



**“THAT, MR. GAVASKAR,
YOUR MESSAGE IS
DISTASTEFUL”:**
pg 08

**REMEMBER WHY
THE STAIRWAY TO
HEAVEN COLLAPSED**
pg 04

**SNYDER CUT: HENRY CAVILL
NOT PART OF NEW JUSTICE
LEAGUE SHOOTS THAT
REPORTEDLY COST \$70 MILLION**
pg 08



SummitTIMES

Vol 05 | Issue 255 | Gangtok | Saturday | 26 September 2020

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | RS. 5

6 health workers, 5 police personnel test positive

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 25 SEPT:

With the continuing rise in the number of COVID cases in the state, the number of frontline workers testing positive is also on the rise. Six health workers are among the 95 new COVID-19 cases reported on Friday.

Three CRH Tadong staff, one STNM Hospital staff, one Melli PHC staff and one Jorethang CHC staff have tested positive for the virus. Meanwhile, one case was reported from Rangpo

CHC and 04 cases from Singtam District Hospital, however, there is no information on whether these cases are of patients or health workers.

Two police personnel posted at SammanBhawan in Gangtok and three from Jorethang Police Station have tested positive for COVID-19. The health bulletin also mentioned one case from Namchi Jail but no details were provided if the patient was an inmate or staff.

Lachung to sit out Tourism reopening

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 25 SEPT:

Lachung has decided to sit out the state government's move to reopen the state for tourism. The state government had recently released SOPs for Tourism Unlock 1.0, and tourism stakeholders in Lachung could easily have remain closed by not registering on the "crowd sourcing portal" that the department has made mandatory for tourism businesses to operate.

Today, the Lachung

Dzumsa convened an emergency meeting with tourism stakeholders and after consultation, decided that no tourists will be allowed to enter areas under the jurisdiction on LachungDzumsa till 30 November.

"Lachung being on the remotest area of Sikkim we don't have the proper medical facilities to deal in case of COVID-19 like emergencies arises," a press release issued by LachungDzumsa explains.

Bengal logs 59 more COVID deaths, 3,190 new cases

KOLKATA, SEP 25 (PTI):

The COVID-19 death toll in West Bengal rose to 4,665 on Friday after 59 more people succumbed to the disease, a bulletin issued by the state health department said.

The tally went up to 2,41,059 after 3,190 people tested positive for the contagion.

The bulletin also said that 2,978 patients recovered from coronavirus since Thursday, taking the discharge rate to 87.54 per cent.

The number of active cases rose to 25,374 in the state, it said.

In the last 24 hours, 43,815 samples were tested for COVID-19.

Mizoram records highest single day recovery of COVID-19 patients, 184 discharged

AIZAWL, SEP 25 (PTI):

Mizoram on Friday reported the highest single day recovery of COVID-19 cases after 184 patients infected with the deadly virus were discharged from hospitals, an official said.

The recovery rate now stands at 72.18 per cent, he said.

Fourteen Assam Rifles personnel were among the 184 patients who were discharged from various facilities, the official said.

Twenty-six people, including five Assam Rifles

personnel have tested positive for COVID-19 in the northeastern state on Friday pushing Mizoram's virus caseload to 1,786, he said.

Of the 26 cases, 24 were reported from Aizawl district and one each from Kolasib and Mami districts, the official said.

The number of active COVID-19 cases in the state is now 497.

The state has not reported any fatality due to COVID-19 till date.

A total of 68,340 samples have been tested for COVID-19 in the state, the official said.

COVID numbers spike with 95 new cases

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 25 SEPT:

Sikkim saw yet another spike in the number of COVID cases with as many as 95 persons testing positive for the virus as of 8 am Friday. While the major chunk of 52 cases is in East Sikkim, South has seen a sudden spike with 39 cases being recorded. Meanwhile, West Sikkim recorded 4 new cases.

There are 679 active cases of covid in the state now with the total caseload of 2704 fast nearing the 3000 mark. On Thursday, 21 persons were discharged from isolation facilities taking the number of total discharged to 1994. So far, the state has recorded 31 deaths and 5 persons are currently in the ICU of STNM hospital.

In the daily health bulletin on Friday, Health Department State IEC Officer, Sonam G Bhutia informed that 78 new cases of COVID-19 positive were detected in the RT-PCR testing of 272 samples at VRD Lab in STNM hospital on Thursday.

He added that five of the 34 samples tested by TrueNat were reported positive for COVID-19, while 12 more persons were found COVID-19 positive in the rapid antigen testing of 58 samples.

While giving break-up of new cases found in RT-PCR testing, Mr Bhutia



mentioned that RMDD Minister, Sonam Lama and seven other staff in his official residence at VIP colony tested positive for COVID-19. He mentioned that GMC Mayor, Shakti Singh Chaudhary from Rangpo, one from Sichey and three staff of Central Referral Hospital [one from Bahai School Road and two from near Police outpost in Arithang] returned COVID-19 positive.

Likewise, one primary contact from Chanatar in Rangpo, one from Singlebong in West Sikkim, one from Rangpo, one from Singtam, three from Female Ward of Singtam District Hospital, one from Rangpo CHC, three from 69 SSB camp at Chandmari, one from Kopibari, three from GREF camp at Phengla, one from Lingding, one person from near ITBP camp Lingdum at Ranka, one from Sichey, one from Upper Arithang, one from Ranipool,

one from near ICDS at 2nd Mile and one from DPH area were also found positive for COVID-19 in RT-PCR testing, he added.

Mr Bhutia mentioned that samples of two police personnel posted at Samman Bhawan, one from PNG Road, one from Kazi Road, one from 5th Mile Tadong, one from Rangpo, one from Sichey and three staff of Central Referral Hospital [one from Bahai School Road and two from near Police outpost in Arithang] returned COVID-19 positive.

In South Sikkim, he informed that one person from Namchi Jail, six from Kopchey, six from Boomtar, five from Tansang, two from

Sumbuk, one from Nandugaon, three from Namchi, one from Raj Gram in Namchi, one from Chemchey, two from Jorethang Traffic point, three from Jorethang Police Station, one from Ward No 5 Majhigaon in Jorethang, one from Ward No 4 in Jorethang, one from near Sai Mandir, Daragaon in Jorethang, one from Jorethang CHC and one staff of Melli PHC were also tested positive for COVID-19 in RT-PCR testing.

While giving details of cases detected in TrueNat testing, he mentioned that one from near new STNM hospital above Rai Gaon, one staff of STNM hospital in Sichey, one from Pakyong and two residence of MG Marg were found positive. He added that one person from Kharka Bazaar in Soreng and three from Reshi Bazaar in West District were also tested COVID-19 positive in TrueNat testing.

Similarly, samples of one person from Setipool, one from Rongneck, one from Metro Point Tadong, one from Majhitar, Rangpo and one from below Paljor Stadium in East District and one from Turuk and two from Kitam in South District were found positive for COVID-19 in RAT, Mr Bhutia said.

Mr Bhutia also requested people who have got themselves tested to remain in isolation till their test results arrive.

Virtual convocation at SMU today

SUMMIT REPORT

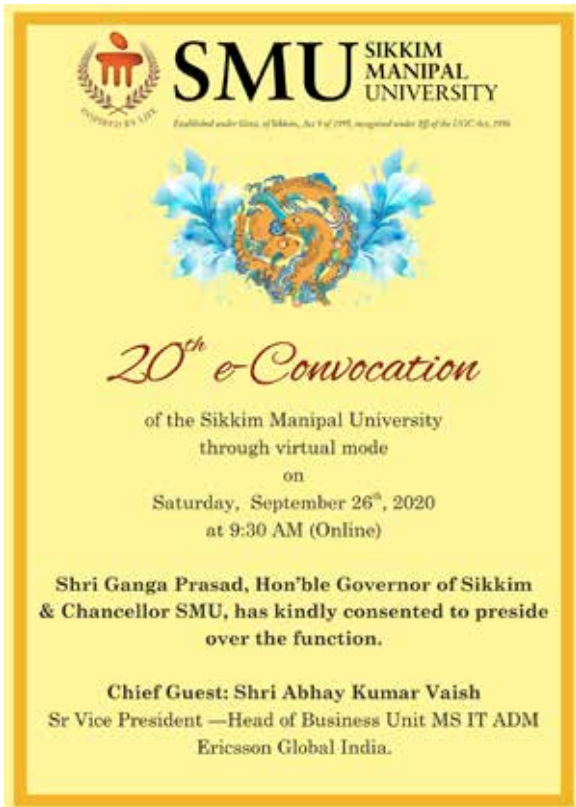
GANGTOK, 25 SEPT:

The 20th Convocation ceremony of Sikkim Manipal University will be held on virtual mode on 26 Sept keeping in mind the safety of students and the COVID-19 guidelines.

This Convocation is a momentous milestone in the history of SMU to celebrate the academic and professional accomplishments of the outgoing students in various multi-disciplinary graduates, post graduate and PhD programmes, an official press release highlights.

The release goes on to highlight that students will collect their degrees in virtual-reality mode.

It has been the earnest endeavours of SMU facilitate maximum online participation in this important annual



event which will be live-streamed, the release adds.

Around 900 students

from the MBBS, MD, MS, BTech, MTech, BSc & MSc Nursing, Bachelors & masters

in Physiotherapy, Biotechnology & Business Administration, BCA, MCA, MSc Physics, Chemistry, mathematics and PhD Course in various disciplines will be conferred their degrees as they join the virtual platform.

Governor Ganga Prasad, who is also the Chancellor of SMU, will preside over the function and deliver his address via video conference.

Senior Vice-President, Abhay Kumar Vaish, Head of Business Unit MS IT & ADM, Ericsson Global India, will also be present virtually as chief guest. The event will be webcast for the students, alumni and public viewing through all virtual media platforms.

COVID-19 tally in India breaches 58-lakh mark

NEW DELHI, SEP 25 (PTI):

Daily new COVID-19 infections in India remained below the 90,000 mark for the fifth consecutive day even as the country's coronavirus caseload zoomed past 58 lakh, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Friday.

Over 47 lakh people have recovered from the disease, pushing the national recovery rate to 81.74 per cent,

The total coronavirus cases mounted to 58,18,570 with 86,052 infections being reported in a day. The death toll climbed to 92,290 with 1,141 people succumbing to the disease in a span of 24 hours, the data updated at 8 am showed.

The total recoveries surged to 47,56,164 in



the country so far.

The COVID-19 case fatality rate due to the coronavirus infection was recorded at 1.59 per cent.

There are 9,70,116 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country which comprises 16.67 per cent of the total caseload, the data stated.

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

on September 16.

According to the ICMR, a cumulative total of 6,89,28,440 samples have been tested up to September 24 with 14,92,409 samples being tested on Thursday.

The 1,141 new fatalities include 459 from Maharashtra, 76 from Punjab, 67 from Uttar Pradesh, 66 from Tamil Nadu, 65 from Karnataka, 62 from West Bengal, 52 from Andhra Pradesh, 45 from Madhya Pradesh and 36 from Delhi.

A total of 92,290

deaths have been reported so far in the country including 34,345 from Maharashtra followed by 9,076 from Tamil Nadu, 8,331 from Karnataka, 5,558 from Andhra Pradesh, 5,366 from Uttar Pradesh, 5,123 from Delhi, 4,606 from West Bengal, 3,381 from Gujarat, 3,066 from Punjab and 2,122 from Madhya Pradesh.

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

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

RMDD Minister is 8th Legislator to test positive

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 25 SEPT:

RMDD Minister, Sonam Lama and his eight support staff have tested positive for COVID-19. Their samples were collected on Thursday. With this, eight members of the Sikkim Legislative Assembly have contracted the virus thus far, seven of them in the past week alone.

SKM Darpan, a Facebook page associated with the ruling party, shared Mr Lama's announcement on the COVID test. I announce that I along with all

my team is all fine and keeping with good health in view to our being tested as COVID positive, the Minister shared.

Gangtok Mayor, Shakti Singh Choudhary has also tested positive.

Other MLAs and Ministers who have tested positive for COVID-19 till now are Forest Minister, Karma Loday Bhutia, Agriculture Minister, LN Sharma, Power Minister, MN Sherpa, MLA Aditya Golay, MLA, TT Bhutia, MLA Farwanti Tamang and Health Minister, Dr MK Sharma who has since recovered.

Lockdown layoff forces lecturer to turn farm labourer to support family

PUNE, SEP 25 (PTI): Till March, Navnath Gore was

a lecturer in a college in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra, but the COVID-19-induced lockdown took away his contract job and reduced him to a farm labourer.

