



**ACTOR JOJO'S CAR ATTACK  
RESONATES IN KERALA ASSEMBLY**  
pg 08

**INDIA V PAKISTAN: ARREST  
OF MUSLIM FANS SHOW HOW  
CRICKET IS MORE THAN JUST A  
SPORT IN THESE TWO NATIONS**  
pg 04

**AKSHAY KUMAR SUMS UP  
HIS EXPERIENCE OF WORKING  
WITH KATRINA KAIFIN APIC**  
pg 08



# Summit TIMES

Vol 06 | Issue 279 | Gangtok | Wednesday 03 November 2021

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | Rs. 5

## SISCO Bank is now a Scheduled Bank

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 02 NOV:**

Twenty-three years after it was formed, Sikkim State Co-operative Bank Ltd (SISCO Bank) has finally been accorded Scheduled Bank status by the Reserve Bank of India, a press release informs.

Scheduled banks are banks that are listed in the 2nd schedule of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. In layman's terms, SISCO Bank is now eligible to receive low-in-

terest loans from the Reserve Bank of India and, more importantly for its depositors, it has now also acquired membership in clearinghouses which means SISCO Bank cheques will now clear faster with other similarly scheduled banks.

SISCO Bank started functioning as an apex Co-operative bank of the State in the year 1998 after getting banking license from Reserve Bank of India. The bank has

now been included in the second schedule of RBI Act, 1934 resulting in SISCO Bank attaining Scheduled Status.

SISCO is only the third State Co-operative Bank in the North Eastern Region to achieve this recognition.

The inclusion in second schedule is a result of excellent and consistent financial health, capital adequacy, asset quality and operational efficiency of the Bank,

the release details.

SISCO Bank will hugely benefit through new opportunities in transacting business with Reserve Bank of India. The technological upgradation of the Bank along with financial and digital inclusion in the State of Sikkim is expected to get a major fillip through this development.

SISCO Bank today operates on CBS platforms and has facilities like Debit-cum-ATM cards, RTGS/NEFT, DBT, SMS

alerts, CTS, PFMS etc. The bank is a leading purveyor of agriculture and developmental credit in the State of Sikkim. The bank is working towards launching of mobile banking services shortly.

Being fully owned by the State Government, primary co-operative societies and the people of Sikkim as equity shareholders, classification as a Scheduled Bank is matter of huge pride for the entire State.

## Petrol prices hiked for seventh consecutive day

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 01 NOV:**

Petrol prices touched fresh record highs after it was hiked for the seventh consecutive day across the country on Tuesday, November 2, 2021. In Sikkim, a litre of petrol now costs Rs 110.60 after it was hiked by another 35 paise per litre today. A month back, on 02 October, petrol was retailing at pumps here for Rs 102.85 per litre.

However, diesel prices remained unchanged.

Since September 28, petrol prices have been revised on 27 occasions.

In India, the fuel prices differ from state to state depending on the local taxation (VAT) and freight charges. Apart from this, the central government charges an excise duty on auto fuels which now makes up the largest component of what people pay for fuel.

Barely 40% of what vehicle-users pay at pumps comprises the cost of production and dealer commission and the rest is pocketed by Central and State Governments by way of excise and VAT on fuel.

## "Farmers' Win": INLD's Abhay Chautala after BJP defeat in Haryana bypoll

**CHANDIGARH, 02 NOV [NDTV]:** INLD (Indian National Lok Dal) leader Abhay Chautala has won the race for Haryana's Ellenabad Assembly constituency, finishing 6,739 votes ahead of the ruling BJP's Gobind Kanda, according to the Election Commission's results website.

This is despite Mr Kanda's candidacy being backed by ally JJP, which is headed by the INLD leader's nephew, Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala. The Congress' Pawan Beniwal - who joined from the BJP after unsuccessfully contesting the 2019 election from this seat - finished a distant third.

Speaking to reporters earlier today Mr Chautala accused the BJP of having distributed money to get votes, and declared that he otherwise expected to win by more than 30,000 votes.

"The Chief Minister (ML Khattar) must resign after this... my winning margin would have been over 30,000 if there was no horse-trading. So many crores were distributed for votes and government machinery was misused. I have seen



this with my own eyes," he said. "This is not my win... this is the farmers' win," he added.

Mr Chautala's election will be widely seen as a vote against the ruling BJP and the party's farm laws, which have triggered widespread protests in the state and across the country.

The bypoll in Ellenabad, where people depend on agriculture, was held Saturday, and was only needed because Abhay Chautala had in January resigned in solidarity with farmers.

Abhay Chautala had slammed the "undemo-

cratic" imposition of the "black laws".

Like most parties from the agrarian belt of the northern states, Abhay Chautala had been under pressure to demonstrate his allegiance to the farmers protesting the controversial laws.

Thousands of farmers (including those from Haryana) have been camped out on the Delhi borders for over a year to protest laws they say will rob them of MSP and leave them at the mercy of corporates.

Abhay Chautala was criticised by both the Congress and the BJP

during campaigning. The rivals united in their condemnation of Mr Chautala for having forced this bypoll, with several members of his own family (currently with the ruling BJP-JJP coalition) among the attackers.

During campaigning, Abhay Chautala's elder brother and JJP chief Ajay Singh Chautala and Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala, held him responsible for his party's decline.

Power Minister Ranjit Singh Chautala (an independent MLA) campaigned for the BJP's Gobind Kanda.

## For BJP, setbacks in Himachal Pradesh, Haryana bypolls

**CHANDIGARH, 02 NOV [PTI]:** The BJP, which managed to keep its dominance over the northeast along with its allies, is heading for a huge setback in two northern states it rules -- Himachal Pradesh and Haryana. In Haryana, INLD's Abhay Chautala has a comfortable lead, far ahead of the BJP's Gobind Kanda. In Himachal Pradesh -- where assembly elections are due next year -- Congress managed to scoop up all three assembly seats where bypolls were held on Saturday. It is also ahead in the crucial Lok Sabha seat of Mandi, won by the BJP with a margin of more than four lakh votes in 2019.

While the Congress has retained its grip on Fatehpur and Arki, the real gain was the state's apple heartland Jubbal-Kotkhai, which was held by the BJP. The seat fell to Congress after the BJP's last-minute move to withhold ticket from Chetan Singh Bragta, the son of sitting MLA Narinder Singh Bragta whose death made the election necessary. The BJP fielded

Neelam Sarai, who ran as an Independent candidate in 2017 against Narinder Bragta.

Upset, Chetan Singh Bragta contested as an Independent, dividing the anti-BJP votes and pushing the contest in favour of the Congress. Congress candidate Rohit Thakur, who represented the constituency twice, had lost the last election by 1,060 votes. This time, the BJP candidate from Jubbal-Kotkhai lost her deposit.

For the Congress, the big prize, though, will be the Lok Sabha seat of Mandi, where the party had fielded Pratibha Singh, the wife of late Chief Minister Virbhadr Singh. She has been pitted against Kargil war hero Brigadier (Retd) Khushal Thakur, who has been fielded by the BJP.

The seat fell vacant after BJP MP Ram Swaroop Sharma's death -- allegedly by suicide -- in his official residence in New Delhi on March 17.

While the Congress victory in the three assembly seats is seen as

the party's continuing influence in the state, the result in the Mandi seat -- home district of the Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur -- will determine his political future and that of Virbhadr Singh's family.

A defeat will mar the image of the Chief Minister, who has been personally involved in the campaign. Sources indicated that it may not, however, mean an instant dismissal as he is the party's tallest leader in the state.

Pratibha Singh had sought votes in the name of her late husband and a loss for her might translate to a huge setback for the state's premier political family. Mr Singh's son Vikramaditya Singh is a member of the state assembly from Shimla Rural.

Virbhadr Singh -- the longest serving Chief Minister of the state -- had been at the helm for six terms. One of the towering leaders of the state, he had also been elected to the Lok Sabha five times. His death vacated the Arki Lok Sabha seat, for which by-elections were held.

## Covid claims one more life, infects 10 in 24 hours in Sikkim

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 02 NOV:**

Sikkim's Covid death toll climbed to 397 with the virus claiming one more life in the past 24 hours. This Covid death was reported from STNM Hospital.

In the meantime, Sikkim's daily test positivity rate dipped slightly to 2.4% with 10 new cases detected from the testing of 415 samples yesterday. The state's tally of confirmed cases of COVID-19, since testing began on 28 Feb, 2020, has now reached 31,994.

As per the Daily Report of COVID-19 in Sikkim released by the Integrated Disease Surveillance Pro-

gramme of Health Department, seven of the new cases were detected in RT-PCR testing of 158 samples and three in rapid antigen testing of 254 samples.

Of the 10 new cases, eight were reported in the East District and two in the West District.

On the other hand, the number of recovered cases edged up to 31,101 with 18 Covid patients getting discharged from home isolation after making full recoveries yesterday. Sikkim's Covid recovery rate currently stands at 98.2%.

There are 170 active cases of Covid at present.

## Thrown out of shop for wearing jeans, not burqa, alleges Assam woman

**GUWAHATI, 02 NOV [NDTV]:**

A girl was allegedly shamed and kicked out of a store by a shopkeeper because she was wearing jeans and not a burqa in a case of moral policing in Assam's Biswanath district last week. The man and two others, who were also accused of assaulting the girl's father when he went to protest about the incident, have been arrested.

According to police sources, the incident took place at a mobile phone accessories store in Biswanath Chariali, around 230 km from Guwahati, where the girl had gone to buy a pair of earphones.

The owner of the shop, Nurul Amin, not only denied her service but also allegedly shamed the girl for wearing jeans instead of a

burqa. He then pushed her out of the shop, police sources said.

"My daughter was misbehaved and kicked out from Nurul's shop for wearing jeans instead of a burqa. These people are trying to bring the Taliban system in Assam and forcing girls to wear burqa and Hijab," the girl's father said.

"We are born and brought up in Assam and following Assamese culture. My daughter is pursuing BCA (Bachelor of Computer Application). She has done her studies from a government school, not in private. She studied in Assamese culture but now these people are trying to make her follow the Taliban style by wearing burqa and Hijab," he said.

Speaking to journalists, the girl said, "When

I reached the shop, the owner who is an elderly person told me that if I visited his house in jeans, it would impact his family because his daughter-in-law wears a burqa or hijab." The girl returned home and complained about the incident to her family. When her father went to the shop to protest, he said, he was beaten up by family members of the shopkeeper.

"The incident took place on October 25. We have arrested the main accused Nurul Amin, Sufiqul Islam and Rafiqul Islam and forwarded them to jail. The family members filed an FIR (First Information Report) at the Biswanath Chariali police station and based on the complaint we have arrested them," senior police officer Rajen Singh said.

## 125 extremely heavy rainfall events in September, October: Weather Office

**NEW DELHI, 02 NOV [PTI]:** India recorded 125 extremely heavy rainfall events during September and October of 2021, the highest in five years, owing to late withdrawal of the southwest monsoon and higher-than-normal low-pressure systems, India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Tuesday.

The country recorded 89 extremely heavy rainfall events this September against 61 in the same month last year, 59 in 2019; 44 in 2018 and 29 in 2017.

Also, 36 such events were witnessed in October this year compared to 10 in the corresponding period of 2020; 16 in 2019; 17 in 2018 and 12 in 2017, according to IMD data.

The meteorological department said the causes of disastrous weather episodes included the late withdrawal of the monsoon, a higher-than-normal number of low-pressure systems during the period and the interaction of active western disturbances with low-pressure sys-



tems in October.

Nine low-pressure systems, including two cyclones, one deep depression and six lows, affected the country during the period.

Unprecedented extremely heavy rain in Uttarakhand on October 18 and 19 claimed 79 lives. The Himalayan state received 203.2 mm rainfall against the normal of 35.3 mm in October.

Heavy to extremely heavy rain during October 17-19 due to interaction of a low-pressure area and an intense western disturbance caused flash floods and landslides in Uttarakhand and riverine flooding in west Uttar Pradesh.

Rainfall recorded below 15 mm is considered light, between 15 and 64.5 mm moderate, between 64.5 mm and

115.5 mm heavy, between 115.6 and 204.4 mm is very heavy. Anything above 204.4 mm is considered extremely heavy rainfall.

The southwest monsoon withdrew from the entire country on October 25 against the normal date of October 15, making it the seventh-most delayed retreat since 1975.

The country received "normal" rainfall during the four-month southwest monsoon season from June to September -- 87 cm against the Long Period Average (LPA) of 88 cm of 1961-2010 (99 per cent of its LPA).

