



**SUPERHERO MOVIES HAVE  
BLIGHTED CINEMA, SAYS  
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# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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**SIKKIM RECORDS 39 NEW CASES AND TWO MORE COVID DEATHS**

## Saturday's 'COVID fatality' had beaten the virus, lab results reveal

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 11 OCT:**

Recorded as Sikkim's 55th COVID-death when he passed away at STNM Hospital on Saturday afternoon, the 71-year-old male from Chisopani near Singtam, his lab results show, had beaten the virus, and on the day on which he would otherwise have been discharged from hospital, succumbed to his other ailments.

Presenting the daily health bulletin on Sunday night, State IEC office, Health Department, Sonam G Bhutia, informed this death will now not be counted as a COVID death.

The patient, it may be recalled, had tested

positive for COVID-19 on 27 August and had been admitted at STNM Hospital since then. He was screened via RT-PCR on Saturday morning but before the result arrived, he passed away. Since he was a COVID patient, the death was recorded as a COVID death until the RT-PCR result arrived Sunday morning to reveal that he had beaten the virus.

While Sikkim's COVID-fatality numbers climbed down to 54 after this confirmation, it climbed up to 56 by the evening with two more deaths of COVID-19 patients being reported.

Late last night, an 82-year-male from Daragaon, Tadong in Gangtok passed away at STNM

Hospital. He had tested positive for COVID at Central Referral Hospital on 06 October and was admitted to STNM Hospital the same day.

At around 6PM Sunday evening, a 62-year-old female from Bardang near Singtam, who had tested positive for COVID-19 on 02 October and had been admitted at STNM Hospital since then, also lost her battle against the virus. She had the co-morbid conditions of Chronic Kidney Disease and hyper-tension, it is informed.

Meanwhile, Sikkim reported 39 fresh cases of COVID-19 today from the 224 samples collected across the State on Saturday.

The State IEC Officer

informs that while 25 cases were detected in East Sikkim, 12 are from West district and two from South Sikkim.

Of the 12 cases reported from West district, eleven are IRBn personnel stationed at the Melli-Aching camp.

A total of 186 samples were screened via RT-PCR, 31 of which returned positive while none of the 10 samples put through the TruNat test came positive. Eight of the 28 samples screened via Rapid Anigen Testing returned positive for COVID-19.

Sikkim now has 384 COVID-19 patients either admitted in hospital or under home isolation and the total number of

COVID cases detected in the State thus far stands at 3,359.

Also today, 37 COVID-19 patients were discharged from hospitals and 67 from home isolation, taking the total number of COVID patients discharged in the State to 2,839.

A detailed breakup of the new cases reported today is as follows: one each from Burtuk below Allahabad Bank; Gandey jhora, Sichey, Upper Sichey; Tadong; Bye Pass; Marchak 8 Mile; Jalipool; Development Area containment zone; below old STNM Hospital; CRH Tadong [staff], lower Samdur; Majhitar; Rangpo; Jorethang; Burtuk, near

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## Crime Branch sleuths nab admission racketeer wanted in Sikkim MBBS admission scam

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 11 OCT:**

Sumantra Gupta, notorious for being the alleged kingpin in admission rackets and also reportedly a child trafficking case (in Kurseong), has reportedly been arrested from Siliguri by a team of Crime Branch CID sleuths of Sikkim Police.

Highly placed sources inform that Sumantra Gupta is wanted in an ad-

mission scam which affected Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences.

The arrest, it is informed, was effected in assistance with Bhaktinagar Police Station, Siliguri.

This is neither the only scam Sumantra Gupta is accused of nor the first time he is being arrested. He is a person of interest in several similar cases stretching back a decade at several states.

## Less than 1000 coronavirus deaths recorded for 8 consecutive days in India



**NEW DELHI, OCT 11 (PTI):**

India's COVID-19 recoveries crossed the 60-lakh mark, while less than 1000 coronavirus deaths have been recorded daily for eight consecutive days, the Union Health Ministry said on Sunday.

Active cases of coronavirus are less than nine lakh for the third day in a row.

With increasing recoveries, India has sustained its leading global position with the maximum recovered cases.

The five top states with the maximum caseload (61 per cent of the active cases) are also contributing more than half (54.3 per cent) of the total recoveries, the ministry said.

With a total 89,154 people having recuperated in a span of 24 hours, India's COVID-19 recoveries have surged to 60,77,976 pushing the recovery rate 86.17 per cent, according to the data updated at 8 am.

"Enhanced country-wide medical infrastructure, implementation of

the Centre's standard treatment protocol by the states and UTs, and total dedication and commitment of doctors, paramedics and frontline workers have led to a consistent slide in the number of daily fatalities and a persistent increase in the number of total recoveries," the ministry underlined.

"For the last eight consecutive days, new deaths recorded are less than 1000," it highlighted.

The five top states --Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu --- with the maximum COVID-19 caseload (61 per cent of the active cases) are also contributing more than half (54.3 per cent) of the total recoveries, the ministry said.

The ministry said that 80 per cent of the new recovered cases are being reported from ten states and UTs --Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal, Del-

hi and Chhattisgarh.

Maharashtra leads the tally with more than 26,000 new cases of recovered patients.

There are 8,67,496 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country which comprises 12.30 per cent of the total caseload, the data stated.

According to the health ministry, 80 per cent of the 74,383 fresh cases of COVID-19 reported in a span of 24 hours in the country are concentrated in ten states and UT.

Kerala has reported the maximum number of new cases, followed by Maharashtra. Both have contributed more than 11,000 to the new cases.

Besides, 918 fatalities have been registered in a span of 24 hours and 84 per cent of these are reported from 10 states and UTs.

With 308 deaths, Maharashtra accounts for 33 per cent of deaths reported on Saturday, followed by Karnataka with 102 deaths.

## Steps should be taken to avert another pandemic: Dalai Lama

**DHARAMSALA, OCT 10 [PTI]:** Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama on Saturday appreciated the efforts of 'corona warriors' in the fight against COVID-19 and said steps should be taken to avert another such pandemic in the future.

"These days, we are faced with the coronavirus pandemic, which is very sad. Whatever has already happened due to our karma is in the past and can't be changed. However, we should take steps to avert another such outbreak in the fu-

ture," he said in his message on World Mental Health Day.

He said he appreciated the efforts and dedication shown by people working in the health care sector. "However, we should take steps to avert another such outbreak in the future," the Dalai Lama said.

"Every morning, I recite mantras and pray that this pandemic will come to an end as soon as possible. I dedicate these practices for the good of the world, especially India," he added.

## COVID-19 cases in India cross 70-lakh mark

**NEW DELHI, OCT 11 (PTI):** India's COVID-19 tally of cases raced past 70 lakh, 13 days after it had crossed the 60-lakh mark, while the number of people who have recuperated from the disease crossed 60 lakh, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Sunday.

The national recovery rate stands at 86.17 per cent.

The COVID-19 caseload mounted to 70,53,806 with 74,383 infections being reported in a day, while the death toll climbed to 1,08,334 with 918 people succumbing to the disease in a span of 24 hours, the data updated at 8 am showed.

India's coronavirus cases jumped from 10 lakh to 20 lakh in 21 days. Then it took 16 more days to race past 30 lakh, 13 days more to cross the 40-lakh mark and 11 days to go past 50 lakh. The cases rose from 50 lakh to 60 lakh in 12 days.

It took 110 days for the COVID-19 cases in the country to reach one lakh while it had taken 59 days more to go past the 10-lakh post. For the third day in a row the active cases of COVID-19 remained below 9 lakh.

There are 8,67,496 active cases of

coronavirus infection in the country which comprises 12.30 per cent of the total caseload, the data stated.

The COVID-19 case fatality rate due to the coronavirus infection was recorded at 1.54 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 had crossed 60 lakh on September 28.

According to the ICMR, a cumulative total of 8,68,77,242 samples have been tested up to October 10 with 10,78,544 samples being tested on Saturday.

The 918 new fatalities include 308 from Maharashtra, 102 from Karnataka, 67 from Tamil Nadu, 62 from West Bengal, 60 from Uttar Pradesh, 48 from Delhi, 39 from Chhattisgarh and 35 from Andhra Pradesh.

A total of 1,08,334 deaths have been reported so far in the country including 40,040 from Maharashtra followed by 10,187 from Tamil Nadu, 9,891 from Karnataka, 6,353 from Uttar Pradesh, 6,194 from Andhra

*turn to pg 02*

## BSNL restores mobile services in Arunachal's Chaglagam



**ITANAGAR, OCT 11 (PTI):** Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) has restored its mobile telephone services in Arunachal Pradesh's Chaglagam area near the India-China border, after a gap of over two months, an official said on Sunday.

The 2G services in the Chaglagam circle in Anjaw district were disrupted in July after the VSAT system developed a technical snag, he said.

"The VSAT system has been installed and has started functioning from Friday. The restoration work got delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic," BSNL sub-divisional offi-

cer (technical) in Anjaw and Lohit districts Onyok Tayang said.

The Army personnel and local people are now enjoying 2G services in Chaglagam, Kibithu, Wal-long and Hawai areas.

"We have already installed system for the 3G services in Hayuliang but it is yet to be launched," Tayang said, adding that the telecom operator is seeking permission from the Indian Army to make it operational.

The Arunachal Pradesh government is also keen on strengthening infrastructure for mobile telephone services in border areas.

**KOLKATA, OCT 11 (PTI):** Mohammedan Sporting made amends of their rusty opening match performance in the I-League Qualifiers as they beat ARA FC 4-1 at the Saltlake Stadium here on Sunday.

Nepali striker Abhishek Rijal, making his Mohammedan debut, scored a first half brace (21st and 45th minute), while Willis Plaza (13th) and Sheikh Faiaz (89th) struck one each to hand the Black Panthers their second win from as many matches.

An own goal by Mohammedan Sporting defender Safiul Rahman in the 58th minute reduced the margin for the Ahmedabad-based ARA FC who were playing their first match of the tournament.

The Kolkata side, who scraped past Garwhal FC by a solitary goal in their opening fixture, made six changes to their side and it was Plaza who put the

team ahead in the 13th minute after being set up by Vanlalbiaa Chhangte.

Chhangte was once again at the heart of the attack, creating the second goal with 21-year-old Rijal doing the finishing job from the close range.

Just before half-time, Rijal initiated a brilliant team move with a hard tackle on the left flank and continued his run into the rival box, taking the ball off the feet of Chhangte to bury it past the keeper and give his team a 3-0 lead.

Mohammedan capped off a dominant performance with a fourth strike when Faiaz slotted home off a through-ball from substitute Shamsad Ali.

Mohammedan Sporting now have six points after their first two games, with two more to go.

ARA FC are yet to open their account and they still have three more matches left.