Gore (32), a resident of Nigdi, a small village in Jat tehsil of Sangli district, received the Sahitya Akademi's Yuva Puraskar for young writers in 2018, but that is hardly a consolation for a man who has fallen on hard times due to the outbreak of coronavirus.

Coming to terms with the reality of losing job, a situation faced by millions worldwide, he decided to work as a farm labourer in his home district to support his family.

A post-graduate in Marathi from the Shivaji University in Kolhapur district, Gore started writing his maiden novel 'Fesati' during his post-graduation days.

The book got published in 2017 and he won the Sahitya Akademi

Yuva Puraskar the next year.

"After I won the award, I received an offer from a college in Ahmednagar district where I started working as a lecturer on a clock hour basis and used to get Rs 10,000 per month.

"In February this year, my father passed away and the responsibility of my mother and a 50-year-old brother, who is physically challenged, came on my shoulders," said Gore.

After the death of his father, Gore went home in February, but could not go back to his teaching job as the lockdown was imposed in March-end to curb the COVID-19 spread.

"I came back to my village in February. Since my job was contractual, the income from the college also stopped.

"With no income, it was difficult for us to make the ends meet. I then started taking up odd-jobs and also started working as a farm labourer in the region," he added.



Facebook.com/
SummitTimesSikkim
fresh lot of rapid information

SPYF writes to Govt, reminds it of 30 Nov deadline to get health sector in shape

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 25 SEPT:

Sikkim Progressive Youth Forum has written to the State Government reminding it about the 30 November deadline served by SPYF to get the health sector in the State in order or face a mass movement by the people.

An SPYF press release informs that the ultimatum, already issued in public by the

organization, has been spelled out in letters mailed yesterday to the Governor, Chief Minister, Health Minister, Chief Secretary, Health Secretary and all the MLAs and the two parliamentarians appraising them about the deplorable state of the health sector in Sikkim.

The COVID pandemic has further

exposed the already dilapidating public health sector and we have requested them to work earnestly in materialising universal and free healthcare for all, mentions SPYF.

An SPYF release highlights that, "It is evident to everyone that, if all the legislators, parliamentarians, Bureaucrats, ministers, etc. work with the

pure intention of public service, then the face of government hospitals would change in no time. We hope that this letter prompts them for the same, although we haven't seen such determination till now."

SPYF adds, "If our two-point demand (full implementation of IPHS norms across all Hospitals of the state and free medical services and medicines

for all) aren't fulfilled within 30 November this year, the people of Sikkim will burst out in mass movement to ensure that the government fulfils both the demands. The Historic "Gangtok Chalo" has already shown clearly, as to how much SPYF is serious regarding this issue and we will not back down until both the demands are fulfilled".

Atmanirbhar Bharat at the core of growth of North East Region, opine experts

GANGTOK, 25 SEPT (PIB):

Atmanirbhar Bharat is at the core of the economic development and growth of North East region, experts opined in a Webinar organised by Press Information Bureau, Guwahati on the topic today. Experts from Industry, Government sector along with academicians deliberated and discussed about the potential of North East from multi-sectoral and policy perspective.

Enunciating the role of North Eastern Council, Member NEC, Shillong, Air Marshal, Anjan Kumar Gogoi said that the arena of growth and development for North East region is multi-faceted, which

includes Tourism, Science and Technology, Entrepreneur and Business growth, Cultural Diversity and vivacity, Cuisine and Culinary talent of the region, Silk and Textiles, Small and Medium Business Sector, Power

and Infrastructure Sector, Education and Health and Development of Medical Infrastructure, among others. He said that the role of North East Council for development of the region is evolving with its pivotal role in economic and social development of the North Eastern Region. Shri Gogoi said that North East has connectivity with many countries, resulting in a WIN- WIN Scenario from perspective of trade and commerce with other South Asian Countries. He also said that huge progress has been made in public awareness on Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan and its efficacy in North East.

Padma Shri, Ambassador Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan, Naresh Chandra Lal, Andaman and Nicobar Islands said that 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan' and 'Poshan Abhiyaan' has to be seen in synergy and the objectives are to make people, especially the

youth aware about the importance of health and hygiene. Shri Lal said that Nutrition plays a vital role in the development of individuals and proper hygiene is essential for all age groups. He said that the development of North East has to be seen from multi-dimension such as better connectivity via. road, rail, telecom, power and waterways sectors.

Padma Shri, Former Director, Prof JS Rajput, NCERT said that Government initiatives such as National Education Policy and National Recruitment Agency

to be a Game-Changer in the recruitment sector of North East. With optimism, Shri Rajput said with various initiatives of Central Government be it proper education system and Human Resources (HR) Development are dovetailed for Atmanirbhar Bharat. He said

that Government endeavours such as Destination North East, Aatma Nirbhar Bharat, Make in India, Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan together would help in attaining Mahatma Gandhi's vision of being Aatma Nirbhar. Shri Rajput said Sports, Tourism and Culture of North East connects the people of this country, whereby North East has the potential to teach and enable others to learn best practices for the entire country.

Vice Chancellor, Prof KG Suresh, Makhlanal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism, Bhopal, lauded the progress made in North East from the perspective of education, media and communication, among others. He opined that Government initiatives for encouragement to North East's Tourism Sector, Entrepreneurship in Bamboo Sector along with its environmental diversity would help leverage North East's

growth and development for prosperity of the region.

Senior officers of PIB Imphal, Director, Abhishek Dayal and PIB Kohima, Assistant Director, Shri Sonikumar were present in webinar. Deputy Director, Pallav Chakravorty, PIB thanks the participants as the webinar concluded with Regional Officer, LR Sailo, IIMC Aizawl asking a question about the Government development strategy in the region. The Webinar had about 39 participants.

The entire webinar was planned and coordinated by Joint Director (M&C), Samrat Bandyopadhyay, PIB, Guwahati. Along with students, eminent journalists and other government senior officials from Doordarshan Guwahati, Regional Outreach Bureau, Guwahati, All India Radio Guwahati were also present on the occasion.

Basic Oncology Awareness Camp held virtually

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 25 SEPT:

A Basic Oncology Awareness Camp was organized virtually on 25 Sept by Rotary Club of Siliguri Metropolitan along with Marwari YuwaSangh in association with "Tele Cancer Clinic" (TCC) and Darjeeling Oncology Trust, a press release informs.

The aim of the camp was to bring oncologists from across India to share modern concepts, their experiences and to drive home the point that cancer can be prevented - particularly tobacco related cancers.



SDF scoffs at Gangtok MLA's preference for falsehoods peddled by frustrated former CS

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 25 SEPT:

Sikkim Democratic Front spokesperson, JB Darnal, has strongly criticized and condemned allegations of Gangtok MLA, YT Lepcha, against SDF president Pawan Chamling.

In a video press conference, Mr Darnal alleged that in failing to justify the viral posts on social media regarding his Sikkim Subject credentials, the Gangtok MLA has levelled baseless allegations against the

SDF president calling him a non-Sikkimese.

An SDF press release informs that the SDF spokesperson questioned the intelligence of questioning Mr Chamling's Sikkimese status on the basis of a book written by former Chief Secretary, Sonam Wangdi, a book which was an obvious document about the personal frustrations of the writer and nothing more.

Mr Darnal has advise the Gangtok MLA not to

peddle the frustrations of a disgruntled mind dealing in falsehoods and instead constitute an enquiry committee on his own COI.

He also questioned the conversion of Mintokgang into a COVID Care Centre for the CM's family and demanded that the government also provide doctors to attend to MLAs and Ministers who have tested positive for COVID-19.

Decide in 2 weeks complaint against media house on Palghar lynching show: HC to Centre

NEW DELHI, SEP 23 (PTI): The Delhi High Court on Wednesday asked the Centre to take a decision within two weeks on the complaint against a media house for broadcasting shows related to the 'Palghar mob lynching' in Maharashtra on April 16.

Justice Navin Chawla directed the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to consider the petitioner's complaint of May 5 and take a decision on it within two weeks.

With the direction, the court disposed of the plea by a lawyer -- Amrish Ranjan Pandey -- who alleged that the shows aired on the incident by the media house "tried to promote communal attitudes in the country".

"The shows were offensive against good taste or decency. It was intended

to encourage or incite violence," the petition claimed.

Pandey, represented by advocate KC Mittal, also alleged that migrant gatherings at Bandra in Mumbai were given the tag of a conspiracy in another programme by the same media house.

The petition, filed through advocate Joby P Varghese, contended that the shows/programs on these incidents were in absolute violation of the rules of Programme

Code prescribed under the Cable Television Regulations and also the Uplinking and Downlinking guidelines issued by the ministry.

It further contended that despite the alleged violations, no action taken by the ministry.

The ministry also did not take any action till date on the May 5 complaint by Pandey seeking cancellation of license of the media house, the petition claimed.

BUILDING FOR SALE

A two storey house building constructed on plot area 50×40 ft. Situated at Upper Phong near Phong SS , South Sikkim is on sale. Cost Rs 56 Lakhs (Negotiable). Interested party may contact : 8145829309, 7864937800, 9749897695.

~ SummitTIMES ~ CLASSIFIEDS

LAND FOR SALE

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

LAND FOR SALE

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

LAND FOR SALE

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

FOR RENT

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

GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

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

CS chairs meeting to discuss Gandhi Jayanti celebrations

GANGTOK, 25 SEPT (IPR):

A meeting to discuss the arrangements for the celebration of upcoming Gandhi Jayanti was held at the Conference Hall, Tashiling Secretariat today.

The meeting was chaired by the Chief Secretary, SC Gupta, and attended by ACS, Principal Secretary Home, DGP, Heads of Departments, DC East, SP East and senior officials of various line departments.



It was decided that the Gandhi Jayanti celebration will be held at MG Marg in a simple and brief manner with limited invitees.

The Chief Secretary allocated various works to all concerned departments and directed them to follow all protocols of COVID-19, keeping

in view the current situation.

During the meeting, it was also informed that the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas pledge on 31 October

to be administered by all Departments and instructions if any, from the Centre regarding the same will be followed accordingly.

Farmers block roads, railways as protests mount over farm bills

SHAMBHU, 25 SEPT (REUTERS):

Thousands of farmers in India blocked roads and railway tracks on Friday in a protest against new legislation that they say could pave the way for the government to stop buying grain at guaranteed prices, leaving them at the mercy of private buyers.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has defended the bills - recently approved by parliament - as reforms to help rid India's vast agriculture sector of antiquated laws and allow farmers to sell to institutional buyers and big retailers such as Walmart.

The government insists the new rules give farmers the option to sell their produce to private buyers while it would still purchase staples



such as rice and wheat at guaranteed prices.

But such assurances have failed to mollify millions of farmers who make up an influential voting bloc in states such as Punjab and Haryana - India's northern farm belt which borders the capital New Delhi.

Modi, who was re-elected with an overwhelming majority in 2019, now faces the biggest farmers' protest just weeks before an assembly election in Bihar, India's third-most

populous state.

As part of a nationwide shutdown called by India's leading farmers' organisations, growers held demonstrations in many parts of the country and blocked highways leading to New Delhi using trucks, tractors and combine harvesters.

Farmer Karam Singh accused the government of trying to make traditional wholesale markets redundant. Farm leaders say India's more than 7,000

regulated wholesale markets have played a crucial role in ensuring timely payments to growers.

Singh said the new law has made nearly 85% of India's poor farmers, who own less than 2 hectares (5 acres) of land, vulnerable to being shortchanged by private buyers.

"The private sector will give us a good price for one or two years, but what about after that?" he asked. "The government should

guarantee the private sector will give us more than the government price."

As well as in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, farmers held protests in the eastern states of Odisha and West Bengal.

Farmers' bodies also organised protests in Modi's home state of Gujarat in eastern India.

The protests have remained peaceful but most growers, who hit the streets in large numbers, did not wear face masks despite a daily surge in coronavirus cases in India.

Authorities on Friday had to cancel several train services as farmers blocked railway tracks.

Police in various states have beefed up security in the hope of heading off any violence, especially around New Delhi.

CONTACT

SUMMITTIMES REPORTERS

SINGTAM

8170070813

MANGAN/ DIKCHU

9832612485/

9434011213

GANGTOK

8116388176

9832424750

8016270440

Repairs on Rangpo-Rorathang road begin



SUMMIT REPORT
RANGPO, 25 SEPT:

Restoration work on the 110 metre section of road washed-off at 4th Mile on the

Rangpo-Rorathang axis began today with BRO and GREF deploying men and machinery to the site. SDM Rangpo,

Himmat Rai, informs that loaded trucks have been prohibited from plying on this stretch and have been diverted to the Ranipool-Pakyong route.