This is the third consecutive year that the country recorded rainfall in the normal or above-normal category. Rainfall was above normal in 2019 and 2020.

### CONTACT

**SUMMIT TIMES  
REPORTERS  
SINGTAM  
8170070813**

**MANGAN/ DIKCHU  
9832612485/  
9434011213**

**GANGTOK  
9800571148  
8116388176  
9832424750  
8016270440**



## Hate speech case against J&K BJP leader, party asks him to apologise

**JAMMU, 02 Nov [NDTV]:** A case has been filed in Jammu and Kashmir against the BJP's Vikram-Randhawa, a day after he was criticised by the party over his "unacceptable" remarks against Muslims. The former MLA from Jammu was seen making the objectionable comments in a video after Pakistan's win in the T20 World Cup match against India. He has been removed from all party posts.

Vikram Randhawa has been issued a show-cause notice by the BJP. The party has asked him to give an explanation and make a public apology within 48 hours.

The case mentions Section 295-A, which pertains to deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious belief, and Section 505 (2), which gives powers to the police to arrest anyone who makes a statement which creates or promotes enmity, hatred or ill-will between classes.

This is the second time when the BJP has issued a show-cause notice against Mr Randhawa this year.

Earlier, Mr Randhawa had accused Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh for patronising illegal mining and massive kick-backs.

In the show-cause notice, the BJP said that his remarks have brought "disrepute to the party".

"A video has gone viral in social media in which you are seen making absolutely reckless and hatred promoting remarks against particular Community. This is unacceptable to the party and has brought to disrepute and embarrassment to the party," reads the notice.

"Such type of conduct is likely to dent the public image of the party. As a senior leader and former legislator, it is expected of you to conduct yourself in public in a manner which is as per party principles," the notice added.

The party admits that the show-cause notice against Mr Randhawa in the past didn't create a desirable impact and asked him to put a public apology within 48 hours.

"You are directed through this notice to explain your position within 48 hours to (the) Disciplinary Committee on the issue and also advised to immediately issue public apology on the matter pending conclusion of Disciplinary Proceedings against you. You are directed through this notice to explain your position within 48 hours to Disciplinary Committee."

Officials say the BJP leader made the controversial remarks during a public meeting in Jammu a few days ago where he talked about Kashmiris celebrating Pakistan's victory in T20 World Cup

# Edu Minister inaugurates new classrooms at Pelling school

**GYALSHING, 02 Nov (IPR):** Education Minister, Kunga Nima Lepcha inaugurated the newly constructed 12 classrooms and a multipurpose hall at Government Senior Secondary School, Pelling, West Sikkim today.

The Education Minister was accompanied by the Minister PHE and Area MLA (Yangthang), Bhim Hang Subba along with Hari Naryan Subedi, Chairman (PHE), . Amrit Raj Rai, Secretary (Education), Karma R. Bonpo, DC West, Tashi Wangyal Bhutia, SP West, Head of different departments, Senior Officers of the State administration, students and others.

Addressing the house, Kunga Nima Lepcha extended his sincere gratitude towards the Chief Minister of Sikkim for always being positive in term of Education. He mentioned that the government has been focusing on the development of the west district. He suggested the teaching faculties to adapt oneself to the present situation of



online education. He emphasized on digitalized education and proposed the teaching faculties to come up with new innovative teaching method, involving more students participation. This will help build teacher, students understanding and relation.

The Education Minister further re-affirmed the State Government's commitment and support towards the holistic

development of the students along with accessibility to better infrastructure and scholarship.

Bhim Hang Subba, Minister PHE Department expressed his gratitude towards the government for always prioritising Education. He expressed his appreciation towards Minister Kunga Nima Lepcha for initiating progressive projects under west District. While addressing

the house he stated that the construction and inauguration of the new innovative 12 classrooms and multipurpose hall will motivate and aid the students and the teachers. He also mentioned that with little more effort West can become the educational hub and can attract all District, thus improving the education system stability for the local community. He requested the local

community to coordinate with the school head and the staffs for the betterment of the society.

Further, kunga Nima Lepcha along with the guests inspected the old school building, Library and the Science Lab of the school. He then visited the Gyalshing Government College and intersected with the faculties of the collage. Lastly, he visited Kyongsa Public ground.

## Olympics bronze medallist calls on Governor

**SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 02 Nov:**

**T**okyo Olympic 2020 bronze medalist, Lovlina Borgohain paid a courtesy call on to Governor of Sikkim, Ganga Prasad at Raj Bhavan today, a press release from Raj Bhavan informs.

The 23-year-old Indian boxer, Lovlina was accompanied by her coach Sandhya Gurung and members of Sikkim Olympic Association.

Congratulating Lovlina, the Governor said, "The country is really proud of you and you have made the nation proud by winning medal.



You have ignited dreams with your success at Tokyo Olympic and set example for budding sports talents in rural areas of nation."

The Governor said that under Khelo India initiative, the center is

making continuous effort to promote sports.

The Governor presented Om Thanka to Lovlina as a token from Raj Bhavan and extended his best wishes for her future endeavours.

## Intra Constituency Dipawali Football Cup Tournament update

**BIKASH CHETTRI RAVANGLA, 02 Nov:**

**I**ntra Constituency Dipawali Football Cup Tournament organized by Dipawali Football Cup Organizing Committee Lower Polok is being held at Maypong Junior High School under Borong-Phamtam GPU.

A total of 14 teams from Barfung Constituency South Sikkim participated in the tournament which started from 30 Oct and will conclude on 05 Nov. On the third day of the tournament, Panchayat President Borong-Phamtam GPU, Rupa Gurung was present as chief guest along with the Vice President, TB Pradhan as special guest accompanied by



Panchayat Member Lower Borong Ward, Rajeeva Manger, Village Administration Assistant, Damber Singh Gurung and Panchayat Development Assistant (PDA), Som Bahadur Rai as guests.

Two matches were played today between M-Force-16, Lower Borong and Lower Polok FC which was won by the former.

The second match

played between Rising Star Ravangla and Polok-Tatopani was won by Rising Star Ravangla in a tie breaker. The finale of the tournament will be played on 05 Nov.

A colourful cultural programme was also performed by the students of Maypong Junior High School and artists of Pushpanjali Voluntary Organization of Lower Polok.

## Centre asks Ministries, Departments for Preamble Wall in their offices

**NEW DELHI, 02 Nov [PTI]:** Amid the ongoing 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' event being organised across the country as India celebrates the 75th year of independence, the Centre has directed all the ministries and departments to "put up a preamble wall" in their office premises and submit their action taken report in e-Samiksha portal.

The e-Samiksha portal is directly monitored by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Cabinet Secretariat to get inputs about the progress of schemes and projects in all ministries.

All the ministries and departments have been requested for online updation of the Action Taken Report (ATR) in the category of Group of Officers (Other Action Points) in the e-Samiksha Portal. The coordination division in all the ministries and departments have been requested to furnish the ATR on the subject "all ministries/departments to put up a preamble wall in their office premises".

The e-Samiksha is a real-time online system for monitoring projects by the Prime Minister and follow-up action is to be updated by the concerned ministry as and when the status changes or at least every month the PM monitors this on his iPad. E-Samiksha play a key role in measuring performance in government.

Referring to the order which was issued earlier and was again reissued recently, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has directed all the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) to "put up a preamble wall" in their office premises and submit their action taken report to the ministry by this evening.

The MHA, in its order on October 28, has directed Border Security Force

(BSF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), National Security Guard (NSG) and Assam Rifles to "furnish the action taken report" in respect of their organisation to it through e-mail.

MHA's Police II division issued the order referring to the subject.

However, the order does not mention any specific criteria of preamble wall, all the CAPFs are engaged in the process to fulfil the direction on time.

The then Minister Prakash Javadekar on November 26, 2020, had inaugurated the preamble wall at the premises of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on the occasion of Constitution Day. The same year, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, as well as the Department of Personnel and Training, also unveiled. Similarly, some other ministries and departments also unveiled preamble walls in their office premises as per the Centre's order.

The preamble mentions "we, the people of India, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic, republic and to secure to all its citizens: Justice, social, economic and political; liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; equality of status and or opportunity, and to promote among them all; fraternity assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the nation"

"In our constituent assembly this twenty-sixth day of November 1949, do hereby adopt, enact, and give to ourselves this constitution," mentions the preamble.

## Five SGAY houses inaugurated at Barfung



**NAMCHI, 02 Nov [IPR]:** A brief inaugural function of five SGAY Houses was held at Kewzing Ward, today.

The houses were inaugurated by the chief guests, Dichen Phigu Bhutia, Advisor (State Medicinal Plant Board) and the area MLA, T T Bhutia.

They were accompanied by Additional Political Secretary to CM, Anjeeta Rajalim, Zilla Panchayat, Tika Maya Chettri, ADC Ravangla, Sunil Mothey and BDO Ravangla, L.B. Pradhan.

The chief guest, T. T. Bhutia expressed his happiness for the quality work of the houses in comparison with the houses constructed in the tenure of the previous Govt. He thanked the HCM for initiating such a magnanimous and pro-poor scheme in order to enhance the living standard of the economically poor people. He also congratulated all

the beneficiaries for successful completion of the houses.

Additional Political Secretary to CM, Anjeeta Rajalim while addressing the people said that the construction of the houses must be done strictly and in tune with the full supervision of the departmental officers, panchayats and the conscious civil society for materializing the great vision of the honourable Chief Minister of Sikkim.

Kazila Bhutia, Dawa Chopel Lepcha (Chujachen Ward), Phuchung Bhutia, Jigme Dorjee Bhutia (Kewzing Ward) and Saran Kr. Chettri (Lingzoo Ward of Kewzing Bakhim GPU) were the five beneficiaries of the SGAY houses. They have expressed their gratitude towards the CM of Sikkim for procuring the houses in this hour of need.

The keys were handed over to them by the chief guests.

## Forest Minister inaugurates 2 SGAY houses in Kabi



**MANGAN, 02 Nov [IPR]:** Forest Minister cum Area MLA, Karma Loday Bhutia inaugurated two Pucca houses under Sikkim Garib Awas Yojana (SGAY) at Kabi today, and handed over to the beneficiaries Namgye Bhutia from Kabi-Rongpa GPU and Biren Chettri of Navey-Sotak GPU.

The Minister was accompanied by Additional Political Secretary to CM (North), Zilla Adhakhshya, District Collector, ADCs (development), BDOs, panchayats and Government officers of North District.

Minister while addressing the gathering at BAC hall said that SGAY is a flagship programme of the State Government to facilitate housing for poor and to improve the quality of life of deserving households by providing basic amenities.

He thanked Chief Minister, P.S. Tamang (Goley) under whose leadership such scheme was launched with the objective to bring equality in society and those belonging to the weaker sections get the equal opportunity to make their lives better.

Minister congratulated Namgye Bhutia and Biren Chettri for being the first beneficiaries under North District. He also extended gratitude to the Rural Development Department for completing the houses under the scheme on time-bound despite the pandemic. Earlier, ADC(Dev), R.B. Bhandar welcoming all also informed that around thirty (30) houses are almost completed and would be ready to be handed over to the beneficiaries after Dewali.

### KUTSE SHEGU

Kutse Shegu (49th day puja) of Namna Dorjee, who passed away on 27 Sept, 2021 falls on 14 Nov, 2021. We therefore, humbly request our relatives, friends and well-wishers to join us in offering prayers at our residence at Arithang, Gangtok on the aforementioned date, duly following the Covid-19 protocol in place.

We also take this opportunity to thank everyone who stood by us during the time of bereavement. Your support and assistance was indeed a great solace to us. It means a lot and we are truly indebted to each and every one of you.

**Chumzey Doma (Chum Mail) - wife,**  
**Karma Doma Youtso - daughter,**  
**Yangchuk Den Youtso - daughter,**  
**Chopel Lepcha - son-in-law &**  
**Jigme Norbu - son.**

**To book ad-space, contact SummitTIMES at**

**GANGTOK:**

For circulation details Contact: (Sandeep) 9734152451 & for Advertisement booking at 9933427505 or at office no 03592 208698. Mail us at [advertise@summittimes.com](mailto:advertise@summittimes.com)

**SILIGURI:**

Mr. Mani Rai, M/s. Space Ads, B.R. Ambedkar Building, Room No.7, 1st floor. Opp.

Ganga Hotel. Hill Cart Road. Siliguri – 03. Ph. 9832318644/ 9800682989/ 9153035100 or mail at [mani\\_siliguri@yahoo.co.in](mailto:mani_siliguri@yahoo.co.in).