## Pramod Giri re-elected president of Siliguri Journalists' Club



### SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 11 OCT:

Hindustan Times, Siliguri & North Bengal Correspondent, senior journalist Pramod Giri, was today elected president of Siliguri Journalists' Club for a fifth consecutive term. The election was held Sunday and the counting was also held today itself. He will hold the office for a two-year term. He has been winning the post since 2012.

## Delhi's air quality 'poor' for 5th day in a trot

**NEW DELHI, OCT 11 (PTI):** The national capital's air quality was recorded in the "poor" category for the fifth consecutive day on Sunday, while a government agency said it is likely to improve slightly in the coming days due to a change in the wind direction.

The city recorded a 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) of 216. It was 221 on Saturday.

Delhi's air quality had turned poor on Wednesday, the first time in since June 29, with the Central Pollution Control Board recording a 24-hour average AQI of 215.

An AQI between 0 and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'. The Ministry of Earth Sciences' air quality monitor, SAFAR, said the AQI is likely to improve to the "moderate" category by Monday.

A total of 448 farm fires were observed in Punjab, adjoining Pakistan, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh which impacted Delhi's air quality on Sunday, SAFAR said. However, the wind direction will change from northwesterly to southeasterly and the impact of farm fires will reduce, it said.

On Sunday morning, Delhi's minimum temperature settled at 19.8 degrees Celsius. The maximum wind speed was 15 kilometers per hour and the direction was west-north westerly.

Low temperatures and stagnant winds help in accumulation of pollutants near the ground, affecting air quality. High levels of air pollution in Delhi is a year-round problem, which can be attributed to unfavourable meteorological conditions, farm fires in neighbouring regions and local sources of pollution.

According to an analysis by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water, a Delhi-based think tank, transportation contributes the most -- 18 to 39 per cent -- to Delhi's air pollution. Road dust is the second largest source of air pollution in the city (18 to 38 percent)

# SKM forms employees co-ordination committee for Rinchenpong

### SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 11 OCT:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha formed the core adhoc constituency level employees coordination committee for Rinchenpong with Panchayat Inspector, Kaluk BAC, Sangay Chopel Bhutia, as president, an SKM press release informs.

The committee was constituted at a meeting held in the Panchayat House, Mangalbaria, and the adhoc committee was formed under the leadership of Joint Commissioner, IT/ST Department, Kesav Limboo, the release adds

Such committees, it is informed, are envisaged



to "bring oneness in the spirit of the employees and to work unitedly in the favour, welfare and the betterment of the employees" at the respective constituencies.

The meeting was also attended by chairper-

son, Sikkim Medicinal Plant Board, Mahindra Gurung, Additional Political Secretary Madhusudan Sharma, the party's area in-charge Phurba Tshring Phansapa, CLC president Suk Hang Limbu, and government con-

tractor Kumar Gurung, the release adds.

The meeting also observed a two-minute silence to mourn the deaths due to a landslide in the constituency a few days back at Tafel.

The release adds

that during discussions, government employees attending the meeting shares their views and placed demands.

The committee also felicitated dedicated and hardworking employees of the constituency.

## SHRA to conduct SOP & Tourism web portal familiarisation training for hotels

### SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 11 OCT:

Sikkim opened its borders for unrestricted travel at the start of this month and for tourists on 10 October. Now, Sikkim Hotels and Restaurant Association has announced plans to conduct familiarisation

training for hotel managements on the Standard Operating Procedures for the tourism sector and the tourism portal, on which all visiting tourists are required to register themselves, at Orange Village Resort here on 13 Oct at 1 pm and on 14 and 15 Oct at 11 am.

SHRA has invited representatives from all the hotels of Sikkim to attend this training. SOP training certificates will also be provided to participants.

For training details contact - Raj Lama, General Secretary, SHRA, 7872039588

## Meghalaya reports 139 new COVID-19 cases, one more death



### SHILLONG, OCT 11 (PTI):

At least 139 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in Meghalaya on Sunday, pushing the tally to 7,683, while one more death raised the toll to 63, a senior health department official said.

East Khasi Hills, of which state capital Shillong is a part, continues to be the worst-affected district with 74 new cases,

Health services director Aman War said.

Ri Bhoi registered 25 fresh cases, followed by West Garo Hills at 17, East Garo Hills at nine and South West Khasi Hills at five.

Four cases were recorded in South West Garo Hills, two each in West Jaintia Hills and West Khasi Hills and one in South Garo Hills. Altogether 97

people have been cured of the disease since Saturday, which took the total number of recoveries in the northeastern state to 5,142, War said.

Meghalaya currently has 2,478 active cases, of which 1,736 alone was in East Khasi Hills.

As many as 1.73 lakh samples have been sent for COVID-19 examination so far, War added.

## Day of the Girl Child at Passingdang



**DIKCHU, 11 OCT:** International Day of the Girl Child was celebrated at Passingdang AWC today with a special event attended by Medical Officer, Passingdang PHC, local woman achiever along with the AWCs, AWHs, Supervisors, CDPO and adolescent girls of the area. Awareness sessions were held on personal hygiene,

importance of iron tablets for adolescent girls, sharing of experiences by local women achievers, menstrual hygiene and proper disposal of sanitary pads followed by distribution of BB-BP Mugs to the resource persons, putting up of BBBP posters at AWC, handing over of face-masks with BBBP logo to the participants, sanitary pads and sanitizers.

## SDM inspects rain damage at Jitlang



### SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 11 OCT:

SDM Rangpo, Himmat Rai, visited the family whose house at Jitlang, under West Pandam constituency, was damaged due to heavy rain recently, and took stock of the damage sustained by the house. During the visit, the SDM also inspected Kamerey road which has taken sub-

stantial damage due to heavy rainfall over the past month. On behalf of the general public, ward Panchayat CP Bhattarai, highlighted the problems faced by the villagers due to the poor condition of the road. The SDM assured the affected family that he would send a ground report to the head office to resolve the problem.

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Irshad Ali/ Imteeyaz, Synapse, 6, Madan Street, Mezzine - 2, 2nd floor, Kolkata - 700072. Ph. 033-22124348/ fax 033-22124337/ mob. 9830547774/ 983108397. E-mail: contact.synapse@gmail.com/ irshad\_ali123@rediffmail.com

### Saturday's 'COVID'...

Helipad; Dhanukey, Rorathang; Kewzing 10 Mile; Upper Samdong; and Aadarshgaon.

Apart from the cluster of 11 IRBn personnel mentioned earlier, two persons tested positive from Bardang while three each were detected with the virus at the Helipad area [near Gumpa] in Gangtok and at Mamring.

## 8 Indian beaches get coveted Blue Flag certification

**NEW DELHI, OCT 11 (PTI):** Eight beaches in India have been awarded the prestigious Blue Flag certification, the environment ministry said on Sunday.

Terming it a "proud moment" for the country, Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar said the certification is a global recognition of India's conservation and sustainable development efforts.

The Blue Flag certification is a globally recognised eco-label accorded by "Foundation for Environment Education, Denmark" based on 33 stringent criteria under four major heads -- environmental education and information, bathing water quality, environment management and conservation, and safety and services at the beaches.

In a statement, the

ministry said, Blue Flag certification has been awarded to eight beaches spread across five states and two union territories by an international jury comprising of eminent members of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), Denmark-based NGO Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

The beaches which have been awarded the certification are Shivrajpur in Gujarat, Ghoghla in Diu, Kasarkod and Padubidri in Karnataka, Kappad in Kerala, Rushikonda in Andhra Pradesh, Golden in Odisha and Radhanagar in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, it said.

### COVID-19 cases...

Pradesh, 5,740 from Delhi, 5,563 from West Bengal, 3,798 from Punjab and 3,557 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.

### ANTHYESTHI KRIYA

The Anthyesthi Kriya of late Bimal Krishna Rasaily who left for his heavenly abode on 4th October 2020 falls on 13.10.2020 (TUESDAY). The Anthyesthi Kriya will be held at his own residence at Lachungpa Building, Top Floor, Behind A.G. Quarter, Development Area, Gangtok.



We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our well wishers, friends and family who stood by us during the time of bereavement.

*Sudha Rasaily (Wife)*  
*Yash Raj Rasaily (Son)*  
*Purnima Rasaily (Sister-in-Law)*  
*Shradha Gazmer (Daughter)*  
*Naresh Gazmer (Son-in-Law)*  
*Daksh Rasaily (Nephew)*  
*Kamal Nidhi Sarda (niece)*  
*Rahul Sarda (Son-in-Law)*  
*Siddhant Rasaily (Nephew)*  
*Nevedita Gazmer (Grand Daughter)*  
*Sanskar Gazmer (Grandson)*  
**Mobile No. 8918155150/6297135761**

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### LAND FOR SALE

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

### LAND FOR SALE

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

### FOR RENT

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

### GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

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

### Building for sale

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



# Intl Day of the Girl Child celebrated in North Sikkim

**MANGAN, 11 OCT [IPR]:** A weeklong series of events leading up to International Day of the Girl Child concluded here today with a special event held at the DAC election conference hall.

The programme was attended by Sikkim Welfare Commission chairperson Nim Tshering Lepcha as chief guest, accompanied by chairperson, Child Protection Committee, Mingma Doma Bhutia, ADC/ADM North, Sonam Lepcha, Deputy Director (Education Department) Sajan V Sebastian, AO (Land Revenue) DT Bhutia, DCPo (N) Wendy M Lepcha, WWO(N) Tshering Kee Lama, CDPO Mangan LD Denjongpa and Dealing official WN Bhutia.

The programme was organised by the District Task Force, Mangan, North Sikkim under the banner of Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India. The programme was conducted to encourage the "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" scheme.

The theme for the today's programme was "My voice, Our equal Future".

The programme was



conducted in the first week of this month at all blocks of North Sikkim - Chungthang tribal project, Mangan tribal project and Dzongu tribal project. All these programmes were conducted by the CDPOs from their respective areas under the guidance of ADM (North).

The main motive of this programme is to create awareness regarding gender inequality and discrimination. Due to the Corona virus pandemic, the organising committee has to conduct a webinar (online platform) in which a big dignitaries like Aparajita Rai (IPS) DCP special task force Kolkata Police

also participated in the webinar.

Today's programme also include a power point project presented by Wendy M Lepcha on topic like Juvenile Justice (care and protection of children) Act, 2000 (now 2015), Offences against children (JJ Act, 2015), District child protection unit, Child welfare committee, care, support and Rehabilitation services from ICPS and Other child related legislations. Tshering kee Lama also presented a power point project on Mahila Shakti Kendra Scheme, Convergent of services and schemes and Sustainable Menstruation.

The organising com-

mittee also honored 3 girls Child with offering khadas and certificate of appreciation for achieving their goals in their respective field and they are as follows:

**PEMKIT LEPCHA:** Prime Minister of National inclusive children's parliament cum Minister of Infrastructure and development. She is also the Prime Minister of village level children's parliament and had participated in NICP, New Delhi in January 2020 and was unanimously elected by all the PMs of village level children's parliament from all over the country.

