



**PRIYANKA CHOPRA'S TELL-ALL MEMOIR TO HIT STANDS IN JANUARY 2021**

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**BELLY FAT LINKED TO HIGHER RISK OF PREMATURE DEATH, REGARDLESS OF YOUR WEIGHT**

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**DRUGS CASE: KSHITIJ RAVI PRASAD REMANDED TO JUDICIAL CUSTODY**

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# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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## 39 test positive, 39 get discharged

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK 03 OCT:**

Thirty-nine fresh cases of novel coronavirus have been reported in Sikkim in the last 24 hours ending 8 AM Saturday, which takes the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported so far in Sikkim to 3050.

On the other hand, 39 patients were discharged from isolation facilities on Friday. With these, the number of active cases of novel coronavirus in the State still stands at 640. Six patients are currently admitted in the ICU ward of STNM hospital.

In the RT-PCR testing at VRD Lab in STNM hospital on Friday, 28

new cases of COVID-19 positive were detected during the testing of 263 samples, while six more persons were found positive for COVID-19 in the TrueNat testing of 34 samples. Similarly, five more new cases were reported in the State in the rapid antigen testing of 49 samples. Out of 39 new cases, 37 cases have been reported in East District and 02 in South District.

In the daily health bulletin on Saturday, Health Department State IEC Officer, Sonam G Bhutia mentioned that seven persons from below Bahai School, two from the containment zone in Housing Colony

at 6th Mile Tadong, two from Enchey Compound, three from Namin and two from AG quarter in Upper Shyari reported positive for COVID-19 in the RT-PCR testing.

While giving break up of other new cases found in RT-PCR testing, he informed that one person from MG Marg, one from below old STNM hospital, one from near Tathangchen School, one from near helipad at Burtuk, one from below Thapa Turning in Upper Sichey, one from Shyari, one from 5th Mile Tadong, one from the containment zone in Development Area, one from near St Paul's Church at

6th Mile Tadong and one from Namnang reported COVID-19 positive. Likewise, he added that one person each from Jor-ethang and Yangyang in South Sikkim tested positive for COVID-19 in the RT-PCR testing.

In TrueNat testing, one person from Ranipool, one from Chandmari, one from Lingdok, one from Singtam, one from Upper Burtuk and one from the COVID Care Centre reported COVID-19 positive, Mr Bhutia said. He mentioned that samples of two persons from Majhitar, one from Makha, one from Lumsey and one from near Police Booth in Ranipool tested

COVID-19 positive in the rapid antigen testing.

Mr Bhutia also said that many persons have been coming to STNM hospital to collect their reports the next day after giving their samples for COVID-19 testing. On the same, he expressed that such a trend will increase the exposure rate if any of those persons have tested positive. On the same, he appealed to the people not to come to collect their report and wait for the hospital to inform them about their report. He added that if anyone is found positive then the contact tracing team of the department will contact them.

## India's COVID-19 death toll crosses one lakh



### NEW DELHI, OCT 3 (PTI):

India's COVID-19 death toll crossed one lakh and the infection tally climbed to 64,73,544, while the number of people who have recuperated from the disease crossed 54 lakh pushing the recovery rate to 83.84 per cent, the Union Health Ministry said on Saturday.

The total coronavirus cases mounted to 64,73,544 with 79,476 new infections being re-

ported in a day, while the death toll climbed to 1,00,842 with the virus claiming 1,069 lives in a span of 24 hours, data updated at 8 am showed.

The total recoveries have surged to 54,27,706, while there are 9,44,996 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country which comprises 14.60 per cent of the total caseload, the data showed.

The COVID-19 case fatality rate was record-

ed at 1.56 per cent. India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23 and 40 lakh on September 5. It went past 50 lakh on September 16 and crossed 60 lakh on September 28.

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), a cumulative total of 7,78,50,403 samples have been tested up to October 2, of which 11,32,675 were tested on Friday.

## 2 more deaths take Sikkim's COVID death toll to 43

**GANGTOK, 03 OCT:** Two more lives were lost to COVID-19 in Sikkim on Saturday taking the death toll due to the novel coronavirus to 43.

A 69-year-old male from Upper Burtuk and a 35-year-old male from 10th Mile, Bhusuk, passed away today here at STNM Hospital.

The 69-year-old, who was admitted to STNM hospital only on Friday, passed away at around 5:10 AM this morning. He did not have any serious co-morbidities except an intestinal problem, it is informed.

The 35-year-old was also brought to STNM Hospital on Friday and passed away at around 6:50 AM this morning. He reportedly had a genetic brain disorder.

Both patients had been admitted to the ICU facility at STNM Hospital.

## West Bengal reports record 3,340 new COVID-19 cases

**KOLKATA, OCT 3 (PTI):** West Bengal on Saturday reported its highest single-day spike of 3,340 new COVID-19 cases, taking the tally to 2,66,974, according to a bulletin issued by the Health Department.

Sixty-two more patients died in the state, following which the toll rose to 5,132, it said.

The discharge rate in the state improved to 87.92 per cent as the state saw 3,013 recoveries.

The number of active patients stood at 27,130.

In the last 24 hours, 41,128 samples have been tested for COVID-19 in the state, the bulletin said.

## Hathras SP, four other cops suspended over Dalit woman's gangrape-murder case



### LUCKNOW, OCT 2 (PTI):

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday suspended Hathras SP Vikrant Vir and four other policemen over the gangrape-murder case of the Dalit woman, a senior official said.

The official said the action has been taken on the basis of a preliminary inquiry report of the SIT.

Besides Vikrant Vir, the other suspended policemen are Circle Officer Ramshabd, Inspector Dinesh Kumar Verma, Sub-Inspector Jagveer Singh and Head Constable Mahesh Pal, Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Awasthi said.

Shamli SP Vineet

Jaiswal has been transferred to Hathras, he said.

Another senior official said the SIT constituted by the chief minister to probe into the case of alleged murder and gangrape submitted its first report on Friday.

The official said besides the suspended policemen, all those connected with the case will have to undergo narco and polygraph tests.

The chief minister had constituted the SIT on Wednesday.

Led by Home Secretary Bhagwan Swarup, it has DIG Chandraprakash and Agra PAC Commandant Poonam as its members. The SIT was asked to submit its report in seven days.

## Landslide claims 2 lives in Rinchonpong

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK 03 OCT:**

A massive landslide at Taphil under Samdung-Shreebadam block in Rinchonpong constituency, West Sikkim on Friday night has claimed two lives and injured three.

In the landslide, 61-year-old Nirmal Lepcha and 64-year-old Pamkit Lepcha, wives of late Sancho Lepcha, have lost their life, while 31-year-old Duknam Lepcha and his wife 28-year-old Lakhit Lepcha and daughter 10-year-old Somden Lepcha are undergoing treatment at Namchi District Hospital, informs an SKM press release issued by its secretary [press & publicity], Ranjana Pradhan.

The release informs that soon after getting information about the incident, SKM leader, Mahen-

dra Gurung, who is also the Chairman of State Medicinal Plants Board, rushed to the spot. He was also accompanied by West District Additional SP, Nakul Pradhan along with Rinchonpong constituency incharge, Phurba Tshering Bhutia and CLC president, Sukhang Subba of SKM party, Kaluk BDO Bijay Prasad Subba and other officials.

It is informed that Disaster Management team, local administration, police, panchayats and local villagers were busy in the rescue operation till the writing of this press release.

The release adds that two houses of Sancho Lepcha and his son, Duknam Lepcha have sustained huge damages in the landslide. It is informed that bodies of the two deceased have also been recovered.

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## Relying on testing to ward off COVID put Trump White House at risk

**CARL O'DONNELL & CHAD TERHUNE**

**WASHINGTON, 03 OCT [REUTERS]:**

Early in the coronavirus pandemic, U.S. President Donald Trump put his faith in a toaster-sized machine that could spit out test results in a matter of minutes.

In late March, Trump hailed the launch of Abbott Laboratories' ID NOW test at a Rose Garden event and embraced its widespread use at the White House to keep the deadly virus at bay. The president often skipped his own administration's public health recommendations on mask wearing and social distancing, explaining that "everyone's tested" around him using the Abbott device.

His strategy was no match for the virus.

The president announced Friday that both he and his wife, Melania, tested positive - news

that raised questions about the health of other top U.S. officials and threw the final weeks of the presidential campaign into disarray. On Friday, Trump began an experimental treatment and checked in to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center as a precautionary measure, a White House official said.

"The reliance on a rapid test, with its limitations, unfortunately gave the White House and its staff a false sense of security that they were in control of the virus," said William Schaffner, a professor of infectious diseases at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine.

"You cannot rely on that test to create a barrier between you and the virus," he said, adding that people "have to wear masks, do social distancing and not go to all these rallies."

While rapid tests can help

contain the spread of a highly contagious virus, they were not designed to be used in isolation. A negative result merely captures a snapshot in time and doesn't guard against infection soon after. And a person may be infectious for days before the amount of virus in their body registers positive on a test.

Krutika Kuppalli, an assistant professor and expert on infectious diseases at the Medical University of South Carolina, said not enough is known about how these rapid tests perform in people who are asymptomatic.

"Trump was playing with fire and it was really a matter of time before something like this was going to happen," she said. "Even if Trump had been around someone who was sick, wearing a mask could have prevented him from getting the virus."

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**SCHOLARSHIP FOR GIRLS 2020-21**

- Maulana Azad Education Foundation is providing "Begum Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship" to meritorious girl students belonging to economically weaker section of the six notified minority communities (i.e. Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis, and Jains). The Scholarship is provided @ ₹ 5000/- for Class IX, X and @ ₹ 6000/- for Class XI, XII. Scholarship will be awarded to minorities' girl students who are studying in Class 9th to 12th, and have secured at-least 50% marks or equivalent grade in aggregate in previous class and annual income of student's parent/guardian from all resources does not exceed ₹2.00 lakh (Rupees Two lakh only).
- The last date for submission of Online Application of scholarship (with uploaded required documents) under the "Begum Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship" Scheme for the current financial year 2020-21 is **31st October, 2020**.
- The students may refer to the Guidelines of scheme available on the website of MAEF i.e. [www.maef.nic.in](http://www.maef.nic.in) before filling up of Online Application. Applicants are advised to download School verification form and upload scanned copy of the same, duly verified by the Head of the Institution along with other documents as required in the Scheme guidelines.
- Scholarship amount is directly credited to the Bank Account of the selected applicant through Direct Beneficiary Transfer (DBT) mode.
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- Maulana Azad Education Foundation has **NO BRANCH or AUTHORISED OFFICES/AGENCY** anywhere in India for this purpose.

Secretary

Note:

- All required documents must be uploaded alongwith online application only in Hindi or English.
- No Hard copy is required to be sent/submitted by post/by hand to MAEF.

DAVP 27107/13/0002/2021



## RJD MP moves SC challenging validity of new farm laws

**NEW DELHI, OCT 3 (PTI):** RJD MP Manoj Jha has moved the the Supreme Court challenging the constitutional validity of the newly enacted three agriculture laws, saying they are "discriminatory and manifestly arbitrary" and will expose marginal farmers to exploitation by big corporates.

Parliament has recently passed the three Bills -- the Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020, the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020 and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act 2020. These have come into effect from September 27 after President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent. Jha, a Rajya Sabha member of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), has filed the plea in the top court through lawyer Fauzia Shakil.