**KOLKATA OFFICE:**

Irshad Ali/ Imteeyaz. Synapse, 6, Madan Street, Mezzine – 2, 2nd floor. Kolkata – 700072. Ph. 033-22124348/ fax 033-22124337/ mob. 9830547774/ 983108397. E-mail: [contact.synapse@gmail.com](mailto:contact.synapse@gmail.com)/ [irshad\\_ali123@rediffmail.com](mailto:irshad_ali123@rediffmail.com)



# Workshop cum training for MLHPs on Ayurveda Day

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 02 Nov:**

On the occasion of the 6th Ayurveda Day, DG cum Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department, Dr Pempa Tshering Bhutia inaugurated a day-long state level workshop cum training to Mid-level Health Providers (MLHPs) of all 147 subcentres, staff nurses from all the Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres under Health and Family Welfare Department, a press release informs.

The workshop was organized on the theme "Ayurveda for Poshan" at STNM auditorium, Sochakgang by Sikkim State AYUSH Society.

The main objective of the workshop was to train the MLHPs regarding Home Remedies under Ayurveda; to guide the participants on preservation of nutritional values of food, to disseminate the message



to the communities to understand locally available food resources, and importance of dietary diversity in order to improve nutrition amongst the children, pregnant women and lactating mothers.

Addressing the participants, DG cum Secretary briefly spoke about the role of home remedies and nutritional values of food and how it

will benefit the people in remote villages if it can be effectively integrated with allopathic practices.

JD cum State Program Officer, Dr Karma Chaden Bhutia gave a brief presentation on AYUSH Mission in the State and importance of observing Ayurveda Day on the day of Dhanteras. She also mentioned about its holistic approach in preventing and promot-

ing the health of an individual.

MO, Ayurveda, Dr MP Das and MO, Yoga and Naturopathy, Dr S Vinudha were the resource persons for the workshop.

In the workshop, participants were also told about "Y Break" Yoga protocol mobile application. "The Y Break" (or the Yoga Break), mobile application is a unique

5-minute yoga protocol app launched by Ministry of AYUSH in the month of September 2021 which is designed especially for working professionals to de-stress, refresh and re-focus at their workplace to increase their productivity.

The programme also saw the attendance of all AYUSH staff from the 10-bed AYUSH Hospital at Sochakgang.

## Sikkim Gyan Manch to organize two-month knowledge sharing programme

**SAGAR CHETTRI**  
**GANGTOK, 02 Nov:**

A group of retired Government employees have come together for a knowledge sharing initiative called Sikkim Gyan Manch Season-1.

Sikkim Gyan Manch is an initiative which started from Duga under West Pundam in East District which aims to transfer knowledge and experience to the younger generation. It is a two-month programme which will have a series of events including open debate competition as the highlight of the programme.

Addressing a press conference here this afternoon, Sikkim Gyan Manch president, DB Chettri mentioned that there are four events in this programme to be held in Duga and the closing ceremony is scheduled to be held at Gangtok.

He said that the main highlight of the programme is an open debate competition on current issues. Motivational speech on important relevant topics for students and youths by motivational speakers in different areas will also be part of the programme.

"Likewise, talent promotion is another event mainly to highlight hidden talents in various areas who have not been discovered yet in any platform. There will be 15 episodes of Sikkim Gyan Manch and we have decided to felicitate a personality in every epi-



sode who have contributed to the society and are role models in their respective areas," Mr Chettri said.

Sikkim Gyan Manch technical head, Chunnillal Ghimirey mentioned that all episodes of the event will be recorded and telecast through local television and social media platforms.

Sikkim Gyan Manch head of debate competition, KB Chettri said that Sikkim Gyan Manch is a knowledge sharing event to build a knowledgeable society.

"As the competition is open, we invite intellectuals from different corners of Sikkim and across the country to participate to inspire the young generation," he said. He mentioned that interested teams can register by filling a form, the link of which will be shared on the official Facebook page of Sikkim Gyan Manch.

It is informed that each team will have five members out of whom one would be kept as reserve. He added that the fixture will be drawn for

16 teams and if there are more than 16 teams then team screening would be held in different venues to select the top 16 for the competition.

The organizers have kept Rs 1000 as registration fee and the competition carries a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh to the winner and Rs 50,000 for runner-up. There is prize for the best speaker as well in the competition. It is informed that certificates and consolation prizes will be presented to all participants.

Sikkim Gyan Manch general secretary, Adip Chettri mentioned that Sikkim Gyan Manch started from Duga but plans to cover the entire State and to make it to the national level in the near future. He added that the inaugural function is scheduled to be held on 28 Nov at Duga and the closing function to be held on 23 January next year in Gangtok. State Assembly Speaker, LB Das, who is also the area MLA, is the chief patron of Sikkim Gyan Manch, he added.

## Blood donation camp at MG Marg



**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 02 Nov:**

Sikkim Vihangam Yoga Sansthan Tadong organized a blood donation camp at MG Marg, Gangtok today to mark the birthday of Sant Pravar Shri Vigyan

Dev Ji Maharaj, a press release informs.

A total of 24 units of blood were collected in the Camp organized in collaboration with the Central Referral Hospital Tadong.

## SFPB Chairperson attends conference with FTII officials



**GANGTOK, 02 Nov (IPR):** Chairperson, Sikkim Film Promotion Board, Pooja Sharma today attended a virtual conference along with Director, Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune, Bhupendra Kainthola, Registrar, FTII, Sayyid Rabehasmi and Sandeep Shahare from FTII, Pune.

It is to be mentioned that under the guidance of Chief Minister P. S Tamang, earlier on 13th October, Ms. Sharma had called on Minister of State, Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, Dr. L. Murugan at Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi to request for developing a Film Institute at the proposed site

of Eco-Heritage Film Village at Yangang to which the Minister assured all possible support and assistance.

A letter had been forwarded to the Director, FTII, Pune from the Minister of State, Information and Broadcasting of India. Therefore, the virtual conference was conducted based on the response from the MoS.

Speaking at the virtual conference, Chairperson, SFPB, Pooja Sharma informed the senior officials from FTII about the upcoming Sikkim Global Film Festival to be organized by SFPB and scheduled to be held from 10th-14th December, 2021 at Gangtok.

She also appraised and briefed the officials from FTII on developing a Film Institute inside the proposed site of the upcoming Eco-Heritage Film Village at Yangang, South Sikkim. She further extended her invitation and sought participation from the FTII officials to attend the upcoming Sikkim Global Film Festival.

Director, FTII, Bhupendra Kainthola assured to provide required assistance and support from FTII, Pune to Sikkim Film Promotion Board to make the event a success. He further put forth his suggestion to the Chairperson, SFPB to conduct interactive sessions and short courses on filmmaking for the film enthusiasts during the festival.

He further added that FTII, Pune will be sending a proposal to SPFB for conducting short courses on filmmaking under Amrit Mahotsav celebration by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting which include film appreciation course, mobile film making course, etc.

## Samdong School organizes Pre-Diwali prog

**SURAJ LIMBOO**

**GANGTOK, 02 Nov:**

Samdong Government Senior Secondary School celebrated Pre-Dipawali programme by organizing a special cultural event at the school auditorium on Tuesday.

Chairman of School Management Committee cum SKM In-Charge of Tumin-Lingi Constituency, ST Bhutia, was the chief guest and Additional District Magistrate (East), Radha Pradhan was a special guest.

The programme witnessed competition of Deusi and Bhailo among the junior to secondary level students of the school and the main attraction of the programme was the "Tra-



ditional Fashion Show" among the students, where they all participated in traditional attire, reflecting the cultural significance of the festival.

The principal of the school, ML Koirala said that the school management decided to organize this program with the objective of imparting enthusiasm and energy

to the students who have just started coming to school after a long gap due to the Covid pandemic.

He further informed that the school is also planning to organize such programs in the coming days on the occasion of other festivals also. The participants were awarded cash prize and certificates.

## Swachhta Pakhwada and Vigilance Awareness Week at ICAR

**GANGTOK, 02 Nov (PIB):** The ICAR Sikkim Centre observed Swachhta Pakhwada (02-31 Oct, 2021) and Vigilance Awareness Week (26 Oct to 01 Nov, 2021) under the chairmanship of Joint Director (I/C), Dr Ramgopal Laha, ICAR RC for NEH Region, Sikkim Centre, Tadong that concluded on 01 Nov, 2021.

During the Vigilance Awareness Week various activities/events organized on the theme of Independent India@75: Self Reliance with Integrity given by the Central Vigilance Commission. The Joint Director administered the historical perspective of Swachhta Pakhwada and Vigilance Awareness Weekend highlighted the role of civic society in eradication of corruption from the society on 01 Nov, 2021.

He expressed his satisfaction over organizing the Swachhta Pakhwada and Vigilance Awareness Week at this centre and appreciated the participation of the staff in the various events/activities etc.

He also administered the Integrity Pledge to the staff members of ICAR Sikkim Centre, Tadong and Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Ranipool. SMS (Plant Breeding) and Head (I/C), ICAR-KVK Ranipool, Dr JK Singh underlined the need of the hour that everyone should refrain from corruption and corrupt practices in the society. He also mentioned that we have to maintain our integrity.

Scientist (Agronomy), Dr Amit Kumar gave a brief introduction about the observance of Swachhta Pakhwada being organized at this centre every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Father of Nation Mahatma Gandhi and gave a brief introduction about the observance of Vigilance Awareness Week being organized at this centre every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Late Ironman Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel with a great deal of enthusiasm.

Further, he explained about the various events being organized during the days and entire programmes were coordinated. The programme concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by SMS (Plant Breeding) and Head (I/C), ICAR-KVK Ranipool, Dr JK Singh.

## Classical and Folk Dance prog organized by Culture Dept

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**Gangtok, 02 Nov:**

The Culture Department in collaboration with North Eastern Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC) Dimapur organized a programme "Bridging of Classical and Folk Dance" at Manan Bhawan, Gangtok, East Sikkim, today. The programme was presented by Natraj Kala Kendra Society, Singtam, East Sikkim wherein Maruni, Kathak, Tappa and Silli dances were performed.

Advisor, Culture Department, Bhim Kumari Sharma, attended the inaugural programme as the chief guest accompanied by Secretary, DB Rawath. The programme was also attended by the officials and staff of Culture Department.

Bhim Kumari Sharma said that such programmes provide exposure to the young and help in giving a platform to the hidden talents in our State. She applauded the Culture Department for taking the initiative to organize the programme in collaboration with NEZCC.

Bhim Kumari Sharma said that such programmes provide exposure to the young and help in giving a platform to the hidden talents in our State. She applauded the Culture Department for taking the initiative to organize the programme in collaboration with NEZCC.

**To book ad-space, contact SummitTIMES at**

**GANGTOK:**  
For circulation details Contact: (Sandeep) 9734152451 & for Advertisement booking at 9933427505 or at office no 03592 208698. Mail us at [advertise@summittimes.com](mailto:advertise@summittimes.com)

**SILIGURI:**  
Mr. Mani Rai, M/s. Space Ads, B.R. Ambedkar Building, Room No.7, 1st floor. Opp.

Ganga Hotel. Hill Cart Road. Siliguri – 03. Ph. 9832318644/ 9800682989/ 9153035100 or mail at [mani\\_siliguri@yahoo.co.in](mailto:mani_siliguri@yahoo.co.in).

**KOLKATA OFFICE:**  
Irshad Ali/ Inteeeyaz. Synapse, 6, Madan Street, Mezzine – 2, 2nd floor. Kolkata – 700072. Ph. 033-22124348/ fax 033-22124337/ mob. 9830547774/ 983108397. E-mail: [contact.synapse@gmail.com](mailto:contact.synapse@gmail.com)/ [irshad\\_ali123@rediffmail.com](mailto:irshad_ali123@rediffmail.com)



## The Right is Not Always Fair

*Politics hence should make space for more voices*

The rise and rise of the Right in India is not a phenomenon unique to the country. The Right, Far Right and the Alt-Right are increasingly recording gains in politics where such successes would have been unthinkable till even a few years ago. But that is the situation where electoral politics has delivered too many governments to. In all fairness, the Far Right, which is what every Right-wing faction aspires to be if allowed, has not stolen power and influence and has been voted to a stronger sitting by a democratic process. That, however, does not mean that there is no reason to worry. There is plenty that demands concern. But first, let's try and understand what allowed Radical parties to become so "mainstream".