**SOHITYA KALA LIMBOO:** She had secured

95.6% in class XII CBSE board examinations in humanities, 2020 and she is also the second topper. She had completed her schooling from Mangshila Sr Sec School.

**DIKI CHODEN BHUTIA:** She is a student of Chief Minister Meritorious Scholarship and she had completed her schooling from SCINDIA KANYA VIDYALAYA, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh. She had secured 95.4% in humanities 2020. She was also the head girl of the school. She is selected for International student house scholarship, London. She is from Ranthang, North Sikkim.

## Rotary distributes ration and protection in Siliguri



**SUMMIT REPORT**

**SILIGURI, 11 OCT:**

Rotary Club of Siliguri Midtown organised the 3rd and 4th distribution camps for ration, face-masks and hand sanitizers as part of a joint project of Rotary Club of Siliguri Midtown and Rotary Club

of Bangalore. This is a CSR project sponsored by Power Link, it is informed. Distribution camps were held opposite Suryasen Park and at Ramkrishna Primary School at Panitanki More. Total of 200 families benefited from these camps.

## South Korea worries about missile shown in North Korea military parade

**SEOUL, OCT 11 (AP):** South Korea on Sunday urged North Korea to commit to its past disarmament pledges while expressing concerns over the North's unveiling of a suspected new long-range missile during a military parade.

During celebrations marking the 75th birthday of its ruling party in Pyongyang on Saturday, North Korea paraded a variety of weapons systems, including two missiles that were disclosed for the first time to a foreign audience.

One is what appeared to be an intercontinental ballistic missile that is larger than any of the North's known ICBMs, and the other would likely be an upgraded version of a missile that can be fired from submarines.

While some experts say they could be mock-ups of missiles under development, their disclosures suggest North Korea has been continuously pushing to boost its weapons capability amid a stalemate in nuclear diplomacy with the United States.

South Korea's Defence Ministry said on Sunday that it was expressing concerns about

the fact that North Korea unveiled weapons including what was suspected to be a new long-range ballistic missile. A ministry statement demanded North Korea abide by 2018 inter-Korean deals aimed at lowering animosities.

South Korea's Foreign Ministry issued a separate statement urging North Korea to return to talks to produce progress in its past commitment to achieving denuclearisation and peace on the Korean Peninsula.

After an emergency National Security Council meeting, council members in South Korea said they'll continue to analyze the strategic significance of the North Korean weapons systems disclosed Saturday and review South Korea's defence capabilities.

Ties between the Koreas remain strained amid the deadlocked nuclear diplomacy between Pyongyang and Washington.

During a speech at the military parade, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un warned he would fully mobilise his nuclear force if threatened but avoided direct criticism of Washington.

## Rongli Premier League football kicks off

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**RONGLI, 10 OCT:**

Rongli FC won the first match of the Rongli Premier League 2020 football against Sungdung today. In the second match, Rongli United outplayed Chujachen. The tournament is being organised by Chujachen Sports Academy.

President of Chujachen Sports Academy, GL Bhutia, present as the chief guest and explained that the main idea behind organizing the tournament was to overcome the stress of Corona, fight the virus with the help of sports, and encourage players to keep physically and mentally fit.

On behalf of the Chu-



jachen Sports Academy, he thanked the Chief Minister as well as the Government of India for relaxations allowed for sporting activities. He also thanked Krishna Kumari Rai, the Chief Minister's wife, for providing hand sanitizers and face masks for all the players.

He thanked

SDM-Rongli for issuing permission to organise the league and also thanked other government departments and the general public for supporting RPL.

Eight teams are participating in the league with matches scheduled for every Saturday and Sunday.

## NBA Finals get intense, and Game 6 of Lakers-Heat looms

**LAKE BUENA VISTA (US), OCT 11 (AP):** The Lakers' Anthony Davis and Miami's Jae Crowder both ended up on the floor midway through the third quarter of Game 5 of the NBA Finals. As Davis scrambled to get back to his feet, his right elbow swung out toward Crowder's face.

Crowder wasn't fazed.

The moment epitomized how Friday went: The Los Angeles Lakers, even when they got within a few seconds of winning a championship, couldn't knock out the Miami Heat.

LeBron James was brilliant for the Lakers with 40 points, Jimmy Butler was as brilliant if not more so for the Heat with a 35-point triple double, and Miami survived to send the title series to Game 6 on Sunday.

We ain't backing down, Butler said. We ain't shying away. Everything still favors the Lakers. They lead the series 3-2. James hasn't been part of losing two potential close-out games in the same series since 2006, his first postseason year. The Heat still don't have starting point guard Goran Dragic because of a foot injury, a torn left plantar fascia.

They are most undeterred.

Everybody counted us out since the beginning of the playoffs," Heat rookie guard Tyler Herro said.

We don't really care what people have to say."

Miami kept finding ways in Game 5 to keep the series and its season alive, then caught a break in the final seconds when the Lakers' Danny Green missed a wide-open 3 that could have delivered the NBA title and Markieff Morris threw the ball away after the offensive rebound.

The Heat have talked since the NBA Finals started about a need to play almost perfect basketball against the Lakers. And now James, who has spoken with great respect for his former franchise throughout the series, indicated that the Lakers might be feeling a similar way.

One thing about this team that we are playing, they make you pay for every mistake, James said after Game 5.

It's the same as when I was playing against Golden State all those years, you make a mistake, they make you pay. So, we have to understand that.

James is about to set the record for NBA playoff game appearances. He's already the leading scorer in playoff history. Has the most wins. The most steals. Most shot attempts. Most free throws taken.

Here's a record he didn't want.

For as great as he is, James still needs help. Nobody has had more 40-point NBA Finals games in a loss than he has the record-setting fifth entry on that list coming Friday in Miami's 111-108 win.



## Upper Pachak Jan Seva Samiti meets

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 11 OCT:**

The meeting Upper Pachak Jan Seva Samiti met today to discuss problems and challenges posed by the COVID pandemic and plans for the future.

The meeting was attended by Panchayat member Pem Doma Sherpa, committee members and Sherpa Samaj president, T Sherpa, a press release informs.

The meeting started with the

Samiti secretary, Padam Rai, detailing the various problems faced in the village and society and of how the pandemic has also affected the students.

Samiti president, Man Singh Rai, spoke about the work done by the committee in the past and what initiatives need to be taken for the future.

A suggestion was also made to organize a week-long Puraan recital.

## What ails CSK? Too many holes in the ship, batting main worry: Dhoni

**DUBAI, OCT 11 (PTI):** Chennai Super Kings skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni says batting has become his team's major worry in an IPL campaign thrown haywire by "too many holes in the ship".

CSK failed to chase a target of 170 against Royal Challengers Bangalore to go down by 37 runs on Saturday night. This was their fifth loss in seven games.

"Too many holes in the ship and when you try to plug one there is water flowing from another. We need to get our act together," Dhoni said in the post-match presentation. "Everything needs to work in the same game to get a result. Once we get a result in our favour it will be slightly different for us," he hoped.

Dhoni conceded that a lot of deliveries are being left by his side's batsmen in a format which mostly rewards big shots.

"Batting has been bit of a worry and

today also it was evident. We need to do something about it. We can't just keep turning up...it is almost the same thing that is happening maybe the individuals are different," a disappointed Dhoni said in the post-match presentation.

"I think we are better off playing the other way round - play the big shots and even if you get out, it is fine because we can't leave too many after the 15th or the 16th over. That just puts too much pressure on the lower order batsmen."

In their previous match against Kolkata Knight Riders, CSK had fallen short by 10 runs while chasing 167.

"Our batting has lacked a bit of, you can say, power more from the 6th over onwards. Individuals get tentative and no matter how much confidence you are giving them, ultimately they have to have their own plan as to how to play.

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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 vaccination 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**



## Reconciliation, Not Recrimination

*See past the false narratives and open uncomfortable conversations*

A communal divide is the easiest to cleave and the hardest to bridge. We live in a country which has still not repaired the damage caused by the Partition riots in 1947 and remain infiltrated by agent provocateurs at all levels who are resolute in their mission to paint monsters and fan paranoia, keeping people on edge and distrusting. These are people, leaders and groups perennially suspicious of the other and fearful of losing their privileges even as they imagine slights and denials. They live in a world of imagined persecution even as they project nefarious intentions on others and then marshal the scared and the fearful into pliant foot soldiers carrying forward their insular agendas. It is usually easy to see through their conspiracies and call them out, but the world is now becoming increasingly segregated, whispering fears in their respective echo chambers and consuming information filtered to suit their world view. The diversity of opinions and analysis necessary to “understand” issues is being increasingly sacrificed at the altar of selective information and pre-packaged explanations. Some years ago, this misdirection was seen in the political and communal uproar over botched Census figures which accorded the nation’s Muslims an astronomically high rate of growth. Although it was almost immediately clarified that the Census officials had announced the figures based on wrong calculations, the data, even though wrong, suited the false narratives of the alt-Right in our country and remained in circulation. Unfortunately, technology, which was once expected to deliver as a tool to dispel falsehoods and “fake news”, has ended up reinforcing these problems. It is now widely accepted that technology, like power and money, takes what is already inside you and amplifies it. As a result, the resentful and the easily scared become even more so when they play in the world wide web. Of course, the same is true for the liberal and the tolerant as well, but the problem is that each side ends up becoming more convinced of their respective position because they end up preaching among the converted instead of bridging the divide.

We already live with stories of the horror created by divisions on religious and communal lines and still allow ourselves to drawn in the same direction. This cannot be healthy. And the collective health suffers even more when technology is boosted by power because then begins the mission to homogenise a remarkably diverse people and force independent thought to conform to a narrow ideology. Take for instance the beef ban. As per data collected by the National Sample Survey Office, around 80 million people in our country eat beef. This number, believed to be under-reported in that the actual figures might be higher, suggests that one in every 13 India is a beef eater. What needs to also be borne in mind that of the remaining 12, not everyone has a problem with others eating beef even for they themselves don’t. Most of the beef eaters are Muslims, Scheduled Tribes, OBC and Scheduled Caste. Now, reflect this against the anti-reservation, “anti-appeasement” belligerence and false narratives that have been hammered by a certain group, and the real targets of the Gau-Raksha drama becomes obvious. It thus becomes important for us, as free citizens of a free country, to challenge claims more often and demand better explanations.