Besides Jha, Congress Lok Sabha member from Kerala TN Prathan and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) Raja Sabha member from Tamil Nadu Tiruchi Siva had moved the top court against the farm laws.

Jha, in his plea, said, "The impugned legislations corporatise agriculture and ushers in an unregulated and exploitative regime. A farmer would not have the knowledge to negotiate the best terms with a private company. This leads to unequal bargaining position in negotiating the farm agreement with corporates would lead to corporates monopolising the agriculture sector."

The plea said the laws have been passed by Parliament "in breach of the Parliamentary Rules and convention and the impugned acts are unconstitutional on the ground that it is discriminatory and manifestly arbitrary and further violates the Basic Structure of the Constitution."

These laws encourage "corporatisation" of Indian agriculture which is the lifeline of the poor farmers and key to the survival of the nation's agriculture sector, it said.

"The impugned Acts primarily intends to sacrifice the interest of the farmers and leave them at the mercy of the sponsors without any proper dispute resolution mechanism.

## BJP rallies in support of Farm Bills in Siliguri

**SMRITA KHAWAS**

**SILIGURI, 03 OCT:**

A massive rally was organized on Saturday by Bharatiya Janata Party in support of the Farm bills recently passed by the Parliament. More than a thousand supporters were present in the rally along with BJP leader Pravin Agarwal, Raju Banerjee amongst others. The rally started from Baghajatin Park at Siliguri and ended in Mallaguri.

District president of BJP, Pravin Agarwal said, "The opposition parties are misleading people about the Agriculture Bill. Farmers will directly get benefits from the new agriculture laws, because now the farmers can directly sell their products to the public without any interference of any middle men."

Trinamool Congress



is unnecessarily opposing the new agriculture bills passed by central government, he added.

On the other hand, CPIM also organized a rally regarding various issues along with Ag-

riculture Bill in which more than a thousand party supporters along with the party leader were present. This rally was also from Baghajatin Park till Airviews more Siliguri.

Addressing the press, former Mayor, Ashok Bhattacharya said that the public has proved that they are against the policies of the state government as well as the central government.

"This is just the beginning of the revolution and today we have seen that the public is with us and in the upcoming election of 2021 there will be only our Red Flag," he stated.

## Central Pendam felicitates 34 COVID warriors



**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 03 OCT:**

Central Pendam Gram Panchayat Unit under West Pendam Constituency celebrated Gandhi Jayanti with a felicitation program for 34 COVID warriors of the area, a press release informs.

These 34 individuals from various social organisations, AASHA workers, health workers, drivers, etc. were felicitated with Corona

Warrior award for their contributions.

Panchayat President, Dronacharya Sapkota while delivering his address thanked all the warriors for supporting the GPU in the time of Pandemic and also appealed to support in coming days. He thanked the GPU for felicitating the warriors.

BDO Duga, IB Chettri addressing the event made an appeal to people to strictly

follow the protocols issued by the State Government.

The program was attended by BDO Duga, IB Chettri as the chief guest. Panchayat president, Dronacharya Sapkota, vice president, Meera Darji, Member, Nanda Sharma, Ganga Pradhan, Bharat Kumar Chettri along with members from different organisations, officials and local residents were also present in the program.

## Construction of playground at Rhenock Sec School begins

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 03 OCT:**

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has said that the 40 years long pending demand of the people of Rhenock for the construction of playground at Rhenock Secondary School will finally materialize, a press release informs.

On the direction of the Chief Minister, PS Tamang, the construction work was finally kicked-off with the Bhumi Pu-

jan in the presence of Area MLA, Bishnu Kumar Khatiwada on Friday.

The release mentions that the people of Rhenock have expressed their gratitude to the State government, the CM and Area MLA for fulfilling their long pending demand.

Gandhi Jayanti was also observed after the bhumi puja and the Area MLA has also inaugurated the constituency-level office of SKM on

the occasion.

In his address, the Area MLA mentioned that the 40 year long demand of the people of Rhenock was fulfilled only after the formation of the SKM government in the State. He informed that the government has plans to construct a super market in Rhenock bazaar as well. He further announced that Rhenock will be transformed into a model constituency during his tenure.

## Centre to waive certain interest levies on loans in COVID-19 relief

**NEW DELHI/MUMBAI,**

03 Oct [Reuters]: The Indian government has told the Supreme Court it will waive certain interest levies on loans up to 20 million rupees (\$272,888) under a COVID-19 support plan, a legal filing showed, in a move that will bring relief to millions of borrowers.

While the government did not disclose the impact on the banking sector, an analyst at credit ratings firm ICRA estimated it will cost New Delhi a maximum of 50-70 billion rupees (\$682 million-\$955 million).

"We expect the impact to be minimal on profitability of lenders," said ICRA's Anil Gupta.

An Indian optician from Agra had challenged the plan which allowed skipping repayments for six months but levied an additional "interest-on-interest" on delayed payments.

Other borrowers, including real estate companies and power utilities, also challenged the plan.

In a filing on Oct. 2 with the Supreme Court, seen by Reuters, the government said it had decided to waive the compounding interest component on small business and some other loans related to education and housing, and credit card

dues. "The government bearing this burden would naturally have an impact on several other pressing commitments being faced by the nation, including meeting direct cost associated with pandemic management, addressing basic needs of the common man," the filing added.

If the government were to consider a complete waiver of interest payments over a six-month moratorium period, as some had sought, it would cost 6 trillion rupees (\$82 billion), the filing said.

"If the banks were to bear this burden, it would necessarily wipe out a substantial and a major part of their net worth ... this was one reason why waiver of interest was not even contemplated," the government's legal document said.

The Indian government's filing said that all borrowers will benefit from the decision, irrespective of whether they opted for the moratorium or not. It was not immediately clear how such relief will be provided.

India's finance ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Gajendra Sharma, the Indian optician who filed the first case in the Supreme Court, applauded the decision.

## Fit India Freedom Run concludes



**GANGTOK, 03 OCT (IPR):**

The Fit India Freedom Run, a part of Fit India Movement was launched on 15 Aug to 02 Oct, 2020. The run was to encourage fitness and help all to get freedom from obesity, laziness, stress, anxiety, diseases, etc. The concept was to run at least 2km anywhere and anytime.

The Department of Sports and Youth Affairs with the involvement of all the officials and coaches from all districts, NSS Cell, Programme Coordinators, Programme Officers and volunteers make this campaign a mass movement from 15 August onwards by organising various physical activities such as running, jogging, skipping, cycling, zumba and yoga.

Under Fit India Movement, NSS unit of different institutions also under took activities like Clean Sikkim Green Sikkim campaign, Organic Sikkim, and plantation drive. They also played a vital role in spit free campaign wherein the volunteers generated awareness about the harmful effects of spitting on this COVID-19 pandemic.

The Fit India Freedom Run concluded on 02 October with the mass participation throughout the State. The Sports and Youth Affairs Department organised half an hour zumba session at White Hall complex in

the morning, which was participated by the Officers and Staff of the Department and virtually joined by NSS volunteers of the State.

The NSS cell also awarded certificates of appreciation to the outstanding Programme Coordinators and Programme Officers from all four districts who gave excellent performance during the Fit India Freedom Run. The certificates and cash awards were also given to winners of online singing competition held for volunteers.

The Secretary encouraged volunteers to embrace Gandhian philosophy. He appealed for the continued efforts for Fit India Movement and urged all citizens to come forward for fitness with the spirit "fitness ki dose aadha ghanta roz" as given by Prime Minister.

Later, the Secretary accompanied by Chief Engineer and officials of the Department also attended foundation stone laying ceremony of Public Ground at Rhenock by MLA, Bishnu Kumar Sharma. Thereafter, they also visited Amba GPU and inspected the area along with Panchayat member and public for the development of sports infrastructures. It may be mentioned here that the GPU is adopted by Chief Minister for making it a model GPU in the State.

### No, you cannot...

Not really. The 40-year-old woman had a pre-existing defect in the base of her skull (the bone at the top of the nose) and a sac of brain tissue had protruded out into the nasal cavity. This is a rare condition that we see in neurosurgery and in ear, nose and throat clinics.

About one in 10,000 babies are born with a defect like this, but the rate at which it occurs in adults is unknown. In this lady's case it was probably because the pressure inside her skull around the brain was higher than normal, creating a weak spot.

It is extremely unlikely for any person who doesn't have this pre-existing weakness in the nose to cause any damage with a swab. However, a good tip when swabbing the nose is to remember that the inside of the nose travels back, towards the back of the head, and not up. So any swabbing of the nose should involve pointing the swab towards the back of the head in the same direction as you would point the swab towards your tonsil when you swab your mouth – which is part of the same test.

Please do not be afraid of having your nose swabbed. It may be uncomfortable, but you cannot accidentally jab your brain. The swab test is our only way of telling who has and who hasn't got COVID. It's a vital public health tool to help us bring this pandemic under control.

*[the writer is Professor of Rhinology and Olfactology, University of East Anglia]*

### Relying on testing to...

The White House said in a statement Thursday that Trump "takes the health and safety of himself and everyone who works in support of him and the American people very seriously" and that the administration followed guidelines for limiting COVID-19 exposure to the greatest extent possible.

**DOUBTERS AND DEFENDERS**

An Abbott spokeswoman said the company's ID NOW test for the coronavirus - used by more than 11 million Americans since regulators approved it for emergency use in March - yields reliable results. The company referred questions about its use in the White House to the Trump administration.

The gold standard in diagnostic testing is known as polymerase chain reaction, or PCR, testing and is performed in a laboratory. But these tests can take hours or days to process. Abbott's ID NOW device offers two major advantages: a quick turnaround on site and portability.

The Abbott test, which involves putting a nasal swab in a liquid solution and heating it to amplify genetic material from the virus, produces results in 13 minutes or less.

"In a pandemic, the world needs all

types of testing for different settings and stages of the virus, including lab-based testing and rapid point-of-care testing," Abbott said in a statement.

The White House hasn't released details on what tests were conducted in recent days on Trump and Hope Hicks, a top White House adviser who also tested positive this week. And there is no evidence that the Abbott tests routinely performed on White House staff and visitors produced inaccurate results, nor that Trump or Hicks were infected in the White House rather than in other settings.

However, despite Trump's enthusiastic endorsement of the Abbott ID NOW test, some researchers have raised doubts about its accuracy.

In May, a New York University study said the Abbott test could be missing a third to nearly half of positive cases. That same month, researchers at Columbia University Irving Medical Center found that the ID NOW test identified only 73.9% of infectious samples.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration acknowledged there were concerns about "potential inaccurate results" from ID NOW in May. The agency

said it had received 302 "adverse event" reports as of Sept. 30, including numerous reports of false negatives - results showing patients were not infected when they actually were.

In its authorization of ID NOW for emergency use, updated last month, the FDA warned that more testing may be warranted to confirm initial results.

In a statement on Friday, Abbott said the NYU study was flawed and "rife with limitations." The company said its device produces results similar to lab-based methods and that even the most sensitive tests can post false negatives depending on the infection cycle in a person's body and how much virus they are shedding.

A company spokeswoman said "no test detects the virus immediately after the person becomes infected."

In a statement Friday, White House doctor Sean Conley said the president's diagnosis was confirmed with traditional PCR testing.