It is obvious that frustration with status quo drove people to vote so far Right. Around the world, as also in India, the electorate has traditionally fought shy of radical parties and limited their presence to the fringe or as part of coalitions. While this kept such parties in check, it also, over the years allowed the more liberal and left-of-centre parties to grow somnolent, increasingly compromised and easily distracted. When the economy was doing fine and the lay citizenry could go about their lives partaking in politics only during election cycles, when the economic meltdown happened, the disparity that had settled in became stark and the blame was shouldered on dispensations that had been in office for too long. People lost faith in their leaders and their politics and leveraged the vote to effect radical change. Populist and majoritarian rhetoric presented options that the then leaders were unable to offer. This space could have been filled by the Left as well, but the timing was against them because their ideology had by then collapsed under the persistent stress a world that had changed faster than they could adapt. Further, the current rage of change has been powered by a middleclass which finds itself unmoored from its sense of security and they, while they may lean socialist, are not conditioned to lean far enough left. The Right and its other extremities thus found their favour.

While this may, to some extent, explain what is happening in the political space around us and even though most such elevations have been democratically endorsed, there is an inherent problem with such a situation which militates against the basic premise of democracy – diversity. The Right has traditionally been disinterested in the rights or even protection of the minorities and so seeped in insularity that authoritarianism is its natural position. We already see enough evidence of this everywhere, but will continue to flag some worries. Even as they peddle populist spiel with one hand, they reinforce control and authoritarianism with the other, foisting nationalism and majoritarian paranoia to destroy free media, undermine independent institutions and muzzle the opposition. None of this is desirable or safe, and yet, because they ride a wave, they pull it off. It goes without saying that for a democracy to be stable and healthy, all political actors need to believe in its basic precepts of free will, fair competition and checks & balances. None of these find resonance with the Far Right and efforts, overt and subversive, are always underway to undermine the executive, judiciary, free expression and free press. Take a look around. Such political actors, convinced of their right to rule and claiming righteousness, also lose the ability to sift fair criticism from spite. More dangerously, they see their adversaries as enemies. Here, one needs to quote Michael Ignatieff, a political theorist and former leader of the Liberal party of Canada, who wrote this a few years ago: "For democracies to work, politicians need to respect the difference between an enemy and an adversary. An adversary is someone you want to defeat. An enemy is someone you have to destroy."

And when democracy allows adversaries to be "destroyed," democracy itself is dealt a fatal blow. Do we want that to happen?

### WRITE US:

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



## India v Pakistan: arrest of Muslim fans show how cricket is more than just a sport in these two nations

AMALENDUMISRA  
*theconversation.com*

With the exception of cricket, India – a country of nearly 1.5 billion people – is spectacularly below average when it comes to international competitive sports. The world's second most populous nation has the worst Olympic record in terms of medals per head of population. So its saving grace – so far as proving its sporting prowess is concerned – has been cricket, in which it is a dominant force.

Once regarded as a British colonial import, cricket is the only sport that unites most Indians, who are deeply divided by caste, region, religion and skin colour. So, whenever there is an apparent lack of patriotic fervour when it comes to supporting India – especially when the country is playing arch-rival Pakistan – there is going to be a backlash.

After the Indian cricket team's recent loss to the Pakistani team in the T20 cricket world cup, a section of the Indian populace descended into a paroxysm of hate, pillorying Mohammed Shami, the only Muslim cricket player in the Indian team, on social media. This drew a blistering response from the team's captain, Virat Kohli who declared that: "Attacking someone over their religion is the most pathetic thing that a human being can do."

But in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Rajasthan at least 14 people (mainly young Muslims) were arrested and charged after the match for celebrating Pakistan's win, some of them under sedition laws which carry a life sentence. There's a long history of bitter cricket rivalry between Pakistan and India, but this knee-jerk reaction against these so-called "acts of sedition" is a new low.

WAR BY OTHER MEANS

Authorities in the three different states called on various sections of India's Penal Code to detain

and charge people celebrating Pakistan's win. In Uttar Pradesh, where seven have been detained, one person was charged with sedition. Others were charged with various offences, including Section 153A, for promoting enmity between different groups, Section 504, intentional insult aiming to breach the peace. Police have also invoked Section 66F of the Information Technology Act, which covers "cyber terrorism" and also carries a life sentence.

In Rajasthan a female private school teacher who posted "we won!", accompanied with a photograph of the Pakistan cricket team, was arrested for "assertions prejudicial to national integration" under Section 153B of the penal code. She was also sacked from her job.

In Jammu and Kashmir, six people – students and staff at two medical colleges – were detained for allegedly posting pro-Pakistan slogans after the match under an anti-terror law which prohibits supporting "cessation of a part of the territory of India". This is particularly significant, because the contested Union Territory of Kashmir has long been a flashpoint between the two countries, so for one of the students to post a picture of the Pakistani flag on his Facebook page with the message: "I love you Pakistan, I miss you Pakistan, Jeet Mubarak (Congratulations on your victory) Pakistan", was seen as deliberate provocation.

SUBLIMINAL MESSAGE

For all the talk of cricket being "only a game" and that the "spirit of sportsmanship" must always prevail, sport is primarily war by other means. The two countries have fought four conventional wars since Pakistan was established following Partition in 1947.

Because of their mutual love for the sport, cricket provides an avenue for the two countries to play out their mutual enmity without resorting to force of arms. Cricket can never be "just a game"

when India play Pakistan – it's one of the greatest rivalries in sports, a contest of national identity and an opportunity for one to heap humiliation on the other.

While sport provides a symbolic platform for competition between contending nations, it can push rival countries into rabid nationalism. Football rivalry led to war between El Salvador and Honduras in 1969, when rioting during the lead-up to the 1970 Mexico World Cup led to a 100-hour armed invasion of Honduras by the Salvadorean military.

For many people in India, the thought of Muslim citizens actually crowing about a win by their bitterest rival on and off the sporting field is seen as unbearably disloyal. Meanwhile, for some Indian Muslims, Pakistan's victory provides subliminal support for their resentment against what they see as Hindu majoritarian domination, particularly in recent years under the government of the Hindu nationalist BJP under Narendra Modi.

If the love of a sport can bring unity and fellowship, it can also provoke institutional and national bigotry. Let's not forget that after the game, celebratory gunfire erupted in the Pakistani cities of Islamabad and Karachi and the country's interior minister, Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, said the win was a "Victory of Islam".

This is not the first time people have been arrested in India for supporting Pakistan. In 2014, 60 Kashmiri students were arrested for supporting Pakistan in the Asia Cup one-day tournament. The following year 15 men were arrested for supporting Pakistan in a Champions' Trophy one-day game. But it's also worth noting that very few of these sedition cases are ever successfully prosecuted.

*[the writer is Professor, Department: Politics, Philosophy and Religion, Lancaster University]*

## Would a longer school day help children catch up after the pandemic? Here's what the evidence says

LISA KIM & KATHRYN ASBURY  
*theconversation.com*

COVID-induced school closures in 2020 resulted in the majority of pupils in England – at primary and secondary level – missing around 40 days of school on site. Schools around the globe were similarly affected, though to different extents.

As recent figures from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development show, in the first 12 months of the pandemic, 1.5 billion students in 188 countries and economies weren't able to go to school, for varying lengths of time. Figures from the Netherlands and Ireland are similar to those in England. In Denmark, students missed closer to 20 days, whereas the numbers are much higher in Costa Rica (close to 180 days) and Colombia (around 150 days).

While most English schools during this time provided some form of remote education, these closures nonetheless resulted in learning losses. As a result, amid the UK government's plans for post-COVID school recovery, the Department for Education has reportedly discussed extending the school day, by possibly lifting the existing cap on the number of hours state school teachers can be asked to work.

International evidence seems to suggest that, in some instances, a longer school day may be beneficial. A report by the United Nations-led Accelerated Education Working Group has proposed multiple ways to deal with pandemic-induced learning losses. These range from extending teaching time to implementing formal catch-up programmes with remedial education for struggling pupils. Extending teaching time was proposed as an appropriate strategy when pupils have missed out on up to

one year of education.

Moreover, studies such as those conducted in the US and Canada and in Chile support the idea that extending instructional time could help pu-

England can be asked to teach up to a maximum of 1,265 hours over 195 days of the year. This number does not include additional hours required for tasks, such as lesson planning, as-



pils, both in the short and long term. They would benefit both academically (in terms of achieving higher test scores and higher educational attainment) and socio-economically (their future earnings would be higher).

However, a review of studies in Latin America and the Caribbean noted that, despite these benefits, there may be more cost-effective ways to attain similar results. An additional and important consideration would be the psychological cost to teachers.

OVERBURDENED WORKFORCE

Of course, a longer school day means more teaching hours. And that raises the question of whether asking teachers to extend their working day is a reasonable request.

According to government guidelines, teachers at state schools in

sessing, monitoring, recording, and reporting.

Data from four surveys shows that, pre-pandemic, an average full-time teacher in England worked 50 hours a week in term time and around four hours a week during the holidays. There are certainly outliers, including 10% of full-time teachers who reported working at least 30 hours per week over the summer and half-term holidays and 15 hours over the Christmas holidays. The researchers also found that the number of reported working hours had not decreased over 25 years. In fact, teachers in England have been found to work longer hours than most other countries, with lower secondary school teachers working around eight hours more per week

Our ongoing research into what being a teacher during the pandemic has been like shows teachers feel frustrated. The participants we have interviewed have relayed their distress at how the media and some sections of the public have portrayed their profession as lazy.

And the numbers bear out their frustration at that misguided impression. A survey conducted in June/July 2020 by the UK charity Education Support found that 31% of teachers and 70% of senior school leaders reported working more than 51 hours per week on average.

Since March 2020, many teachers across the globe have had to oscillate between partial school closures, partial reopenings and full reopenings. To adapt, they have had to rapidly learn new skills in order to be able to teach pupils from home.

They have also done a lot more than just teach. They have regularly called, and in some cases visited, pupils and their families to assess and meet their academic and welfare needs. Given the ongoing uncertainty of the situation, it is not surprising that we found that our teacher participants' mental health and wellbeing had declined over the course of the pandemic.

While there may be benefits to pupils in extending the school day, one must be wary of the costs this would incur to teachers' mental health and wellbeing. Students would not benefit from being taught by teachers who are stressed and burned out. For any educational recovery plan to be effective, it is important to consider teachers' needs and perspectives.

*[Lisa Kim is Lecturer in Psychology in Education, University of York; Kathryn Asbury is Professor of Psychology in Education, University of York]*



# J&K BJP leader booked for hurting religious sentiments

**JAMMU, Nov 2 (PTI):** An FIR has been registered against a senior Jammu and Kashmir BJP leader for allegedly hurting the religious sentiments of a community, officials said on Tuesday.

The case was registered after a video, which surfaced online, purportedly showed Vikram-Randhawa making the remarks, they said.

The party's Jammu and Kashmir unit has taken note of the video of former MLC Randhawa and served him a show cause notice on Monday, asking him to explain his position within 48 hours and submit a public apology.

An FIR has been registered against Randhawa at a police station here under section 295-A and 505 (2) of the Indian Penal Code and further investigation is on, a police official said.

Section 295-A pertains to deliberate and malicious acts, intended



to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious belief, while section 505 (2) gives powers to the police to arrest anyone who makes a statement which creates or promotes enmity, hatred or ill-will between classes.

Randhawa is accused of making disparaging comments over the incidents of celebration of Pakistan's win over

India in a cricket match in the ongoing T20 world cup in Dubai. In the show cause notice served to Randhawa on Monday, the BJP disciplinary committee, headed by Sunil Sethi, asked him to explain his position within 48 hours.

A video has gone viral in social media in which you are seen making absolutely reckless and hateful promoting remarks against a particular com-

munity. This is unacceptable to the party and has brought disrepute and embarrassment to the party, the notice read.

BJP Jammu and Kashmir president Ravinder Raina, who ordered the disciplinary action against the former legislator, had said he was personally hurt after hearing the comments of Randhawa. He said that the remarks are totally

against the basic principles of the party which believes in respecting all faiths and taking everyone along in accordance with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's slogan of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas'.

Randhawa's remarks have caused an outrage across Jammu and Kashmir with people demanding action against him in accordance with the law.

# Steep fall in new COVID 19 cases in Pondy

**PUDUCHERRY, Nov 2 (PTI):** Puducherry witnessed a steep fall in the number of daily cases of coronavirus with only 21 infections being reported in the last 24 hours ending 10 a.m. on Tuesday raising the overall tally to 1,28,077.

The number of fresh cases were identified at the end of examination of 1,986 samples.

