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# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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*Governor  
condoles demise  
of PT Lucksom*

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 03 SEPT:**

Governor of Sikkim, Gan-ga Prasad expressed his deep sorrow at the demise of former Deputy Chief Minister of Sikkim, PT Lucksom on 02 Sept at new STNM Hospital, Gangtok, a press release from Raj Bha-van informs.

In his condolence message, the Governor said, "Very sorry to hear about the demise of former Deputy Chief Minister of Sikkim, PT Lucksom. He will be remembered in his contributions to Sikkimese people. My deepest condolences to the family members and other near and dear ones.Om Shanti."

*19 hours, 18  
heart surgeries*

**AARON RAI**

**GANGTOK, 03 SEPT:**

In a record heart surgery marathon, the Cardiology department of STNM Hospital, Gangtok performed back to back operations to correct abnormal heart rhythms of 18 patients on 28 Aug till wee hours of 29 Aug.

Doctors, nurses and technicians of STNM Hospital Cardiology departmentworked non-stop for 19 hours straight to perform 18 surgeries from 7:30 am of 28 Aug till 2 am of 29 Aug.

This is the highest ever number of heart operations in a single day in the country, said Dr. D.P. Rai, head of Cardiology department and consultant interventional cardiologist.

Chief Minister, P.S. Tamang, on his social media page, congratulated STNM Hospital's Cardiology department and Dr. Rai for recording the highest number of operations of Electrophysiological Study and Radio-frequency Ablations. It is a huge milestone for the healthcare facilities in Sikkim, he shared.

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REACHES YOU.

## CM chairs meeting with NITI Aayog, shares development strategies and goals

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 03 SEPT:**

A meeting with NITI Aayog was held at SammanBhawan, today, under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang in the presence of NITI Ayaog member, Professor Ramesh Chand, Advisor NITI Aayog, Dr Prem Singh, Chief Secretary, SC Gupta, Addl. Chief Secretary cum Development Commissioner, VB Pathak, Additional Chief Secretaries, Principal Secretaries, Secretaries, HoDs and other officials of Government of Sikkim, a press release from the Chief Minister's Office informs.

At the outset, the Chief Minister extended his warm greetings and welcomed the dignitaries. He mentioned the recent Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)



rankings of all the 120 districts of the North-Eastern states, where Sikkim performed exceptionally well and the East district ranked 1st among all the districts.

He also reiterated the recent decision of

the central government to grant an Independent BSNL Telecom Circle for Sikkim and thanked thePrime Minister and the Union Minister of Communications, Electronics and Information Technology-Ashwini

Vaishnav and the Government of India.

Speaking on the agendas of the meeting, theChief Minister placed the development strategy, goals and challenges of Sikkim requiring immediate attention. In

terms of finance, he stated that Sikkim came under tremendous stress in 2019-20 due to a sharp decline in central tax transfer and flow of resources through grants, seeing a decline of 18% in the revenue receipts

amounting to Rs 1080 crores as a result of the pandemic.

To augment the finances, he mentioned that the state government had proposed for levy of cess on pharma companies, hydroelec-

tricity corporations and after consideration by the Group of Ministers, had recommended a Special package of assistance and sought their support in this matter. Similarly, to combat the decline in revenue due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, he also requested the Government of India for a special one-time grant of Rs 700 crores.

Acknowledging the pandemic, he highlighted the efforts of the state government to strengthen the health sector in the state. He briefed the gathering regarding major changes brought to this sector including the increase in the budgetary allocations for medicines and consumables, recruitment of Medical Officers, upgrading of Oncology department,

*turn to pg02*

## 17-yr-old beaten up, dies from injuries

**SURAJ LIMBOO**

**GANGTOK, 03 SEPT:**

A 17-year-old boy, Ajay Chettri, has died after being allegedly beaten up last night in Sengabari, Upper Aho Yangtam under Namcheybong constituency.

The boy was found with multiple injuries in a jungle this morning by his brother Kailash Chettri and brought home where he succumbed to his injuries, it is informed.

While talking to media-persons, family members of the victim demanded justice. According to the victim's brother, Kailash Chettri, the victim was found naked in a nearby jungle with multiple injuries on his body.