**'DEEMED SAFE'**

Emboldened by regular testing of himself and those in close proximity, Trump continued to hold large campaign rallies and events with donors where masks were optional. He flew to

his New Jersey golf club Thursday for a fundraiser and speech.

"It was deemed safe for the president to go. He socially distanced, it was an outdoor event and it was deemed safe by White House operations for him to attend that event," White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany said Friday.

Trump and his staff regularly do not wear masks. Last month, Trump publicly disagreed with Robert Redfield, director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, who testified to Congress about the importance of the face coverings.

And at Tuesday's presidential debate, Trump disparaged his opponent, former Vice President Joe Biden, for his frequent mask use. "I don't wear masks like him - every time you see him, he's got a mask," the president said.

Now, the fallout from the White House's focus on testing as a precaution could extend far beyond the president and his wife, experts say.

"I expect we will see more positive cases" connected to the White House, Kuppalli said. "I pray that doesn't happen."

~ SummitTIMES ~  
**CLASSIFIEDS**

### GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

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

**Contact: 9800201335**

### LAND FOR SALE

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

### LAND FOR SALE

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



*Tight security, many arrests for Ethiopian Irreecha festival*  
**JOHANNESBURG (AP):** ETHIOPIA'S largest ethnic group, the Oromo, on Saturday celebrated the annual Thanksgiving festival of Irreecha amid tight security and a significantly smaller crowd due to political tensions and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hundreds of people were arrested ahead of the festival, some accused by authorities of plotting terror attacks and a new wave of unrest.

Wearing face masks and white clothes stitched with the colors of the Oromia region's flag, people in downtown Addis Ababa were subjected to at least six security checks complete with body searches and, in some areas, sniffer dogs.

"I don't know the kind of information they have but these security checks are too much," said Hasen, a participant who gave only his first name, fearing for his safety. "Added with the COVID-19, it really has ruined the festive mood."

The festival usually attracts hundreds of thousands of people, but only a few thousand were allowed to attend this year.

More than 500 people were arrested on suspicion of plotting to disrupt the festival, the Oromia police commission said Thursday. On the same day, the National Intelligence and Security Service said it had arrested people suspected of planning to carry out terror attacks and cause unrest at the celebrations in Addis Ababa and nearby Bishoftu, adding that 10 Kalashnikovs were seized.

People travelling to the capital from other regions were banned from entering the city, multiple sources told The Associated Press. Officials said they were carrying out strict security checks but did not confirm the ban.

Notably, people carrying the Oromo Liberation Front and Oromo Federalist Congress party flags were absent in this year's festival. Some of the parties' leaders are behind bars for alleged involvement in the deadly unrest that followed the killing of popular Oromo singer Hachalu Hundessa in June. On Friday, an Ethiopian court charged four people suspected in the killing, which led to turmoil that saw more than 180 people and thousands arrested.

The Oromo, while the country's largest ethnic group, traditionally have expressed frustration over perceived marginalization. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed is the country's first Oromo leader, but he faces growing criticism by some Oromo that he hasn't done enough for them.

The Irreecha festival marks the end of the rainy season and the start of the harvest. It has seen violence in the past.

During the 2016 celebration in Bishoftu, a town 40 kilometers from the capital, several dozen people were crushed to death in a stampede after police fired tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse anti-government protesters.

# The Wakeup Movement celebrates first anniv



**SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 03 OCT:** The Wakeup Movement, a Non-Governmental Organisation led by teenagers from Sikkim celebrated its first foundation day on 02 Oct, 2020 by honouring Corona frontline workers of Gangtok Municipal Corporation i.e. Town Beauti-

fiers/Safai Karmacharis at New STNM Hospital, Sochaygang.

The organisation presented a citation to the warriors along with an essential kit which included sanitizers, masks, gloves, hand wash, Vitamin C tablets, etc. They thanked the workers for

their selfless work, dedication, commitment and courage during the time of pandemic.

The Wakeup Movement was started last year on 02 Oct, 2019 by four teenagers - Rishal Pandey Chettri, Rushali Golay, Ashwath Tamang and Chulmin Bhutia to spread awareness

on various issues like environment conservation and other cardinal issues of the society.

The felicitation was followed by a short visit to Child Care Institute, Bojoghari, an orphanage where the team distributed essential kits to the children.

## Young Joggers walk and clean on Gandhi Jayanti



**SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 03 OCT:** On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti and Shastri Jayanti, 'Young

Joggers' organized a 5 km walk cum cleanliness drive till Gadi Mandir in Central Pandam, a press release informs.

## Gandhi Jayanti at Rangpo School



**SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 03 OCT:** Government Higher Secondary School, Rangpo celebrated Gandhi Jayanti through online mode. Hindi language teachers, Laxmi

Prasad Sharma and Ram Prasad spoke during the celebration.

The event also included activities like lyrical poetry, essay, storytelling and patriotic songs.

## Former MP elected president of Integrated Mountain Initiative

**SUMMIT REPORT NEW DELHI, 03 OCT:** Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI)'s Governing Council elected Former MP of Sikkim and founding member of the organization, PD Rai as the new President of the organization who has taken up the position from 01 Oct, 2020 for a three-year term. He succeeds Sushil Ramola who successfully concluded 3 years (2017-2020) of Presidency.

Team Leader at WWF India Sikkim, Priyadarshinee Shrestha is elected as the Secretary and Founder and CEO of Sarg Vikas Samiti Uttarakhand, Binita Shah is elected as the Treasurer. Vice presidents elected are Rajendra Dobhal from Uttarakhand and Amba Jamir from Nagaland. Egam Basar from Arunachal Pradesh is elected to the post of Joint Secretary.

Speaking on the occasion of the handing over ceremony which took place over video conference on 01 Oct, 2020, Shri Ramola spoke about IMI's inception in 2011 under the guidance of the Late Dr RS Tolia and the long way that it has come since inception. Commenting on the challenges faced by civil society organizations today, he added that, "Today we are all fighting different battles

- climate change, covid-19, politics of intolerance, and nobody has the answers. There are also issues of water security, livelihoods, DRR and so forth. IMI as a civil society platform needs to continue to bring people together to fulfil IMI's vision of 'Making India Proud of our mountains' and realise the potential of our mountain regions. There is no better time and no greater challenges than now for the development of our mountain regions." He then handed over to PD Rai with good faith that the change in the Governing Council will bring in new energy and continue to give a voice to the people of the Indian Himalayan Region.

Remembering the Late Dr RS Tolia who passed away in December 2016, PD Rai thanked the three Presidents of IMI who have preceded him for leading the organization to where it stands today. Reflecting on IMI's current stage of development, he added, "One of the core values of IMI is integration however we are living in an age of real divisiveness. Despite this, IMI has inculcated a great culture in which we have to continuously understand and take on board all kinds of opinions and yet at the end of it we are able to find a solution and that is most needed at this particular time."

He further talked about the development disability that mountain states in India face even today and the much-needed unification of voices from the Himalaya. He cited IMI's efforts in organizing the Conclave of the Himalayan States in Uttarakhand on 28 Jul, 2019 as a success story which resulted in galvanizing the necessary political weight and advocacy from the IHR states. Lastly, he added, "There will be many such opportunities and we will have to think about how we will achieve all of this with limited resources, limited time and volunteerism."

He closed by thanking all the outgoing and incoming Governing Council members and members of the IMI fraternity for upholding and sustaining the ideals of democracy enshrined in the organization's constitution.

Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI) is a civil society led network platform with the mission to mainstream concerns of the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) and its people in the development dialogue of India. It functions as a platform to integrate the knowledge and experiences of multiple stakeholders working across the IHR and uses this to inform and influence policy at the national and state levels.

# Taxi fare hike "insult to injury", says SPYF

**SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 03 OCT:** Sikkim Progressive Youth Forum (SPYF) has said that the recent hike in taxi and bus fares is "insult to injury" to the common people who have already suffered economic losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"What has the Government done so far in lessening the burden of the people? What happened to the much-touted Economic Revival Committee?" the forum

asks in a press release.

SPYF further goes on to allege that the Government has been detached from ground realities and unwilling to take suggestions as well.

The organization has requested the Government to immediately withdraw the hike in taxi and bus fares, and also places other suggestions.

They have asked for SNT bus services from and between all the important towns and ba-

zaars of the state without raising the fare; limit hike in taxi fares to 1.3 times the normal fare; provision of sizeable economic relief package to drivers; one-time relaxation in several taxes levied by the state to non-private, non-Governmental vehicles; and send advisories to the banks to give relaxation of six months in paying instalment as well as in the interest so charged to the drivers who have bought vehicles on loan.

## Mega Blood Camp by Blood Warriors of Siliguri



**SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 03 OCT:** Blood Warriors of Siliguri organized a Mega Blood Camp at Hamid Refrigeration premises near Vishal Megamart Burdwan Road, Siliguri today, a press release informs.

The camp was orga-

nized in association with Lions Club of Siliguri Dignity and Hamid Refrigeration with technical support from Rotary blood bank and Lions Terai blood bank.

They collected 85 units of blood during the camp.

Since there is a short-

age of blood all over the state, Blood Warriors of Siliguri is taking the initiative to provide as much blood as possible to the blood bank. Within 3 months the team has been able to collect more than 400 units of blood via blood camps, the release mentions.

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What is Novel Coronavirus - nCoV?

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

**Symptoms of nCoV**

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

**Treatment**

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

**Precautions to Prevent nCoV**

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

If you seek help, you may call :

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

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



## Politics Demands Commitment

*...but slack accountability makes casual flirtations too easy*

Politics is an exciting engagement, one that evokes passionate stands and distracts very easily. Where Sikkim is concerned, its political milieu has been traditionally populated rather extensively by teachers and midlevel government servants. Nothing wrong with having political leanings, in fact that would be a healthy engagement in a democracy, but everyone knows that involvement here used to extend much beyond that. It is also difficult in a State as small as Sikkim for anyone of any significance to remain genuinely apolitical. And as mentioned earlier, unless politics is really “dirty”, there is nothing wrong in having a political position even if your job description requires you to stay detached. What is important though is for the people concerned to keep their responsibilities (as government servants or “social workers”) and interests and (political) beliefs in separate silos. Unfortunately, government servants, given the astoundingly slack concepts of accountability enforced by the administration, are easily tempted to flirt with politics. In systems where accountability is casually fixed and job-responsibilities poorly defined, it is easy to start dispensing favours and bending rules; and before one knows it, the administrators become rather deft political players themselves. Engagement with party level politics follows and then come political ambitions.

What blurs the line even more is the confusion with which politics is mixed up with administration and government mistaken for a party. Also, in a political environment thick with parties and slim on ideological differentiators, the decision to take the plunge comes easy because options never dry out and crossovers rarely need to be explained with any conviction. Not just government servants, but this situation makes it easy for everyone to ‘try out’ politics, move around political parties, taste all options and if nothing works out, step back into a supposedly “apolitical” life only to resurrect whenever occasion demands or opportunity arises. It is the facility with which this last option [the one of turning apolitical whenever it suits one] can be acquired that makes irresponsible dabbling in party politics so easy for most wannabes here.