The new cases were spread over Puducherry 12, Karaikal 2, Yanam 3 and Mahe 4. The active cases

were 388 of whom 87 were in hospitals and the remaining 301 patients were in home isolation.

One more person in Puducherry succumbed to the viral infection during last twenty-four hours raising the toll to 1859.

Director of Health G Sriramulu said the department has tested so far 19.21 lakh samples and found 16.24 lakh out of them to be negative.

Sriramulu said 51 patients recovered and

were discharged from hospitals today and the overall recoveries in the Union Territory stood at 1,25,830.

The test positivity rate was 1.06 percent while the fatality and recovery rates were 1.45 percent and 98.25 percent respectively.

The Director said the health department has administered 11,31,212 doses so far and they comprised 7,27,085 first doses and the remaining 4,04,127 second doses.

# Saudi Arabia wants businesses and families to pick Riyadh

**RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA (AP):** Upon arrival at Dubai's international airport, travelers can pick up a free guide to the city's top attractions and events. Curiously, the cover of this month's "Time Out-DXB" beckons visitors to Saudi Arabia. Emblazoned with an image of the kingdom's ancient Diriyah fort near the Saudi capital, it reads: "Welcome to Arabia. A Journey You've Never Imagined".

The landlocked, once ultraconservative capital of Riyadh is pitching itself as a city of concerts, movie theaters, world class sporting events and deal-making; a city where revamped cultural heritage sites wait to be discovered, distinguishing Saudi Arabia from other Gulf Arab capitals defined by sprawling malls and high-rise hotels.

The pitch is part of Saudi Arabia's plan to grab the limelight and title as the region's top place to do business. Currently, the more glamorous emirate of Dubai is seen as the region's hub for finance and tourism. No longer does the kingdom want consultants and executives flying in for a few days, only to fly right back out and spend those earnings elsewhere.

There are incentives — or, some say, penalties — for businesses to consider: Saudi Arabia has told companies they have until the beginning of 2024 to relocate their regional headquarters to the country or lose out on lucrative government contracts that keep the region's biggest economy humming.

It's the latest move by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the kingdom's day-to-day leader, who's been empowered by his father, King Salman, to overhaul the economy and reduce its dependence on oil for revenue. The 36-year-old prince wants companies, their employees and their families to move to the capital, Riyadh.

Some investors and their shareholders, however, remain wary of the prince. Four years ago — at the very same Ritz-Carlton hotel where a key

investment forum took place last week and where 44 multinational companies announced their plans to establish regional headquarters in Riyadh — Prince Mohammed oversaw the unprecedented detention of Saudi business leaders, princes and officers in a purported anti-corruption sweep. The campaign, described by critics as a shakedown, largely took place outside of the courts and public view. It also cemented the crown prince's grip on power.

Some of the companies now moving headquarters to Riyadh had already signed agreements to do so earlier this year, while others were announced for the first time. In all, the list includes multinational names like PepsiCo, Siemens Mobility, Unilever, Deloitte, Halliburton, Schlumberger and Baker Hughes.

"We're convinced that this is win-win," Saudi Investment Minister Khalid al-Falih told The Associated Press in an interview on the sidelines of the forum. "It's important for us, but it's even more important for the companies because they will get the benefits of being closer to decision makers."

He said the intent "is not to penalize companies" but to show them access to "the biggest market in the region." Saudi Arabia is the only Arab nation among the Group of 20 countries representing 80% of the world economy.

Al-Falih was in Los Angeles and Washington D.C. shortly before the Riyadh summit attempting to woo more U.S. investments in Saudi Arabia. He is well-known internationally, having once served as Saudi energy minister and as oil giant Aramco's CEO and chairman. The government hopes the "Regional Headquarters Attraction Program" will add \$18 billion to the local economy and create 30,000 new jobs over the next decade.

Creating jobs and diversifying the economy sit at the heart of Prince Mohammed's Vision 2030 blueprint for transforming the country.

# 6 killed after speeding truck rams into roadside stall

**GHAZIPUR (UP), Nov 2 (PTI):** Six people, including a teenager, were killed after a truck ran over them in Ahirauli village in Mohammadabad area here on Tuesday, police said.

The incident took place when some people were having tea at a roadside stall and a speeding truck lost control and rammed into the shop, crushing six, they said.

The deceased were identified as Umashankar Yadav (50), Virendra Ram (45), Chandra Mohan Rai (45) and Bihari-Kushwaha (35), Satyen-

dra Thakur (28), Golu Yadav (15), they said.

After the incident, locals caught hold of the truck driver and beat him up badly.

He has been taken into custody, police said.

Later, locals gathered on the road, demanding compensation for the kin of the victims.

Senior officials, including District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police, were on the spot.

Also, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed officials to provide all necessary help to victim's family.

# Man arrested with heroin worth Rs 4.55 lakh in Aizawl

**AIZAWL, Nov 2 (PTI):** A man was arrested with heroin worth Rs 4.55 lakh from Aizawl's Bethlehem Vengthlangneighbourhood, officials said on Tuesday.

The suspected peddler lived in a rented accommodation in the area,

they said.

The heroin, weighing 168 gm, was smuggled from Myanmar, they added.

A case was filed under relevant sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

# 3 arrested with 1.1 kg heroin near Shillong

**SHILLONG, Nov 2 (PTI):** Three persons were arrested with 1.1 kg of heroin in Meghalaya's East Khasi Hills district, police said on Tuesday.

Acting on a tip-off, a vehicle transporting drugs from Manipur to Shillong was intercepted at the entry point to the city, Superintendent of Police Sylvester Nongtynger said. Two persons were present in the vehicle, and after a thorough search, 100 soapboxes of heroin were seized, he said.

The duo was immediately arrested, he added.

Another man, to whom the drugs worth around Rs 2 crore were to be delivered, was also arrested, he said.

As per the preliminary probe, the drugs were trafficked from Myanmar for sale in Shillong, police said.

A case was registered under the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, they said.

At present, the trio is in COVID-19 quarantine and will be produced in court as and when protocols permit, the police officer said.

# TMC MLAs pay tribute to Vidyasagar in Bengal Assembly



**KOLKATA, Nov 2 (PTI):** West Bengal Industries Minister Partha Chatterjee, during an assembly session on Tuesday, paid tribute to polymath Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar as he moved a resolution in the House, seeking to remember the social reformer and uphold his ideals in everyday life and work.

Chatterjee, on the second day of the winter session, also hit out at the BJP, claiming that "some elements patronised by those at power at the Centre" were responsible for vandalising the bust of Vidyasagar, on the eve of his bi-centenary celebrations.

He was referring to the 2019 incident, when a bust of the polymath was vandalised at a city college during a road show led by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who was then the BJP's national president, as clashes broke out between members of the TMC and the saffron camp.

Chatterjee, who is also the parliamentary affairs minister, further said that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had taken immediate measures to re-install the bust of the educationist.

"As the education minister back then, I had attended meetings of different committees that commemorated the 200th birth anniversary of Vidyasagar, under the guidance of our CM and other experts. A museum has been built in his honour at his ancestral home in Kolkata, and a memorial at his birthplace in Birsinghapur, he underlined. More functions will be organised in the days to come to pay a fitting tribute to Vidyasagar, he stated.

TMC MLA from Pan-skura, Biplab Roy Choudhury, in his tribute, recalled Vidyasagar's role in facilitating widow remarriage and backing women's education, stating that his contributions to transform and develop the society will be remembered forever.

Speaker Biman Bandyopadhyay, while wrapping up the discussions, said the West Bengal Assembly has passed several laws that uphold the belief and ideals of Vidyasagar.

"This Assembly played an important role in enacting laws which are in tune with Vidyasagar's spirit of social reformation," he added.

The resolution was then passed by the Assembly.

Shortly after, the speaker adjourned the House till 11 am of November 8.

No BJP MLA was present in the House during the session.

The industries minister later told reporters in his chamber on the Assembly premises that it was unfortunate and ironical that the Leader of Opposition (Suvendu Adhikari) was not present at a discussion on Vidyasagar, despite being a resident of Medinipur, where the polymath was born.

Later, regretting Chatterjee's remarks in the Assembly, BJP national vice-president Dilip Ghosh said everyone knows well who all had desecrated Vidyasagar's bust during the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

"News channels were duly informed and attempts were to defame the BJP in the midst of elections," Ghosh claimed.

The former BJP state president also said it was "shocking that ruling party MLAs politicised a session that was ostensibly called for paying tribute to the visionary".

# Mizoram bypoll: MNF leads in Tuirial seat

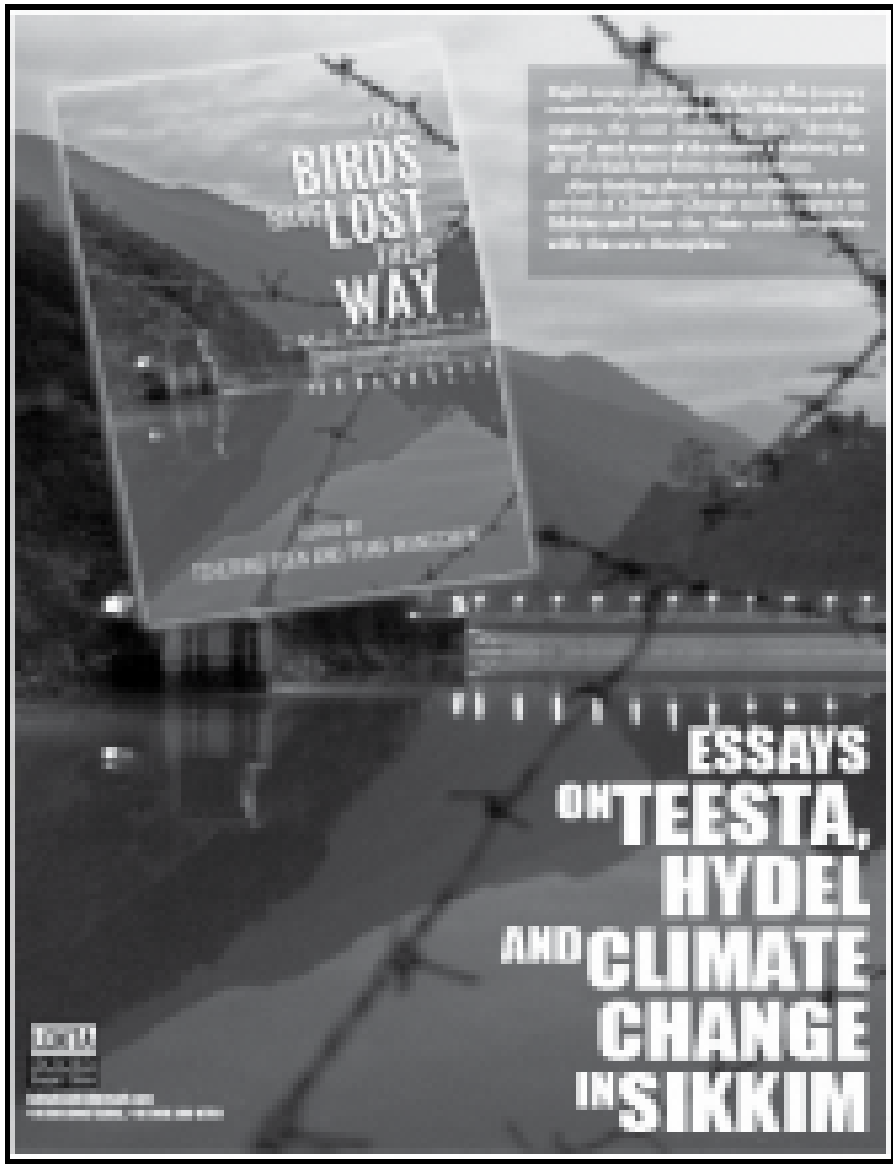
**AIZAWL, Nov 2 (PTI):** Ruling MNF candidate K Laldawngliana was leading by 976 votes in the bypoll to the Tuirial seat in Mizoram on Tuesday morning, as per the Election Commission. The

counting of votes began at 8 am at the Kolasib Government College amid tight security. ZPM candidate Lalitlangmawi was at the second spot.

The bypoll to the seat in Kolasib district was be-

ing held after the death of sitting MLA Andrew H Thangliana of Zoram People's Movement (ZPM).

At least 81.28 per cent of the 17,911 electorate cast their votes in the bypoll on October 30.





# George scores 32, Clippers rally late in 4th to beat Thunder

**LOS ANGELES (AP):** With his team in a shooting slump to start the season and 3 of 21 from 3-point range during the first half Monday night, Los Angeles Clippers coach Ty Lue kept his message simple at halftime.