There are several issues kept alive in Sikkim as well by those who want to tap into the inherent parochial nature of the people to whip up fear and suspicion in hopes of creating a situation where people start believing every conspiracy theory that is sold to them. This provides these agent provocateurs with a weapon that can be deployed at will to earn them the political clout and mileage that they crave. The people, however should know better. History shows that many crises have been the results of lack of simple reconciliation between parties. The parties involved will never come to the discussion table because their very existence in the public mindset is threatened if touchy issues are resolved and there no enemies to protect against. We use the word “resolved” not solved. Issues which threaten the social fabric cannot be solved by a third party, they have to be resolved by the parties involved so that there are no lingering hard feelings which would bring us back to square one. The approach has to be one of reconciliation, not recrimination, and for that we need to have difficult and uncomfortable conversations with those who do not think like us or believe in what we do. Simply put, to move ahead, we need to step outside our segregated circles.

### WRITE US:

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

# Two of Us: inside John Lennon’s incredible songwriting partnership with Paul McCartney

ADAM BEHR  
*theconversation.com*

John Lennon was acutely aware of his place in the musical lineage, and the strengths and weaknesses of his own songwriting. His tendency to speak in bold strokes – “Before Elvis there was nothing!” – belied at times both the variety in his work, and its complicated legacy.

Lennon would have been 80 years old on October 9, and his son Sean’s recent interview with Paul McCartney highlights a few aspects of how their partnership shaped popular musical practice. McCartney recalls seeing Lennon around locally – on the bus, in the queue for fish and chips – before their famous first meeting at the Woolton Fête, noting with approval at the time Lennon’s nascent identification with the Teddy Boy sub-culture.

Importantly, their shared social milieu was an important foundation for the musical partnership. Sean Lennon also wonders about his father’s insecurities as a musician and a feeling that: “Somehow he wasn’t officially a true musician, and everyone else was.”

McCartney’s response is telling: “I don’t think any of us were, tell you the truth. And I think that was a very good, strong thing about us, actually.”

Part of the significance of The Beatles as a phenomenon, and the Lennon-McCartney partnership within that, was that its overwhelming industrial and creative success helped to ingrain the “band” as a *modus operandi* for making popular music into common cultural currency.

The self-taught, peer-driven mode of music making that emerged from early rock and roll and skiffle was solidified as the next generation of its exponents – including Lennon and McCartney – took advantage of the relaxing social conditions as the 50s gave way to the 60s, and closed the gap between amateur and commercial activity.

### JOINT VENTURES

Mick Jagger once referred to the Beatles as a “four-headed monster”. Indeed, The Rolling Stones’ own creation myth – a youthful Jagger and Keith Richards re-kindling a childhood friendship at

Dartford train station over a chance encounter and a package of blues records – occupies a similar place in the historical narrative to Lennon and McCartney’s first encounter.

An important underlying aspect of how such partnerships worked, however, is that as well as springing from self-taught musicianship, and the rough-and-tumble of social lives away from the formal demands of school and adult society, they combined what had hitherto often been separate functions – that of songwriter and performer. This wasn’t exclusively the case in rock.

The role of the songwriter as a marker of authenticity in rock music – singing one’s own compositions – drew from a Romantic wellspring, harking back to the 18th century, of artists as a source of inspiration and value beyond being mere entertainers. It also drew from folk traditions, as singer-songwriters asserted their individuality – Bob Dylan is a case in point here.

But there was a growing sense of authenticity in bands, residing in the membership as well as the music. It mattered, for instance, when Ringo Starr contracted tonsillitis and was replaced for part of a tour of Australia by replacement drummer Jimmy Nicol. And songwriting partnerships such as Lennon-McCartney, and Jagger, Richards (as they appeared in the credits) were at the heart of this.

They were also central to the power dynamic within bands. There was – and is – a financial advantage to being credited as a songwriter on top of being a performer in terms of the rights and royalties that accrue. A band is a partnership on several levels: social, creative and financial. Indeed, some acts have deliberately reoriented their arrangements to account for this.

R.E.M., the Red Hot Chili Peppers and U2, for instance, made a point of co-crediting all band members regardless of who wrote a particular song or passage. And Queen shifted to such an arrangement and away from individual composers’ credits, partly as a way of reducing intra-band disputes about which songs to choose as singles.

### MOVING APART

In the case of the Beatles, Lennon and McCart-

ney had ceased to co-write the songs several years before the band actually split, although as performers and bandmates they continued to help shape them in the production process. Tensions across one of these axes might be sustainable. The Beatles took divergent paths as the 60s wore on, as is natural enough for school-friends as they move through adulthood and start families.

But by the end of the decade, simultaneous divergence in the creative, social and financial pathways made the partnership unmanageable. “Musical differences” is often jokingly referred to as a proxy for personal enmity. But in truth, the various threads are often hard to fully disentangle.

Ultimately, Lennon and McCartney complemented one another as personalities and as musicians. McCartney’s melodic facility smoothed over some of Lennon’s rougher edges. Lennon’s grit added texture and leavened some of McCartney’s more saccharine tendencies.

Their legacy, though, was more than just musical. Their success coincided with, and helped to shape, an explosion of youth culture as both creative and commercial enterprise.

We can’t know, of course, what would have happened had Lennon lived to 80, especially given that – their business problems receding into the past – his personal relationship with McCartney had become warmer again by the onset of the 1980s. With the hurly-burly of the Beatles behind them, they found common ground over the more prosaic matters of middle age.

As McCartney put it: “We’d chat about how to make bread. Just ordinary stuff, you know. He’d had a baby by then – he’d had Sean – so we could talk babies and family and bread and stuff. So that made it a little bit easier, the fact that we were buddies.”

But the fact that their evolution as songwriters and as friends took place in tandem is still felt in the emergence of popular musical enterprises from schoolyards and youthful peer groups in rock and beyond.

*[the writer is Lecturer in Popular and Contemporary Music, Newcastle University]*



# Doing good may make people look better

SARA KONRATH & FEMIDA HANDY  
*theconversation.com*

Giving is good for you.

For years, researchers have been finding that people who support charities or volunteer for causes can benefit from being generous.

For example, they might learn new things, meet new people or make others whom they care about happier. Researchers have also found that giving may make the givers themselves happier, more confident and even physically healthier.

As experts on the science of giving, we looked into whether there’s another possible upside to doing good: physical attractiveness. It may seem surprising, but across three peer-reviewed studies, we found that others rate people who give money or volunteer for nonprofits, give to their friends and even register as organ donors as more attractive. We also found that more attractive people are also more likely to give in various ways.

While our findings may raise eyebrows, we actually weren’t too surprised – the personal benefits of being generous are well established in our field.

### 3 STUDIES

Our first study examined data from a large, nationally representative sample of older U.S. adults. We found that seniors who volunteered were rated as more attractive by interviewers than those who did not volunteer – despite the fact that the raters were unaware of respondents’ volunteering status.

The second study analyzed data from a nationally representative sample of U.S. teens for several years. We

found that those who volunteered as teenagers were rated as more attractive once they became young adults. We also found the reverse: Those rated as more attractive by interviewers as teenagers were more likely to volunteer when they grew up. Again, raters did not know about participants’ volunteering history.

Our third study used data collected from a sample of Wisconsin teenagers from 1957 until 2011. We found that teens whose yearbook photos were rated as more attractive by 12 raters were more likely to give money over 40 years later, compared to their less attractive peers. We also found that these adult givers were rated as more attractive by interviewers than nongivers around 13 years later, when they were around the age of 72.

In all three studies, raters were asked to give their opinions on how good-looking participants were, using a rating scale where lower numbers meant less attractive, and higher numbers meant more so. Although beauty can be in the eye of the beholder, people often agree on who is more or less attractive.

### A HALO EFFECT

Our results suggest that giving could make people better-looking, and that being more attractive could make people more likely to donate to charity or volunteer.

These findings build on previous research indicating that beauty confers a “halo” – people attribute other positive characteristics to them, such as intelligence and good social skills.

These halos may explain why attractive people tend to marry better-looking and more educated spouses and are more likely to be em-

ployed and make more money.

Those higher earnings, logically, mean that good-looking people have more money to give away. They also make more friends, which means they have larger social networks – subjecting them to more requests to donate and volunteer.

### NOT JUST A BIAS TOWARD BEAUTY

Because we were aware of this beauty bias, in all three of our studies, we statistically controlled for demographic factors such as gender, marital status and income.

We also controlled for respondents’ mental health, physical health and religious participation, given their links to both attractiveness and giving.

So, we know that our results are not explained by these preexisting differences. In other words, it is not merely that more attractive people are more likely to be married, richer, healthier or happier – and therefore more likely to give.

But, there could be other alternative explanations that were not measured.

### WHY THIS HAPPENS

We would love to know whether doing good actually causes people to be more good-looking. But it is not possible to figure that out for sure.

For example, in studies on what smoking does to your health, scientists could not require some participants to be long-term smokers and other participants to avoid tobacco altogether. Such arrangements would not be ethical or even possible.

Similarly, we can’t require some participants to be long-term givers and others to never volunteer or support charities. Most people give

in some way, so asking them to stop would not be realistic, or even ethical.

Still, by following what a group of specific individuals do over time, we can discover whether giving at one time can predict whether someone will be more physically attractive at another time – just like we know that people who smoke have higher rates of lung cancer than those who don’t.

Overall, using the best available evidence, we find that it is indeed possible that doing good today may make you appear better-looking tomorrow.

To be sure, we don’t know why beauty and doing good are linked. But it’s possible that people who take care of others are also more likely to take care better care of themselves. This possibility is supported by our previous research showing that volunteers are more likely to get flu shots and take other health precautions.

Taken together, our three studies confirm the link between moral and physical beauty that was described in ancient Greece by the poet Sappho: “He who is fair to look upon is good, and he who is good, will soon be fair also.”

Our findings also contradict myths that beautiful people are shallow or mean, as suggested in the movie “Legally Blonde” and countless other “mean-girls” films about teens.

Instead, we have found another way that doing good could be good for you.

*[Sara Konrath is Associate Professor, Indiana University, Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, IUPUI; Femida Handy is Professor of Social Policy at the School of Social Policy and Practice, University of Pennsylvania]*



# Meghalaya Assembly committee asks govt to review rates for COVID-19 test



**SHILLONG, OCT 10 [PTI]:** The Meghalaya Assembly Committee on Women Empowerment has asked the state government to reconsider the rates for COVID-19 test and to fast track over 57,000 pending applications for ration cards.

The suggestions were made during a meeting convened by the Committee on Women Empowerment (CWE) chairperson Ampareen Lyngdoh with officials of the health department and food civil supplies and consumer affairs department here.

The issues related to the implementation of the Meghalaya Health Insurance Scheme (MHIS), review of the rate of COVID-19 tests and the various schemes of the Government of India under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) were discussed in the meeting.

"We have requested both departments to immediately look into the urgency to ensure that people of the state do not face hardships... Thousands of people have come back to the state after leaving their

jobs in other states. They are left out of MHIS and NFSA which are very important for the people of the state," Lyngdoh told reporters on Friday.