Let us agree first that while ideological political positions are absolutely acceptable, and even welcome, it is the tendency to engage in ‘active’ politics, the one involving planning and negotiating, that vitiates work cultures and political engagements. This latter involvement diverts attention from the tasks they draw salaries for [in the case of government servants], and should they be aligning with factions opposed to the ruling party, could also lead to willful compromising of policy implementation. In the case of private people involved in “social work”, simultaneous political and social pursuits come at the cost of sabotaging their responsibilities towards society. And this cannot be dismissed as inconsequential even if they are volunteering their time and energies, because when one occupies a public space, one is required to remain earnest and not allow their priorities to get colored by political exigencies.

Politicians rarely suffer the fallout of such situations and the loss, in the long run, is burdened on the people whom the politicians, the government employees and the social workers should be serving first. Politics does not compromise governance or administration; it is the ambitious politicking that robs people of deserved delivery. For that reason alone, it is advisable to maintain a healthy interest in politics and also hold opinions, but leave the politicking to politicians; and if one is to engage actively, then doing so with full commitment.

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## 500 whales stranded in Tasmania – indigenous elders are best guides to understanding this tragedy

NIKI JP ALSFORD  
*theconversation.com*

Close to 500 pilot whales beached themselves in September 2020, in what has been described as Australia’s biggest mass stranding on record. Rescue efforts saved 108 of the marine mammals, which belong to the dolphin family, but scientific attempts to explain the tragedy have so far offered only theories, including sickness, navigational errors, and sudden changes in the tide.

Indigenous peoples throughout the Pacific, including the Maori of Aotearoa (New Zealand), have been raising the alarm for some time. For generations, people here have watched the movements of these whales closely to help them navigate the world’s largest ocean.

For the Aborigines of Australia and indigenous communities throughout the Pacific, changes in whale behaviour are ominous. With a rich oral history to draw from, the indigenous people of the Pacific are among our best guides for making sense of the recent strandings, and the wider environmental changes they portend.

### OCEAN GIANTS IN PACIFIC FOLKLORE

The slipstreams of whales and dolphins weave throughout the folklore of the Pacific Islands. The Maori tell the story of Paikea who, when faced with drowning due to the machinations of his evil brother, recited an incantation and summoned a whale to save himself.

The seaways between the Central Carolines and the Marianas would chant of Ikelap – “the big fish”

– when it was sighted by voyagers. It was a signpost that the journey was nearing the east coast of Guam. Western mariners would come to know this big fish as the pilot whale – a namesake that speaks to it being a dependable guide.

It’s a common belief among many different Pacific communities that whales and dolphins are spirit transformations or carriers of ancestors. As such, whales are often sought for spiritual guidance to decide where to settle and when to avoid fishing or sailing.

Changes in whale migratory routes, songs and unusual surfacing behaviour are all instructive, and observations of distressed whales – to a degree that’s far outside the norm – are interpreted as significant omens. In Tikopia, part of the Solomon Islands, the stranding of whales signified imminent spiritual danger.

Since their whaling rights are protected under the International Whaling Commission, indigenous catch reports have also been used to help track whale populations and to identify when commercial whaling was depleting populations in the past.

Indigenous accounts are invaluable as they provide a reliable, long-term record of how whale populations have changed over time according to changes in their environment.

### WHAT THE WHALES FORETOLD

Environmental change in the Pacific is not new. Oral history recalls when, at the end of the last ice age, fenua imi (an island-eating demon), swallowed the land and forced the migration of its peoples across Oceania. The history of the Pacific is a

history of migration, and the whales and dolphins have accompanied these movements, guiding voyagers across the vast ocean.

Climate change could be considered the modern return of fenua imi. But it comes with additional barriers. Political and legal borders now restrict the free movement of people across the Pacific, even as climate change threatens to inundate these vulnerable islands with storms, rising tides and the destruction of vital habitat such as mangroves and coral reefs.

While much international attention has focused on what sea level rise will mean for the low-lying lands of the Pacific, deep changes within the oceans are just as urgent. One of the North Pacific’s worst marine heatwaves on record killed one million seabirds between the summer of 2015 and the spring of 2016. Hotspots of marine biodiversity are threatened by overfishing and deep-sea mining. And while many people have heard of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, fewer know about the poisons that this floating plastic waste produces, killing microorganisms that produce oxygen and feed marine life. The recent whale strandings, historic in scale, are a reminder that problems in the biosphere cannot be treated in isolation.

Listening to indigenous communities throughout the Pacific about environmental change is not only important, but it is also vital in our attempts to correct the damage done to marine ecosystems.

*[the writer is Professor in Asia Pacific Studies, Director of the Asia Pacific Studies Institutes, University of Central Lancashire]*

## Belly fat linked to higher risk of premature death, regardless of your weight

REBECCA DUMBELL  
*theconversation.com*

It’s well known that carrying extra fat around your waist can be harmful to your health, bringing greater risk of developing illnesses such as type 2 diabetes and heart disease. But a recent study found that, regardless of weight, people who carry more fat around their abdomen had a higher risk of dying sooner – in fact, there was an 11% increase in death during follow up with every extra 10cm of waist circumference.

The researchers included 72 studies in their review, which contained data on 2.5 million people. They then analysed the combined data on body shape measures, looking at waist-to-hip ratio, waist-to-thigh ratio, and waist and thigh circumference – in other words, all the areas where a person naturally stores fat.

Beside the finding on belly fat, the researchers also found that people who tend to store more fat on the hips and thighs – instead of their abdomen – had a lower risk of dying sooner, with each extra 5cm thigh circumference associated with an 18% reduced risk of death during the follow-up period (between 3-24 years, depending on the study). But why might this be the case? The answer has to do with the type of fat tissue we tend to store in certain areas of our body.

Body fat (known as adipose tissue) plays an important role in our physiology. Its main purpose is to take glucose from the blood and safely store this energy as lipid inside our fat cells, which our body uses later for fuel. Our fat cells also produce hormone signals that influence many body processes, including appetite. Adipose tissue is therefore important for good metabolic health.

But having too little adipose tissue can affect how well blood sugar levels are regulated in the body. Insu-

lin regulates healthy blood sugar levels, telling fat cells to take up glucose from the blood and store it for later. Without enough adipose tissue (a condition known as lipodystrophy), this process can’t work properly – resulting in insulin resistance, which can lead to diabetes.

Although fat is important for good metabolic health, where we store it (and the kind of fat tissue it is) can

under the skin as subcutaneous fat.

These different fat depots have different physiological properties and express different genes. It’s thought that different visceral and subcutaneous fat depots develop from different precursor cells – cells that can become fat cells.

Visceral fat is considered more insulin resistant, and so carries a higher risk of type 2 diabetes. Body fat

thought of as safer – even protective against metabolic disease.

It’s thought that in some people subcutaneous fat stores run out of storage space (or the ability to make new fat cells) sooner than in others. This means more fat will be stored in the less safe visceral depots. Visceral fat can cause inflammation, eventually leading to metabolic and cardiovascular disease. And if fat can

no longer be stored in adipose tissue, eventually lipid can accumulate elsewhere – including the heart, muscles, and liver – which again can lead to disease.

As with height, your genes play a large part in weight and body shape. Large genetic studies have identified over 400 of the tiniest genome differences that might contribute to body-fat distribution. For example, people who have a mutation in the LRP5 gene carry more fat in their abdomen and less in their lower body. However, these tiny genetic differences are common

in the population, affecting most of us in one way or another – and may explain why humans have such a range of different body shapes.

Unfortunately, this means that it might be more difficult for a person who naturally stores fat around their waist to maintain good health. But research also shows that weight loss can reduce visceral fat and improve metabolic health. So what is important to remember is that body shape is only a risk factor, and even with these differences you can still lower your risk of chronic disease if you maintain a healthy lifestyle.

*[the writer is Lecturer, Nottingham Trent University]*



have different health consequences. Research shows that people with the same height and weight, but who store their fat in different places have different risks of developing certain metabolic diseases, such as type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

### VISCERAL VERSUS SUBCUTANEOUS

Body shape is influenced by where fat is stored in our body. For example, “apple shaped” people store more fat around their waist and are likely to store more fat deeper in the body surrounding their organs as visceral fat. “Pear shaped” people have larger thighs, and store more fat more evenly around their body just

stored around the waist also releases more blood triglycerides in response to stress hormone signals compared to hip and thigh fat. High blood triglyceride levels are associated with greater risk of heart disease. This is partly why visceral fat is seen as as more harmful than subcutaneous fat.

On the other hand, hip and thigh subcutaneous fat can better take up these triglycerides from the blood and store them safely, preventing the body from incorrectly storing them in the muscles or liver, which can cause liver disease. Subcutaneous fat tissue can even develop specialised “beige” fat cells that are able to burn fat. For these reasons, subcutaneous fat is



# Dimapur police enforcing odd-even rules without extension



**DIMAPUR, OCT 02 [NAGALANDPAGE]:** Dimapur police appears to be illegally enforcing the odd-even system for non-essential vehicular movement within Dimapur town and NH-29 till Chumoukedima town without notifying extension of the odd-even system in the district.

The last order on enforcement of odd-even rules in the district is-

sued by Rothihu Tetseo, IPS, Commissioner of Police, Dimapur on September 1 expired on September 30.

"In continuation to this Office order of even No. 1763 dated 14th Aug' 2020 and in the interest of public safety during the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic, traffic regulations for non-essential vehicular movement within Dima-

pur town and NH-29 till Chumoukedima town is hereby issued under Section 115 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 with effect from 2nd September, 2020 till 30th September, 2020," said an order issued by the Dimapur police chief on September 1 notifying extension of the odd-even system in the district.

As per the order, odd numbered vehicles

were to ply on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, while even numbered vehicles were to ply on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. The restriction was not enforced on Sundays.

However, on October 1, wide-eyed traffic cops were seen penalizing odd numbered vehicles along the NH-29, while on October 2, even numbered vehicles were penalized.

The DC Kohima, Gregory Thejawelie NCS had promptly issued an order on September 30 extending the 'odd-even' system, except on Sundays, till October 31, whereas the Dimapur police had not issued any such order till date. However, eager traffic cops along NH-29 were seen issuing challans to commuters for breaking the odd-even rule, which is illegal since the rule has not been extended to October.

While it is not known whether the district Police authorities had authorized traffic cops in the highway to enforce the odd-even rule and collect fines, Police authorities ought to come clean on whether the odd-even system is still in force in the district or not.

Besides, since the aforesaid August 14, 2020 order on the odd-even vehicular system expired on September 30, at Dimapur, those challaned in this district on October 1 & 2 also ought to be refunded.

## Left, Congress protest in Kolkata over Hathras incident



**KOLKATA, OCT 3 (PTI):** Left and Congress activists protested in Kolkata on Saturday against the alleged gang rape of a Dalit woman in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras that has triggered a nationwide outrage.

Carrying placards having slogans such as "Defeat fascist BJP at Centre and TMC in Bengal" and "Down with fascists who throttle democracy", around a 1,000 members of the CPI(M), Congress and their affiliates marched from Moulali to Esplanade in the heart of the city in the afternoon.

As they tried to break

a barricade at Esplanade, trying to go towards a UP government office to protest, a scuffle broke out with the police.

The activists claimed that several of them received injuries in the scuffle, which was denied by the police. Later, they torched effigies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at the Esplanade crossing.

"We burnt Modi's effigy for the attack on democratic forces and his failure to curb the rise in the number of rape cases in the country, mostly in UP. We are also burning the effigy of the Trin-

amool Congress chief for the law and order breakdown in the state and increase in attacks on women," SFI leader Subhajit Sarkar said.