The victim named ward panchayat, Maksat Subba, as his assailant, it is informed and died shortly after he was brought home.

The accused Maksat Subba said that he had assaulted the victim because he had broken into his daughter's room at around 1AM this morning. He claimed that he heard his daughter's voice and upon entering found Ajay Chettri inside her room. He beat up the victim who then ran away.

Maksat Subba and his son Pawan Subba have been arrested by Pakyong police and investigation is underway. A case has been registered under IPC section 302 at Pakyong Police Station.

## Protesting adhoc teachers go on hunger strike

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 03 SEPT:**

Representatives of ad-hoc teachers have started an indefinite hunger strike starting today. A section of ad-hoc teachers have been on a protest outside the DAC East since Thursday demanding that walk-in interviews be called immediately and their services be extended till the results are declared.

Over 800 ad-hoc teachers whose terms ended in June have been left in limbo as the walk-in interview scheduled to be held in July were postponed.

With the Education Department announcing on Thursday that the walk-in interviews will be conducted from 03 Oct onwards, the teachers have expressed dismay that this will further delay the appointment process during which time they will be rendered jobless.

They have asked the Education Department to conduct the interviews immediately and extend their service till the results are declared.

They said that they will not leave the protest site until the demands are met.

## Worker "blindfolded, kidnapped", claims Mizoram Police. Assam Responds

**GUWAHATI, 03 SEPT [NDTV]:**

One of its workers involved in road construction work at Aitlang was "blindfolded and kidnapped" by Assam police on Thursday, the neighbouring Mizoram police has alleged, kicking off a fresh row between the two states.

In July, six police personnel from Assam were killed

in a violent border clash between the police forces of Assam and Mizoram.

Both states have written sharp letters to each other over the latest incident.

Deputy Commissioner of Assam's Hailakandi district, Rohan Kumar Jha, has alleged that Mizoram is again making camps and bunker and

*turn to pg02*

## 3-day mourning on passing of former Dy CM of Sikkim

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

As a mark of respect to former Deputy Chief Minister of Sikkim, Late PT Lucksom, the State will observe three days of official mourning from 03 to 05 Sept, 2021. All Government Offices including PSUs and educational institutions shall remain closed throughout the State today.

During the State mourning, the National Flag shall be flown at half-mast in all the Government establishments. The Cabinet meeting scheduled for today has been postponed to tomorrow, the 04 Sept, 2021.

Late PT Lucksom passed away at STNM Hospital Sochyangang, on the 02 Sept, 2021, where he was undergoing treatment.

## 2 more Covid deaths take Sikkim's toll to 373; Active cases drop under 1K

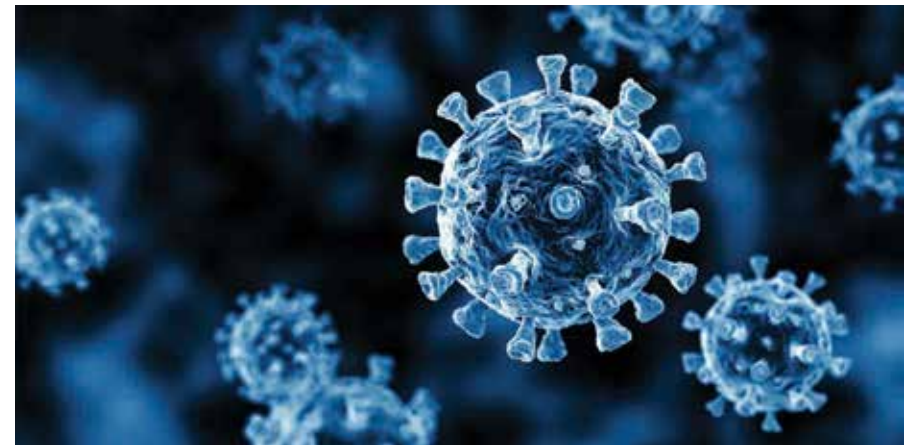
**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 03 SEPT:**

Sikkim's Covid death toll reached 373 on Friday with the virus claiming two more lives in the last 24 hours. While one COVID death was reported from STNM hospital, the second was recorded at Dentam Primary Health Centre in West District. Four COVID deaths have been reported in the State so far this week.