Regarding the NFSA, the CWE chairperson said there are over 21,45,015 beneficiaries who are covered under NFSA and non-NFSA schemes in the state of which rural coverage is 77.79 per cent and urban coverage 50.87 per cent.

The committee found that of the total of 57,083 pending applications, 11,108 are in East Khasi

Hills district alone.

"Having seen this, we have requested the department to fast-track all these pending applications so that at least within the quota that the government of Meghalaya received under the NFSA, whoever has been left out from the system can be included," she said.

The CWE chairperson said the MHIS scheme coverage is inadequate.

She said the MHIS coverage is only 53.97 per cent in East Khasi Hills district, which has

the highest number of COVID-19 cases in the state while in other districts affected by the pandemic like Ri Bhoi and North Garo Hills it is 49.6 per cent and 47.35 per cent respectively.

The state government has recently announced that COVID-19 test would not be free from October 16 and people will have to pay Rs 3,200 for RT-PCR, CBNAAT and Truenat and Rs 500 for Rapid Antigen Test (RAT). Only those with BPL card will not have to pay for COVID-19 test.

Lyngdoh said the rate fixed for the COVID-19 test is on the higher side.

CWE member and Mawsynram MLA, Himalaya Shangpliang said the committee has asked the department and the government not to look at this issue on a commercial basis but to reconsider these rates.

"The committee has asked the health department to review the cost of the COVID test and to reconsider the rates or if the government can chip in by way of providing subsidy," he said.

# Mizoram-Assam border dispute resurfaces as Karimganj officials destroy hut, plantation



**AIZAWL/KARIMGANJ, OCT 10 [PTI]:** The border dispute between Assam and Mizoram has resurfaced as officials from Assam's Karimganj district destroyed a hut and plantation in an area claimed by both the states.

The Mizoram government has alleged that administration, police and forest officials from Karimganj entered Mizoram's Mamit district and set a 'farm house' on fire and destroyed 1,000 betel nut plants at Thinghlun village on Friday afternoon.

Karimganj Additional Superintendent of Police Jyoti Ranjan Nath, however, said officials from Assam destroyed a temporary shed and some cultivation and not betel nut plantation in Choto Bubir Bandh area in Assam's side of the border which was encroached by some villagers from Mizoram.

The incident has sparked anger in Mizoram as an FIR was registered with Khamun police station against the officials from Assam and the state's

DGP SBK Singh spoke with his Assam counterpart Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta about the incident, an official said.

The Mizoram government will also write to the Union Home Ministry and the Assam administration about the incident, he said.

Mamit district officials have visited the area and security forces have been deployed there to maintain peace.

Mizoram's apex students' body, the Mizo Zirlai Pawl (MZP) on Saturday held an emergency meeting and decided to reconstruct the farm house, its president B Vanlaltana said.

"The incident is a grave insult and impudent contempt to the people of Mizoram," he said. The students' body has also decided to give monetary assistance to the two persons whose farm house and plantation were destroyed, he said.

Another students' body, Mizo Students' Union (MSU) in a statement alleged that officials from Assam had also intimidated local

volunteers guarding the state border to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Several rounds of talks since 1995 have failed to resolve the long-standing border dispute between the two northeastern states.

Kolasib, Aizawl and Mamit districts of Mizoram share a 123-km-long border with south Assam's Cachar, Hailakandi and Karimganj districts.

The previous border stand-off had taken place in Zopai area near Bairabi town in Kolasib district of Mizoram in March, 2018 when MZP activists had tried to reconstruct a resting shed destroyed by Assam's Hailakandi district administration.

More than 60 people, mostly students, were injured when Assam Police allegedly resorted to lathi-charge and opened fire to disperse the agitators.

The situation was brought under control after the Centre asked both Assam and Mizoram governments to maintain the status quo till the issues were resolved.

## 239 new COVID-19 cases in Arunachal Pradesh

**Itanagar, Oct 11 (PTI):** At least 239 more people, including two security personnel, have tested positive for COVID-19 in Arunachal Pradesh, pushing the tally to 11,998, a health department official said here on Sunday.

Of the 239 fresh cases, 89 were reported from the Capital Complex region, Changlang (36), West Siang (34), East Siang (18), Tirap (15), Lepa Rada (8), Lohit (7) and Lower Subansiri (6), the official said.

Five cases were also recorded in Lower Dibang Valley, four in Upper Subansiri, three each in Upper Siang, West Kameng and Namsai and two each from Lower Siang, Papumpare, Longding and East Kameng districts respectively, State Surveillance Officer (SSO) Dr Lobsang Jampa said.

Barring 35, all the new patients are asymptomatic and shifted to COVID Care Centres, the official said.

An Army man and one

Assam Rifles jawan are among the new patients, the SSO said, adding, four prisoners, two each from Lohit and Changlang districts, and seven staff of Border Roads Organisation (BRO) have also the contracted the disease.

Altogether 158 people have been cured of the disease on Saturday, taking the total number of recoveries to 9,035, Dr Jampa said, adding that the COVID-19 recovery rate in the state is 75.30 per cent.

Arunachal Pradesh currently has 2,940 active coronavirus cases, while 9,035 patients have recovered from the disease and 23 have died due to the infection, he said.

The Capital Complex region -- comprising Itanagar, Naharlagun, Nirjuli and Banderdewa areas -- has the highest number of active cases at 1,308, Dr Jampa said.

As many as 2,73,441 samples have been tested for COVID-19 in the state so far, including 2,695 on Saturday, he added.

## 16 new cases push COVID-19 tally of Andamans to 3,992



**PORT BLAIR, OCT 11 (PTI):** The COVID-19 caseload of Andaman and Nicobar Islands rose to 3,992 on Sunday as 16 more people tested positive for the infection, a health official said. Sixteen fresh infections were detected during contact tracing in the Union territory, he said.

Twenty more people have been cured of the disease, the official said.

The Union territory now has 193 active coronavirus cases, while 3,744 people have recovered from the disease and 55 patients have succumbed to the infection so far, he said.

The administration has so far sent 68,464 samples for COVID-19 tests, of which 68,289 reports have been received and 175 are awaited, the official added.

## Kamakhya temple set to open after nearly 6-month hiatus



**GUWAHATI, OCT 10 [PTI]:** The ancient Kamakhya temple in Assam is set to open to devotees on Sunday after a nearly six-month hiatus, with strict Covid-19 restrictions in place. However, the inner sanctum sanctorum will remain closed, and the temple will only be open for parikrama, authorities said.

Last month, a notification was issued by the Assam government stating that the temple would open on September 24. "However, we were not ready then," said Kabindra Prasad Sarma, chief priest of the temple. "In fact, even now we are opening the temple phase-wise. We will consider opening the inner sanctum sanctorum only after Durga Puja," added Sarma.

The temple gates will open at 7.30 am sharp. "People can enter between 7.30 am and 1 pm

and 2 pm and 5.30 pm," said the priest, adding that police and health department officials will be deployed at the entry point at the base of the hill to screen people. "If any one has tested negative for Covid-19 in the last three days and can produce a report, then they may enter. The others will have to undergo a Rapid Antigen Test at the entry point," he said.

Perched atop Guwahati's Nilachal Hills and overlooking the Brahmaputra river, the Kamakhya temple is one of the oldest Shakti peeths of Hinduism and the mother goddess represents procreation and fertility. Legend has it that the Kamakhya temple came into existence where the gentilia of Parvati fell, when a grieving Lord Shiva was carrying her body around the world after her death. In

fact, lakhs of devotees visit the temple every year in June during the famous Ambubachi mela, which marks the goddess's menstrual cycle.

Due to the pandemic this year, the temple remained shut throughout the duration of Ambubachi mela, perhaps for the first time in its history.

The notification by the Kamrup (Metro) district authorities has limited the number of devotees to 500 per day. Children below 10 and adults above 65 will not be allowed to visit. Each devotee will be allowed 15 minutes for parikrama.

"At a given point, we will not have more than 20-30 people inside the temple premises," said Sarma, adding that in pre-Covid times, the temple would easily have an average of 5,000 people on a daily basis. (Courtesy: IE)

## Tripura reports 199 new COVID-19 cases, 2 fatalities

**AGARTALA, OCT 11 (PTI):** Tripura's COVID-19 tally rose to 28,352 on Sunday as 199 more people tested positive for the infection, a health department official said.

The COVID-19 death toll rose to 312 with two more people succumbing to the infection, he said.

West Tripura district, of which state capital Agartala is a part, has accounted for 168 of the 312 COVID-19 deaths, the official said.

Tripura currently has 3,954 active coronavirus cases, while 24,063 people have recovered from the



disease and 23 patients have migrated to other states, the official said.

At least 364 patients were discharged from G B Pant hospital, the main referral hospital for the

COVID19 patients, on Saturday as they had recovered from the disease.

As many as 4,14,553 samples have been tested for COVID-19 in the state so far, he added.

## Odisha constitutes panels to audit healthcare quality in COVID-19 hospitals, review deaths

**BRUBANESWAR, OCT 11 (PTI):** The Odisha government has constituted district-level committees to audit the quality of healthcare in COVID-19 hospitals and review the deaths caused by the disease, a health official said on Sunday.

The committees were formed on the direction of Assembly Speaker S N Patro after members cutting across party lines expressed concern during the recently-concluded monsoon session over poor treatment facilities at both state-run and private COVID-19 hospitals.

The committees will



be headed by an officer authorised by the collector or the municipal commissioner and he/she should not be below the rank of the additional district magistrate, a health department order issued on Saturday said.

The chief district medical and public

health officer, a doctor trained in handling ICU and a medical officer of the treating facility will be among the members of the committee, it said.

The committees will also examine the medical records of the patients to improve COVID response and save lives, the order added.

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*I was putting too much pressure on myself, MI game opened my mindset: Kohli*

**DUBAI, OCT 11 (PTI):** Back-in-form Royal Challengers Bangalore skipper Virat Kohli said he was "putting too much pressure" on himself in the early IPL matches but the Super Over game against Mumbai Indians "opened his mindset" and helped him turn it around for the better.

Kohli, who was struggling with his form early in the tournament, blasted an unbeaten 90 off 52 balls in RCB's 37-run win over Chennai Super Kings on Saturday night.

The India skipper credited the pull shots against Jasprit Bumrah in the super over against Mumbai Indians in a September 28 clash for freeing him up.

"I was trying to do too much and putting too much pressure on myself, taking focus away from what I need to do - watch the ball and bat. Sometimes you forget you're only a player out there, and the responsibility then kicks in," Kohli said in the post-match presentation.

"If you think too much about responsibility, you get burdened and you don't play as a player. Your skills are also required for your team's success. That Super Over where I had to strike every ball, else we would have lost, really opened my mindset. And then I started enjoying training, enjoying batting."