The 19-year-old Dalit woman was allegedly raped at a village in Hathras by four men on September 14. After her condition deteriorated, she was referred to the Delhi's Safdarjung hospital where she breathed her last on Tuesday.

She was cremated in the early hours of Wednesday, with her family alleging the local police forced them to conduct the last rites in the dead of the night.

## Manipur: HC asks state to set up spl courts to try cases against MPs, MLAs

**IMPHAL, OCT 02:** The High Court of Manipur Thursday directed the state government to create two exclusive special courts for trials of cases against former and sitting MPs and MLAs.

The directive was issued by a Division Bench in compliance with a recent directive of the Supreme Court, seeking updated information from states, union territories and the high courts about the status of cases pending against MPs and MLAs.

The exclusive special court, to be known as Special Court (MP/MLA), will be based in Imphal at the sessions and magisterial levels having jurisdiction over entire Manipur.

Till the special courts are created, the High Court also directed to designate additional sessions court and chief judicial magistrate, Manipur, to function as special courts.

For effective operation of the special courts, The high court further asked the state govern-



ment to create two posts of Manipur Judicial Services and sanction funds for creating the infrastructure for the two proposed courts and their staff.

The High Court said a nodal prosecution officer not below the rank of additional superintendent of police shall be designated to ensure production of accused persons before the respective courts.

The officer shall also be responsible for the service of summons to the witnesses and their appearance and deposition in the courts. Any lapse on the part of the nodal prosecution officer will make him/her liable to disciplinary proceed-

ings apart from initiation of contempt of court proceedings.

The High Court also issued a directive to the Director General of Police (DGP), Manipur to designate a senior officer not below the rank of Inspector General of Police to be present in the court in each hearing to collect and provide requisite information as and when the case is listed for hearing.

Special agencies such as CBI and NIA among others were also asked to ensure that pending investigations of criminal cases against MPs and MLAs were completed as soon as possible and their reports are submitted promptly. [Courtesy: IE]

## 69 new COVID-19 cases in Ladakh; tally reaches 4,429

**LEH, OCT 3 (PTI):** The Union Territory of Ladakh has reported 69 fresh COVID-19 cases, raising its tally to 4,429, while 42 patients were cured of the disease in the last 24 hours, officials said on Saturday.

The region has recorded 61 deaths -- 35 in Kargil district and 26 in Leh district -- since the outbreak of the pandemic while 3,274 patients have so far recovered from the infection, the officials said.

Of the 69 new cases -- 64 were reported from Leh and five from Kargil.

Thirty-one COVID patients in Leh and 11 more in Kargil were discharged after successful treatment, the officials said, adding that the number of active patients in Ladakh stands at 1,094 -- 766 in Leh and 328 in Kargil.

## Mamata takes out rally in Kolkata against Hathras rape

**KOLKATA, OCT 3 (PTI):** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday took out a rally in the city in protest against the Hathras gang rape case in Uttar Pradesh.

The march began at the Birla Planetarium and ended at the Gandhi statue at Mayo Road, about 2 km away.

She had hit out at the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh on Thursday and said just as Goddess Sita had to go through 'Agni Pariksha' in the Ramayana after being abducted by King Ravana, the Dalit woman who died after being allegedly gang-raped and brutalised in Hathras was cremated in the dead of the night.

## Tripura reports 190 new COVID-19 cases



**Agartala, Oct 3 (PTI):** Tripura's COVID-19 tally rose to 26,552 on Saturday as 190 more people tested positive for the virus, a health department official said.

The COVID-19 death toll climbed to 286 with six more people succumbing to the infection, he said.

West Tripura district, of which state capital Agartala is a part, has accounted for 156 of the 280 COVID-19 deaths, the official said.

Tripura currently has 5,369 active coronavirus cases, while 20,874 people have recovered from the disease. Twenty-three patients have migrated to other states, the official said.

At least 301 patients were discharged from G B Pant hospital, the main referral hospital for the COVID-19 patients on Friday after they were cured of the disease, he said.

As many as 3,96,416 samples have been tested for COVID-19 in the state so far, the official added.

## Short supply, high demand push egg prices up in Bengal

**KOLKATA, OCT 3 (PTI):** After onion and potato, eggs, another kitchen staple, became dearer in West Bengal due to a shortage in supply and rising demand, and consumers may not get respite soon from soaring prices of the poultry product with upcoming festive season, traders said on Saturday.

Retail price has shot up to Rs 7 apiece, while branded eggs are sold over Rs 10 per unit, they said.

"Consumers, who had shunned poultry products due to the scare of coronavirus earlier, are now consuming eggs to meet their nutritional requirement in the fight against the virus. This has led to a rise in demand," traders in the city said.

Retail egg prices had soared by nearly 60 per cent in the last six months from about Rs 4 apiece in April and May, and it has gone up by about 20 per cent in September mainly due to supply shortages, they said.

"I am selling eggs at Rs 7 apiece now, while I had sold at Rs 4 per unit in April," a grocery store owner said.

Prices of branded eggs in large format stores have increased to over Rs 10

per piece, while brown and other speciality ones are sold at higher prices.

"About 25 per cent of birds had been culled before time in the initial months of the lockdown due to disruption in feed supply and labour issues.

"Given the shortage in supply, price may rise further and is likely to stay firm at least for another three months," Saguna south Bengal head Balaji R told PTI.

About 2.7-2.8 crore eggs are consumed daily in West Bengal, while the per-day production stands at 1.8 crore.

Arambagh Hatcheries managing director Prasun Kr Roy said poultry industry has lost around Rs 50,000 crore due to the pandemic.

"Both eggs and poultry meat prices are ruling high due to early culling of birds on a large scale. It will take time to normalise production and supply," he said.

With hotels and restaurants resuming their operations, demand for eggs has been increasing and will rise further during the festive season, an official of the West Bengal Poultry Federation said.

## Dimapur sees spike in COVID-19 cases as nightlife comes alive

**DIMAPUR, OCT 02 [NAGALANDPAGE]:** Even as there is a surge in COVID-19 cases in Dimapur District, authorities here remain lackadaisical but complacent in strictly enforcing guidelines issued by Health authorities to control the spread of the virus.

Dimapur continues to have the highest number of COVID-19 active cases in Nagaland at 730 (699 asymptomatic cases & 31 symptomatic cases), which is over 67% of the total active cases (1078) in the State as on October 1. While the surge in COVID positive cases in the district should have pushed the authorities here to step up vigil to control the pandemic from creating havoc, the opposite is being seen here.

Indifference towards implementing guidelines seems to have crept in with Unlock-4 since September and with imple-

mentation of Unlock-5, which is yet to be enforced in the State, the situation is only bound to worsen.

In offices and markets, social distancing is not being observed while most people carry masks but don't wear them. And when simple guidelines like wearing masks, washing hands and maintaining distance is not observed during daytime, consider the situation at night.

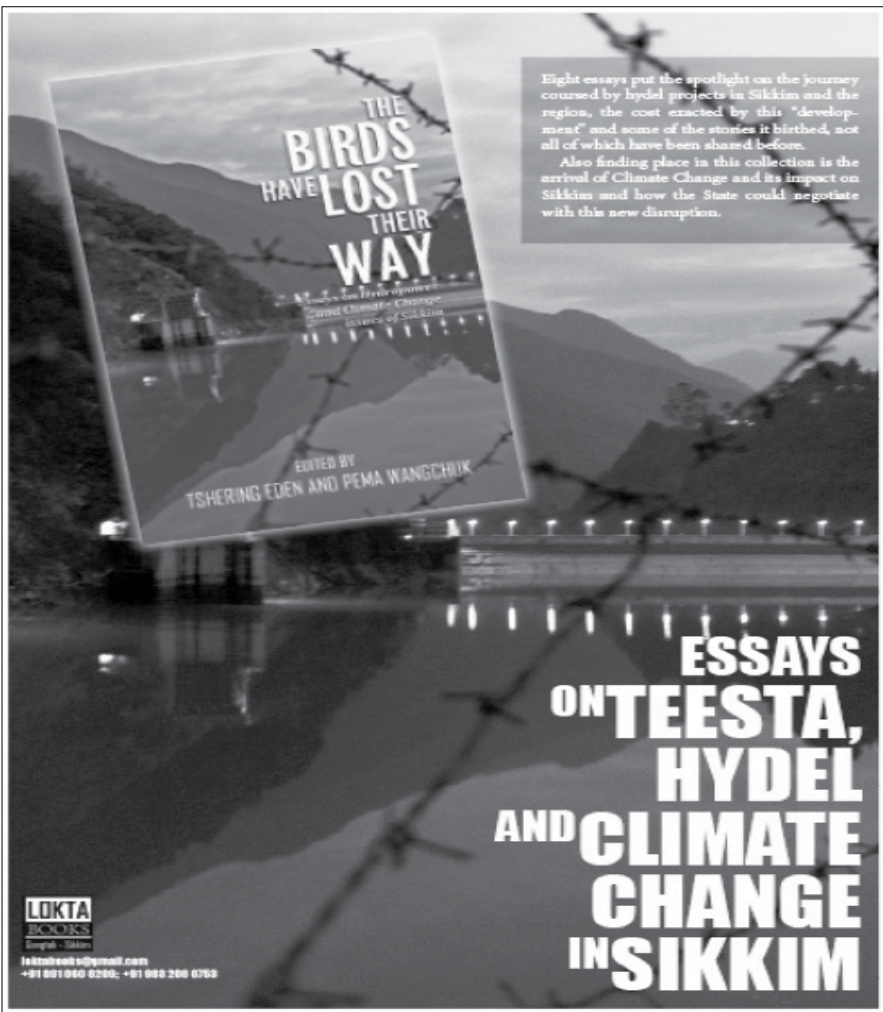
Almost all bars/booze joints masquerading as restaurants, lounges, etc., in 'Dry Nagaland' have opened since Unlock-4 and are operating in full swing everyday past midnight in Dimapur right under the very nose of the district authorities.

These booze joints, cramped with young people, could be super-spreaders of the Coronavirus but authorities prefer to turn a blind eye to them. Authorities cannot

claim lack of knowledge of the operation of such joints in Dimapur town, as the loud music, number of vehicles lined on the road and the motley crowd of inebriated young people outside such joints give them away.

Last week the State COVID-19 weekly bulletin indicated that the increase in number of young adults and students reporting COVID-19 infections in Nagaland could be due to mobility of young people to their workplaces, friends hanging out in restaurants/close settings with no regard to the 3Ws -- wash hands, wear mask and watch distance. Complacency, it rued, appears to have set in after the Unlock-4 with non-adherence to standard safety measures.

However, it appears complacency have set in not just among young adults but in the administration as well.





### Neymar scores first goals of the season in PSG rout

**PARIS, 03 OCT [REUTERS]:** Brazilian forward Neymar scored his first two goals of the season as Paris St Germain demolished hapless Angers 6-1 in a hopelessly one-sided Ligue 1 match on Friday.

Alessandro Florenzi, Julian Draxler, Idrissa Gana Gueye and Kylian Mbappe shared the other goals as PSG claimed a fourth successive win while Ismael Traore headed one back for Angers.

PSG, who lost their opening two games of the season, jumped to second in the table with 12 points from six matches, one behind leaders Rennes.