In the meantime, active cases dropped under one thousand after a long while and currently number 989 in Sikkim with 109 more formerly Covid-positive people making full recoveries. The cumulative number of recovered cases of COVID-19 in Sikkim has accordingly improved to 28,425.

As per the Daily CO-



VID-19 Report of Sikkim issued by the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme of the Health Department this morning, only 45 new cases were picked up in the State in the past 24 hours from the testing of 700 samples on Thursday, giving Sikkim a daily test positivity rate of 6.4%.

While 20 cases were detected in RT-PCR testing of 284 samples, 25 more tested positive in rapid antigen testing of 409 samples. Out of the 45 new cases, 28 were registered in East District, 14 in West District, 02 in South District and 01 North District. Sikkim's tally of the con-

firmed cases of COVID-19 has now reached 30,070.

While 9 more Covid patients were admitted to hospitals most of the Covid positive people are recovering under home or facility isolation and there are currently eight Covid patients in the ICU facilities at STNM Hospital and CRH.

## India, Nepal sign pacts to reconstruct 100 projects damaged by 2015 earthquake

**KATHMANDU, 03 SEPT [PTI]:** India and Nepal on Friday signed memorandum of understandings for the reconstruction of 14 cultural heritage and 103 health sector projects damaged by the devastating 2015 earthquake in the country.

These projects will be reconstructed at a cost of 420 crore Nepalese Rupees (USD 36 million), India's Embassy said in a statement.

The Indian Embassy and the Central Level Project Implementation Unit (Building) of National Reconstruction Authority signed the MoUs for the reconstruction of 14 cultural heritage projects in Lalitpur, Nuwakot, Rasuwa and Dhading districts and 103 health sector projects in Lalitpur, Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Sindhupalchowk, Ramechhap, Dolakha, Gulmi, Gorkha and Kavre districts.

They were signed by both sides in the presence of Karun Bansal, First Secretary (Development



Partnership and Reconstruction) of the Indian mission and Shyam Kishore Singh, Project Director, CLPIU (Building), Nepal.

The CLPIU (Building) is the implementing agency for both health and cultural heritage sector projects.

In total, 71 education sector projects, 28 cultural heritage sec-

tor projects in seven districts, 147 health facilities in 10 districts and construction of 50,000 houses in Gorkha and Nuwakot are being undertaken with India's grant assistance, it said, adding that the Government of India is committed to bolster reconstruction efforts of Nepal in all these sectors.



# Poshan Maah launched in Ravangla

## SUMMIT REPORT

**NAMCHI, 03 SEPT:**

Poshan Maah and Matru Vandana Week was launched in Ravangla, South Sikkim, on 01 Sept by Department of Social Justice and Welfare.

Medical Officer In-Charge of Ravangla PHC, Dr. Pallavi Pariyar was the chief guest while local panchayat member, Pas-sang Lepcha was present as the special guest. Addressing the program, Dr. Pallavi Pariyar highlighted the importance of nutrition garden and AYUSH for a healthy life.

CDPO Narbu Lepcha highlighted the objectives of the program such as



PMMVY, National Children's Home Scheme, Nutrition Campaign, Adolescent Girls' Scheme and Girl's Protection Scheme.

Panchayat Inspector, Norjila Bhutia also addressed the program. Nutritious vegetables were on display at the

event and a month-long signature campaign was also launched to make the campaign a success.

In the program, local

Anganwadi workers sang songs on the theme of this year's Poshan Maah.

Social Welfare Inspector of the concerned

department, Anita Gurung and Inspector, Agriculture Department, Kinzang Bhutia, were also present on the occasion.

## Myanmar refugee kids to study in Mizoram schools on "humanitarian ground"

**GUWAHATI, 03 SEPT**

**[PTI]:** The children of migrants and refugees from Myanmar will be enrolled in schools in Mizoram on humanitarian grounds, sources in the state government have said. Thousands had fled Myanmar after a military coup and many are living in refugee camps in Mizoram.