Landslide near Mining



YOGEN THATAL
SINGTAM, 25 SEPT:

A massive landslide occurred near Mining on the Singtam-Rangpo road this afternoon bringing traffic to a halt for about an hour. No casualties are reported and repair crews were at site to organize clearance with the police personnel guiding the process.

9 arrested for IPL betting in Kolkata

KOLKATA, SEP 25 (PTI): Nine persons have been arrested from different parts of Kolkata for allegedly betting on an Indian Premier League (IPL) cricket match, police said on Friday.

Acting on a tip-off, sleuths of the Kolkata Police's detective department conducted raids in Hare Street, Park Street, Jadavpur and Salt Lake areas on Thursday night and arrested nine persons, mostly in their mid-20s, for allegedly

betting on the previous day's IPL cricket match, a senior officer said.

Several documents, laptops, mobile phones, tablets and a vehicle have been seized from their possession, he said.

"The matter is being probed and we are trying to find out whether the accused persons are involved in any inter-state betting racket," the officer said.

The nine accused persons will be produced before a city court during the day, he added.

Goats become guests at Bengal police station

BARDHAMAN (WB), SEP 25 (PTI): A humane gesture by some West Bengal police personnel has made a few goats albatross around their necks, as the trip has made their police station in Purba Bardhaman district its home for nearly a week, sources said on Friday.

One of the goats has also given birth to two babies at Bhatar police station, prompting the policemen to assign a civic volunteer to take care of the kids.

The police personnel, during night patrolling six days ago, had found four goats, of which one

was pregnant, wandering in Balgona Bazar area, an officer said.

"After searching in vain for the owner, we decided to bring the trip to the police station as the area is notorious for theft of goats.

"However, now we are tired of feeding the goats and taking care of them. We are trying to find the owner, who can come and take back his/her goats after giving sufficient proof," the officer said.

Police, which often launches manhunt for criminals, is now looking for the owner of the goats who could relieve them of the burden.

Transporters threaten indefinite 'chakka jam' in Nagaland

DIMAPUR, SEPT 24 [NAGALAND PAGE]: Against the backdrop of the killing of truck driver Jiten Gogoi by unidentified gunmen on September 22 at Dimapur, five transport unions have served a 3-day ultimatum to the Government of Nagaland demanding compensation for the victim's family as well as safety for transporters.

The ultimatum threatened to stop all trucks from entering Dimapur and to declare complete chakka jam indefinitely if their demands are not met.

The 5 unions are Dimapur District Truck Owners Association, Dimapur Truck Drivers' Union, Dimapur District Truck Drivers' Welfare Trade Union, Lahorijan & Khatkati Truckers Welfare Society and Bokajan Truck Owners Association.

Condemning the shooting to death of the truck driver on September 22, the ultimatum demanded the State Government to immediately give compensation to the victim's family, as he was the sole bread earner of the family.

The ultimatum said the present situation

has created fear among drivers and they are not willing to enter Dimapur until their safety and protection are fully assured.

The 5 unions also demanded the Government to end the lease system of the Dimapur Municipal Council (DMC), claiming that the lease system is the root cause of all problems. "The lease system is the root cause of these entire problems as the leasees are actively involved in passing details of goods vehicle to all the miscreants," it alleged.

"The internal conflict of taxation among the so-called transporters/brokers based in Dimapur has created a fear psychology of the truckers, as these transporters insist the truckers to different UG's group and they don't allow the truckers to be provided with police escort while entering Dimapur," it further alleged.

Demanding the Government to resolve the problems highlighted within 3 days, the 5 unions warned that they will be forced to stop all trucks entering Dimapur and to declare complete chakka jam indefinitely.

Poshan Maha at Rangpo PHC



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 25 SEPT:

Rangpo Primary Health Centre observed Poshan Maha in the presence of mothers and children of the locality today.

Dr Milan Pradhan

(AYUSH) and Senior CHO, Milan Thatal conducted the programme, a press release informs.

Organised by Sikkim State Ayush Society, National Ayush Mission and Sikkim State Health Family & Welfare

Department under the National Nutrition Month, events of the day included talks on the role of nutrition in the development of not just the child, but communities and the nation at large.

ED attaches properties worth Rs 255.17 cr of Kanva Group founder, others

BENGALURU, SEPT 25 (PTI): The Enforcement Directorate on Friday said it has attached properties worth Rs 255.17 crore, owned by founder of Kanva Group of Companies, N Nanjundaiah and his family members, in connection with a case pertaining to cheating of investors.

"Identified assets to the tune of Rs 255.17 crores have been provisionally attached under Prevention of Money Laundering Act," the ED said in a statement.

The attached assets are in the form of immovable properties in Karnataka and movable properties in the form of balances in bank accounts in the name of N Nanjundaiah and his

family members, Kanva Group of Companies and other entities.

Following complaints from the Office of Registrar of Cooperative Societies in Bengaluru, the investigation was initiated.

Subsequently, the FIRs were registered at the Basaveshwara police station against N Nanjundaiah, Sree Kanva Souhardha Co-Operative Credit Limited (SKSCCL), Bengaluru under section 420 of IPC, the ED said.

The founder and promoters were charged with collecting Rs 650 crores deposits from people assuring high rate of interest through commission agents, without maintaining required liquidity.

"The accused advanced loans out of deposits, working capitals, shares reserves etc without getting any security and not following existing Rules and Regulations," the ED added. Later, raids on the premises of Nanjundaiah and other directors of the Cooperative Credit Ltd led to the seizure of incriminating documents.

Nanjundaiah was arrested on August 25, this year under PMLA. During investigation, the ED found that Nanjundaiah had collected Rs 650 crores through unauthorised collection centres from about 13,000 gullible investors by luring them with the promise of higher rate of interest ranging from 12 to 15 per cent.

Specialized Dental Clinic of Siliguri
(Sevoke Dental Clinic)
Branch Open in Gangtok.

GANGTOK DENTAL CLINIC

NOW OPEN

10AM to 7PM

BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT

82106 99271

Dr. Anjali Gupta
BDS, Dental Surgeon

Near Sisa Golai
Below Greendale Hotel
Gangtok, East Sikkim

+91 8210699271
+91 8768213966

What is Novel Coronavirus - nCoV?

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

Symptoms of nCoV

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

Precautions to Prevent nCoV

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

Treatment

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

If you seek help, you may call :

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

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
PARYATAN BHAWAN- TADONG
Phone No: 03592-232218, Fax No: 232216
No. ACS/DOT&CAV/05 Dated: 24.09.2020

NOTICE

In view of the decision of the State government for re-opening of Tourism activities in the State, the Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation provides the following information/ instructions with regard to **Tourism Unblock 1.0**, to all concerned:

1. Tourism industry to resumes its activity from 10th of October, 2020.
2. Empanelment of Accommodation Units, Tour Operators & Service Providers.
 - 2.1 All Tourism units accommodation units travel operators and service providers are requested to compulsorily register their basic profile details in the crowd sourcing Portal: 164.100.238.98/public/stakeholdersregistration/home. Following verification by back end team, user Id & Password would be sent for login in to web portal of the Department, <https://sikkimtourism.gov.in>, for completing other entries required for consideration for empanelment
 - 2.2 photographic evidence of the following areas required to be uploaded
 - a. For Hotels
 - a) Reception area with markings for social distancing
 - b) Baggage sanitization/disinfection area
 - c) Lobby near reception
 - d) Rooms with sanitizers, soaps etc.
 - e) Dining area with social distancing seating.
 - b. For vehicles/ Travel Agency/ Tour Operators.
 - a) Social distancing & seating arrangement
 - b) Sanitizers for use by passengers
 - c) Portable cleaning/sanitizing equipments
 - d) Display of emergency numbers, Driver ID & License in the vehicle
 - 2.3 Date of training given on SOP/Protocol to the employees/staff is also to be entered.
 - 2.4 A stakeholder group representing all associations who underwent Training of Trainers workshop organized by Department of Tourism & CAV, would then recommend empanelment of those accommodations units, travel/tour operators and service providers.
 - 2.5 based on such recommendations, State task Force for Tourism would approve empanelment
3. Information for Tourists
 - 3.1 Tourists are required to book accommodation units and avail transport and other services from empanelled tour operators and service providers.
 - 3.2 Tourist visiting Sikkim are required to fill requisite details in the forms available under the tab for Tourism Portal <https://sikkimtourism.gov.in>. A Travel card can be downloaded after filling all the sections and entering relevant details. The Travel Card is required to be updated by the tourist themselves or the Hotels or Tour operators or TICs on a day to day basis thereafter during their stay in Sikkim.
 - 3.3 The Travel Card is required to be carried by the tourist at all times, and they may be asked to produce it for verification and checking by designated Enforcement officers deputed for such purpose.
 - 3.4 Tourist may be fined by the Enforcement Officers if observed to violate the requirements for social distancing, wearing of mask, non-updation of travel card or availing services of non-empanelled accommodation units, tour operators/service providers.
 - 3.5 All Tourists are advised to carry a Covid-negative Certificate issued by ICMR registered Testing Centre, not older than 72 hours prior to entry into the State of Sikkim.
4. Identification of empanelled Hotels and Vehicles
 - 4.1 A customized sticker for vehicle and flags/standees or banners for Hotels and accommodations units and for office of Tour operators and service providers shall be displayed/hoisted in the vehicles/accommodation units and office as the case may be.

Sd/-
(Dr K Jayakumar). IAS
Additional Chief Secretary
Tourism & Civil Aviation Department

R.O. No : 86/IPR/PUB/Classi/20-21
Date : 24/09/2020

Census Numbers Hold Many Stories

...and we should listen and take heed

The population totals of Census 2011 were released some years back, and bits and pieces and more specifics about Sikkim's numbers arrive from time to time. When the first set of numbers are released, there is much interest, sometimes even gasps over how the state is growing. In the current census figures, Sikkim's falling fertility rate has hogged the limelight, convincing the State government to scrap the financial incentives it offered public servants for keeping their families "small". But there are so many more stories that the numbers tell; statistics are not always boring, provided someone dug out the human stories behind them. This should be a study that more people undertake in Sikkim.

Sikkim's population as of March 2011 has been counted at 6,07,688 people, recording a 12.36% growth since 2001. Since 1911, when the first proper Census operation was undertaken in Sikkim, only three decades, the last being 1941-51, have population growths lower than this. The first Census of Sikkim was conducted in 1891 by the Political Officer. A decade later, in 1901 the West Bengal Census authorities of British India were deputed to carry out the task and it was probably only in 1911 that the Directorate of Census Operations brought the detailed methodology by which India does a head-count of all its people. In the decade of 1901-11, Sikkim's population grew by 48.98%, the second-largest population spurt here since such counting was undertaken. In the next decade, 1911-21, the population fell by 7.05%, the only time it has done so. Population growth in Sikkim has shown marked variations, growing by little over 34% in the decade of 1931-41 and then almost grinding to replacement fertility-rate figure of 10.67% in 1931-41, creeping only slightly higher to 13.34% in 1941-51 and reaching 17.76% in 1951-61. It started rising from thereon, recording a nearly 30% population growth in 1961-71 and then hitting the record of 50.77% in 1971-81, dropping to nearly half this growth rate to 28.47% in 1981-91, rising five percentage points to 33.07% population growth in 1991-2001 and then scaling back to its mid-Twentieth Century average of 12.36% growth in 2001-11.

Census findings are important indicators of socioeconomic conditions of the areas they cover. Populations obviously grow beyond the traditional average either due to influx or improvements in health services, both of which are indicative of the quality of life and opportunities. Of course, in the recent past, our country has been working towards containing its population through family planning schemes launched on mission-mode, but the population figures of the past slightly more than a century are untouched by such efforts and should attract closer academic scrutiny. From the pattern of these figures, one could understand the history of Sikkim from the point of view of the lay people, who, although they have lived through Sikkim and its transitions, rarely find mention in the few records of even contemporary events. The nearly 50% growth in population between 1901 to 1911 should make for interesting analysis, coming as it does in a decade when the palace and the Political Office were in direct confrontation and also the time when British India was most interested in Sikkim, using it as the route to open Tibet. The change in how the State was administered must have obviously created new opportunities triggering new arrivals. What can also not be ignored is that if this 1911 exercise was also the first head-count Census and would hence have accounted for population segments not covered in the previous two Census operations carried out by the Political Officer who had relied on feedback from the landlords, who could have had their own reasons to under-report the actual number of people in areas under their jurisdiction.