Angers coach Stephane Moulin, who has been in charge since 2011 and is the longest-serving coach in any of Europe's top five leagues, set up his side with a five-man defence but to no avail.

Mbappe had an early shot saved by Paul Bernardoni and PSG only needed seven minutes to break the deadlock.

An attempted clearance went straight to Florenzi who flicked the ball up and lobbed into the net without letting it touch the ground.

Stephane Bahoken should have equalised but sent a free header wide of the goal and the Cameroon forward was also denied when Keylor Navas dived at his feet.

The visitors inevitably paid the price when Mbappe slipped between two defenders and laid the ball back to Neymar who fired a left-foot shot into the roof of the net in the 36th minute.

The Brazilian drilled home a loose ball for the third two minutes after the break and, although Traore pulled one back with a far post header, it was only brief respite for Angers.

Draxler and Gueye scored with deflected shots before Mbappe turned in the sixth with six minutes remaining.

### Warner may skip Big Bash, says his manager

**MELBOURNE, OCT 3 (PTI):** Currently leading Sunrisers Hyderabad's campaign in the Indian Premier League, prolific Australian opener David Warner could skip the Big Bash League 2020 due to bio-bubble fatigue. "It's not to do with the money, it's to do with whether he wants to do it," Warner's manager James Erskine was quoted as saying by 'Sydney Morning Herald'.

"I haven't discussed it with him but I would think he's more than likely to spend time with his family than in the BBL. The fact we haven't had the conversation probably tells me he won't," Erskine added.

In July, Warner had said he might have to "re-think" his future in international cricket in a world altered by the COVID-19 pandemic. The next edition of the BBL is set to take place from December to February next year.

Australia's international players are likely to get a two-three week window to feature in the BBL after their home series against India.

# London Marathon hopes to retain spirit in St James's Park laps and virtual runs

**SEAN INGLE**

**LONDON, 03 OCT [THEGUARDIAN]:** For almost 40 years it has become a familiar sight on the streets of the nation's capital: a joyous and sweaty caravan of elite and everyday runners, Super Men and Wonder Women, cheered on by 750,000 people. But while Sunday's 2020 London Marathon will be strange and socially distanced, and global not local, organisers believe the spirit of the race will rage brighter than ever.

At 7.15am on Sunday the world's best athletes will be chasing world records and Olympic qualifying times on a special closed course in St James's Park. But 45,000 runners from 109 countries will run the race "virtually" by themselves on a course of their choice, using a special app to track their route and time, rather than on the normal 26.2-mile route from Greenwich to the Mall.

It is not a usual London Marathon. But these are not normal times. And by staging the race in the teeth of a global pandemic the race director, Hugh Brasher, hopes it will offer a beacon of light for a troubled world – and raise millions for charities who are struggling to survive. "This event really is about society coming together," he says, "and in circumstances that we believe are entirely fitting for where we are in our fight against Covid-19."

When the marathon was initially postponed from April, Brasher and his team rustled up 12 scenarios to stage it this autumn. Initially the ambition was to use Bluetooth technology to stage a socially distanced marathon for 45,000 people in London – before UK coronavirus cases



surged again. Within a few weeks organisers had to scramble to build an app for the virtual race and find a biosecure hotel big enough to allow the elite athletes to complete their final preparations without leaving the grounds.

During the summer Kenenisa Bekele, arguably the greatest distance runner in history, asked organisers whether he could train in the British Embassy in Addis Ababa because of the heightened tensions in Ethiopia. Then on Friday he pulled out of his clash with the Kenyan Kipchoge, which had been billed

as the "race of the century", with a calf injury. Another Ethiopian, Digtu Azimeraw, withdrew from the women's field after testing positive for Covid-19.

The fact the race is being staged at all, says Brasher, is a minor miracle. At one point things got so difficult he began to adjust his running route to pass the grave of his father, Chris, who co-founded the event in 1981. "I had quiet little chats with him on my runs," he says. "He didn't answer, obviously. But I was telling him just how crazy the situation is. It's been mind-boggling."

And yet, out of all the chaos and uncertainty, organisers believed they have put on an event that preserves the spirit of the event – with lots of extra touches they hope will make a difference. All entrants received their race numbers in a gold-tinged envelope containing a good-luck card signed by the Kenyan world record holder Eliud Kipchoge, for instance, while the app will not only allow friends to follow and donate to their chosen charity but also carry encouraging messages from the former world champion Paula Radcliffe to inspire them.

The elite field, meanwhile, have been finalising their preparations at a secret hotel where masks are compulsory except at mealtimes and in their rooms. They also have to wear a device that emits a red light and a sharp beep if they get too close to each other. "Conversations over dinner are interesting because you're not quietly chatting, you're projecting," says one insider.

That attention to detail will carry on during race day, with every athlete having their own dedicated changing area and a toilet. And as they run around the 19.6 laps of St James's Park before finishing on the Mall, they will see cutouts of past winners and people wearing fancy dress to remind them of the history of the race – while the big screens in the park will show videos of the virtual runners across the globe.

Providing rain stays away on Sunday morning there is optimism that a world record could be set in the men's race, with Kipchoge, in particular, said to be in amazing shape. Meanwhile Brasher is optimistic for another significant milestone. In 1981 fewer than 300 of the 6,255 finishers were women – but for this year's race he expects more women to finish than men for the first time.

"Of course this is a very different event than normal," says Brasher. "But the ethos of the London Marathon hasn't changed. As always it is about the 45,000 everyday runners being inspired by the gods of the sport. We want to do things together but separately, and that's what the virtual event allows us to do. It is a race for the world at the moment."

## FC Goa signs Ishan Pandita

**PANAJI, OCT 3 (PTI):** Indian Super League side FC Goa on Saturday roped in the services of the promising forward Ishan Pandita, who has the experience of playing in Spain, ahead of the upcoming season.

Pandita has penned an initial one-year deal with the club and is set to be a part of the squad that challenges both in the ISL and the AFC Champions League this season.

The 22-year-old became the first Indian sign a professional contract with a club in Spanish first division in 2016 when he joined the setup at CD Leganes.

There he turned out for the club's U-19 side, which at the time plied its trade in the Division



de Honor Juvenil, the top level of the Spanish system for youth players.

"I am excited at the opportunity. I want to come in and show what I can do, and score goals for FC Goa. It is a team that creates a lot of chances, and the whole philosophy goes exactly with what my game is based on," Pandita said.

"I am an attacking player coming into the most attacking-minded team in India, so I can't

be more ecstatic," he said.

Hailing from Jammu and Kashmir, Pandita was born in New Delhi before moving to Philippines and then Bangalore. In order to get better training and learn the game, he moved to Spain in 2014.

After spending his initial days in the youth set up of UD Almer a, he moved to CD Leganes. He then moved to Nastic de Tarragona for a stint in their U-23 side before signing for Lorca FC.

## James and Falcao return to Colombia for World Cup qualifying



**BOGOTA, OCT 3 (AP):** James Rodriguez and Radamel Falcao have been summoned by Colombia for their first two World Cup qualifiers against Venezuela and Chile this month.

The great news are James' return to his place in soccer, playing and competing regularly, and the recovery and return of our captain Falcao, coach Carlos Queiroz said on Friday.

Rodriguez has scored his first goal for Everton, and Falcao had netted three in the Turkish league.

Colombia will face Venezuela on Oct. 9 in Barranquilla, and then travel to Santiago to play Chile four days later.

Colombia: Goalkeepers: David Ospina (Napoli), Camilo Vargas (Atlas, Mexico), Ivano

Montero (Tolima), Aldair Quintana (Atletico Nacional).

Defenders: Stefan Medina (Monterrey), Juan Guillermo Cuadrado (Juventus), Yerry Mina (Everton), Davinson Sanchez (Tottenham), Jeison Murillo (Celta de Vigo), Jhon Lucum (Genk), Frank Fabra (Boca Juniors), Johan Mojica (Atalanta).

Midfielders: Matheus Uribe (Porto), Jorman Campuzano (Boca Juniors), Wilmar Barrios (Zenit St. Petersburg), Jefferson Lerma (Bournemouth), Yair Moreno (Lebanon), Steven Alzate (Brighton), James Rodriguez (Everton).

Strikers: Alfredo Morelos (Rangers), Radamel Falcao (Galatasaray), Duván Zapata, Luis Fernando Muriel (Atalanta), Luis Diaz (Porto).

## Tottenham signs Vinicius, Sheffield United adds Brewster

**LONDON, OCT 3 (AP):** Tottenham ended its search for a new striker when Carlos Vinicius joined the English Premier League club on loan from Benfica. The 25-year-old Brazilian, who was joint top goalscorer in Portugal's Primeira Liga last season with 18 in 32 matches, will stay with the north London club for the full campaign.

Spurs will pay a loan fee of three million euros (3.5 million) with the option of buying Vinicius for 45 million euros (53 million) permanently at the end of the season.

Vinicius' move means Tottenham finally has another forward to ease the workload on Harry Kane. Vinicius will replace Fernando Llorente, who left the club last year.

Jose Mourinho's side missed out on qualifying for the Champions



League but secured a place in the Europa League group stage on Thursday. Another striker on the move was Rhian Brewster joining Sheffield United from Liverpool.

Brewster, who spent the second half of last season on loan at Swansea, agreed to a five-year deal after the Blades paid a club record fee exceeding 23 million pounds (30 million). As part of the

deal, Liverpool negotiated a 15% sell-on clause and a buy-back option that will be active for the next three seasons.

Brewster's last appearance for Liverpool was in the Community Shield against Arsenal at the end of August, with his missed penalty in the shootout giving the London club the victory. While highly rated at Anfield, his pathway to the

first team has been hindered. Liverpool's front three of Mohamed Salah, Roberto Firmino and Sadio Mane play virtually every week and Divock Origi and new signing Diogo Jota remain ahead of him in the pecking order.

Meanwhile, Leicester signed France Under-21 defender Wesley Fofana from Saint-Etienne.

The 19-year-old Fofana has played only one full season at senior level and joins versatile full back Timothy Castagne, who moved from Atlanta, in strengthening Leicester's defense.

I've watched Leicester City closely since they won the title (in 2016) and they're a top club in the Premier League, Fofana said. I know I will learn a lot from the players and the manager here, which is one of the main reasons I came.

## We need to get a lot of things right: Dhoni

**DUBAI, OCT 3 (PTI):** Captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni admitted that his beleaguered Chennai Super Kings team needs to "get a lot of things right" to effect a turnaround in the ongoing Indian Premier League.

Chasing 166 for victory against Sunrisers Hyderabad on Friday, CSK fell short by seven runs, with skipper Dhoni staying unbeaten on 47 off 36 balls.

"I was not able to middle a lot of deliveries. Was trying to hit it too hard. When the wicket is slightly at the slower side, it is better to time it. Looking at outfield it was subconsciously coming to us to hit the ball hard," Dhoni said.

This was his side's third defeat in four matches.

Asked about his struggle towards the end, Dhoni said, "I tried to get as much as time as possible. It is quite dry out here. So, the throat gets dry and you start to cough. When you have legal signs,

you can take some time off."

Dhoni made three changes to his playing XI but could not arrest the slide. He acknowledged that they need to find solutions.