A circular from the Mizoram Directorate of School Education to all district education officers and sub divisional educational officers on Tuesday asked them to ensure children of the refugees are enrolled in schools. "...Admission to migrant/refugee children... continue their schooling," the circular signed by head of Directorate of School Education, James Lalrinchhana, reads.

The decision was taken under the Right of Children to Free and

Compulsory Education Act, 2009. "Children aged between 6 and 14 years belonging to disadvantaged communities have the right to be admitted to school in a class appropriate to his or her age for completing elementary education," the circular said, quoting the law.

Since March, after the military junta takeover of Myanmar, thousands of refugees have crossed the border into Mizoram. While the centre had ordered that the borders be closed to Myanmar refugees, the Mizoram National Front (MNF) government led by Zoramthanga had allowed them to come, citing "common tribal lineage" and "deep ethnic bonds".

Sources said Mizoram has some 10,000 refugees from Myanmar, including 20 legislators of the country before the military coup.

## DC inspects monsoon damage at Yangang

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 03 SEPT:**

DC South along with SDM Yangang, BDO Yangang, DPO (Disaster Management), AE Roads & Bridges and other field staff inspected damage wrecked in the subdivision by torrential rainfall on the intervening night of 01 and 02 September.

The inspection tour began with Manglee ward where Hari Prasad Pokhrel's house along

with kitchen have been severely damaged. The family was evacuated to a temporary relief camp in the vicinity and necessary directions issued to the SDM for immediate disbursement of ex gratia relief.

The officials then visited Sirisey where the road formation has been washed out. Owing to the massive size of the slide, additional manpower and machinery, including a JCB sourced

from NHIDCL, have been deployed to clear the debris and boulders.

The team also found two houses at Upper Yangang severely damaged and families shifted to safer locations.

The team visited Dhapper, Bhaleydunga Rope Way Project, Tselemthang Support Facility under Tourism Department and other affected areas to assess monsoon damage. Roads & Bridges De-

partment has deployed men and machinery along all affected sections of the road to expedite repairs.

The DC instructed Irrigation Department, Tourism Department and Roads & Bridges Department to assess the damage and also submit a feasibility report on construction of a drain from Dhapar to Khundrukey Jhora to prevent inundation and damage of low lying areas.

## Two arrested with 55 parrots in Siliguri



**SILIGURI, 03 SEPT:** At least two persons were arrested with 55 parrots by the officials of Sarugarah forest range in Siliguri on Friday.

The two accused identified as Sarijat Ali and Dinesh Das were smuggling the parrots, the officials alleged.

The officials said, "The parrots (Alexandrine Parakeet and Red-breasted Parakeet) were kept in three cages. They were being smuggled in a bike coming from

Malbazar in Jalpaiguri to Galgalia, Bihar." Talking about the raid, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Baikunthapur forest division, Hari Krishnan said, "A special team headed by Sanjay Dutta, ranger, Sarugarah forest range conducted the operation and arrested two persons along with the birds."

"The accused persons will be produced in Jalpaiguri court today and parrots will be released in Bengal Safari park," he added.

## West Bengal logs 686 new COVID-19 cases, 11 more deaths



**KOLKATA, SEP 3 (PTI):** West Bengal's COVID-19 toll rose to 18,483 on Friday after 11 more persons succumbed to the disease, while 686 new cases pushed the tally to 15,50,664, a bulletin issued by the state health department said.

North 24 Parganas accounted for four deaths, Kolkata for three and Hooghly district for two. One fatality was recorded in Nadia.

Of the 686 new cases, 110 were reported from

the state capital and 109 from North 24 Parganas, the bulletin said.

At least 715 more recoveries were registered in West Bengal, which took the total number of people cured of the infection to 15,23,487. The discharge rate stands at 98.25 per cent.

The state currently has 8,694 active cases.

As many as 1,71,22,925 samples have been tested in Bengal thus far, including 43,504 since Thursday, the bulletin added.