The fall in population in 1911-21 should be even more fascinating for anyone interested in the people's history of Sikkim. The population fell by 7.05% due to the Influenza pandemic which spread through the world in the wake of World War-I. Sikkim did not fight the Great War, but an epidemic which was born from it claimed lives here as well. The pandemic broke out in 1918 and is believed to have killed 50 million people across the world. One still does not know how many died of it in Sikkim. The numbers must have been huge because healthcare services were too rudimentary here to have been able to deal with an alien sickness. Most of these deaths would have taken place in the two years between the outbreak and when the Census was carried out. This 7% fall in population immediately after a 50% growth must have scarred an entire generation. It deserves to be researched because it could explain many things about how Sikkim lived in those times. As an aside, there are also references to how the Younghusband Mission of 1904-05 brought the Foot & Mouth disease to Sikkim. Agriculture and animal husbandry were the only occupations in Sikkim at that time. Isn't it important to research into how Sikkim resuscitated itself from that calamity? These exercises are important for Sikkim to understand its past better and may be even understand issues which attract passionate opinions in a different light.

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

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.

KOLKATA OFFICE: Irshad Ali/ Imteeyaz. Synapse, 6, Madan Street, Mezzanine – 2, 2nd floor. Kolkata – 700072. Ph. 033-22124348/ fax 033-22124337/ mob. 9830547774/ 983108397. E-mail: contact.synapse@gmail.com / irshad_ali123@rediffmail.com

Belarus: Slow international response shows limits of world's human rights regime

KANSTANTSIIN DZHEHTSIAROU
THECONVERSATION.COM

After an urgent debate initiated by the European Union, the UN Human Rights Council has condemned human rights violations in Belarus following the country's disputed election in August. On September 18, the council passed a resolution instructing the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to enhance its scrutiny of the situation in Belarus.

But international organisations have been depressingly slow to react to the events in Belarus – demonstrating the inherent problems with the effectiveness of the international human rights regime.

Almost every known human right of Belarusians has reportedly been violated by authorities in recent weeks. The key opposition candidates standing against the president, Alexander Lukashenko, were arrested before the poll – and remain in prison. The counting of the ballots themselves was not transparent, according to observers, and after the results were announced, massive peaceful protests were interrupted by brutal violence from state police. Lukashenko's principle remaining opponent, Svetlana Tikhonovskaya, fled into exile in Lithuania with her children.

People have reportedly been killed, tortured, raped, arbitrarily detained, and their privacy and freedom of expression violated. The internet was blocked in Belarus for several days, and journalists arrested.

There are very few examples of human rights violations of this scale happening in Europe since the collapse of the Iron Curtain. But the reaction of international and European human rights institutions has not been proportionate to the magnitude of the crisis.

LIMITED POWERS

There are two key reasons which hinder international action after human rights violations. First, authorities which violate human rights need to agree to be supervised by international bodies and invite observers into their country. This rarely happens during human rights crises – and even if an organisation is already in the country it can be removed fairly easily.

In 2010, after the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) criticised the results of a previous Belarusian election, its office in the country was shut down. In mid-September, more than a month after the recent election, the OSCE established an expert mission to look into the situation with human rights in Belarus. But it's unlikely that the Belarusian authorities will collaborate.

Second, political realities mean consensus is difficult. The most brutal human rights violations can be prevented by force by the UN Security Council but its five permanent members – Russia, China, France, the US and the UK – must agree on the course of actions. In the case of Belarus, this is practically impossible. The Russian and Chinese authorities are regarded as allies of Lukashenko and they would almost inevitably

block any immediate actions to protect human rights in Belarus. The situation in Belarus was discussed in the UN security council in late August, but no identifiable actions were taken.

The UN secretary-general, Antonio Guterres, and other UN officials, including the UN special rapporteur on Belarus, Anais Marin, have expressed their concerns about the situation. But Marin is not currently allowed into Belarus.

MIXED EUROPEAN RESPONSE

Belarus is a European country and, while it is not an EU member, the EU has a legitimate interest in what is happening in the country, which borders EU members Poland, Lithuania and Latvia.

The EU has refused to recognise the result of the elections, and condemned reports of human rights violations. The EU is trying to impose sanctions against top Belarusian officials responsible for crimes and human rights abuses. But sanctions have so far been blocked by the Cypriot delegation, which is trying to use the situation as leverage to impose sanctions it wants on Turkey.

But what of the Council of Europe, the organisation created to promote human rights, democracy and the rule of law? Even though Belarus is not a member, collaboration between Belarus and the council has intensified over the past decade, and the council operates an information point in the country. The reaction of the council's secretary-general, Marija

Pejčinović Burić, to the unrest was initially muted, although in mid-September she did issue a statement that mass intimidation of citizens was "totally unacceptable and must stop". On September 21, the council's commissioner for human rights, Dunja Mijatović, also issued a statement condemning the human rights violations, and said there could be "no peace without justice and proper respect for human rights".

Meanwhile, the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe, which consists of members from all its 47 member states, was more proactive. It plans to discuss a motion to create an investigatory body on the ill-treatment of Belarusian citizens at its next session. If this motion is approved, although it won't have an immediate impact on the situation, it will send a clear message that those who violate human rights will be identified. The assembly should coordinate its efforts with the OSCE, as joint actions might be more effective.

There are many more actions that international organisations could initiate to support human rights in Belarus. These could include an international tribunal capable of investigating torture, multiple personalised sanctions or investigations of businesses that collaborate and sell military and police equipment to the Belarusian regime. Political will, and a genuine belief in human rights, is necessary for this to become a reality.

[the writer is Professor in Human Rights Law, University of Liverpool]

Bahrain v Israel: how sport could help cement peace accords in the Middle East

HUSSA KHALID
THECONVERSATION.COM

Back in 2016, I was excited for the Bahrain Women's National team to compete in the Aphrodite Cup, an international football tournament held in Cyprus. Bahrain's team, of which I was in charge, had previously participated in an earlier edition of the tournament. The competition would have offered great exposure for Arab women's football by giving them an opportunity to play against European teams. Unfortunately, that excitement was short-lived when it fell on me to ultimately decline the invitation when it became clear that Israel would be fielding a team this time around.

The decision to pull out was taken jointly between Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), despite all of the organisers' efforts to accommodate us by making suggestions to ensure the teams played in separate groups and stayed in different hotels. Such was the tension between the Arab states and Israel that participation in the same tournament was not even an option.

Now, in a historic move, Bahrain and the UAE have signed peace accords with Israel.

For the Gulf, a region that has traditionally refused to recognise the existence of the Jewish state, the news has generated mixed reactions among experts and public. However, with more Arab countries expected to follow suit and take diplomatic steps to normalise relations, sport can help the transition and strengthen ties.

FOOTBALL DIPLOMACY?

Sport has long been used as a tool for nurturing international relations between states. A prime example is ping-pong diplomacy, which softened relations between the United States and China during the Cold War with the aid of table tennis. There is now an opportunity for sport to play a similar role when it comes to the newly formed Arab-Israeli agreements.

While the use of sport for community reconciliation between Israel and Palestine has been studied in the past, its application to other Arab countries has never been explored. Indeed, the mere thought of such a thing has been so unlikely that the Israeli Football Association was forced to switch continental affiliations from Asia to Europe in 1974 due to the refusal of many Muslim nations to play against them.

So could treaties between Gulf States be enhanced through sport? It's possible, but not



likely to be an easy task.

Today, Bahrain and Israel could participate together in the Aphrodite Cup, for example, but marketing such an endeavour would require an effective strategy to emphasise the positives and dispel criticism.

The Gulf region has hosted many international sporting events in recent years where teams from different countries participate at the youth and national levels in diverse sports. One way to reinforce ties with Israel could be by inviting Israeli teams and delegations to such events. In fact, the three football associations of Bahrain, Israel and the UAE have already begun marketing such an idea on their social media with a shared post displaying the countries' football emblems under a banner that reads, "Football can unite us. Let's play!"

Sporting events can also be used as a platform for brand promotion. Much in the same way as we see adverts for companies around the pitch in the Premier League, as well as shirt sponsorship, there is an opportunity for recognised Gulf brands (for example, Fly Emirates) to enter the Israeli market through sport and vice versa. It may seem surprising initially to see Visit Israel advertisements at a Gulf-based sporting event, but over time this could become the norm and as trade relations improve, businesses will be less hesitant to get involved in Arab-Israeli marketing.

SPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

Sporting events can also be used to educate visiting delegations about the host countries and build positive experiences on the sidelines of competitions. Team excursions and sightseeing trips can help them learn more about the local culture. Again, this would need to be closely managed given the potential escalation that can come from sporting matches and animosities

between teams. Take, as an example, the infamous soccer war that erupted between El Salvador and Honduras as a result of geopolitical tensions that were compounded by incidents during football matches.

Another, safer, strategy that could be used as an alternative to hosting entire team events would be to implement a coach and player exchange program in a similar way to the one the US uses in its sport diplomacy programs. Exchange programs are a great way to widen the network of athletes and coaching staff in a country and allow them to broaden their horizons through learning from international experts.

Inter-community programs aimed at integrating the young people of Israel and the Gulf states could also take place in third locations such as the US. Such programs could be used to bridge cultural and religious differences through the commonality of sport to build social bonds and linkages. Unlike coaches' exchanges, the focus of this type of program would be on youth and community as opposed to the professional athletes and their coaching staff. They would include sporting events and team-building activities as well as skill development and leisure activities away from sport.

The historic announcement between Israel, Bahrain and the UAE offers an important opportunity to strengthen relations and bring the Middle Eastern states together. While sport may not offer the ultimate solution to solve the Middle East conflicts, it offers a complementary tool to develop ties between communities that have been separated by years of hostility. It could help them to come together towards a new era of peace.

[the writer is PhD researcher in Sport for Development and Peace Initiatives, Loughborough University]

Nehru's policies, Ayodhya dispute and Gujarat riots out of Assam Class 12 syllabus

GUWAHATI, SEP 24 [PTI]: The Assam government has excluded lessons on Jawaharlal Nehru's policies, Ayodhya dispute and the Gujarat riots among others from the Class 12 syllabus of the state examination board to ease burden on students.

The chapters were deleted by the Assam Higher Secondary Education Council (AHSEC) to reduce the load by 30 per cent on account of loss of academic schedule due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Topics have been cut short in all the subjects of the three streams- Science, Arts and Commerce.

"The main objective is to reduce the exam stress of the students of the session 2020-21, due to this pandemic situation and to prevent learning gaps.

"This syllabi is only the reduced portion for the preparation of upcoming final exams of Higher Secondary 1st and 2nd year to be held in 2021," AHSEC Secretary Manoranjan Kakati said in the report uploaded recently.

The decision to trim the syllabus was taken on the recommendation of the selected subject experts from various reputed institutions of the state, he said.

In the Political Science paper, first Prime Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's approach to nation-building and his

foreign policy, political succession after Nehru, politics of 'Garibi Hatao' and the first three general elections have been struck off.

The reduced syllabi also excluded the implementation of Mandal Commission report (on job quota for OBC), Punjab crisis and the anti-Sikh riots of 1984, the central governments under the United Front, earlier regimes of NDA and UPA, Ayodhya dispute, Gujarat riots, famine and suspension of five-year plans.

India and the cold war, other post-communist countries, dominance and challenge to the US in economy and ideology, rise of China as an economic power in post-Mao era, conflicts and efforts for peace in South Asia, politics of disarmament, consequences of globalisation and anti-globalisation movements have also been done away with.

The salient features of the National Policy of Education 1986 and the units on women empowerment were totally dropped from the course of Education paper for the examination of Class 12, to be held in 2021.

The Union Cabinet of the BJP-led Centre on July 29 this year approved the New Education Policy 2020, which proposed a single regulator for higher education institutions,



multiple entry and exit options in degree courses and setting up of campuses by foreign universities in India.

"After getting the approval of the Academic Committee, teachers from Arts, Science and Commerce institutions of Assam, including Barak Valley, are requested to submit their expertise knowledge where to curtail the courses.

"Finally, the selective experts of all the subjects from various reputed institutions were invited physically to finalise the reduced syllabus at AHSEC office," Kakati said in the attached report on AHSEC website.

For the Sociology paper, the experts have deleted the chapters on the struggle for women's equality, minority rights and nation building, panchayati raj and challenges of social transformation, globalisation and social change, land reforms and tribal movements.