Kohli was adjudged the man of the match as RCB registered their fourth win in six games. The skipper termed the 37-run victory over CSK on a tricky pitch as one of their most complete performances.

"It was one of our most complete performances. We got into a bit of a tricky position in the first half," Kohli said.

"From there on, we pushed forward. We spoke during the second timeout (with the bat) that 140-150 would be good. Ended up getting more than that. It was a tricky pitch," Kohli further added.

The skipper spoke about the need to build on the momentum as they have some back-to-back games coming up.

"Really pleased to get two points. We have back-to-back games coming up, so important to build momentum," he said.

"It's about understanding the conditions and respecting the game. Instead of trying to hit every ball into the second tier of the stadium. Having played so much cricket, especially T20 cricket, I have learnt that if you are set at the death, you can capitalise," Kohli said.

Washington Sundar, who took two wickets in this three overs, said: "Glad to be given this role, I am very happy bowling in the powerplay especially against two great batsmen, that too against a team like CSK, to be able to perform well, I feel confident.

"So far it's been going good. Everything has been working to the plan.

# Swiatek is tennis' latest young winner to show contempt for custom

**TUMAINI CARAYOL**

**PARIS, 11 OCT [THEGUARDIAN]:** At the end of her speech after a seventh dismantling of seven, Iga Swiatek returned to the mic with one final thought: "Maybe it just had to be like that," she said, laughing. "Another underdog is gonna win a grand slam. In women's tennis it's so open right now that it's crazy."

Although it was a shock to see Swiatek forego a more conventional path to a first slam title by winning at 19, conceding an absurd 28 games and clinching her first tour-level title at Roland Garros, in some ways women's tennis has not been open for the past two years. The youth have arrived and they are consistently slamming the door on the rest.

Seven of the past eight grand slam titles have been won by players under the age of 23: Naomi Osaka, Sofia Kenin, Ashleigh Barty, Bianca Andreescu and Swiatek. The common denominator between them is the contempt they have shown for custom and experience. They are here, they are good enough and they will produce their best on the big stages in order to win.

They have arrived with their own specific style of play. As she became the first woman since Justine Henin in 2007 to win Roland Garros without dropping a set, Swiatek has



demonstrated so many different layers to her game. She dominates opponents with her vicious topspin forehand and her return of serve statistics are astounding, but she can also serve at a high level, she is a supreme athlete and her hands are delicate in all parts of the court.

Andreescu, who engineered one of the most astonishing breakthroughs in decades by winning the Canadian Open and US Open in her

first two events after a five-month shoulder injury, has a similar ability to win points in so many different ways. Kenin belies her lack of power with intelligence and courage. Osaka's combination of booming weapons, toughness and emotional intelligence have already secured her three grand slams.

They are all watching closely and inspiring each other in turn. As Swiatek marched to victory, Osaka

was one of the loudest voices of support on Twitter. One of the formative matches of Swiatek's career came last year when she faced Osaka in a match of outrageous shot-making and athleticism at the Rogers Cup in Toronto. Both left the court feeling like they had been part of something special, a brief glimpse into the future. They have become friends.

This tournament has also been a reflection of the defi-

ciencies of the middle-aged generation. Garbiñe Muguruza arrived in impressive form, only to collapse while leading Danielle Collins 3-0 and 40-30 in the third set. The draw opened up for the third seed, Elina Svitolina, who was soundly beaten by the No 131 Nadia Podoroska. Most of the other prominent players were out in the first couple of rounds.

While the pandemic has had a clear effect on the tournament, it is reflective of a

lack of consistency at the top. The increased depth of the sport is such that anyone who fails to consistently produce quality tennis will be punished. The hope is that this rising generation will compete against each other over many years, building rivalries and spectacularly combining their contrasting styles.

Few matches in recent years have felt more significant than the first meeting between Andreescu and Osaka in the quarter-final of the China Open this time last year. Although tucked away at the end of the season, the stratospheric quality and tension felt like a slam final.

After losing in three tense sets, Andreescu skipped to the net with a smile on her face and she pulled Osaka in for a hug: "You played amazing," she said. "We're going to have so many more matches like this. I can't wait to see what the future holds."

The future has been grim for Andreescu, who has been out for almost a year with a knee injury sustained at the WTA finals last October. Her trials are a reminder of how these things do not always work out. Injuries are inevitable, some will make wrong decisions or fail to develop as expected but this is a special group of players and it is hard to imagine their rise will not continue.

## Djokovic's gift to unsettle threatens Rafael Nadal's kingdom

**KEVIN MITCHELL**

**PARIS, 11 OCT [THEGUARDIAN]:** Rafael Nadal has owned Roland Garros for nearly all of his career. Whether Novak Djokovic can take over the lease on Sunday afternoon depends on two factors: the Spaniard's desire and the Serb's neck.

Through six matches there has been no sign of the champion's will waning, as he has battled to win every set. Whether Djokovic's body - particularly that area stretching down from the top of his spine to the tips of his fingers - can hold up under championship pressure is less certain, whatever the strength of his fightback to beat Stefanos Tsitsipas over five sets in the second semi-final on Friday night. Nadal's earlier dismissal of Diego Schwartzman had its anxious moments, but there was little doubt he would prevail.

The answer will arrive at the end of this 53rd French Open, a staggering 12 of which Nadal has won since his debut in 2005. Djokovic disturbed his reign in the 2015 quarter-finals and took the crown in his enforced absence through injury in 2016, but otherwise this kingdom has been ruled from Mallorca.

Djokovic cites their match five years ago as reason to believe he has a decent chance of winning. What he has brought to the discussion is the element of uncertainty that makes great sporting occasions memorable. When he saved two match points to stop Roger Federer in the Wimbledon final last year, he confirmed



his gift for unsettling his peers is as strong as ever. If he can remain standing, he will keep punching. Jim Courier, the American who won twice here, is as unsure as most about the outcome. "Rafa was fabulous," he said on ITV. "I liked the adjustments he made from the Rome match [when he lost to Schwartzman in the quarter-finals]. I liked that he was shifting his return of serve position around a little bit.

"He has been in the normal Rafa form we have been used to seeing at this tournament. He has not been challenged too much. He comes in fresh to another final and he knows it is going to be a tough match. It is going to be a colossal battle between these two titans. There is so much on the line. It is just magnificent to see these two amazing players do it again here at Roland Garros in the final with so much happening.

"It is going to be difficult to finish points. It is going to be colder on Sunday... and the drop shot is going to be key for the both of them. Rafa is a little more comfortable with the forehand drop

shot and Novak a little more comfortable on the backhand. We will look for that for sure in the final."

Those are strategies and tactics. What is tougher to measure is sentiment and instinct. Chris Evert, another American in Paris who triumphed here, seems to lean towards Djokovic. "Novak is at times not human," she said on Eurosport. "I look at Nadal and see a warrior, fighting for everything. He's going to leave blood on the court. I look at Djokovic and I see more of a robot but in a good sense. The mental part of his game is a level ahead of everyone else. It's awesome."

Those who saw Nadal steel himself against the stubborn challenge of Schwartzman would put his mental toughness on a par with Djokovic's, because neither finalist has any quit in him. If Djokovic were to win, he would need to play on until he was 43 and win every French slam to reach Nadal's tally in Paris, where the Open era began in 1968. Some records are fire-proof and that is the safest in the game.

There is a bigger prize at stake, however. Win or lose on Sunday, Djokovic is favourite to overtake Nadal and Roger Federer down the road in accumulating the highest number of trophies across the four grand slams. Together they have 56 majors, 20 of them belonging to the 39-year-old Federer, who is hors d'combat, 19 of them Nadal's, and 17 the property of Djokovic, who is younger by a year than his active rival.

But all of that is history, past, present and to come. What matters is the final at the end of a bizarre and important tournament that would not have been held at all during the coronavirus pandemic but for the single-mindedness of the FFT, desperate for cash in their beautiful and expensive refurbished surrounding.

In front of the daily elite of 1,000 spectators allowed in as if it were a royal banquet at Versailles, Nadal and Djokovic have worked their way to the most likely conclusion. It will go five bloody sets - and Nadal will be champion again.

## KKR fret over Russell injury as they take on a resurgent RCB

**SHARJAH, OCT 11 (PTI):**

Their campaign might be back on track with back-to-back victories but Kolkata Knight Riders will have little margin for error when they take on Virat Kohli's resurgent Royal Challengers Bangalore in an Indian Premier League game here on Monday.

The two sides have won four of their six games with KKR ahead of RCB on net run rate but inconsistency in batting has been an issue for both the teams.

KKR are placed third in the standings and the two-time champions will be going all out for a victory at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium after registering two back-to-back wins against Chennai Super Kings and Kings XI Punjab.

RCB, on the other hand, are coming into the game following a 37-run morale boosting victory against CSK and will fancy their chances.

For KKR, the biggest cause of concern will be the availability of big-hitter Andre Russell, who hurt his knee when he dived into the advertisement boards after missing a catch on Saturday.

Skipper Dinesh Karthik did not reveal the extent of the injury after the match against KXIP.

"Whenever Russell gets injured, you know it is hard. He is a very special player, he is a very special person. We need to go and look at him," he said.

KKR have battled batting inconsistencies this year. Shubman Gill has been fabulous at the top with two half centuries so far.

Rahul Tripathi, who replaced Sunil Narine as



opener, scored 81 against CSK but failed against KXIP. Nitish Rana has looked good in patches while Eoin Morgan has also been erratic.

Skipper Karthik, who copped up a lot of criticism for his batting, was back among runs with a vital 29-ball 58 against KXIP.

KKR's bowling unit, however, has been sensational in the last two games, snatching victory from the jaws of defeat and the bowlers will be high on confidence when they take on a star-studded RCB line up.

On the other hand, the biggest positive for RCB is that captain Kohli has finally got his touch back after ordinary performances at the beginning of the season.

The 31-year-old was the lone batsman to put up a fight with a 39-ball 43 in the RCB's 53-run loss to Delhi Capitals on Monday. He followed it up with a match-winning 90-run knock against CSK when other RCB batsmen, save opener Devdutt Padikkal, failed to put runs on the board.

Padikkal has been in good touch, but AB de Villiers, who played some exquisite knocks at the beginning of the tournament, has looked off colour in recent outings.

The big-hitting Aaron

Finch has also struggled, failing to capitalise on his starts. RCB bowling department, led by Yuzvendra Chahal, got a major boost with South African Chris Morris coming in to the side. The all-rounder was brilliant in his first appearance, bowling tight lines with a hint of away movement from right-handers.