## BJP to organise enlightened class conference in all UP assembly seats

**LUCKNOW, 03 SEPT**

**[PTI]:** Ahead of state Assembly polls next year, the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) will organise an enlightened class conference in all 403 constituencies from September 5.

According to the BJP, the conference will be organised on September 5 in 17 metro cities of Uttar Pradesh and later in all 403 assembly seats from September 6-20.

The BJP will reach out to intellectuals of the society like teachers, professors, engineers, doctors and writers to discuss the work done, achievements and other welfare works of the state government.

Subrata Pathak, state general secretary and in-charge of enlightened class conference Campaign, informed, "Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath along with other ministers will inaugurate the enlightened class conference in Saharanpur on September 5."

Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections are scheduled to take place early next year. In the 2017 Assembly polls, the BJP won 325 seats out of a total of 403 Assembly seats. Samajwadi Party and its allies won 54 seats, BSP won 19 seats and others won 5 seats respectively.

## BSF rescues 2 white peacocks along India-Bangladesh border



Ranaghat, 03 Sept [PTI]: The Border Security Force (BSF) rescued two white peacocks in West Bengal's Nadia district on Friday while the birds were being smuggled into India from Bangladesh, an officer of the paramilitary force said.

During patrolling near Burnpur-Matiari border outpost early on Friday, BSF personnel spotted two men hiding in the woods close to the international border, he said.

On being challenged, the alleged Bangladeshi smugglers dropped two

bags and fled the spot. BSF personnel opened the bags and found two albino peacocks in those, the officer said.

BSF personnel fed the peacocks and handed them over to the Forest Department.

"We have received two peacocks. They might either be sent to Alipore Zoo in Kolkata or released in Bethuadahari Wildlife Sanctuary in Nadia," Pradip Bagchi, Deputy Ranger (Ranaghat) of Nadia Murshidabad range of the Forest Department, said.

### CM chairs meeting...

Establishment of Medical College, Dialysis Centres in District Hospitals, Intensive Care Units, Super Speciality Outreach Programme in Districts, upscaling of Namchi Hospital in South District to a three hundred bedded hospital among others.

Similarly, in the area of Education, he stated that the state government stands firm in its resolve to transform Sikkim into the "Education Hub of the Country" and briefly spoke about the "Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose University of Excellence" being established at Chakung, West Sikkim.

Likewise, in the agriculture and allied sectors, he re-emphasised the State Government's commitment to make Sikkim self-sustainable, self-reliant and to realise the goal of doubling farmers' income as envisaged by the Prime Minister.

Further, the Chief Minister stated that the State Government has introduced historic price support in the scheme Mukhya Mantri Krishi Atma-Nirbhar Yojana for twelve crops, vegetables and fruits like large cardamom, ginger, turmeric, buckwheat, kiwi, orange, etc. He mentioned the state government's initiative of Milk Production Incentive Scheme for the organized sector and the first Piggery Production Incentive Scheme with an incentive of Rs 5,000 per pig for a maximum of three breeding stock.

He also requested for support from the NITI Aayog and the Central government regarding the Skilled Youth Start-up Schemes in terms of financing from the nationalised banks.

Highlighting the need for an export-oriented industry, empowered Organic Food Park-cum-Free Trade Warehousing zone, Special Economic Zone offering common third-party logistics and supply chain infrastructure such as organics only processing and warehousing, he proposed for these facilities to be set up and lay the foundation for transformational sector growth. He mentioned the State government's policy to cultivate year-round agriculture, horticulture crops and sought support for creating water sources and water harvesting structures for irrigation, stating that it will help in reducing the difficulties of the local farmers.

The Chief Minister looked forward to continued co-operation from the NITI Aayog in achieving the common goal of higher progress and sustainability.

In the powerpoint presentation, the detailed status of progress, outcome, losses, dividend, comparison, remarks and future plans in addition to many other points were presented. They deliberated on ways to enhance opportunities for the people in the state by exploring various avenues like agriculture, eco-tourism, floriculture, adventure tourism, medium and micro scale industries and many more.