Process of cultural change westernisation and secularisation, family, kinship, caste, colonialism and communities have also been omitted, the syllabi mentioned.

For appearing in History paper, the students will not require to study the Mughal court, Jesuits at the Mughal court, peasants, zamindars and the state, difference and conflict, religious ferment in North India and reconstructing histories of religious traditions.

There will not be any material on liberalisation, privatisation, globalisation and industrial development in India, composition of working population, indicators of a healthy life and social empowerment, population, environment and development in Geography.

Likewise, measures of government deficit,

foreign exchange rate and determination of exchange rate in a free market from Economics and progress of nationalisation of banks and lead bank scheme from Banking were removed, the report said. For the Zoology part under Biology, Biotechnology and its application - ethical issues, environmental tissue, solid waste management, agrochemicals and their effects, radioactive wastes, greenhouse effect and global warming, ozone depletion, deforestation and degradation by improper resource utilisation and maintenance have been excluded.

In the Swadesh Adhyayan subject, which was introduced in 2018 to study Assam and North East, changes in religious and linguistic demography, population explosion of Assam and the foreigners' issue have been deleted.

Mizoram Assembly asks independent MLA why he should not be disqualified for breaching law

AIZAWL, SEPT 24 [PTI]: The Mizoram Assembly on Thursday served a show-cause notice to an independent MLA following demands for his disqualification by the ruling MNF which alleged that he joined the opposition Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) violating the Constitution and the anti-defection law.

Assembly Secretary H Lalrinawma told PTI that a show-cause notice was issued to independent legislator Lalduhoma, asking him to clarify why he should not be disqualified from the House.

Lalduhoma, who was elected as an independent from Serchhip constituency in the last Assembly polls held in November 2018, said that he did not violate the Constitution nor breached the anti-defection law.

Since Tuesday, altogether 12 Mizo National Front (MNF) members have written to Speaker Lalrinliana Sailo demanding cancellation of his membership claiming that he had joined the ZPM, which was manifested by his actions.

Despite being an independent MLA, he was involved in activities of the ZPM, attended its programmes held in party offices and inducted members into the party in Aizawl and other places, MNF MLAs alleged.

Lalduhoma violated the Section 2 (2) of 10th Schedule of the Indian Constitution and breached the anti-defection law, they claimed.

The independent legislator, on the other hand, claimed that a conspiracy is being hatched by MNF president and Chief Minister Zoramthanga to remove him from the Assembly as he is trying to "show the right path" to the state government.

"It is all conceived and planned by the chief minister. He sees me as a great obstacle to his rule and wants me to be removed," the former IPS officer told PTI.

Lalduhoma said that he did not defect to any other party as he continued to maintain his allegiance to the ZPM since its formation in 2017.

The 71-year-old MLA said that he, along

with 38 ZPM candidates, had to contest as independents as the party had not obtained registration from the Election Commission at the time.

Lalduhoma said that his party will move court if he is disqualified from the Assembly.

MNF vice-president Vanlalazawma said that no conspiracy was hatched by the chief minister against Lalduhoma as claimed by the independent MLA.

"It was the collective decision of top party leaders and not the chief minister alone. Our MLAs filed complaints against Lalduhoma because we have evidence that he violated the Constitution," he said.

The ZPM has backed Lalduhoma and demanded that MNF legislators withdraw their complaints against him immediately.

State Congress president and former chief minister Lal Thanhawla also defended Lalduhoma.

"The attempt by ruling MLAs to remove Serchhip MLA Lalduhoma is a grave insult to the people, who elected the legislator," he tweeted.

Tarun Gogoi in ICU after oxygen level falls in post-COVID complications

GUWAHATI, SEP 24 [PTI]: Veteran Congress leader and former Assam chief minister Tarun Gogoi was on Thursday admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of a state-run hospital after his blood oxygen level drastically went down in post-COVID-19 complications, a senior doctor said.

The 85-year-old leader tested positive for the virus on August 25 and was admitted to the Gauhati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) the next day. He tested negative recently but remained in the hospital.

G M C H

Sarma said that Gogoi, who has "a lot of comorbid conditions", was admitted to the ICU as he developed some problems in the lungs and his oxygen level dropped drastically.

"However, he is stable now and we are constantly monitoring his condition. He is in oxygen support at this moment," he said.

Assam Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that GMCH authorities will consult AIIMS doctors in New Delhi on Friday morning through video conference about the condition of the three-time former chief minister.

"If needed, we are

Delhi. I have already spoken to his son Gaurav Gogoi," he added.

The GMCH superintendent said that Tarun Gogoi's oxygen level had dropped to 82 per cent after breakfast this morning, but it is hovering around 92-93 per cent after he was put on oxygen support.

"He is in a talking condition now, but is very tired.

We are taking all care of him," the doctor said.

The octogenarian leader's condition had deteriorated on August 31 with sudden fall in the oxygen saturation level.

He was then administered plasma therapy.

Assam govt develops new mobile app for air passengers

GUWAHATI, SEPT 25 (PTI): The Assam government has developed a mobile app through which air passengers can download forms, fill it up, and show it at airports to avoid delay in completing formalities for COVID-19 tests, Minister for Health and Family Welfare Himanta Biswa Sarma said here on Friday.

The app named 'visitassam' has been developed to ensure that proper social distancing is maintained and passengers are not delayed as filling up necessary forms at the airports is time consuming, the minister said at a press conference here.

The state government has also introduced a change of protocol for arriving passengers at the airports who can

now take 'Tatkal RT-PCR' test on payment of Rs 2,200 and get the result within 24 hours, he said.

"Earlier, after the rapid antigen test, a passenger had to take the RT-PCR test and undergo home quarantine for 10 days but if the Tatkal RT-PCR test result is negative, his/her home quarantine will be reduced to 24 hours and the authorities will not put up any poster in his/her house. This facility is available only in Guwahati," Sarma said.

The free RT-PCR facility for passengers will, however, continue and the results will be available within three to five days, the minister said.

The state government has also decided to waive the quarantine of those who will undertake journeys by rail or air after recovering from the

infection.

However, they should be asymptomatic, have the necessary Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) certificate and the hospital discharge certificate.

"This decision has been taken on the basis of scientific evidence and we are the first in the country to introduce it but it will not be applicable if the passenger has temperature and other symptoms," Sarma said.

An average 2,004 coronavirus positive cases are being daily reported in Assam and it has not increased much in comparison to August though the number of deaths has risen, the minister said.

"If the trend regarding the number of cases is maintained, the death rate is also likely to

come down in October," he said.

The health department, which has conducted more than 30 lakhs tests so far, is planning to conduct one lakh tests daily for three days beginning on September 28, Sarma said.

More than 3000 ASHA workers are conducting intensive awareness programmes on wearing masks and maintaining social distance.

"We hope by Durga Puja, people will be more aware and maintain necessary protocols to bring down the number of COVID-19 positive cases in the state," Sarma said.

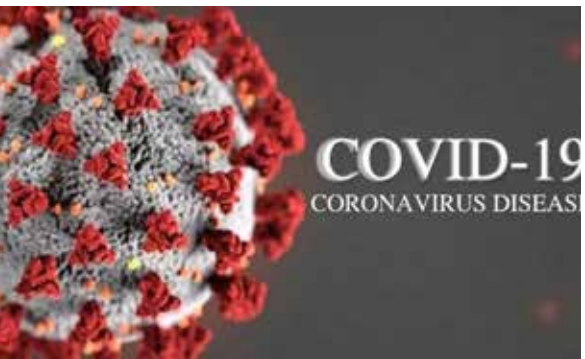
Though educational institutions have reopened in the state, positive cases have not been reported from there, the minister claimed.

Mizoram's COVID-19 tally rises to 1,786

AIZAWL SEP 25 (PTI): Twenty-six people, including five Assam Rifles personnel have tested positive for COVID-19 in Mizoram, pushing the state's virus caseload to 1,786, an official said on Friday.

Of the 26 cases, 24 were reported from Aizawl district and one each from Kolasib and Mami districts, the official said.

He said that 23 cases were confirmed at Zoram Medical College (ZMC), 2 at Kolasib and Mamit district hospitals with the help of TrueNat



machines and one person was diagnosed at Lengpui airport through Rapid Antigen Test.

Of the 26 patients, 7 have contracted the virus through positive contact during contact tracing and the rest 19

have returned from other states.

The official said that five Assam Rifles personnel have been placed under quarantine at Assam Rifles' facility at Zokhawsang on the outskirts of Aizawl before

they tested positive for COVID-19.

The number of active COVID-19 cases in the state now is 681 of which 533 are in Aizawl district.

Altogether 1,105 people have recovered from the virus.

Aizawl district reported the highest COVID-19 cases at 1,206, followed by Kolasib district at 215.

The state has not reported any fatality due to COVID-19 till date.

A total of 68,340 samples have been tested till Thursday evening, the health department said.

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

email us: news@summittimes.com

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Sikkim SCAN | Capital TIMES | Neighbourhood WATCH | Sports & Specials | ElseWhere | EICETERA

It's easy to relax... When you can trust the News.

To book ad-space, contact SummitTIMES at

GANISTOK:
For circulation details Contact: +91-974987695, +91-9647802692
& for Advertisement booking at +91-9933427905 or at office no 03592-208698. Mail us at advertise@summittimes.com

SILIGURI:
Mr. Mani Rai, M/s. Space Ads, B.R. Ambedkar Building, Room No.7, Tel: 983198397. E-mail: contact.synapse@gmail.com / irshad.ali123@rediffmail.com

floor. Opp. Banga Hotel, Hill Cart Road, Siliguri - 03. Ph. +91-9832318644/ 980682989/9150303100 or mail at manu_siliguri@yahoo.co.in.

KOLKATA OFFICE:
Irshad Ali/ Imteyaz. Synapse, 6, Madan Street, Mezzine - 2, 2nd floor, Kolkata - 700072. Ph. 033-22124348/ fax 033-22124337/ mob. +91-9830547776/ +91-983198397. E-mail: contact.synapse@gmail.com / irshad.ali123@rediffmail.com

Phone:
03592-208698
+91-9832556698
+91-9832080753

www.summittimes.com
news@summittimes.com
summittimes15@gmail.com
advertise@summittimes.com

Address:
Santa Bhawan Complex, Church Road
Near Diesel Power House (DPH)
Gangtok, East Sikkim, 737101

VIDEO NEWS SECTION
[facebook.com/SummitTimesGangtok](https://www.facebook.com/SummitTimesGangtok)

SUMMITTIMES
Gangtok, East Sikkim

Superintendent Abhijit ready to take him to

Floyd Mayweather v Logan Paul: a note-perfect signpost for the end of days



BRYAN ARMEN GRAHAM
LOS ANGELES, 25 SEPT [THEGUARDIAN]:

The pandemic rages. California is literally on fire. A second American civil war, the collapse of the republic and the establishment of a fascist dictatorship all fall within the range of plausible outcomes for the months ahead.

Against this grim backdrop, the rumors of a boxing match between retired world champion turned CBD oil salesman Floyd Mayweather and YouTube megastar Logan Paul feel oddly note-perfect and right on time. Viddal Riley, a British cruiserweight in Mayweather's promotional stable, confirmed talks between the sides were on in an interview with Sky Sports on Wednesday. At a time when everything is awful and America doesn't need a diversion so much as an anesthetic, the dumbest imaginable sporting event for the dumbest possible timeline materializes unsolicited like a deus ex machina. Maybe we're just lucky.

As an authentic sports experience, this one is barely worth discussing. Mayweather captured world titles in five different weight classes and was never in serious trouble in any of his 50 paying fights, much less knocked down or beaten. Paul is a celebrity vlogger with some 22m subscribers on YouTube who took the loss in his first and only professional bout against a fellow influencer named Olajide "KSI" Olatunji last year. While a Mayweather-Paul matchup would invite comparisons to Floyd's hybrid fight with UFC star Conor McGregor under boxing rules in 2017, it would more likely play out in the low-stakes, hit-and-giggle spirit of his 2018 exhibition against Japanese kickboxer Tenshin Nasukawa, which saw him clear a reported \$9m for 139 seconds of work.

So why on earth would anyone pay to watch it?

For starters, while Paul may be the special type of human garbage who once broadcast a dead man hanging from a tree for clout, he's also one of the biggest Gen Z celebrities on the planet and, extrapolating from current societal trends, will probably be a major-party presidential candidate in the next 20 years. As for Mayweather, well, he figured out long ago there will always be a recession-proof market in the US for even the remote possibility of watching an unapologetic black fighter getting beaten. He'd been a world champion for nearly a decade before pivoting into a deliberately provocative, villainous persona with the understanding that

more people would pay to watch him lose than to watch him win, following the formula over the second half of his career to more than \$1bn in career earnings.