“There was nowhere to go but up,” he said.

Even though the Clippers faced a nine-point deficit late in the fourth quarter, they found their shooting touch just in time and were able to rally for a 99-94 victory over the Oklahoma City Thunder.

“I thought early on, we had great looks. ... Our bench guys started laughing, ‘We’re getting wide-open shots and we can’t make them,’” Lue said. “I felt like we were in a good place.”

Los Angeles came in 26th in the NBA in field goal shooting and was converting only 31.7% of its 3-pointers after making a record 41.1% last season. It appeared to be more of the same against the Thunder, especially after Josh Giddey’s jumper with 2:44 remaining put Oklahoma City in front 91-82.

But the Clippers (2-4) finally found their rhythm in the last three minutes as they went on a 17-3 run to take the



lead. They were 12 of 21 on 3s in the second half, including 6 for 9 in the fourth quarter.

Paul George scored 32 points, including 15 in the final period. George, who also had nine rebounds and seven assists, scored eight points during the decisive spurt, including a 10-footer with 1:08 left to give Los Angeles a 93-92 lead, its first since early in the first quarter.

“Our team was playing good defense. We were holding them. We were getting stops, so we couldn’t finish with empty possessions,” said George, who has scored at least 29 points in four of the Clippers’ six games. “We had to stay confident that shots were going to

fall.” Reggie Jackson added 15 points, while Luke Kennard and Nicolas Batum scored 14 apiece.

“There was almost a dark cloud over us. We tried to keep it light-hearted,” Jackson said about the shooting woes. “As long as Coach kept having confidence in us.”

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 28 points, including 15 in the third quarter for Oklahoma City (1-6), which led by 16 in the second. Darius Bazley and Giddey scored 15 apiece.

The Clippers cut the Thunder’s lead to two a couple of times in the fourth quarter, but Oklahoma City was able to go on runs to get some breathing room. However, the Thunder weren’t

able to fend off one last Los Angeles rally.

“We didn’t make the plays we needed to make. Overall we gave ourselves a chance to win, but they went and got the game and we didn’t,” Thunder coach Mark Daigneault said. “We showed great poise throughout the game until that last stretch. We would have liked to close it but at the end of the day it is progress that we are putting ourselves in these situations on the road against a good team.”

**UNDER 100**  
Oklahoma City snapped a 43-game streak dating to last season of allowing 100 or more points.

**REBOUNDING IMPROVEMENT**  
Los Angeles was out-

rebounded by at least 20 in losses to Cleveland and Portland, but broke even against the Thunder as both teams had 51 boards.

**RARE AIR**  
Derrick Favors’ 3-pointer during the first quarter gave the Thunder a 9-5 lead and was his first make from beyond the arc since the 2019-20 season. The 11-year veteran has hit only 37 3-pointers in his career.

**TIP-INS**  
Thunder: G Lu Dort missed the game due to a shoulder injury sustained Saturday at Golden State. ... F Gabriel Deck was also out of the lineup due to a bruised left heel. ... Aleksei Pokusevski had nine points and an assist in the second quarter.

Clippers: Los Angeles set a season high for rebounds, including 12 from Isaiah Hartenstein. It was the third-year center’s eighth career game with 12 or more boards. ... Jackson went over 8,000 career points.

**UP NEXT**  
Thunder: Remain in Los Angeles to face the Lakers on Thursday.

Clippers: Visit Minnesota on Wednesday for the first of back-to-back games against the Timberwolves.

# Morris returns, but Sounders held to 1-1 draw with Galaxy

**SEATTLE (AP):** Not that he forget the sound, but Jordan Morris took a moment to appreciate noise when he stepped back on the field in a Seattle Sounders uniform.

“It’s been almost two years since I played in front of fans, so that was a special moment,” Morris said.

Morris made his return to the field eight months after suffering a major knee injury as the Seattle Sounders and Los Angeles Galaxy played to a 1-1 draw on Monday night.

Javier “Chicharito” Hernández scored in the 19th minute off a corner kick for the Galaxy, while Seattle’s Raúl Ruidíaz scored on a penalty kick early in the second half, after Cristian Roldan was fouled in the box.

Both teams earned a needed point in the fight for playoff positioning in the Western Conference. For the moment, Seattle (17-8-8, 59 points) went one-point clear of Sporting Kansas City and Colorado for first place in the West. Kansas City has two games remaining, while both Seattle and Colorado have one.

But Seattle is winless in its past five games heading into the regular-season finale.

“I would say it’s very concerning,” Seattle coach Brian Schmetzer said.

The Galaxy (13-12-8, 47 points) pulled even on points with Vancouver for one of the final two playoff spots, but the Whitecaps (47 points), Real Salt Lake (45) and LAFC (44) all have two games remaining, and LA has one.

“This is going to be a



great experience for this group of players together to go home and try and get it done,” Galaxy coach Greg Vanney said.

But the night was about Morris and his return well ahead of any initial expectations.

Morris suffered a torn ACL in his left knee last February while on loan with Swansea City in the English League Championship. It was the second major knee injury of Morris’ career and was expected to knock him out for the rest of 2021.

His recovery was well ahead of schedule and he returned to training with Seattle several weeks ago, and was given clearance by the team’s medical staff to be included against the Galaxy.

Morris came on in the 60th minute, replacing Ruidíaz. He was greeted by a huge ovation in his first appearance for the Sounders since the MLS Cup final loss to Columbus last December. Morris never got a clean look at goal, although it wasn’t for a lack of effort by his teammates.

“Definitely some chills and goosebumps going onto the field, but my thought process was what can I do to help the team win,” Morris said.

But this was the

first step for Morris and should give a boost to Seattle entering the playoffs. It’s also the start of his journey getting back on the radar of coach Gregg Berhalter as the U.S. winds its way through World Cup qualifying. Morris won’t be a candidate for the matches later this month against Jamaica and Mexico, but he could be in the mix for a spot in January and beyond.

Chicharito scored for the fourth time in his past six matches to give Los Angeles the early advantage, while Ruidíaz scored his 17th of the year, tying the club record set by Obafemi Martins in 2014. It also pulled Ruidíaz within one of NYCFC’s Valentín Castellanos in the race for the Golden Boot. Ruidíaz is tied with Ola Kamara for second.

Seattle had several chances to find a winning goal, but Roldan hit the post twice and Xavier Arreaga’s header in second-half stoppage time that Los Angeles goalkeeper Jonathan Bond saved off the crossbar.

“In the balance of the game, I thought they dominated the second half and we had to be resolute and stand strong,” Bond said.

## VerryElleegant beats Incentivise to win Melbourne Cup

**MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA (AP):** VerryElleegant surged home to beat hot favorite Incentivise and win the Melbourne Cup on Tuesday, giving high-profile trainer Chris Waller his first victory in Australia’s most famous horse race.

It was the New Zealand-bred mare’s 10th Group 1 win. Spanish Mission was third in the 3,200-meter (2-mile) classic. Waller was renowned for training record-breaking Winx, which won 33 consecutive races and had 25 Group 1 wins before retiring. Waller now has another impressive credential.

Winning jockey James McDonald described VerryElleegant as a super hero after beating Incentivise by four lengths, and said “I love her to bits.”

“She is trained by a master — he gets them right,” McDonald said in a post-race TV interview. “She was relaxed the whole way. When I looked up about the 600 (meters to go), I was blowing kisses to her.”

Incentivise, trained by Peter Moody, was aiming for a 10th consecutive win, including the Caulfield Cup over 2,400 meters on Oct. 16. Twilight Payment returned from Ireland to defend its title but ran in the middle for much of the race and finished 11th.

With Melbourne only recently coming out of a lengthy COVID-19 lockdown, the Flemington Racecourse was restricted to a crowd of 10,000 fully-vaccinated people. It can accommodate up to 120,000 spectators on major race days.

# Morant scores 26 to lead Grizzlies past Nuggets 106-97

**MEMPHIS, TENN. (AP):** Ja Morant had 26 points, eight assists and seven rebounds, Tyus Jones added 17 points and the Memphis Grizzlies defeated the Denver Nuggets 106-97 on Monday night.

Xavier Tillman had 12 points, while Desmond Bane and Jaren Jackson Jr. finished with 11 each as Memphis snapped a three-game losing streak to the Nuggets.

Jones and Tillman were part of a Grizzlies bench that outscored Nuggets reserves 43-34 and kept Memphis in front most of the way. Denver never led by more than two points, and there were six ties.

“We said all along, if our bench is clicking defensively and offensively, that just creates great balance for our team,” Memphis coach Taylor Jenkins said. “That leads to a lot of success for us.”

Nikola Jokic led Denver with 23 points, seven rebounds and seven assists, while Aaron Gordon added 15 points and 10 rebounds. Monte Morris scored 11 but was 5 of 12 from the field — part of the Nuggets shooting 44% for the game.

Denver’s major problems came from outside the arc where it went 9 of 38 for 24%.

“Of course, that’s their defense, too,” Jokic said. “But we missed a couple of open shots. We didn’t rebound enough. We had a couple of turnovers. It is what it is.”

The teams face each other again Wednesday night in Memphis.

The Grizzlies, who held an 82-73 lead entering the fourth quarter,



were able to hold Denver at bay as the Nuggets tried to muster a rally. At one point, Kyle Anderson made three straight baskets to help Memphis maintain a double-digit lead. Jones hit a pair of 3-pointers earlier in the period as the Grizzlies led by at least nine over the final 11 minutes.

Jones connected on five 3s, part of Memphis going 13 of 34 from outside the arc.

“It’s going to open things up on the offensive end for me,” Jones said of his long-range accuracy. “At the same time, we’ve got a lot of guys who can create and play-make. So, it’s just another way to help out the offense.”

Jokic characterized Jones’ 3-point shooting as “a game-changer” in bolstering the Grizzlies’ second unit. But he also noted that Memphis outscored the Nuggets in the paint 58-40, some of that from Morant’s zig-zagging, stop-and-start moves to the basket.

“Ja is a really good player, of course,” Jokic said, adding: “Mainly, it is Ja’s ability to get in the

middle of the paint and all those kinds of (shots). We say we can live with that, but he’s really good at that.”

In the fourth quarter, Jenkins played both Jones and Morant for much of the period, providing the Grizzlies with more stability to hold off Denver.

“Me and Tyus have been talking about (playing together) for three years,” Morant said. “I definitely love it. We play with a way better pace. I don’t have to be on the ball with Tyus being such a good creator on the floor for everybody.”

**TIP-INS**  
Nuggets: Allowed an opponent to reach 100 points for only the second time this season. The only other team to pass the century mark was Utah in a 122-110 Jazz victory. ... Gordon left in the third quarter with a right eye injury. He returned in the fourth.

Grizzlies: Morant got his 1,000th career assist with his first of the game early in the first quarter. ... Jones’ five 3-pointers tied a career high in a

regular-season game.

**JOKIC FACTOR**  
There’s no doubt the Nuggets’ game depends heavily on Jokic, no matter how coach Michael Malone mixes his lineup with starters and reserves. “I think our plus-minus with Nikola on the floor is spectacular,” Malone said in his pregame media session. “And I don’t want to talk about what it is when he’s off the floor.”

**MORANT’S SORE ELBOW**

Morant was added to the injury report Monday afternoon with a sore right elbow but started. Jenkins said Morant hurt the elbow when he fell in the Miami game Saturday. Asked whether the soreness bothered him during the game, Morant replied: “How much points did I have today?” When told it was 26, he replied: “There you go. Tonight, I don’t know. But during the game it was good.”

**UP NEXT**  
The teams play the second of a two-game set Wednesday in Memphis.

# Judge says Kobe’s widow won’t have to undergo mental exam

**LOS ANGELES (AP):** Kobe Bryant’s widow won’t have to undergo psychiatric testing for her lawsuit over graphic photos of the 2020 helicopter crash that killed the basketball star, her 13-year-old daughter and others, a federal judge ruled Monday.

Los Angeles County sought to compel psychiatric evaluations for Vanessa Bryant and others to determine if they truly suffered emotional distress over photos of the crash scene and bodies that her lawsuit said were taken and shared by county sheriff’s deputies and firefighters.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Charles F. Eick said that the county’s motion to compel an evaluation was untimely. Bryant’s invasion-of-privacy lawsuit is scheduled to begin in February.

Kobe Bryant, daughter Gianna and seven others were killed Jan. 26, 2020, when the helicopter they were aboard, on their way to a girls basketball tournament, crashed in the hills west of Los Angeles amid foggy weather. Federal safety officials blamed pilot error for

the wreck.