During the discussion, Development of infrastructure like Cable Car Projects, Sevoke-Rangpo Railway project, the extension of railway line up to Gangtok and onward, Organic farming, subsidies for organic farmers, the release of balance, Special Plan Assistance (SPA) were also discussed. It was also appealed to the NITI Aayog and the Central Government that in some situations, population and area ratio may not fit with the criteria of NITI Aayog, hence in accord to the region, he requested special consideration for the benefit of the people. The representatives of NITI Aayog responding to the appeals have assured to render support and put forward the matter to the Ministry of DONER and the Union Government wherever necessary.

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### BEFORE THE OATH COMMISSIONER OF SIKKIM AT GANGTOK

#### AFFIDAVIT

I, **Bhes Bahadur Pradhan**, aged about 48 years, s/o Late Akal Bahadur Pradhan, by faith Christian and Retd. Army r/o Aritar, Maneydara, under P.O. Aritar & P.S. Rhenock, East Sikkim do solemnly affirm and declare on oath as follows:

- That I am a bonafide citizen of India.
- That Prabina Pradhan is my legitimate daughter.
- That my name had been recorded as Bhes Bahadur Pradhan in my C.O.I. bearing Sl. No. 1131/DCE/2012 dated 18.07.2012 issued from the Office of the District Collector, East and the same has been lying recorded in my above named daughter's (1) **Birth Certificate bearing reg no. 359/D/05 dated 1<sup>st</sup> September 2005**, (2) **Electoral Voter Card bearing no. UID0024802 issued by the Election Commission of India**, (3) **Pan Card no. FWFPP7156A** issued by the Income Tax Dept., Govt. of India and the same has been lying recorded in her other relevant documents.
- That however in my above names daughter's **Class X th Provisional Certificate having roll no 18000782064 and sl.no. 010418 dated 12.06.2009 and Marks Statement/ Sheet bearing sl.no. 020427 dated 12.06.2009** issued from the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), Govt of India, **wherein my name has been recorded as BESH BAHADUR PRADHAN**
- That this affidavit is made bonafide and to declare on oath that the person by the names **Bhes Bahadur Pradhan and Besh Bahadur Pradhan refers and denotes to the same identical person i.e. myself.**

**B.B. Pradhan**  
**DEPONENT**

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### Worker "blindfolded..

carrying out road construction inside the "constitutional territory" of Assam.

The Assam government has claimed that its police confronted the driver for entering "Assam territory" but did nothing illegal. The driver has gone back to Kolasib in Miizoram, said the government.

"It has been brought to my notice, based on a reliable report, that this afternoon (Thursday) at Aitlang in Pu Lalngaisanga's land where road construction connecting jhum land is undertaken by the farmers using excavator JCB Reg. No. MZ05 A 4464, Assam Police went to disrupt their activity and damaged the door of Excavator and snatched the keys from the JCB operator Pu Lalnarammawia," Deputy Commissioner, Kolasib district, Dr H Lalthlangliana, said in his letter.

"The JCB operator was blindfolded and kidnapped with a gun pointed to his head by the Assam Police wearing Commando uniform. He was then dragged through a river and threatened. His mobile, along with JCB keys, was taken by the Assam police," the Deputy Commissioner added.

"This is considered a very serious issue and a huge setback towards the initiatives for peace... I, therefore, urge your immediate intervention as District Magistrate into the situation and to take necessary action towards these perpetrator(s) as well as to positively return the items taken away by the Assam Police to the JCB Owner and Operator at the earliest," the Kolasib Deputy Commissioner further said in his letter.

Responding to the letter, District Commissioner of Hailakhandi, Rohan Kumar Jha, said it was routine intervention on part of the state police to stop illegal encroachment.

"Assam Forest staff along with the Assam Police went to the Kachurthal Balicherra area and noticed that a road was being constructed inside the constitutional boundary of Assam and instructed the driver to stop the construction and immediately return to Mizoram," said Mr Jha.

The Assam officer described Mizoram's allegations "baseless and fictitious".

"Assam police informed the Mizoram resident that he has trespassed into the land of Assam and he shall be arrested under relevant sections of CrPC if the construction is not stopped. The driver immediately stopped the construction on fear of arrest and went back to Kolasib district... The allegations mentioned in your letter are baseless and fictitious," he added.