"Long time back once we lost three in a row. We need to get a lot of things right. It is the professionalism. We need to take our catches, not bowl no-balls. Those are the controllables and may be we are getting too relaxed," he said.

"We have been a bit too relaxed at times. After the 16th over, we had two good overs but overall we could have been slightly better.

"Nobody wants to drop catches but at this level, we need to draw a line and say these catches that need to be taken, especially when the team hasn't been doing that outstandingly well," he said, referring to the spilled chances when SRH's Abhishek Sharma was batting.

"Catches like these can hamper your knockout stage games. It is

very important to be at your best. There are plenty of positives in this game but we will try to come back strong."

SRH skipper David Warner took a big gamble by asking 18-year old Abdul Samad to bowl the final over when CSK needed 28 runs. The Australian defended his decision.

"I backed him (Samad). I had no option. We tried to kill the game in the 19th over with Khaleel there with five balls to bowl. Could have given it to Abhishek, but Samad with his height and the way he bowled tonight, he had to bowl the last one," said Warner.

He also praised Proyam Garg and Abhishek Sharma for their gritty batting under pressure.

"It's my message to the youngsters, to go out there and score some runs. These guys assessed the conditions and played well, so really really proud of them."



# Unnerved by virus denial, survivors mourn their dead

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP): Denis Zekic was on his daily video call with his parents in Bosnia in early August when his father said he might be coming down with a fever. Less than a month later, both of Zekic's parents were dead, joining the people who would be counted as the coronavirus pandemic's global toll climbed toward 1 million.

Zekic says his mother, Sefketa, and father, Muharem, both were comparatively healthy before they died at age 68. They were rule followers who practiced social distancing in the city of Zenica. Before his father was hospitalized, his mother wore gloves and a face mask while caring for him, but she ended up as a COVID-19 patient in the same intensive care wing, Zekic said.

"I saw her walk into the hospital on her own feet. From a distance. With protective masks covering our faces," he said. "Honestly, I believed that she would pull through."

Yet Zekic and his sister soon discovered that some neighbors and acquaintances had little sympathy for their sudden double loss, but plenty of opinions and, at times, cruel disdain. One time, a random man taunted the siblings in a store, alleging that authorities had paid them to say the coronavirus killed their parents.

"How to respond to that?" Zekic said.

Bosnia's coronavirus rebels have grown increasingly vocal, and hostile, in recent months as the number of confirmed virus cases rose in the small, impoverished Balkan nation of 3.5 million. Social media and the comment sections of news websites have become platforms for vicious arguments that occasionally have spilled over



into invasive confrontations.

Several recent studies of coronavirus-related media content in Bosnia conducted by the independent organization Mediacentar Sarajevo concluded that pandemic-related comments on news sites are dominated by "offensive and disparaging" remarks.

"We are now paying the price for years of neglect of our education system, our political system, for our media illiteracy," said Elvira Jukic Mujkic, editor-in-chief of its online magazine, Media.ba.

A conference in Bosnia sponsored by the European Union this week brought together fact-checkers, science journalists and experts from the Balkans and the EU, to discuss disinformation during the pandemic. One of the conclusions from the event stated: "The dam-

age inflicted by fringe 'scientists' is pervasive and grave. The scientific community in the (Balkan) region does not currently feel empowered to respond to this."

While other countries around the world also have outspoken contingents of coronavirus conspiracy theorists, the voices of the virus deniers have the potential to echo farther in Bosnia, which bears economic, political and social scars from the fratricidal ethnic war fought there during 1992-95.

The pandemic has amplified the country's many problems, including an extreme shortage of doctors and nurses, and rampant public corruption. A number of prominent public and government officials are under investigation on suspicion of malfeasance in the procurement of desperately need-

ed medical equipment.

"After years of declining trust in government and public institutions, public response to the perceived incompetence of our authorities in the early days of the coronavirus pandemic was to put in doubt everything they say," psychologist Tanja Tankosic-Girt said.

The allegations further undermine the public trust on which government efforts to curb the spread of the infection in Bosnia depend. The country has a low number of confirmed virus cases compared with countries with a lot more people, but nearly 60% of its nearly 28,000 confirmed cases were reported since the end of July.

More people around the country nevertheless are bending or ignoring social distancing rules, gathering in uncomfortably close

quarters and ditching face masks.

At the same time, public discourse around the coronavirus, like around many other issues in the country, is growing increasingly divisive, Tankosic-Girt said.

"Black-and-white thinking is becoming so prevalent that we are reaching the point of a complete loss of empathy," she said.

The death in early August of 37-year-old philanthropist Belma Soljanin, the director of a maternal and child health organization in the capital, Sarajevo, triggered days of heated online discussions that unraveled quite a few long friendships.

Just hours after news of Soljanin's death broke, people were sifting through her mother's personal Facebook account and sharing a post in which she alleged her

daughter, who had been hospitalized in a COVID-19 isolation ward while in late pregnancy, died because of doctors' negligence.

The post became fodder for virus deniers, who quickly took over the conversation.

"Coronavirus is a hoax. Even her mother says she wasn't infected, but you just go on wearing your face masks and believing the lies they serve you," one person wrote. "While you hide from the inexistant virus, they are ripping you off, remove face masks and be free."

The head of the Institute of Emergency Medical Care in Sarajevo, Dr. Adem Zalihić, said he is certain that "virus deniers are contributing to the spread of the infection and the number of deaths" by convincing people they should not wear face masks and maintain social distance.

"The virus is among us. It infects and kills people, I do not understand how they can deny it despite all the evidence. How can they sleep at night?" Zalihić said.

Pulmonologist Besim Prnjavorac, the director of the COVID-19 hospital in the central city of Tescanj, said people tend to dismiss COVID-19 as "something that happens to others" or is "nonexistent" until it is too late. "It is only when their loved ones get sick or even die that they realize the coronavirus is real and very, very dangerous," Prnjavorac said.

Emira Telic, 38, who is currently recovering from a severe case of COVID-19 in the Tesanj hospital, has all the proof she needs to refute the deniers: the breaths she struggles to take.

"I was the first to think COVID (-19) was a lie, but look at me now," Telic said. "Now, I am sure that it is not a lie."

## Nobel Prizes and COVID-19: Slow, basic science may pay off

While the world wants flashy quick fixes for everything, especially massive threats like the coronavirus and global warming, next week's Nobel Prizes remind us that in science, slow and steady pays off.

It may soon do so again.

Science builds upon previous work, with thinkers "standing on the shoulders of giants," as Isaac Newton put it, and it starts with basic research aimed at understanding a problem before fixing it. It's that type of basic science that the Nobels usually reward, often years or decades after a discovery, because it can take that long to realize the implications.

Slow and steady success in science has made researchers hopeful in the fight against the pandemic. It even offers a glimmer of climate optimism.

Many years of advances in basic molecular science, some of them already Nobel Prize-winning, have given the world tools for fast virus identification and speeded up the development of testing. And now they tantalize us with the prospect of COVID-19 treatments and ultimately a vaccine, perhaps within a few months.

"This could be science's finest hour. This could be the time when we deliver, not just for the nation but the world, the miracle that will save us," said geophysicist Marcia McNutt, president of the National Academy of Sciences.



The coronavirus was sequenced in a matter of weeks, testing became available quickly, and vaccines that would normally take years may be developed in a year or less, and "it's all been built on the back of basic science advances that have been developed in the past three decades," McNutt said.

She pointed to gene sequencing and polymerase chain reaction, which allows for multiple copying of precise DNA segments. That latter discovery won the 1993 Nobel in chemistry.

And even further back, in 1984, the Nobel in medicine went to a team for theories on how to manipulate the immune system using something called monoclonal antibodies. Now those antibodies are one of the best hopes for a treatment for the coronavirus.

"Despite the politics, despite whatever other things are slowing us down, Nobel Prize-winning discoveries from 20 years ago are going to be key to treating and preventing COVID next year,"

said Sudip Parikh, CEO of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. "That was made possible by basic research."

Basic research comes first. The benefits are typically reaped only later, in what is called applied science.

"Without basic science, you won't have cutting-edge applied science," said Frances Arnold, a Caltech chemical engineer who won the 2018 Nobel in chemistry. Nobel-winning basic research has allowed us to see the world in a whole new light.

Do you like white, efficient LED light to replace the nasty fluorescent hum of industrial lighting or energy-gobbling incandescent bulbs? A key part of those lights are blue light-emitting diodes, and their discovery won the 2014 Nobel in physics, said astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson, head of the Hayden Planetarium.

How about seeing better, without glasses, thanks to LASIK surgery? That stemmed from research into precise lasers

that led to the 2018 Nobel for physics, but was also the product of an accident in which a researcher got lasered in the eye, said microbiologist Rita Colwell, former head of the U.S. National Science Foundation.

And those lasers used concepts that date back to Albert Einstein, said British Royal Astronomer Martin Rees.

John Mather, who won the 2006 physics Nobel for cosmology, which is the study of the origin of the universe and is thus the ultimate basic science, said nearly everything we use around us is there because of basic science.

"Engineers and entrepreneurs use this knowledge to build commercial empires," he said. "Doctors use what we find to develop new cures. Architects build houses with modern materials. Airplanes are designed at the very edge of what is possible. Even cars are completely dependent on basic science."

But some people don't make that connection. Adam Riess, who won the 2011 Nobel in

physics, and Tyson said this is especially noticeable when people who deny climate science or vaccine effectiveness do so while reaching fellow nonbelievers on smartphones and Google searches made possible because of basic science research.

"Maybe, maybe science needs a PR agent, OK?" Tyson said in an interview. "Maybe with a new discovery in science in a way that affects your life outcomes, the TV commercials say, 'Did you know this? This thing that you're using was invented here in this lab by this person. And it was brought to market by this company. And now you're using it and enjoying it.' Stop in silence. 'You're welcome.'"

As for fixing climate change, Mexican chemist Mario Molina has hope that the world will be able to solve the problem because of the work that led to his 1995 Nobel Prize.

He and others discovered that industrial chemicals known as chlorofluorocarbons were reaching high into the atmosphere and eating away at Earth's protective ozone layer. He discovered this many years before an ozone hole developed over Antarctica.

His work and the opening of the hole led to a 1987 international agreement to ban those ozone-depleting chemicals, and the hole has started shrinking. Now Molina hopes that kind of action can be applied to what he calls "the climate emergency."

## Germany marks low-key 30th anniversary of reunification



**BERLIN (AP):** Germany is marking the 30th anniversary of its reunification on Saturday, drawing a generally positive picture of the progress made in knitting together east and west amid celebrations that are low-key because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Germany was reunited on Oct. 3, 1990, after four decades of Cold War division. East Germany joined the western federal republic less than a year after the east's communist rulers — under pressure from growing protests — opened the Berlin Wall

and the rest of the highly fortified border between the two states.

While much progress has been made since then, economic and other differences between the west and the less-prosperous east still persist. A long-lasting trend of more people leaving the east than moving there has finally halted in recent years.

"We have achieved a lot in these 30 years," Chancellor Angela Merkel, who grew up in the east, told Germany's parliament this week. "We have succeeded in

significantly reducing the differences in living conditions between eastern and western Germany."

"But structural differences remain," she added. "Further efforts are necessary." The centerpiece of Saturday's celebrations is a ceremony in Potsdam, just outside Berlin, led by President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, with 230 guests — about one-fifth of the audience originally planned.