Bryant’s lawsuit contends first responders, including firefighters and sheriff’s deputies, shared photographs of Kobe Bryant’s body with a bartender and passed around “gratuitous photos of the dead children, parents and coaches.”

Bryant, in a deposition, had said that “for the rest of my life I’m going to have to fear that these photographs of my husband and child will be leaked.”

The judge last week said the county sheriff and fire chief must give depositions in the case.

Attorneys for the county had argued that Bryant had never seen the photographs and they weren’t shared publicly and wanted to determine whether she truly had suffered emotional distress.

They had sought to require Bryant and other family members of the people who were killed in the crash, including children, to undergo psychiatric evaluations as independent medical examinations.

# South Africa fielding first against Bangladesh at T20

**ABU DHABI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (AP):** South Africa has won the toss and elected to field against injury-hit Bangladesh at the T20 World Cup on Tuesday.

Bangladesh, which has lost all three of its Super 12 games, will be without Shakib Al Hasan because of a hamstring injury which has ruled out the allrounder from their remaining two group games.

Allrounder Shamim Hossain replaced Shakib while fast bowler Mustafizur Rahman made way for left-arm spinner Nasum Ahmed.

South Africa has won two of its three group games and retained the same XI which defeated Sri Lanka in a last-over thriller on Saturday.

**Lineups:**  
Bangladesh: Mohammad Naim, Liton Das, Soumya Sarkar, Mush-

fiqur Rahim, Mahmudullah (captain), Afif Hossain, Shamim Hossain, Mahedi Hasan, Shoriful Islam, Nasum Ahmed, Taskin Ahmed.

South Africa: Quinton de Kock, Reeza Hendricks, Rassie van der Dussen, Temba Bavuma (captain), Aiden Markram, David Miller, Dwaine Pretorius, Kagiso Rabada, Keshav Maharaj, Anrich Nortje, Tabraiz Shamsi



# Ethiopia tried to limit rare UN report on Tigray war abuses

**NAIROBI, KENYA (AP):** The findings of the only human rights investigation allowed in Ethiopia's blockaded Tigray region will be released Wednesday, a year after war began there. But people with knowledge of the probe say it has been limited by authorities who recently expelled a U.N. staffer helping to lead it.

And yet, with groups such as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International barred from Tigray, along with foreign media, the report may be the world's only official source of information on atrocities in the war, which began in November 2020 after a political falling-out between the Tigray forces that long dominated the national government and Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's current government. The conflict has been marked by gang rapes, mass expulsions, deliberate starvation and thousands of deaths.

The joint investigation by the U.N. human rights office and the government-created Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, or EHRC, is a rare collaboration that immediately raised concerns among ethnic Tigrayans, human rights groups and other observers about impartiality and government influence.

In response to questions from The Associated Press, the U.N. human rights office in Geneva said it wouldn't have been able to enter Tigray without the partnership with the rights commission. Although past joint investigations occurred in Afghanistan and Uganda, the U.N. said, "the current one is unique in terms of magnitude and context."

But Ethiopia's government has given no basis for expelling U.N. human rights officer Sonny Onyegbula last month, the U.N. added, and without an explanation "we cannot accept the allegation that our staff member ... was 'meddling in the internal affairs' of Ethiopia."

Because of those circumstances, and the fact that the U.N. left the investigation to its less experienced regional office in Ethiopia, the new report



is "automatically suspect," said David Crane, founder of the Global Accountability Network and founding chief prosecutor for the Special Court for Sierra Leone, an international tribunal.

"What you need when you go into an atrocity zone is a clean slate so outside investigators can look into it neutrally, dispassionately," Crane said. "You want to do these things where you don't build doubt, distrust from the beginning," including among people interviewed.

The investigation might be the international community's only chance to collect facts on the ground, he said, but because of its setup, it may disappear "in the sands of time."

People close to the investigation, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of retaliation, asserted that the head of the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, Daniel Bekele, underplayed some allegations that fighters from the country's Amhara region were responsible for abuses in Tigray and pressed instead to highlight abuses by Tigray forces.

That's even though witnesses have said the perpe-

trators of most abuses were soldiers from neighboring Eritrea, Ethiopian forces and Amhara regional forces.

In response to AP's questions, Bekele asserted his commission's independence, saying it is "primarily accountable to the people it is created to serve." Attempts to influence the investigation, he added, can come from "many directions" in such a polarized environment.

Bekele said he and the commission have consistently cited "serious indications that all parties involved in the conflict have committed atrocities." Observers say a major shortcoming of the investigation is its failure to visit the scene of many alleged massacres in Tigray, including the deadliest known one in the city of Axum, where witnesses told the AP that several hundred people were killed.

Bekele said the investigation lacked the support of the Tigray authorities now administering the region after Tigray forces retook much of the area in June, about midway through the joint team's work.

The U.N. human rights office, however, said the govern-

ment's subsequent severing of flights and communications from Tigray during the planned investigation period made it difficult to access key locations, both "logistically and from a security point of view."

Even the interim Tigray authorities hand-picked by Ethiopia's government to run the region earlier in the war rejected the joint investigation, its former chief of staff, Gebremeskel Kassa, told the AP.

"We informed the international community we wanted an investigation into human rights but not with the EHRC because we believe this is a tool of the government," he said.

The U.N. has said Ethiopia's government had no say in the report's publication, though it was given the chance to read the report in advance and to point out "anything it believes to be incorrect."

Late last week, Ethiopia's government and a diaspora group released the results of their own investigations focusing on alleged abuses by Tigray forces after they entered the neighboring regions of Amhara and Afar four months ago in what they called an effort to

pressure the government to end its blockade on Tigray.

The ministry of justice said it found 483 non-combatants were killed and 109 raped in parts of Amhara and Afar that were recaptured by federal forces in recent weeks. It also found "widespread and systematic looting" of schools, clinics, churches, mosques and aid groups' offices.

A separate report by the Amhara Association of America said it found that 112 people were raped in several districts covered by the ministry's findings. The diaspora group drew on data from offices of women's and children's affairs as well as interviews with witnesses, doctors and officials.

The diaspora group asserted that the Tigray forces "committed the rapes as revenge against ethnic Amharas, whom they blame as responsible for abuses in their home region."

The spokesman for the Tigray forces, Getachew Reda, said the allegations aren't worth "the paper they're written on." Accusations of rapes and killings by Tigray forces are "absolutely untrue, at least on a level these organizations are alleging," he said.

## French trawler owners still in dark over UK-French fishing

**GRANVILLE, FRANCE (AP):** French trawler owners in Normandy have reacted with confusion and consternation after President Emmanuel Macron extended a Tuesday deadline for the British government to license more French fishing vessels, the subject of a post-Brexit spat between the two countries.

Macron said Britain has two more days, or until Thursday, to authorize more French boats to fish in U.K. waters or face consequences. France has threatened to bar British boats from some of its ports and to tighten checks on vessels and trucks carrying British goods if no solution is found.

"We don't know what to expect. We learn new things every day," trawler owner Samuel Deshayes said in Granville, a coastal commune in the northwestern region of Normandy. "We will not give up until everyone has obtained a license."

Fishing is a tiny industry economically, but one that looms large symbolically for both Britain and France, which have long and cherished maritime traditions. Since the start of the year, both sides have control of their waters, subject to the Brexit trade deal the U.K. signed when it left the European Union.

The French and British governments accuse each other of contravening the trade deal in the dispute over fishing licenses in the English Channel.

Many French fishermen are pointing fingers specifically at the Channel Islands, including Jersey and Guernsey, which are self-governing British crown dependencies that crucially have control over their own territorial waters.

France has said that Jersey, which is only 14 miles (about 22 kilometers) off the coast

of France, hasn't issued enough licenses to French vessels and suggested it might restrict energy supplies to the Channel Islands, which are heavily dependent on French electricity.

"Jersey — I don't know why there are causing problems. Even the English don't quite understand why Jersey is resisting," Deshayes said.

The government of Jersey has reacted by issuing 49 temporary licenses to French boats. It said the vessels will be able to fish in Jersey waters until Jan. 31 to "grant time" for further data that is necessary for it to issue permanent licenses.

Emmanuel Lecoufle, owner of French trawler Arc en Ciel in Granville, said that issuing so few permits won't change much.

"It is not enough. There are still 200 boats pending. It is nothing at all, 49 licenses," he said.

Meanwhile, the French trawler owners who were granted extended licenses said they still don't understand what will happen. Macron's office said Monday that talks would continue this week and no measures would be taken before a Thursday meeting.

The French government says authorities in the Channel Islands and Britain have denied permits to French boats that have fished in waters where they have long sailed, scooping up lobster, sea snails, sea bream and other fish from the English Channel.

Britain says it has granted 98% of applications from EU vessels, a proportion that French authorities have questioned. It says a few dozen boats haven't been given permits because they haven't shown the required paperwork to back up their applications.

## 'Ordinary people suffer most': China farms face climate woes

**JIAOZUO, CHINA (AP):** Wang Yuetang's sneakers sink into the mud of what was once his thriving corn and peanut farm as he surveys the damage done by an unstable climate.

Three months after torrential rains flooded much of central China's Henan province, stretches of the country's flat agricultural heartland are still submerged in several inches of water. It's one of the many calamities around the world that are giving urgency to the U.N. climate summit underway in Glasgow, Scotland.

"There is nothing this year. It's all gone," Wang said. "Farmers on the lowland basically have no harvest, nothing." He lost his summer crop to floods, and in late October the ground was still too wet to plant the next season's crop, winter wheat.

On other nearby farms, shriveled beanstalks and rotted cabbage heads bob in the dank water, buzzing with flies. Some of the corn ears can be salvaged, but because the husks are moldy, they can be sold only as animal feed, bringing lower prices.

The flooding disaster is the worst that farmers in Henan like Wang can remember in 40 years — but it is also a preview of the kind of extreme conditions the country is likely to face as the planet warms and the weather patterns growers depend upon are increasingly destabilized.

"As the atmosphere warms up, air can hold more moisture, so when storms occur, they can rain out more extreme precipitation," said Richard Seager, a climate scientist at Columbia University. "Chances are extremely likely that human-induced climate change caused the extreme flooding you saw this summer in places like China and Europe."

China, the most populous country in the world, with 1.4 billion people, is now the planet's largest contributor to climate change, responsible for around

28% of carbon dioxide emissions that warm the Earth, though the United States is the biggest polluter historically. As world leaders take part this week in the climate summit, China is being criticized for not setting a more ambitious timeline for phasing out fossil fuels. President Xi Jinping, who has not left China since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and will not be attending the summit but sent a veteran negotiator, has said the country's carbon emissions will level off before 2030. Critics say that's not soon enough.

Chinese government projections paint a worrying vision of the future: rising sea levels threatening major coastal cities, including Shanghai, Guangzhou and Hong Kong, and melting glaciers and permafrost imperiling western China's water supply and grand infrastructure projects such as the railroads across the Tibetan plateau.

Top government scientists also predict an increase in droughts, heat waves and extreme rainfall across China that could threaten harvests and endanger reservoirs and dams, including Three Gorges Dam.

Meanwhile, China's people are already suffering the brunt of climate change. And in a common pattern around the world, those who have contributed least to the warming and have the fewest resources to adapt often feel the pain most acutely.

In late July, Chinese news broadcasts carried startling footage of torrential rains swamping Henan's provincial capital, Zhengzhou — at one point, 8 inches (20 centimeters) fell in a single hour — with cars swept away, subways flooded and people struggling through waist-deep water. More than 300 people died as the megacity turned into an accidental Venice, its highways transformed into muddy canals.

Even after the most dramatic storms ceased, the water continued to pool in much of the surrounding countryside, a flat and fertile region. Here the econo-

my depends on corn, wheat and vegetables, and other regions of China depend on Henan for food. The local government reported that nearly 3 million acres (1.2 million hectares) of farmland were flooded — an area about the size of Connecticut — with damage totaling \$18 billion. "All I could do at the time was to watch the heavens cry, cry and cry every day," said Wang, the peanut farmer.

A limited number of rudimentary pumps were shared among farmers in Henan. Soft plastic tubes were stretched across fields to drain water, but they periodically burst, sending farmers running to patch holes. A 58-year-old farmer who gave only her last name, Song, said everything she owned was submerged by the floods — her home, furniture, fields, farming equipment.

"Nothing was harvested. This year, the common people have been suffering all year long," she said. "Ordinary people suffer most."

