The cards are urging you to tune out the noises, and tune in to your higher self. In moments of silence, you will be granted the gift of clear vision. Remember, adopting 'focus' as your power word will prove to be a gamechanger. Some of you may be confronting your fears regarding your finances as well. Show up for your commitments in a consistent manner as you surrender your worries to the Universe. Everything will be taken care of.

Tip: Tune into your higher self.

TAURUS:

What if you're the only person standing in the way of your success? A major case of imposter syndrome is indicated, Taurus, and working through your self-worth issues is the only way out. Remember, you chose this mission for a reason. You already possess the skills required to slay your demons. Today, no matter how daunting it feels, take the first step. Do something that scares the living daylight out of you and trust that the results will be magnificent.

Tip: You were born to do this!

GEMINI:

It's time for some truth tea, Gemini. You've been playing the blame game for a while now, and no, it isn't helping you solve your problems. The cards are reminding you of the power of free will. No matter how toxic your circumstances might seem on the outside, you have the power to create a shift. Word for the wise: reclaim the reins you had relinquished.

Tip: Create a shift.

CANCER:

The trouble is, you're trying to fit in when you were born to stand out. It's time to re-examine your relationship with yourself. Cancer. What are the ways in which you are holding yourself back from shining your light on the world? The time to shed that cloak of invisibility has come. Growth and expansion are also going to be major themes for you in the coming month. Remember, there is little that can come in your way when you believe in your own power and potential.

Tip: Shed that cloak of invisibility, wild one!

LEO:

Nothing will go back to being the same. Such is the cycle of life. Understand and embrace the change, Leo. Becoming one with the flow is the only way to triumph over your circumstances. Re-examining your relationship with work and money will also be a big theme for you today. Sometimes, we hold onto certain opportunities because we do not believe we're capable of manifesting better. Could you be undermining your own potential here? Set some time aside for self-reflection and trust that you will find the answers.

Tip: Embrace the change.

VIRGO:

Things on the work and money front are looking up for you, Virgo. You're attracting all the right people and opportunities into your world. It's amazing how much we can shift simply by raising our own vibrations! Some of you may be thinking about investing in a business of your own. You've got your plan of action down pat. So what are you waiting for?

Tip: Things are looking up on the work and money front.

LIBRA:

An essential part of the growth and evolution process is acknowledging that you are not the same person you used to be.

Given that you have transformed, how will your beliefs remain unchanged? Shedding old skin is a big mood in the Libra HQ—a cathartic process that promises to take you one step closer to your true self. Word for the wise: let what must fall away, fall away, so you can be liberated from old cycles.

Tip: It's time to shed old skin.

SCORPIO:

Blessings are not a trust fund, Scorpio. There is no cap on the miracles the Universe manifests on our behalf, and there are no limitations on how we can tap into this energy and what we can create. So, breathe and open yourself to what's coming through. Your receptivity will make space for beauty and grace. Remember, gratitude is a powerful practice—one that gives the good stuff in our life the power to increase manifold.

Tip: You are deserving of the miracles you have attracted into your life.

SAGITTARIUS:

Ready for a cup of truth tea, Sagittarius? The most powerful love spell you will ever perform is the one that invokes your love for yourself. This is a time of immense transformation in your Universe. You no longer feel the need to apologise for who you are or fit yourself into boxes that were never meant to be yours. You're realising that letting go of the need for external validation is the secret to finding a sense of wholeness within. Trust that this shift in your vibration will make you a magnet for harmonious relationships.

Tip: It's time to find a sense of wholeness within.

CAPRICORN:

It's true that certain things in our life are predetermined. Who can negate the role of destiny, right? But, is everything scripted to the tee, or do we have space to negotiate and

rewrite certain chapters of our manuscript? Don't underestimate your own power, Capricorn. More importantly, don't underestimate the power of the hard work you're putting in. As Victor E Frankl's words once said, "Between stimulus and response, there is a space. And in that space is our power to choose our response. In our response lies our growth and freedom." PS: We have a feeling you are going to make yours a bestseller!

Tip: Make the most of the given opening. Hustle hard.

AQUARIUS:

If you've been approaching the world outside-in instead of the other way around, expect a shift in the energy. A shift in the way you approach your own body and being. The waning moon brings with itself the lesson that self-care is anything but selfish. It is by coming into a space of wholeness that we're able to fulfil our scared purpose and hold space for others. So, address the guilt that's been weighing you down. Learn to prioritise yourself. PS: This is the perfect time to channel your inner green witch and create lotions and potions that make you feel good about yourself.

Tip: Address the guilt around self-care.

PISCES:

This, right here, is your big moment, Pisces! A testimony to your co-creating abilities. Let the story of your own life inspire you to keep moving forward despite the challenges. Remind yourself that you are your only competition. Things on the financial front are about to take a turn for the better too (eventually, if not immediately). For now, focus on being consistent in your efforts and trust that you will always be taken care of.

Tip: In the end, everything works out just fine!