That Mayweather and Paul are two of the more odious personalities in American life is not a bug, but a feature. They'd form a lucrative partnership not for anything they can offer between the ropes, at least not collectively, but for their gifts as #content creators. The same brand of contrived bravado and race-baiting that lifted Mayweather-McGregor to record-breaking profits (like Tyson-McNeeley, Holmes-Cooney and Johnson-Jeffries before it) will in effect be the main event. There's a transactional beauty to it, really: like how Floyd used to enlist Justin Bieber for his ring entrances in a reach for new demographics.

Predictably, rumors of the bout have been met with pearl-clutching and consternation in boxing circles, as if circus-like exhibitions like these are modern phenomena (they're not) and the sport could possibly be further debased. They forget boxing is above all a business; if you don't want to watch, you're free to doomscroll right past it.

Matchroom Boxing supremo Eddie Hearn's surprise move to promote Paul's fight with KSI in 2019, surely the most watched double pro debut in boxing history, was met with public scorn by rival promoters, but the millions of concurrent viewers that tuned in to the live streams of the press events during the run-up only left them wishing they'd thought of it first. If nothing else, Hearn said, there was a redeeming value in positioning his fighters and boxing itself in front of the eyeballs that every other sport is falling over themselves to court. Far more alarming is what it would say about boxing's ability to create new stars if a glorified sparring session between a 43-year-old retiree who hasn't had a real fight in five years and a vlogger with one pro bout can become one of the most talked-about events of the year.

But the end of boxing? Doubtful. Do we forget Ali's risible fight with Japanese pro wrestler Antonio Inoki in 1976? Or George Foreman, still nursing the psychological wounds of Zaire, taking on five hopelessly shopworn opponents in one night? Quick-strike money grabs like these are disposable by design, intended to be forgotten the minute they're finished. If this sport can survive Evander Holyfield's throwdown with a 68-year-old Mitt Romney, then putting it down for the count might be harder than it seems.

Never waste a crisis: Covid-19 trauma can force sport to change for good

BARNEY RONAY
LONDON, 25 SEPT [THEGUARDIAN]: Pack up the flags. Close the turnstiles. Cover the plastic seats with an inspirational tarpaulin. The gates are being closed. And frankly it is anyone's guess when they might be open again.

The news this week that the government has withdrawn its mandate for the staged return of spectators to professional sport has been greeted with dismay, and at times a barely contained sense of anger, among those whose job it is to keep the industry wheels clanking along.

Football has spoken loudest in the last couple of days, with the EFL chairman Rick Parry stating that clubs stand to lose a further £200m if the entire season is given over to ghost games. The talk in Premiership Rugby is already of bankruptcy or even a reversion to amateur status should the current disaster-scenario timeline continue to its logical end. Point to a sport, any sport, and the story is the same: crisis, collapse, a chasm of debt.

There have been suggestions already of a government bailout, a possibility that comes with two significant caveats. First, the chancellor is not minded to include the Premier League or Championship in any financial aid, understandably so given the endless spume of TV rights payments and the inanity of player salaries.

And secondly, well, have you actually seen the government recently? Or indeed the prime minister himself, who these days resembles an increasingly confused elderly labrador dressed up in a suit and pushed out in front of the cameras to talk about graph-based infection trends, which is only now, 10 minutes into its TV spot, realising it shouldn't actually be able to talk.

There is no certainty here, no long-term promise that can be guaranteed to last



the next few policy lurches. Professional sport is facing a crisis of unprecedented urgency. It must be prepared to face it largely alone.

At which point it is worth being clear on exactly what is at stake. This is a moment of peril that should raise questions far beyond simply survival or sustaining the status quo. Questions such as: what is sport actually for? And more to the point, what do we want it to look like when this is all over?

It helps to define the terms of all this jeopardy. There has been a lot of emotive rhetoric about sport being on the verge of extinction, its very existence in doubt, as though the basic ability to participate, support and spectate could be vaporised out from beneath us.

This is incorrect. What is being menaced is the current financial management of professional sport, its existing models and cultural practices, much of which is pretty joyless and dysfunctional in the first place.

Even within this there are layers. The top tier of global sport will carry on regardless, constrained but far from imperilled. Manchester United could lose £120m should the plague-hiatus extend to the spring. Big deal. Budgets will be shaved and new signings restricted. But half that amount was thrown away just paying Alexis Sánchez's wages. The pandemic has reinforced an obvious truth: football at this level isn't operating on

any recognisable human scale.

The real jeopardy applies to the levels of professional sport below the elite. It is here, from football league to county cricket to racing and athletics, that there is a genuine threat of long-established institutions going to the wall. In many cases this is the result of a deadly interplay with pre-existing greed and flaky accounting. Only one Premiership rugby union club failed to make a loss last year. Reading FC spent a sum equivalent to 194% of its turnover on player wages two seasons ago. Nobody could have foreseen the precise outline of a bat-derived global pandemic. But events – human history suggests – do tend to intervene at some stage.

Even well-run institutions at amateur level will be vulnerable to the impossible maths of the situation. It may be an auditing process is required for any bailout fund, with loans and grants parcelled out on merit.

It is to be hoped the system is lenient. The sums are likely to be small in the context of the overall Covid debt. The institutions involved are part of a patchwork sporting culture that deserves protection no matter how iffy their current administration.

This has been one upshot of the current crisis, a laying bare of certain key truths. This is not always a bad thing. For a start, it turns out the absence of crowds is a genuine drag to the brand value of the

Premier League, a key part of its eminently saleable fan culture has often been rather carelessly used in the past. The absence of supporters has clarified their value.

Newcastle's manager, Steve Bruce, spoke earlier this week about players and managers feeling demotivated by the empty stands. Perhaps clubs and administrators might try to nurture this a little when supporters do return. There is plenty that can be done, from ensuring younger fans can afford to come to fighting the urge to retain the new late-night kick-off times. A year away is a long time. That thread must be maintained.

Indeed, for all the trauma, this is also an opportunity for sporting organisations to engage in a profound period of introspection. Some structures have proved surprisingly resilient. Cricket is run by a single dictatorial governing body. It turns out this is a pretty good way to manage a financial crisis. With any luck the ECB might yet take a similarly pragmatic view of its current plans to introduce an untried vanity format next year.

In elite professional football good sense would demand player salaries are capped or controlled relative to income. It is an absurdity that this small group of dependents, the sport's single outstanding cost, are threatening to kill the industry that supports them. Good sense, as ever, may have to join the back of the queue.

As for the idea of trickle down from the top end, here is a non-fun fact: Gareth Bale could personally keep every club in League Two in business by paying their total combined wage bill out of his annual playing salary. This probably won't happen. The point is just that he could.

Again: what is sport for exactly? Step down to the bottom tier in this structure and amateur and recreational sport will carry on regardless. The base elements of participation and support, the basic soul of sport, will survive all this.

In many ways recreational sport has been defiantly alive during the time of lockdown. Amateur cricket found its season crammed into a snatched six-week summer romance and has been a tour de force, drawing on its deep reserves of community and volunteer culture. More people have taken up or returned to cycling and running. The campaign to restart indoor sports such as badminton and netball has emphasised their vitality even in the process of curtailing their immediate fortunes.

It is here, not in the professional ranks, that taxpayers' resources should be focused. The government is said to be hesitating over a grassroots resurrection plan. It should be doing precisely the opposite of hesitating. The nation's health, physical and mental, demands a regeneration of these shared resources.

In the meantime professional sport will survive in some form or other, just as football went on during the blitz, and just as crowds came flocking back in the summers and winters of the postwar Golden Age.

But it has also been clear for some time that the system isn't working as it should. Sport will no doubt find itself falling into that much-referenced "abyss" over the next few months. It also has the freedom to start climbing out.

Javi Martínez's extra-time header wins Super Cup for Bayern against Sevilla



MUNICH, 25 SEPT [THEGUARDIAN]: Bayern Munich defeated Sevilla 2-1 in extra time on Thursday to lift the Super Cup and complete a quadruple under their head coach, Hansi Flick, in the first European game played with fans in the stands since the sport returned amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Javi Martínez, a substitute, headed the winner in the 104th minute after the Europa League winners, Sevilla, had taken a 13th-minute lead through Lucas Ocampos's penalty and Bayern levelled through Leon Goretzka in the 34th minute.

The German club, unbeaten now in 32 consecutive matches and winners of the domestic league and cup double as well as the Champions League, missed more than half a dozen clear scoring chances. Their last defeat was in December 2019.

Bayern were the better side throughout and missed a bagful of chances through Robert Lewandowski, Benjamin Pavard and Thomas Müller in the first half. Yet it was Bayern goalkeeper, Manuel Neuer, who kept them in the game with a one-on-one save against Youssef En-Nesyri to send the match to extra time and he then pushed another shot from the Sevilla player on to a post two minutes into extra time.

The Spaniards gradually ran out of steam, however, and it was only a matter of time until Bayern scored again.

Martínez, who is reportedly close to agreeing to a return to Athletic Bilbao this season, had come on five minutes earlier and benefited from being given too much space to head in on the rebound. The Spaniard also scored in extra time in Bayern's only previous Super Cup win, in 2013.

About 15,000 fans were seated in Budapest's Puskas Arena, with the game seen as a test event for the gradual return of fans to games in mainland Europe.

The match was held amid a growing second wave of Covid-19, with Hungarian cases at record highs, which had prompted warnings of the possible consequences of mass gatherings such as this match.

‘Pregnant not injured’: Gretel Bueta a surprise Diamonds inclusion

SYDNEY, 25 SEPT [AP]: New Diamonds coach Stacey Marinkovich says being pregnant is not the same as being injured, which is why Gretel Bueta is in the Australian squad despite not playing this Super Netball season.

Bueta (nee Tippett) is due to give birth in January but the rescheduling of the 2020 Constellation Cup against New Zealand from October to early next year, has seen her included in a 19-strong squad named on Friday.

There are five new names in Sophie Garbin, Kim Jenner, Cara Koenen and Maddy Proud and late-blooming West Coast Fever midcourter Verity Charles, who is 29. The ladder-leading Melbourne Vixens and last year's champions NSW Swifts both have four representatives while strugglers Adelaide and Collingwood have no players.

The squad is set to go

into camp in Queensland next month following the Super Netball grand final. Marinkovich said that Bueta, the reigning Australian netballer of the year, was committed to playing next year, with two Constellation Cup series planned.

"It's forward thinking with some big tournaments coming up, so the contribution that Gretel can make to the group can be significant," Marinkovich told AAP. "She was the best player in the league and amongst the Diamonds last year so her past performances have been taken into account.

"She's not injured and that's the thing that's significantly different when it comes to selection. There's nothing to say that she can't come back and be performing and we will work through that with her."

Bueta has been a constant on the sidelines



of the Queensland Firebirds games, helping coach the team, which Marinkovich believes will add another level to her game when she returns.

Marinkovich said the form of Charles, who made her Super Netball debut in 2012, couldn't be ignored.

"Vez (Verity) is a little bit older but the thing that we've gone on is the performance of the season and when you look at the numbers and

the things she's doing out on the court.

"She's shown significant improvement."

Also the Fever coach, Marinkovich was appointed to the top job last month and was part of a three-person selection panel alongside Anne Sargeant and Michelle Wilkins.

She said the camp was more about "laying the foundations" for a new direction.

"We recognise that

the players have been going since November and this tournament and condensed season has been like a Comm Games on steroids," she said.

"We don't want to tax the body and the mind too much but we have a unique opportunity to bring the group together and lay the foundations so when we do come together in January we can really maximise the time on the court because we've already got a really thorough understanding of the direction we want to go."

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

email us: news@summittimes.com

For Arab newlyweds, the party goes on until police bust in

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (AP): The party was going strong: traditional music blared, families cheered, throngs of revelers danced. Then, police burst in. Officers kicked out guests, slapped hefty fines — even locked up the tuxedoed groom and singers.

In recent weeks, such unhappy endings to long-awaited weddings have become a common story in the Arab world, as resurgent coronavirus caseloads trigger tough police action.

Still, in a region where marriage is the cornerstone of society — the gateway to independence and the only culturally acceptable context for a sex life — couples are plowing ahead, despite the deadly risks. From the Palestinian territories to the United Arab Emirates, officials attribute a spike in virus cases to traditional, large-scale weddings that flout public health measures.