"We have been working so hard, breaking our backs ... without even a penny back, my heart aches," said Hou Beibei, a farmer whose simple vegetable greenhouses — plastic tarps covering plots of eggplant, garlic and celery — remain flooded, her hard work washed away.

She is worried about her two young children. "The tuition fees of the children and the living expenses of the whole family rely on this land," she said.

The summer also saw another climate-linked natural disaster in China. In July, the hottest month on Earth in 142 years of record-keeping, according to U.S. weather experts, a vast and toxic blue-green algae bloom spanning 675 square miles (1,748 square kilometers) engulfed coastal waters off the prosperous city of Qingdao, threatening navigation, fishing and tourism. State broadcasts carried footage of people using dump trucks to remove the mounds of algae.





# Actor Jojo's car attack resonates in Kerala Assembly

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOV 2 (PTI):

A day after the attack on Malayalam actor Jojo George's car for questioning their road block protest had put the party in a spot, the opposition Congress on Tuesday said they should not be taught by the ruling CPI(M) on how to stage an agitation and let the people judge for what the strike had been organised.

The Congress' sharp reaction came in the state Assembly, when the ruling party raised the issue during the zero hour.

During his speech on the notice for adjournment motion moved by the Congress-UDF on fuel price hike, Finance Minister K N Balagopal, apparently referring to the incident, accused the opposition party of blocking roads, damaging vehicles and unleashing false propaganda on the issue.

When the Congress members protested, Chief Minister Pinarayi intervened into the matter and said the party leadership should introspect whether it was appropriate to call a person like Jojo, a leading artist and known figure in the public domain, a drunkard by KPCC chief K Sudhakaran.

Irked over the remarks, Leader of Opposition in the House, V D Satheesan said it was "your police" who had passed the information to the protesting party workers that he was drunk.

The CM should probe the matter and he has all the supporting system to carry out such an investigation, the leader said.

party in a spot after filmstar Jojo George questioned the blocking of a busy National Highway by the agitators which resulted in an attack on his car, trigger-



He also said they should not be taught on how to carry out an agitation.

"Let the people judge for what the agitation had been carried out. Jojo was not beaten up (by the party workers)," he said.

Taking a dig at the Marxist party, Satheesan sought to know what would be their reaction if a person would approach an agitation organised by them angrily, scolding the protesting party workers. The protest against the hike in fuel price by the Congress district committee in Kochi on Monday has put the

ing an outpouring of support for the actor from the film industry and the DYFI.

Even as Congress chief K Sudhakaran termed Jojo's act of questioning as 'goondaism,' Leader of Opposition V D Satheesan said he personally was against protests involving road blocks.

Meanwhile, the cinema fraternity and the DYFI, the youth organisation of the ruling CPI(M), came out in support of the actor. Police, after considering the actor's medical test report, said he was not drunk as alleged by the Congress leaders.

## Zoë Kravitz and Channing Tatum celebrate first Halloween together with Taxi Driver Couples costume

For Halloween, Zoë Kravitz and Channing Tatum channeled Iris and Travis from the classic film Taxi Driver, and it marked the first time the actress has posted a pic of the couple.

Zoë Kravitz and Channing Tatum's unforgettable Halloween couples costume is getting plenty of people talking about them.

The twosome, who celebrated their first Halloween together this year, both shared a look to their Instagram Story on Monday, Nov. 1 of themselves channeling Robert De Niro and Jodie Foster's characters from Martin Scorsese's classic 1976 film Taxi Driver.

In the image that both posted, Channing portrayed Travis Bickle with a green jacket and jeans, along with rocking a fake mohawk and costume blood on his face. For her part, Zoë went with a floppy white hat, floral crop top and red shorts to become Iris Steensma.

The 41-year-old Magic Mike actor posted a number of other pics from their night out to his Instagram Story, including a solo shot of himself that he labeled "Travis," followed by one of the 32-year-old Big Little Liars star that he labeled "Iris."

This marks the first time Zoë has shared a photo of the couple, while Channing posted a pic to social media showing himself and the Mad Max: Fury Road standout back in September.

The two stars, who have yet to publicly address their relationship status, first sparked romance rumors in January. The speculation surrounding

their relationship intensified in August when they were spotted enjoying multiple outings together in New York City.

Back then, an insider told E! News, "There's more than a friendship going



on with Channing and Zoë. They are spending a lot of time together and having fun."

On Oct. 23, the couple was photographed holding hands while out to lunch in New York City, with Channing put his arm around her at one point.

Click here to check out more celebrity couples costumes from Halloween 2021, including a variety of different looks from newly engaged Kourtney Kardashian and Travis Barker.

By the way, can we just point out that Travis Barker not being the one to dress up as the similarly named Travis Bickle somehow feels like a missed opportunity? Just sayin'.

## Jazz Jennings reflects on 100-pound weight gain due to "Binge Eating" in I Am Jazz first look

In the new promo for I Am Jazz's seventh season, Jazz Jennings described experiencing "fat-shaming from my family" after she gained nearly 100 pounds.

Jazz Jennings is letting fans in on her ongoing health journey with the new season of I Am Jazz.

TLC released the first look at the unscripted series' forthcoming seventh season on Monday, Nov. 1, including footage of the 21-year-old reality star candidly discussing her recent struggles with binge eating. At the start of the promo, Jazz recalled her life's ups and downs since her acceptance to Harvard University.

"Two years ago, I was on my way to one of the greatest institutions in the world, but I was actually struggling severely with mental health issues," she said in voiceover. "I started binge eating, and I gained weight, and more weight, and more weight. And now, almost 100 pounds heavier, here I am today."

She continued, "Having all this extra weight, I can't do so many things with my body that I used to be able to do."

Other scenes showed Jazz butting heads with members of her family over her eating habits. "I do experience fat-shaming from my family," Jazz told the camera. "It makes me feel really humiliated."

Back in June, Jazz posted to Instagram about her binge-eating disorder and explained that in addition to her bingeing, she had an "increased appetite" caused by some of her medications.

"I'm ready to change my ways," she wrote at the time. "I'm ready to take the initiative and create positive changes when it comes to my health and body."

## Akshay Kumar sums up his experience of working with Katrina Kaifin apic

**NEW DELHI:** Actor Akshay Kumar has the Midas' Touch when it comes to films. The same can be said about actress Katrina Kaif and director Rohit Shetty. With Sooryavanshi, this powerful trio is coming together for the first time and the audience, as expected, cannot keep calm. Now, Akshay Kumar, who is awaiting the release of the film on November 5, has shared two special posts about his lead actress and director. The actor has shared a sweet note along with a picture taken on the sets of The Kapil Sharma Show.

Referring to the image in which Akshay Kumar is laughing while Katrina Kaif is smiling with popcorn in her hand, the actor wrote, "This frame aptly describes how my shooting experience with Katrina Kaif is always." Reacting to the post, Katrina said, "U laughing - me eating."

Akshay Kumar also extended the same courtesy to director Rohit Shetty and shared an image in which Rohit is driving a bike as Akshay stands behind him. The photo was reminiscent of the iconic Jai-Veeru moment featuring Amitabh Bachchan and Dharmen-

dra in Sholay. Addressing the reference, he said, "Our Jai-Veeru moment, when Rohit Shetty took a break from blowing up cars."

It is evident that Akshay Kumar had a gala



time shooting for the film. The actor recently shared a video in which he is seen performing the signature step of the song Aila Re Aillaa along with Ranveer Singh as Ajay Devgn looks on. Both, Ranveer Singh and Ajay Devgn are appearing in cameo roles in the film.

In addition to Sooryavanshi, Akshay Kumar will be seen in Atrangi Re, Prithiviraj, Bachchan Pandey, Raksha Bandhan, Ram Setu and OMG - Oh My God! 2.

Aries:

There are many, many things you're celebrating today, Aries, and surge in profits is certainly one of them. But, things didn't just manifest for you overnight. It has taken a whole lot of sacrifices for you to arrive at this point. So, take a moment to not just acknowledge the journey, but also learn everything that you need to from your past experiences. This will help you put your best foot forward. Tip: It's to send out a prayer to Goddess Lakshmi, who is known to bring us wealth and fortune.

Taurus:

This is a time of practicing patience and surrender. A time of stepping back and allowing Nature to take its course, knowing that what is meant to be yours will always find its way into your Universe. No, it's not going to be easy, Taurus. Yes, you will have to confront the demon of insecurity over and over. Know that you are prepared for this, and that Spirit is holding your hand through this testing period. Tip: It will all come together soon. For now, practice surrender.

Gemini:

"Surrendering is not the giving up of something. True surrender is the total acceptance of yourself. You're not 'losing' anything in the surrender, the way your society usually means that word." Meditate upon these wise words by Bashar, channelled by Danyal Anka, as you sip

on your morning tea. Here's what the Universe wants you to remember: you are perfect as you are, and you are where you need to be. So, trust what you are being led towards and know that you will soon witness a miracle in your world!

Tip: 'Surrender' is your magic word, beautiful.

Cancer:

What brings you joy, Cancer? What are the passions that give you a reason to jump out of bed every morning? Did it ever occur to you that this passion could be more than just a side hustle? This month, allow yourself to visualise a parallel reality where you are living your best life whilst doing that thing you love the most. And then, when you feel ready, take a step towards the unknown knowing that the path will begin to reveal itself as you go along. Tip: Take that first step, beautiful.

Leo:

The trouble is, you're too hung on what your efforts will lead to. You're fixated on receiving praise, validation, and approval from others. But, this is not about the others, Leo. It's about committing to the process. It's about honouring the journey more than the destination. So, shift the focus a little. Allow yourself to be present to this moment. This will not only help you master your craft but also enhance the quality of your work manifold. Tip: Commit to the process.

Virgo:

What if we said nothing is written in stone and that you have the power to create your destiny as you go along? It's time to exercise those manifesting muscles like you never have. It's time to set your intentions mindfully, knowing that the Universe is supporting you at every step along the way. Don't be in a rush to move forward, though. The energy of the dark moon is providing you with an opportunity to 'be' and dream a brand new world into being.

Tip: It's time to exercise those manifesting muscles, beautiful.

Libra:

You are where you need to be, Libra, and you are meant to have the experiences you have called in at this moment. Experiences that are helping you break out of the cocoon and own your place in the big, bad world. So, get comfortable with the uncomfortable. Show up for what you believe in even when it's hard to. One day, you will look back at this as a defining moment in your life that set the stage for bigger and better things to make their way to you.

Tip: Own your place in this big, bad world, beautiful.

Scorpio:

Don't you love how everything comes together in the end? Don't you love when the roadblocks clear them-

selves? The Universe works in mysterious ways, beautiful. It's time to trust that and move ahead with the inner knowing that you are going to be taken care of no matter what. As such, this is a time of manifestation and wish fulfillment in your world. So, set your intentions from a space of joy and release them to the Universe. Practicing surrender will make space for miracles, Scorpio.

Tip: This is a time of manifestation and wish fulfillment.

Sagittarius:

When we first fall in love with somebody, it is the light aspects of their personality that encapture us. It is only when we get to know them intimately that the shadows begin to reveal themselves. What do you do when you are confronted by the so-called darkness, Sagittarius? Do you run and hide or commit to work through those deep-seated wounds? Remember, Spirit is holding your hand now and in every moment. So, pluck the weeds out of your garden as you remember that you have attracted this relationship into your experience for a reason.

Tip: You have attracted this relationship for a reason.

Capricorn:

Here's the thing, Capricorn: you cannot heal or fix anybody. So, strip away the false layers. Let go of the outmoded beliefs. As you do, redirect your energy towards yourself and your own healing, minus the guilt that previously weighed you down. This is also a time of recom-

mitting to your career goals and showing up when it is the hardest too. With patience and persistence, you will be able to hit the required target and make the change you set out to.

Tip: But first, focus on your own healing.

Aquarius:

There's no doubt that you've been hurt over and over. There's no doubt that you've been let down by the people closest to you. But, do you want to wear these scars like badges of honour? It's time to get real with yourself. To assess which of the stories you would like to take into the future with you. Now is the time to release the old, to break down the walls and to make that paradigm shift. PS: Spirit wants you to know that you are so loved and so supported. Tip: Leave the past behind, Aquarius.

Pisces:

Take a moment, Pisces. Take a moment to reference your vision board. Are you where you always envisioned yourself to be or are you settling for a mediocre existence? The good news is, it's never too late to hit the refresh button. It's never too late to realign with your soul purpose. Today, you're being called to lean into the discomfort and take a step in the right direction. Remember, it's okay to not have an exact road map. The guidance you need at every step will be revealed to you. Tip: Commit to taking that first step.