Merkel acknowledged that the celebrations "will be quieter than the occasion would actually deserve."

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**SUNSHINE SMILE!** The Selling Sunset star, Chrishell Stause looks happy as she leaves the Dancing With the Stars studio in LA.

## Drugs case: Kshitij Ravi Prasad remanded to judicial custody



**MUMBAI, OCT 3 (PTI):** A special NDPS court here on Saturday remanded Kshitij Ravi Prasad, a former Dharmatic Entertainment executive producer arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in Bollywood-drugs case, to judicial custody till October 6.

Prasad was arrested by the NCB after questioning in the drugs case linked to Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death.

The NCB had told the court earlier that Prasad had procured drugs from another accused, Karmjeet, and his associates.

"Prasad was produced before the special Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act court on Saturday on the expiry of his NCB custody. The court remanded him in

judicial custody till October 6," said special public prosecutor Atul Sarpande.

The agency had earlier arrested actor and late Rajput's girlfriend Rhea Chakraborty, her brother Showik and others in connection with the Bollywood-drugs probe.

The CBI is separately probing Rajput's death case, in which Chakraborty was booked by Bihar police under the charge of abetment to suicide.

Prasad's lawyer Satish Maneshinde had earlier told the court that the accused was harassed and blackmailed to make a statement against filmmaker Karan Johar by NCB officials.

The agency had denied the allegations.

## Priyanka Chopra's tell-all memoir to hit stands in January 2021

**NEW DELHI, OCT 3 (PTI):** Actor-producer Priyanka Chopra Jonas' long-awaited book debut, "Unfinished", will be launched on January 19, 2021, publisher Penguin Random House India announced on Friday.

The "thoughtful and revealing" memoir will take readers through Priyanka's childhood in India, her teenage years in the US living with extended family in the Midwest, Queens, and suburban Boston, where she endured bouts of racism; to her return to India, where she unexpectedly won the national and global beauty pageants (Miss India and Miss World) that launched her acting career.

"I am a product of traditional India and its ancient wisdom, and modern India and its urban bustle. My upbringing was always an amalgamation of the two Indians, and, just as much, of East and West," Priyanka said.

Through her memoir, readers will get a glimpse into her journey to success in the Indian film industry as well as an honest account of the challenges the actor faced while navigating her career, both in India and Hollywood.

"...And so, while you'll definitely learn about how I became me during the 'in between' of what you haven't seen, I also hope you'll walk away with the confidence of knowing that IT'S OK to pick up, walk away, leave things unfinished..." Priyanka tweeted.

She won the Miss World pageant in 2000 and later made her Bollywood debut with "The Hero: Love Story of a Spy". She followed it up with movies like

to be produced by Anthony and Joe Russo. The actor will star in "Sangeet", an unscripted series co-produced with her husband, singer Nick Jonas.



"Aitraaz", "Fashion", "Barfi", "Mary Kom" and "Bajirao Mastani" among others.

After spending a decade in Hindi film industry, Priyanka headed to the West with ABC series "Quantico". She made her Hollywood feature film debut in Dwayne Johnson's "Baywatch".

She has also starred in movies such as "A Kid Like Jake" and "Isn't It Romantic?".

Priyanka will next feature opposite "Game of Thrones" actor Richard Madden in Amazon thriller series "Citadel",

Priyanka's another project with Amazon is a film about Ma Anand Sheela, the assistant to guru Bhagwan Rajneesh (also known as Osho). The actor will be producing the movie which is based on Netflix docu-series "Wild Wild Country".

Besides her association with Amazon, the actor will also be seen in two Netflix projects -- superhero movie "We Can Be Heroes" and "The White Tiger", opposite Rajkumar Rao.

She is currently shooting for Keanu Reeves-starrer "The Matrix 4".

## Keegan-Michael Key boards Apple's musical comedy

**LOS ANGELES, OCT 3 (PTI):** Actor Keegan-Michael Key has joined the cast of Apple TV Plus' upcoming musical comedy.

Co-created by Cinco Paul and Ken Daurio, the show will be executive produced by Lorne Michaels, reported Variety.

Actor Cecily Strong will headline the show which follows a couple on a backpacking trip designed to reinvigorate their relationship when they discover the magical town of Schmigadoon, in which everyone acts as if they're in a studio musical from the 1940s.

They soon discover that they can't leave until they find "true love".

Key, best known for starring in Comedy Central's sketch series "Key & Peele", will play Josh, Melissa's (Strong) long term, pragmatic partner, and the last person who wants to be stuck in this magical town.

Also joining the show's cast are actors Fred Armisen, Kristin Chenoweth, Alan Cumming, Aaron Tveit, Dove Cameron, Ariana DeBose, Jaime Camil, Jane Krakowski and Ann Harada.

Barry Sonnenfeld will direct the series with Paul serving as showrunner and writer for all of its original music.

The show hails from Broadway Video and Universal Television, a division of Universal Studio Group.

## No Time to Die' pushed to April 2021

**Los Angeles, Oct 3 (PTI):** The release of Daniel Craig-starrer 25th James Bond movie No Time to Die has been delayed until April 2 next year, makers of the film have announced.

The movie, which marks Craig's fifth and final outing as the iconic British spy, was originally scheduled to bow out in April this year but the release was pushed to November due to the coronavirus pandemic.

MGM Studios, Universal Pictures and Bond produc-

ers, Michael G Wilson and Barbara Broccoli, said the decision has been taken so that audience across the globe can enjoy watching the movie in theatres. We understand the delay will be disappointing to our fans but we now look forward to sharing No Time To Die' next year, the makers said in a statement posted on the official website of the James Bond franchise.

Directed by Cary Joji Fukunaga, No Time to Die also features Lea Seydoux, Naomie Harris.

## Billy Crudup in talks for 'The Flash'



**LOS ANGELES, OCT 3 (PTI):** Actor Billy Crudup is in negotiations to return for Ezra Miller-starrer superhero feature "The Flash".

Crudup, who recently won an Emmy for his performance in Apple's "The Morning Show", will reprise his role of Barry Allen aka The Flash's father, a part he previously played in 2017's "Justice League".

Andy Muschietti of "It" series fame will be tackling Warner Bros' troubled superhero feature, which has been in works since 2016, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

Crudup was previously

attached to "The Flash" four years ago, when Rick Famuyiwa was attached to direct.

John Francis Daley and Jonathan Goldstein came aboard in March 2018, but then they left. Eventually Crudup also left the project.

If finalised, he will join Ben Affleck and Michael Keaton, who are reprising their fan-favourite incarnations of Bruce Wayne/Batman.

Christina Hodson has penned the latest draft of the script that sees Flash go back in time to prevent the murder of his mother, an act that proves to have unintended consequences for his timeline.

### ARIES:

It's an oversized T-shirt-and-tall cups of cocoa kind of day in the Aries HQ. There are deadlines to meet and bills to pay, but all of your worldly responsibilities can wait. You want to give yourself time and space to recuperate right now. Some of you may feel drawn towards the healing arts such as reiki, reflexology, crystal healing, chakra balancing and access bars. Turn to an expert you trust to help you recalibrate your energies.

Tip: Breathe.

### TAURUS:

The relationship you share with your mentor is truly a special one. You may not agree with everything they say and do, and that's okay. But you honour and acknowledge the guidance they share with you, as you know it comes from the right place. Word for the wise: the situation at hand requires you to seek counsel. So don't hesitate to reach out to them today.

Tip: The wise words of your mentor could help you in many ways.

### GEMINI:

Your situation brings the old cliché 'all that glitters...' to mind, Gemini. Pay attention to what you are saying yes to. Are you allowing somebody else's story to influence you, or are you listening to the stirrings of your own heart? Upon deeper examination, you will understand all the ways in which you could be betraying your truth here. Challenging as it is, make a choice, say no, and let go of the guilt you've attached to the situation.

Tip: Listen to what your inner wisdom has to say about the situation.

### CANCER:

Collaboration of all kinds are blessed as a result of this cosmic climate, and you're in the mood to approach people who inspire you in many ways. This is your chance to bag a project that satisfies you both creatively and financially. Learning to be proactive is key. Yes, that means not letting your fears and inhibitions interfere with what you're meant to create.

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

### LEO:

Love and romance is a big mood in the Leo HQ. If you and your beloved have been seeing each other for a while, you may feel inspired to get your friends and family members involved. It's but natural to feel anxious under these circumstances. Remind yourself that everybody will get along just fine. In the realm of your career, you could be reassessing a few things. Recognising what isn't working for you is the first step to bringing about change.

Tip: The Gods of Love are on your side.

### VIRGO:

This your big moment, Virgo—the moment that you have been hoping and praying for! So take that cloak of invisibility off as you allow yourself to be seen and heard. Remember, stepping into the spotlight is a good way to get noticed by the right people. This also a time of completing karmic cycles—of leaving the past and the pain associated with it behind. Acknowledge the soul lesson before you move on. Tip: Take a bow.

### LIBRA:

Word of warning, Libra: things are about to get ugly around here. What you need to keep in mind when you find your-

self in the midst of the chaos is that everybody is simply projecting their shadows onto one another—shadows that have nothing to do with you. Learning to not take things personally is the secret to surviving this storm. Remember, you cannot control your external circumstances. The only thing you truly have dominion over is your own state of being. So, cultivate stillness.

Tip: Step away from the drama.

### SCORPIO:

The cards are speaking of unhealthy habits and addictions. Patterns that are lowering your vibration, rather than clearing space for you to ascend to the next level. But the real question is: why are you holding onto something "this" toxic? Deep contemplation will help you find the answers. Some of you could also be dealing with a bad boss situation at the moment. If the given work space is keeping you from realising your true potential, it may be time to move on!

Tip: Break up with the unhealthy patterns.

### SAGITTARIUS:

Contracts, e-mails, and paperwork—it's a busy day in the Sagittarius HQ. But, you're willing to put in what it takes to make your way to the top. From where you are standing right now, this no longer seems like a distant dream. A new client or work opportunity may also be on the cards for some. What's special about this offer is that it appeases both your head and your heart. Tip: Hustle hard!

### CAPRICORN:

Writing and communication are taking centre stage. You're in the mood to channel your inner Wordsworth

and share your story with the world. Give yourself the permission to be vulnerable, Capricorn. Truth-telling will also be a big theme around here. You're letting go of your non-confrontational ways and speaking up about the things that matter. Others may or may not agree with what you have to say immediately. Detach yourself from the outcome.

Tip: Truth-telling is a big theme around here.

### AQUARIUS:

You weren't sent to the earthly realm to worry about your next paycheck, or how you will clear the bills in the months to come. You were sent here to experience joy and abundance in every form. There's a part of you that understands this idea with every fibre of your being, and then there's another that doubts the benevolent nature of the Universe. Today, you're being asked to let go of conflicting beliefs as far as money is concerned, and show up for what you love in a whole new way. Perfecting the art of surrendering will help you make space for miracles, Aquarius!

Tip: The Universe has got your back!

### PISCES:

That this is a time of uncertainty is hardly news to you, Pisces. But, you're not alone in this. The collective, as a whole, is breaking past old patterns, and undergoing a major transformation. When in doubt, lean on your soul crew for support. You will get through this! Some of you could be dealing with truth bombs on the love and romance front too. Their inconsistency should tell you everything you need to know about this relationship.

Tip: You will get through this!