In Jenin, in the northern West Bank, Mustafa Khatib and six of his band members spent two nights in jail for serenading a crowded wedding party this month. Police fined the group \$11,000.

“This is not fair,” said Khatib. “People will never stop getting married and will never stop holding parties.”

Mohammed Abu al-Naji, another singer, was released from detention only after pledging to stop singing until the pandemic ends.

“There were some 500 people at the party, with no protection whatsoever,” al-Naji recalled. “I wasn’t happy to be at such a wedding, but I had to,” to make ends meet, he said.

Palestinian authorities have shut down dozens of ceremonies, said police spokesman Loai Irzekat. Yet the wave of fines, detentions and infections hasn’t stopped determined couples from getting hitched — surrounded by

hundreds of their friends.

“You plan to have a small wedding but then all your relatives and friends show up,” explained Qasim Najjar, whose wedding party last weekend in the northern West Bank village of Deir Sharaf was dispersed by police. “This is our custom.”

For Arab families, large and lavish weddings mark social status. For newlyweds, the custom of accepting cash-filled envelopes helps them set up homes. For Palestinians, the ritual may run even deeper.

“It’s an existential thing,” said Randa Serhan, a political sociologist at the American University of Beirut, referring to Palestinians living under Israeli occupation or in exile. “If Palestinians stop marrying and procreating, they’ll cease to exist. They don’t have a nation, but they have family.”

The celebrations of life carry potentially fatal consequences. Palestinian Health Ministry official Ali Abed Rabu linked over 80% of new coronavirus infections to large gatherings at weddings and funerals. Indoor wedding halls in conservative towns like Hebron have become vectors of contagion, he said. Coronavirus cases are now surging to new heights. The Palestinian Authority has reported over 34,500 cases in the West Bank and 270 deaths.

In Israel, which is grappling with one of the world’s worst coronavirus outbreaks on a per capita basis, authorities point to large weddings in Arab towns as a leading cause of the virus’ spread. Along with ultra-Orthodox enclaves, known for large weddings and group prayers, Arab communities are among the hardest hit by the virus.

Arab-Israeli lawmaker Ahmad Tibi told The Associated Press



that the infection rate in Arab areas has soared from roughly 3% to 30% during the summer wedding season. Israeli citizens, disillusioned after a failed first lockdown, are starting to “disregard government instructions,” he added.

When Egypt’s wedding halls shut down this spring as infections swelled, the wealthy moved their extravagant celebrations to private villas. Working-class Egyptians took their raucous parties to village streets, prompting local police to break up the festivities. But restrictions have relaxed as virus cases waned. Although Egyptian officials still warn of a possible “second wave,” the government announced last week that weddings could resume outdoors and in certified hotels.

In the UAE, daily infection rates reached a four-month peak, prompting a top health official to scold the public for “complacency and negligence.” Dr. Farida al-Hosani, a health ministry spokeswoman, said close to 90% of new cases stemmed from crowds at weddings, funerals and other events.

The Emirati government has intensified its crackdown on illicit bashes. Last weekend, authorities ordered the detention of eight people across the country who had thrown massive, maskless parties. They remain in custody, facing prison terms of up to six months and minimum fines of \$27,226 each. In the capital of Abu Dhabi, a groom, his father and father-in-law face prosecution after police broke up their tent wedding and

issued \$2,700 fines to the guests.

The sleepy northernmost emirate of Ras al-Khaimah has never been a match for Dubai, the glittering city-state known for it is Champagne-soaked nightclubs. Yet the coronavirus has transformed the dusty town into a freewheeling party haven. Early in the pandemic, expatriate party-goers also packed the emirate’s hotels to drink and dance. While Dubai now tightly regulates banquets and bans wedding parties, Ras al-Khaimah has reopened wedding halls and loosened restrictions.

Many Dubai event organizers who have seen their incomes vanish are flocking to the little-known emirate.

“Planners are leaving, vendors and suppliers are leaving, musicians are leaving,” said Stefanie Heller, a Dubai-based

wedding planner at Jam Events & Entertainers.

At Jawaher Wedding Hall in Ras al-Khaimah, workers check guests’ temperatures, serve drinks in plastic cups and encourage social distancing at tables. Twice a week, the hall fills up with some 250 revelers. “These look like normal weddings,” said Lovely Bartolata, an employee. Security guards struggle to prevent guests from dancing.

It’s unclear how many Ras al-Khaimah weddings have been linked to COVID-19 because the UAE does not make public information about disease clusters. The emirate’s Department of Economic Development, which enforces anti-virus rules, said the emirate is “one of the first destinations in the world to be certified as safe.” Still, residents fear the gatherings are precisely what health officials warned them about at the start of the pandemic.

“These halls are a problem. This is how the virus spreads,” said Rahmat Allah, manager at Tahani Al Khaleej, a wedding services company in Ras al-Khaimah.

Some Arab couples are defying cultural tradition to follow health guidance. During the Palestinian Authority’s mandated shut-down earlier this year, Baraa Amarneh and Imad Sharaf, desperate to start living together, tied the knot near the southern West Bank city of Hebron, holding hands through latex gloves.

A mask covered up 25-year-old Amarneh’s professionally done makeup. Just a few close relatives came. While her friends now risk jail time to throw parties post-lockdown, she says she’d do the same thing again.

“Without all the neighbors and friends, you’re left with what a marriage is,” she said. “Two people.”

N. Korea’s Kim apologizes over shooting death of S. Korean

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA (AP): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un apologized Friday over the killing of a South Korea official who was apparently trying to defect near the rivals’ disputed sea boundary, saying he’s “very sorry” about the incident, South Korean officials said.

It’s extremely unusual for a North Korean leader to apologize to South Korea on any issue. Kim’s move will likely de-escalate tensions between the Koreas as it’s expected to ease anti-North sentiments in South Korea as well as mounting criticism of its liberal President Moon Jae-in.

“Comrade Kim Jong Un, the State Affairs Commission chairman, feels very sorry to give big disappointment to President Moon Jae-in and South Korean citizens because an unexpected, unfortunate incident happened” at a time when South Korea grapples with the coronavirus pandemic, Moon adviser Suh Hoon cited the North Korean message as saying.

South Korea earlier accused North Korea of fatally shooting one of its public servants who was likely trying to defect and burning his body after finding him on a floating object in North Korean waters on Tuesday. South Korean officials condemned what they called an “atrocious act” and pressed North Korea to punish those responsible.

According to the North Korean message, North Korean troops first fired blanks after the man found in the North’s waters refused to answer other than saying he’s

from South Korea a couple of times. Then, as he made moves to flee, the North Korean troops fired 10 rounds. When they came near the floating object, they only found lots of blood but no sign of him.

The troops determined he was dead and burned the floating object in line with anti-coronavirus rules, according to the North Korean message read by Suh.

Senior South Korean military officer Ahn Young Ho told a parliamentary committee meeting Thursday that North Korea killed the man likely because of elevated anti-coronavirus measures that involve “indiscriminate shooting” at anyone approaching its borders illegally.

Defense Minister Suh Wook said at the same meeting that the official was believed to have tried to defect because he left his shoes on the ship, put on a life jacket and boarded a floating object. Suh also cited circumstantial evidence indicating the defection attempt. Some experts say there wasn’t enough proof to conclude he tried to cross over to North Korea.

Kim’s message said North Korea “cannot not help expressing big regrets” over the fact South Korea had used “blasphemous and confrontational words like atrocious act” to condemn the North before asking it to explain details of the incident. But it said North Korea is still sorry about such an incident happening on its territory and will take steps to prevent trust between the countries from collapsing.

The presidential Blue House

said Friday that Moon and Kim had recently exchanged letters before the latest incident. In his letter, Kim expressed worries about coronavirus outbreaks and typhoon damage in South Korea and wished Moon a good health.

“Kim Jong Un’s supposed apology reduces the risk of escalation between the two Koreas and keeps the Moon government’s hopes for engagement alive,” Leif-Eric Easley, a professor at Ewha University in Seoul, said. “The shooting incident was also turning South Korean public opinion against offering peace and humanitarian assistance to Pyongyang.”

North Korea has previously expressed “regrets” when it wanted to lower tensions triggered by incidents involving South Korean casualties, such as the 2015 front-line mine blasts that maimed two South Korean soldiers and the 2008 shooting death of a South Korean tourist in North Korea. But it’s rare for a North Korean leader to do so.

In 2002, Kim Jong Il, the late father of Kim Jong Un, said he felt “sorry” about a failed 1968 attempt to assassinate South Korean President Park Chung-hee. In 1974, Kim Il Sung, Kim Jong Un’s grandfather, also said he was “very sorry” when he met Park’s spy chief in Pyongyang.

Before Kim’s apology, Moon’s government faced withering criticism by conservatives following its admission that officials already had acquired intelligence indicating the official’s death right after it happened.

Conservatives lambasted the government for allegedly deliberately withholding the information so as not to spoil the atmosphere ahead of Moon’s speech at the virtual U.N. General Assembly on Wednesday, during which he repeated his calls for declaring an end of the Korean War in a bid to build a lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula.

Kim Chong-in, a leader of the main conservative opposition People Power Party, called the official’s killing “a national security disaster” that was caused by Moon’s “rosy illusion about North Korea.”

The Blue House said Moon’s

speech has nothing to do with the incident because it had been prerecorded and conveyed to the U.N. days before the man disappeared from a government ship on Monday. Suh, the defense minister, said authorities also needed time to analyze intelligence before formally holding North Korea responsible.

Since taking office in 2017, Moon has been pushing hard for warmer ties with North Korea and a negotiated settlement of the North’s nuclear crisis. His engagement policy once helped produce a flurry of rare exchange programs with North Korea, but they were nearly stalled amid

a deadlock in broader nuclear diplomacy between Pyongyang and Washington.

Little is known about the slain official, except that he was a 47-year-old father of two who left behind some debts, according to authorities. Maritime police said Friday they were checking the man’s cellphone records, bank accounts and insurance programs.

The coast guard says it was searching waters near the boundary in case the official’s body drifts back. The western sea boundary is where several bloody inter-Korean naval skirmishes and deadly attacks blamed on North Korea occurred in past years.

2 wounded in knife attack in Paris, suspect arrested

PARIS (AP): At least two people were wounded in a knife attack Friday near the former offices of the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo in Paris, police said Friday. A suspect has been arrested.

A Paris police official said that while authorities initially thought two attackers were involved, they now believe it was only

one person, who was detained near the Bastille plaza in eastern Paris, a city police official said. The official said police are still searching the area while they question the arrested suspect.

Police initially announced that four people were wounded in the attack, but the official told The Associated Press that there are in fact only two confirmed wounded.

Police could not explain the discrepancies.

It is unclear what motivated the attack Friday or whether it had any link to Charlie Hebdo, which moved offices after they were attacked by Islamic extremists in 2015, who killed 12 people inside.

AP reporters at the scene of Friday’s police operation saw officers flooding into the neighborhood, near the

Richard Lenoir subway station. Police cordoned off the area including the former Charlie Hebdo offices after a suspect package was noticed nearby, according the police official. Police did not release the identities of the attacker or the wounded, who are in “absolutely urgent” condition, the official said. The official was not authorized to be publicly named.

**DONATE BOOKS FOR NOBLE CAUSE
TO BUILD LIBRARY**

*If anyone willing to donate books or
support through
Finance, than you are most welcome*

**“GIVING IS NOT JUST
ABOUT
MAKE A DONATION ,
ITS ABOUT MAKING
DIFFERENCE”**

For more Details Contact ; 6294745117,8768809862

Email ; chitishchetri7@gmail.com

SummitTIMES



STREET STYLE! The star, Ashley Graham looks chic while out on the town during Milan fashion week.

Princess Eugenie Is Pregnant with Her First Baby, Buckingham Palace Reveals

Congratulations are most definitely in order, as Princess Eugenie is expecting her first baby with husband Jack Brooksbank. Buckingham Palace announced the happy news on Thursday, and revealed in a statement, “Her Royal Highness Princess Eugenie and Mr Jack Brooksbank are very pleased to announce that they are expecting a baby in early 2021.”

The statement continued, “The Duke of York and Sarah, Duchess of York, Mr and Mrs George Brooksbank, The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh are delighted with the news.”

Princess Eugenie also celebrated the news with an adorable Instagram post in which the royal can be seen holding the cutest pair of baby slippers. “Jack and I are so excited for early 2021....👶,” she captioned the post. Eugenie shared a second photo in which she posed with her husband and, understandably,

both were beaming.