Teams (from):

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

Royal Challengers Bangalore: Virat Kohli (captain), AB de Villiers, Parthiv Patel, Aaron Finch, Josh Philippe, Chris Morris, Moeen Ali, Mohammed Siraj, Shahbaz Ahmed, Devdutt Padikkal, Yuzvendra Chahal, Navdeep Saini, Dale Steyn, Pawan Negi, Isuru Udana, Shivam Dube, Umesh Yadav, Gurkeerat Singh Mann, Washington Sundar, Pavan Deshpande, Adam Zampa.

Match starts at 7.30 pm IST.



# Brazil reaches 150,000 deaths from COVID-19 milestone

**RIO DE JANEIRO (AP):** Brazil's count of COVID-19 deaths surpassed 150,000 on Saturday night, despite signs the pandemic is slowly retreating in Latin America's largest nation. The Brazilian Health Ministry reported that the death toll now stands at 150,198. The figure is the world's second highest behind the United States, according to the tally maintained by Johns Hopkins University.

The milestone has rekindled the pain of Naiane Moura, a sales consultant, who lost her father Elivaldo to COVID-19 in April. The 58-year-old postman had no prior illness and battled COVID-19 for seven days in a public hospital in Manaus, Brazil's largest city in the Amazon.

"When I see 150,000, I see my father alongside many other faceless bodies," Moura said by phone. "I didn't imagine that we would reach that number. I don't believe that we will ever be able to totally overcome this."

Brazil's far-right President Jair Bolsonaro played down the severity of the virus while deaths mounted rapidly in Brazil. The 65-year-old president flouted social distancing at lively demonstrations and encouraged crowds during outings from the presidential residence. Bolsonaro rejected governors' and mayors' lockdowns and other tough measures to contain the virus' spread, even after he contracted it himself in July, and insisted that shutting down Brazil's



economy would pitch the nation into chaos.

"Life goes on. Brazil needs to produce," he said on July 7 in Brasilia when he announced he was infected.

Moura's hometown of Manaus became a horror show early on in the pandemic. Between April and May, the health system collapsed in the city as patients were turned away from full hospitals and overwhelmed cemeteries were forced to dig mass graves. The capital of Amazonas state has had 122 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants, far above the national average of 71 per 100,000. The nation of 210 million people surpassed 5 million confirmed infections on Wednesday, according to official data.

There have been recent signs of relief in Brazil. Over the last month and a half, the viral curve has dropped. The average

number of deaths sat at 598 over the last 7 days, the lowest level since the beginning of May.

The mayors of large cities such as Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro continue to reopen activities like cinemas and schools, even as public health experts warn of possible new outbreaks.

Manaus, where restrictions were relaxed, registered an increase in COVID-19 cases in recent weeks that led to speculation of a possible second wave. Local authorities reinstituted restrictions on commerce and activity, and shut down the riverside beach.

Moura said she holds federal authorities responsible for the massive death toll.

"A lot of lives could have been saved if our leaders had taken rigorous measures in the beginning," she said.

Bolsonaro has faced

fierce criticism of his handling of the health crisis, and changed health ministers twice in the midst of the pandemic. Yet his popularity is at its highest since he took office in January 2019, which political analysts attribute to his distribution of emergency cash to help tens of millions of poorer Brazilians withstand the economic downturn. Some 40% of Brazilians surveyed by pollster Ibope rate their government as good or excellent, according to a poll published Sept. 24 that has a margin for error of 2 percentage points. "Bolsonaro helped the population to open their eyes. Health has to go hand in hand with the economy," said Paulo Gomes, 54, a taxi driver who supports Bolsonaro.

In Sao Paulo, Ricardo Vieira, a doctor working in one of the city's largest working-class neighbor-

hoods known as favelas, said the government's COVID-19 cash transfer program wasn't enough to shield the poor, who often have scarce access to healthcare.

To remedy the lack of support in the Paraisopolis favela, an NGO called G10 hired three private ambulances and eight health professionals, among them Dr. Vieira, who has been there since March.

"We are dealing with lives, and when we came to a poor community we saw that the government cannot reach these people," Vieira told The Associated Press.

Despite the difficulties and the lack of resources, Vieira continues to fight to contain the pandemic's devastation.

"I do what I can, I do my best," Vieira said, as tears welled up then rolled down his cheek. "And I don't know what else I could do."

## Turkish Cypriots choose leader with peace deal at stake

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP): Turkish Cypriots began voting Sunday for a leader tasked with overcoming their deep political chasms with Greek Cypriots in order to pave the way for a deal to end 46 years of ethnic division in Cyprus and quell tensions over offshore energy reserves.

The election comes amid allegations that Turkey is overtly trying to steer the 200,000-strong electorate toward right-wing candidate Ersin Tatar. Tatar advocates fully aligning Turkish Cypriot policies with those of Ankara, such as pursuing a possible two-state deal as an alternative to the long-held federal model for the divided Mediterranean island.

Analysts predict a race between leftist incumbent Mustafa Akinci, center-left CTP party leader Tufan Erhurman and Tatar.

The election in Cyprus' breakaway north is likely to head into a runoff in a week. Most opinion polls put Akinci into the second round, against either Tatar or Erhurman.

Tatar told reporters after voting that he's hopeful the election would demonstrate the

"proper will" of Turkish Cypriots about the future of their breakaway state, which is recognized only by Turkey.

The first major test for the winner will likely be a meeting hosted by U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres that will bring together the two sides with Cyprus' three 'guarantors' — Greece, Turkey and Britain — to scope out the chances of resuming frozen peace talks.

The Mediterranean island has been divided between a Greek Cypriot south — seat of the internationally recognized government — and the breakaway north since 1974, when Turkey invaded after a coup by supporters of union with Greece. Decades of talks have failed to deliver a peace deal.

Allegations that Turkey is trying to influence the election's outcome this time more than ever came to a head last week when Turkey opened to the public a beach in uninhabited Varosha, a Famagusta suburb that for has remained off-limits since 1974 when its Greek Cypriot residents fled advancing Turkish troops.

Many Turkish Cypriots voiced opposition to

the move that they saw as a ploy to boost support for Tatar, and Greek Cypriots expressed anger at the beachfront's reopening.

The United Nations Security Council on Saturday expressed "deep concern" over the beach reopening and called for its reversal while cautioning against "any unilateral actions that could raise tensions on the island."

Akinci, a strong supporter of a federal accord with Greek Cypriots and a champion of Turkish Cypriots who oppose Turkey's complete domination over their affairs, denounced the move as a "stain" on democracy and as an attempt to turn Varosha in to a campaign tool.

He spoke of a Turkish media campaign to sully his name and earlier said he had received threats against him and his family, urging him to withdraw his candidacy.

"Unfortunately during the campaign, authorities of the Turkish Republic openly intervened and kept biased stance," Akinci told reporters Sunday, adding that some officials had canvassed villages to trade favors for votes.

## Singapore reports 10 new COVID-19 cases

**SINGAPORE, OCT 11 (PTI):** Singapore reported 10 new COVID-19 cases on Sunday, including seven imported infections, taking the national tally to 57,876, the health ministry said.

The rest three cases were reported from dormitories for migrant workers.

The imported cases have been placed under stay-home notice (SHN).

This has taken the total number of cases in the country to 57,876, said the Ministry of Health (MOH).

Three of the five imported cases reported on Saturday had returned from Belarus, Qatar and France. The other two



cases were crew from a ship docked here, the MOH said.

These cases have been placed on a 14-day stay home notice (SHN).

Forty COVID-19 cases are in hospital, one of which is in critical condition, while 101 pa-

tients are recuperating in community facilities from mild symptoms as of Saturday.

Twenty-three cases have been discharged from hospital or community facilities, taking the total recoveries from the disease to 57,698.

## Australian state warns non-complying public

**MELBOURNE, OCT 11 (AP):** The premier of Australia's Victoria state is stepping up his fight with members of the public who don't comply with pandemic regulations, saying close contacts of those infected who refuse a test will have to spend 21 days in quarantine.

The state government has announced mandatory quarantine will be extended by 10 days for close contacts if they decide not to be tested on the 11th day of isolation. The change will come into effect at midnight Sunday.

Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews said a very, very high percentage of people had submitted to testing but the rule was designed to provide authorities with an even more complete picture.

This is just double-checking, triple-checking that you haven't, in fact, still got the virus, he said.

Victoria reported one more death and 12 new cases on Sunday, ending a three-day stretch without a fatality. The figures take Victoria's death count from the virus to 810 and the national toll to 898.

## SKorea worries about missile shown in NKorea military parade

**SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA (AP):** South Korea on Sunday urged North Korea to commit to its past disarmament pledges while expressing concerns over the North's unveiling of a suspected new long-range missile during a military parade.

During celebrations marking the 75th birthday of its ruling party in Pyongyang on Saturday, North Korea paraded a variety of weapons systems, including two missiles that were disclosed for the first time to a foreign audience. One is what appeared to be an intercontinental ballistic missile that is larger than any of the North's known ICBMs, and the other would likely be an upgraded version of a missile that can be fired from submarines.

While some experts say they could be mock-ups of missiles under development, their disclosures sug-

gest North Korea has been continuously pushing to boost its weapons capability amid a stalemate in nuclear diplomacy with the United States.

South Korea's Defense Ministry said Sunday it was expressing concerns about the fact that "North Korea unveiled weapons including what was suspected to be a new long-range ballistic missile." A ministry statement demanded North Korea abide by 2018 inter-Korean deals aimed at lowering animosities.

South Korea's Foreign Ministry issued a separate statement urging North Korea to return to talks to produce progress in its past commitment to achieving denuclearization and peace on the Korean Peninsula. After an emergency National Security Council meeting, council members in South Korea said they'll continue to analyze the strategic signif-

icance of the North Korean weapons systems disclosed Saturday and review South Korea's defense capabilities. Ties between the Koreas remain strained amid the deadlocked nuclear diplomacy between Pyongyang and Washington.

During a speech at the military parade, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un warned he would fully mobilize his nuclear force if threatened but avoided direct criticism of Washington.

The fact that Kim maintains his self-imposed moratorium on nuclear and long-range missile tests indicates he still wants to keep chances for diplomacy with the U.S. alive. But some experts say he'll eventually carry out a major weapons test after the U.S. presidential election in November to boost his leverage in potential new negotiations with the U.S., whoever wins the election.



"सरंगीमा गाउँदै हिँड्दा मलाई माग्ने भन्छ आफ्नै दाजु भाइले मलाई नचिने झैं गर्छ।"



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**CHERRY BOMB!** The Dancing With the Stars contestant, Chrishell Stause arrives for rehearsal wearing a cherry-print hoodie and white leggings.

## Aamir Khan's daughter, Ira, opens up about mental health struggles

**MUMBAI, OCT 11 (PTI):** Superstar Aamir Khan's daughter, Ira Khan, has revealed that she has clinical depression.

On World Mental Health Day, Ira Khan shared a video on Instagram Saturday.

The theatre director said it's time to "start a conversation" around mental well being.