Princess Eugenie and Jack Brooksbank tied the knot on October 12, 2018. Their wedding took place at St. George’s Chapel in Windsor Castle, the very same venue where Meghan Markle and Prince Harry got married.

On her one-year wedding anniversary, Eugenie took to Instagram to commemorate the occasion. The princess revealed, “This was the greatest day of my life...forever and always! Happy one year anniversary, my Jack!!”

While they’ve been married for almost two years, Eugenie and Jack have been together for over ten. They celebrated a decade together in April of this year, and Eugenie revealed on Instagram that they’d been quarantining together during the coronavirus pandemic. “Jack and I are celebrating our 10th anniversary today...[smiley face] and we are lucky enough to be together at this time,” she wrote.

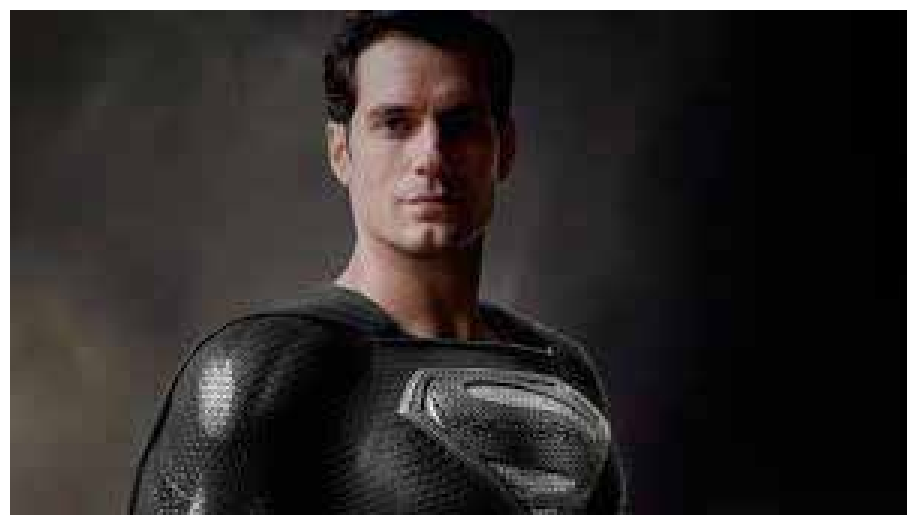
Snyder Cut: Henry Cavill Not Part of New Justice League Shoots That Reportedly Cost \$70 Million

Henry Cavill has revealed that he isn’t returning to film any additional scenes for the Snyder Cut of Justice League.

In an interview with Collider, Superman’s Cavill confirmed that he would not be reuniting with the cast to partake in any new shoots for the infamous cut, contrary to recent reports claiming that Zack Snyder had a weekend Justice League shoot planned for October with Cavill and several other cast members returning, including Ben Affleck, Gal Gadot, and Ray Fisher.

“Not shooting anything additional. No,” Cavill revealed in the new interview. “It’s all stuff that has been already done. Obviously I don’t know how things are going to evolve and change and adapt depending on now a different length of movie and whatever may happen in post-production. Whatever lessons may be learned from what is it four years since Justice League came out? Four years’ worth of fan reaction. For me... I’m now just watching the party.”

It is perhaps worth noting that Cavill denied his participation with any additional photography for the film prior to the report about the supposed reshoots, which means that there is a



possibility that he purposefully kept those details under his cape knowing that the news had not yet hit the headlines. After all, Cavill acknowledges in the interview that circumstances could change as work continues on the Snyder Cut, even though he’s currently in London shooting The Witcher Season 2.

Regardless of whether or not there are new shoots planned for the Snyder cut of Justice League, there are already a lot of known differences between the theatrical version of the film and the

upcoming four-hour director’s version, which will release in four parts on HBO Max in 2021.

For more on the Snyder Cut of Justice League, check out our full breakdown on the legendary project’s history if you want to learn more about how this mythical director’s cut became a reality, watch this clip of Henry Cavill’s Superman in his black costume, and read why Zack Snyder refuses to use a “single frame” of Joss Whedon footage in his version of Justice League, which he says is not part of the DCEU.

“That, Mr. Gavaskar, your message is distasteful”: Anushka Sharma launches extraordinary attack on Sunil Gavaskar for comments on Virat Kohli’s performance

Bollywood actress Anushka Sharma has launched an extraordinary attack on India’s batting legend Sunil Gavaskar for ‘distasteful’ comments on her while commentating on her husband Virat Kohli’s poor batting.

She said, “That, Mr Gavaskar, your message is distasteful is a fact. But I will love to you to explain why you thought of making such a sweeping statement on a wife accusing her for her husband’s game? I’m sure over the years you’ve respected the private lives of every cricketer while commentating on the game. Don’t you think you should have equal amount of respect for me and us?”

Gavaskar was heard saying, “Jab lockdown tha to sirf Anushka ki bowling pe practice ki unhone” (He has only practiced against Anushka’s bowling during the lockdown).

While many slammed Gavaskar for his comments on Anushka, others said that the former India captain was referring to a video of the Bollywood actress playing cricket with Virat during the lockdown.

Anushka said, “I’m sure you can have many other words and sentences in your mind to use to comment on my husband’s performance from last night or are your words only relevant if you use my name in the process? It’s 2020 and things still don’t change for me. When will I stop getting



dragged into cricket and stop being used to pass sweeping statements?”

She concluded her post by saying, “Respected Mr. Gavaskar, you are a legend, whose name stands tall in this gentleman’s game. Just wanted to tell you what I felt when I heard you say this.”

Kohli had to face incessant trolling for his poor fielding the last IPL match between Kings XI Punjab and his side, Royal Challengers Bangalore. His side lost by 97 runs.

J-pop stars Arashi release English surprise before hiatus

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA (AP): Japanese pop sensation Arashi has a big surprise for fans as they near their planned hiatus at year’s end: a collaboration with Bruno Mars on their first all-English single.

The band told The Associated Press the multi-Grammy Award-winning musician delved into their back catalogue to understand their unique sound while working on the single that was released last week.

“He took into consideration that we are going on hiatus,” said Jun Matsumoto, adding he feels their song, “Whenever You Call,” will appeal to both their hardcore fans and “those who do not know about us.”

“We have been releasing music only in Japanese,” Sho Sakurai explained. “In that sense, foreign audiences who can

understand Japanese could recognize us. But this time we sang the song in English. Bruno provided us the opportunity to reach out to a foreign audience.”

The group, which also includes Satoshi Ohno, Masaki Aiba and Kazunari Ninomiya, embodied their name — Arashi means storm — by becoming one of Japan’s boyband legends and maintaining their crown for more than two decades.

Their greatest hits album “5x20 All the BEST!! 1999-2019” sold 3.3 million copies and was last year’s bestselling album worldwide, surpassing both BTS and Taylor Swift.

The band has released over 400 songs, sold over 41 million records and performed for 14 million people, according to their label, and they’ve also

had parts in movies, Japanese dramas and shows, and commercials.

Despite their success, Arashi shocked fans by announcing their hiatus, halting all band activities at the end of this year.

The Netflix documentary about the band shows it wasn’t an easy decision. In “Arashi’s Diary -Voyage-,” Sakurai said his hands were “trembling” as he wrote down potential options, including disbanding and hiatus.

Naturally, questions about their life after hiatus have been dogging the band, but they said they don’t really know. “I haven’t been exactly thinking about it (the future) nor have time to think about it. (The upcoming) three or four months will be an extremely busy time for us so we are unable to think that far,” Aiba told AP.

ARIES:

A Matshona Dhlwayo quote to reflect upon: “The taller a tree, the deeper its roots.” Today, you’re being encouraged to strengthen your foundation, which in turn will support the big goals you are consciously working towards. Given that everything works inside out and that the macrocosm is a reflection of the microcosm, strengthening your ‘muladhara’, or root chakra will give you that much-needed boost. Dynamic forms of exercise are a good way to awaken the latent energy here

TAURUS:

The good news is, you won’t have to go looking for the Muse today. You’ll find that she’s close at hand, waiting to be expressed through everything you say and do. So make art, make love, make coffee, and most importantly, make a mess. Looking at the world through a fresh lens is going to be a big theme for you. The not-so-good news is that you may try to resist this process of transformation. Remember, impermanence is the very nature of our existence. Allow yourself to be led towards the next level of creative evolution.

GEMINI:

The thing about childhood traumas is that they resurface when we least expect them to. Don’t take the path of denial like you have so far. Channel your inner warrior spirit and face your demons head on. This is the only way to let go of the old story, Gemini. Remember, you don’t have to do it alone. Working with a counsellor, hypnotherapist or past life regression therapist is a wonderful way forward. A Rumi quote to remember when you find yourself receding

into a space of darkness: “The wound is where the light enters.”

CANCER:

Health and wellness could be a big theme in the Cancer HQ, with issues related to your digestive tract coming to the fore. Sometimes, things that we perceive as nutritious have an adverse effect on us. Understanding your body type is key to getting your diet in order. Consider working with a holistic nutritionist. Going on a detox is also a wonderful idea to purge the toxins. Don’t try anything too extreme, though. Simplify your diet and add more wholegrains, fruits, and vegetables.

LEO:

Raise a toast to your challenges. The challenges that made you a stronger and more resilient version of yourself. What the cards are reminding you: nothing can come in the way of you and your success. Trust that your competitors, too, will accept defeat when they see you in the battlefield. Leo. The Universe wants you to remember everything happened for a reason. Your past has no bearing on your future. Don’t let the old wounds keep you from believing that the Universe is your co-conspirator in this journey to greatness.

VIRGO:

When we go through traumatic experiences in our childhood, it usually leaves an impression in our root chakra—the very first of the energy centres, which connects us to Mother Earth. When the ‘muladhara’ is out of balance, we tend to feel insecure about almost everything in our lives. Our relationship with money and security is the most likely to be affected. In addition to this, the fear of

being abandoned follows us into every relationship.

LIBRA:

If the cosmic cues are anything to go by, then stress and anxiety have been constants in the Libra HQ. Learning to disengage from the drama (in your own head too) is key, Libra. So plug in your earphones, put on some binaural beats, surround yourself with your favourite crystals, and switch your phone to DnD. ‘World, hold on!’ is a mantra you want to remember now and for the rest of the week. Practicing meditation and mindfulness is also a wonderful way to triumph over those inner demons. Close your eyes and allow the mysterious forces above to guide you. Oh, the things you will see and hear when you silence your mind!

SCORPIO:

It’s been a wild, wild ride, Scorpio, and you’re being asked to slow down, breathe, and observe silence. When in doubt, turn to your favourite self-care rituals. Connecting with the element of water will prove to be therapeutic on every level. So light a few scented candles and pour your favourite essential oil into your bath water as you allow yourself to be teleported to another realm. Adopting aquamarine or larimar as your talisman at this time will also alleviate the stress and tension.

SAGITTARIUS:

Just because things haven’t worked out for you so far, doesn’t mean they won’t eventually. Spirit wants you to know that you are so, so beautiful, and that you deserve to be loved and celebrated in every way. Don’t let your fears and insecurities keep you from experiencing the glory of love, especially when something serendipitous is being planned

for you. Coupled Sagittarians are being reminded of the importance of balance (We are in Libra season, after all!).

CAPRICORN:

Stupid Cupid’s got his eyes on you, Capricorn, and you’ll find that there is no place to run and hide. It’s time to open yourself to love again. It’s time to give that cloak of invisibility the send off it deserves. Coupled Saturnians will find that their partners are doing their best to get through to them. Are you building walls where boundaries are enough? Make space for greater intimacy knowing that you have nothing to be afraid of.

AQUARIUS:

You’ve been adulting a lot lately and the cards are not happy about this. What you’re being asked to do today: declutter your schedule, make time for recreation and prioritise having fun. This may sound counterintuitive initially, however, you will soon realise that stepping away from what you are creating is the secret to seducing the ever-so-elusive Muse. But don’t believe a word we say. Put the given theory to test, and in true Aquarian style, come to your own conclusions.

PISCES:

Magic is in the air, Pisces, and it’s going to make you believe that you are being protected by your soul circle in the unseen realms. What to expect: the unexpected. Synchronicity and serendipitous encounters could lead you to the next level of your evolution. Flowing with the cosmic currents is also going to be a big theme. Remember, the only rules that apply to you are the ones you make up for yourself. Word for the wise: let go of all preconceived notions as you allow yourself to be your most playful self.