"I am depressed. I have been for more than four years now. I have been to a doctor and I am clinically depressed. I am doing much better now.

"For over a year now, I wanted to do something for mental health, but I wasn't sure what to do," the 23-year-old said in the video. Ira Khan, who made her directorial debut with a play last year, said she has decided to chronicle her journey with the hope that it will help people in knowing themselves "slightly better" and "understand mental illness better".

"Let's start from where I started. What do I have to be depressed about? Who am I to be depressed? I have everything, right?" she said

in the one minute-long clip.

Ira Khan said a lot has been going on in people's lives as they navigate situations and feelings which are "confusing and stressful". "There's no way to say it all in one go. But



I'd like to think I've figured some stuff out, or at least figured out how to make it slightly more understandable. About mental health and mental ill-health.

"So come with me on this journey, in my awkward, quirky, sometimes-baby-voice-y, as-honest-as-I-can-be way. Let's start a conversation," she captioned the video.

know along the way.

Tip: Embrace the wild and the unknown.

**CANCER:**

Spoiler alert, Cancer: if they wanted to be a part of your life, they would have found a way to do so. The cards are urging you to recognise all the ways in which you are betraying yourself and your truth. If something doesn't feel in alignment with who you are, it's time to let it go, and let it go with love. Sometimes, the fear of the unknown keeps us from making a decision that is for our greater good. Remembering that you deserve better will help liberate yourself from this vicious cycle.

Tip: Do what's right for you, Cancer.

**LEO:**

Self-care may sound counterintuitive at a time like this, self-indulgent even. But, you understand the greatest secret, which is that the microcosm affects the macrocosm—and that restoring the balance within is an essential part of your sacred purpose. Do the inner work, Leo, as you free yourself from the guilt associated with prioritising yourself. This is also a time of re-examining your past and integrating certain soul lessons. Turning wounds into wisdom has always been your greatest gift.

Tip: Do the inner work.

**VIRGO:**

Virgo, you could find yourself faced with some rather tough choices today. Saying yes to one thing could mean saying no to another—and that does not have to be a bad thing. Honour what's coming through that space of stillness within. On the upside, a new romantic offer may be on the horizon for some. The cards are indicating the presence of somebody who's confident in their skin and isn't afraid to let their feelings be known.

Tip: You do you.

**LIBRA:**

Here's the thing, Libra: you can't fix everything and everyone. The only thing you have dominion over is yourself and the present moment. So, let go of that false sense of control as you allow Spirit to step in. You may feel like the people around you are not supporting you in the way you'd like them to either. Don't let them push your buttons, though. Learning to stay in your centre will help you get through this.

Tip: Let go of that false sense of control as you allow Spirit to step in.

**SCORPIO:**

The cards are urging you to expand your definition of abundance. Is your idea of abundance limited to money alone, or does it include the many blessings that make your life pleasurable? It's true that you may not have witnessed a magnificent shift on the financial front over the past couple of months, but that doesn't mean the Universe hasn't shown up for you in a multitude of ways. It's time to acknowledge that you are fully supported and that you will get through this.

Tip: The Universe is showing up for you in a multitude of ways.

**SAGITTARIUS:**

We're so obsessed with the idea of how things should be, we refuse to acknowledge all the ways in which we are supported and taken care of. It's true that a lot of your plans are on hold right now. Some of you could be struggling with meeting your deadlines and achieving your goals. But, here's the thing, Sagittarius: the divine plan is without a flaw. Do what you need to without giving into that feeling of disillusionment. Know that when the time is right, Fate will step in and set things right for you.

Tip: Lay your trust in the divine plan.

**CAPRICORN:**

It's time to manage your expectations, Capricorn. No, you cannot do everything on your own, even though you'd like to believe that about yourself. Set realistic goals and learn to delegate. People have a way of surprising you when you lay your trust in them. The cards are also pointing towards the inner turmoil you are experiencing at the moment. Could you be betraying your own truth in order to appease another person? Honour what your inner voice is telling you, and do so unapologetically. You will eventually find an amicable solution.

Tip: Set realistic goals for yourself as you learn to delegate.

**AQUARIUS:**

We all have a destiny to fulfill. While many walk the path unknowingly, some of us have the power to consciously co-create. Aquarius, you're being called to awaken to your true nature and recognise who you are and what you came here to do. Exercising your manifesting muscles will help you move the many mountains standing in your way right now. Yes, there will be people who plant the seeds of doubt within you and dissuade you from fulfilling your purpose. Let the voice of wisdom prevail over the fears.

Tip: It's time to embody your truth.

**PISCES:**

Leaving something you're "this" attached to is seldom easy, Pisces, yet it is what you need to do in order to free yourself from the cycle you've been stuck in. Word for the wise: let go with loving awareness, and know that your council of light is guiding you to a better place. If you've been feeling lost and confused about what's coming up for you, take it one day at a time. The path will reveal itself to you. Tip: You're leaving the past and the turmoil associated with it behind.

# Superhero movies have blighted cinema, says writer Alan Moore

**LOS ANGELES, OCT 11 (PTI):** Alan Moore, the man behind critically-acclaimed graphic novels "The Watchmen" and "V For Vendetta", says it is infuriating that most people believe comics books and superhero movies are the same thing.

In an interview with Deadline for his film "The Show", Moore said he hasn't watched a superhero movie for a long while now.

"I haven't seen a superhero movie since the first Tim Burton Batman film. They have blighted cinema, and also blighted culture to a degree. Several years ago I said I thought it was a really worrying sign, that hundreds of thousands of adults were queuing up to see characters that were created 50 years ago to entertain 12-year-old boys.

"That seemed to speak to some kind of longing to escape from the complexities of the modern world, and go back to a nostalgic, remembered childhood.

That seemed dangerous, it was infantilising the population," Moore said.

The 66-year-old writer also believes

Union, six of the top 12 highest grossing films were superhero movies.

"Not to say that one causes the oth-



that there is a parallel between the popularity of superhero movies and current political events happening all over the world.

"This may be entirely coincidence but in 2016 when the American people elected a (President Donald Trump) and the UK voted to leave the European

er but I think they're both symptoms of the same thing a denial of reality and an urge for simplistic and sensational solutions," Moore added.

"The Show", directed by Mitch Jenkins, features "The Souvenir" star Tom Burke in the lead. The film is expected to release this year.

## Anita Hassanandani, Rohit Reddy announce pregnancy: Felt like perfect timing

**MUMBAI, OCT 11 (PTI):** Actor Anita Hassanandani and her husband, corporate professional Rohit Reddy on Sunday announced that they are expecting their first child. Hassanandani and Reddy, who got married in 2013, posted a video on Instagram to break the news to fans.

"It just felt like the perfect timing. We have been together for 10 years, out of which we have been married for seven years. We were absolutely ready. We wanted to settle with a baby this year and it happened perfectly," Hassanandani said.

The 39-year-old actor said she is doing a lot of "re-

search" on what to eat and how to take care of her skin during pregnancy.

"The journey to becoming parents will always be a special one for us. As parents-to-be, we want nothing but the best for our baby. The preparation for the arrival of the baby has gladly been the centre of our attention," she posted.

Hassanandani is known for her work on TV shows like Star Plus' "Kkavyanjali", "Yeh Hai Mohabbatein" and as Colors' "Naagin".

She has also featured in Hindi films such as "Kuch Toh Hai", "Krishna Cottage" and "Ragini MMS 2".

## Kim Kardashian donates USD 1 million to Armenia Fund

**LOS ANGELES, OCT 11 (PTI):** Reality TV star and businesswoman Kim Kardashian has pledged USD 1 million to the Armenia Fund, amid the on-going conflict in the country.

The Keeping Up With the Kardashians star, whose late father Robert Kardashian was of Armenian descent, shared the news in an Instagram video on Saturday.

"I'm so honoured to be part of today's global effort to support the @armenianfund. I've been speaking out about the current situation in Armenia and Artsakh and having conversations with so many others to bring further awareness to the crisis that we cannot allow to advance," she said.

"I will be donating 1M to assist their efforts on the ground and invite you to join

me. Whether you are helping with just raising awareness and posting on social media or donating just 1, every bit helps," she added.

The latest outburst of fighting between Azerbaijani and Armenian forces began September 27 and left hundreds of people dead in the biggest escalation of the decades-old conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh.

The region lies in Azerbaijan but has been under control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia since the end of a separatist war in 1994.

The fund will support the humanitarian organisation dedicated to helping those in Armenia and the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh, also known as Artsakh.

## Nicole Kidman teases 'Big Little Lies' S3



**LOS ANGELES, OCT 11 (PTI):** Hollywood star Nicole Kidman has hinted that there could be a third season of her critically-acclaimed HBO series "Big Little Lies" as the makers have come up with a "really good idea".

The 53-year-old actor featured opposite the likes of Reese Witherspoon, Shailene Woodley, Laura Dern, and Zoe Kravitz in the series, created by David E Kelley.

The show's first season, which debuted in 2017, was based on the Liane Moriarty novel of the same name. The second season came out in 2019. During an interview

with Marie Claire Australia, Kidman was asked for an update on the show's third season.

"Reese and I talk or text once a week. She's just moved back to Nashville and we're really close. We all just want to work together again.

"I texted Zoe and Laura and they're in. David and Liane have a really good idea for it," Kidman said.

The actor will next star in HBO's "The Undoing", which will premiere on October 25.

Kidman will also be seen in Hulu's "Nine Perfect Strangers", which reunites her with Kelley and Moriarty.

**ARIES:** Your mundane reality is far too boring for your liking, Aries. You're in the mood to board the flight of fantasy and explore unexplored territories. Trust that your creative projects will benefit greatly from this energy. Remember, it's not always about what you are presenting to the world. Some projects are for you and you alone. Let your message be a reflection of your inner truth. On the downside, your travel plans could go awry unexpectedly. Check and double check your tickets (and everything else). Remembering that some things are beyond your control will keep you from getting frazzled.

Tip: It's time to board that flight of fantasy.

**TAURUS:**

A series of cataclysmic events this weekend could leave you shaken—literally. In times of chaos, it will be easy for you to blame your circumstances, or repeat the story that terrible things always happen to you. However, what's taking place right now is anything but coincidental. These experiences have been orchestrated by your higher self to set the stage for positive change. So, be patient with the Universe even if you don't understand the higher reason behind what's unfolding. Remembering that destruction is a necessary step in the creation process will help you get through this.

Tip: Allow what must fall away, to fall away.

**GEMINI:**

The process of evolution not only requires you to let go of how others perceive you, but also your perceptions of yourself. It's all about the new, the wild and the unknown in the Gemini HQ. It's about undertaking a journey that once scared the living daylight out of you. Remember, you may or may not have a manual at this point, and that's okay. Give yourself the permission to make plenty of mistakes and allow life to teach you what you need to