# Milk Collection Centre established in Beng Phegyong

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 03 SEPT:**

Under the direction and supervision of District Collector East, Ragul K, a milk collection centre was started in Sang Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society Ltd (MPCS), Beng Phegyong GPU, a press release informs.

It may be mentioned that Beng Phegyong GPU, East Sikkim, is adopted by Governor of Sikkim, Ganga Prasad.

The training, technical support, and equipment were provided by Sikkim Milk Union (HO) and implemented in co-ordination with the Department of Cooperation (East).

Sang Milk Producer's Cooperative Society was inaugurated by Chairman, Department of Co-



operation, B.B. Chettri on 02 Sept, which was attended by Panchayat, Officials from Department of Cooperation, Sikkim Milk Union (H.O.), Managing Committee and

Managers of Sang Multi-Purpose Cooperative and Dairy Farmers of Beng Phegyong GPU.

The Chairman, in his brief address, congratulated the society and wished

them success in their new endeavour and assured possible assistance. He also extended his gratitude towards the Panchayats for their support in strengthening and pro-

moting awareness of the cooperative movement.

The programme was concluded with the vote of thanks by Panchayat, BengPhegyong, Ugen-Tenzing Bhutia.

## CBI makes third arrest in West Bengal post-poll violence cases



**KOLKATA, 03 SEPT [PTI]:** The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) arrested a person in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district in connection with its probe into a case of post-poll violence in the state, an agency source said on Friday.

Ratan Halder, an accused in the murder of a BJP worker's mother following the declaration of assembly election results on May 2, was apprehended from Jagaddal area, the source said.

The central agency had on August 28 arrested two more persons -Bijoy Ghosh and Asima Ghosh -- in Nadia district for allegedly being

involved in the murder of a saffron party worker after the announcement of the poll results.

The CBI had on Thursday filed a chargesheet in another case of post-poll violence in Birbhum district -- its first since being handed over the probe into "heinous crimes".

The chargesheet, submitted before the Rampurhat court, contains names of two accused allegedly involved in the murder of a BJP worker.

So far, the agency has filed a total of 34 FIRs against those allegedly involved in murder or other heinous atrocities on BJP workers.

## Money Heist 5: A Quick Recap Before You Watch New Season

**NEW DELHI:** Fans have their eyes glued to Netflix as the fifth season of popular Spanish series Money Heist arrives on Friday. Originally titled 'La Casa De Papel', the release is scheduled in two volumes. The second and final volume is slated to be out by the end of this year. The first four seasons were extremely popular. Money Heist 4 ended on a cliffhanger leaving fans utterly curious about the upcoming season. The plot involves a bank robbery by a group headed by a mastermind, known as The Professor. The character is played by Alvaro Morte. Before you click on the play button, here are things you must know from the earlier Money Heist Seasons.

1.The group of robbers are named after cities -- Tokyo, Moscow, Denver, Nairobi, Rio, Helsinki, Oslo and Berlin. They are seen conducting a successful heist in Spain's Royal Mint in the first two seasons.

2.All the seasons are narrated by Tokyo (Ursula Corbero). Fans have various theories around Tokyo being the narrator. Some have speculated that she could be the sole survivor of the gang.

3.The gang members wear Salvador Dali masks during the robbery.

4.The Professor and his gang are currently involved in their second heist, meant to honour their dead partner, Nairobi.

5.The Money Heist characters often sing in Bella Ciao, an Italian folk song, which is associated with protests against autocratic rule.

6.Berlin, Moscow, Nairobi and Oslo are the characters who died in the previous seasons.

7.Arturo Roman or "Arturito" is one of the most hated negative characters. He plays the role of a Director of the Royal Mint of Spain who later becomes a public speaker.

8.Raquel Murillo, the former police inspector, joins the gang of thieves as "Lisbon." She is also The Professor's love interest.

## 150 SpiceJet Delhi staff walk out over dues, airline says issue resolved

**NEW DELHI, 03 SEPT [PTI]:** Around 150 employees of SpiceJet struck work today at the Delhi airport complaining of non-payment of dues but the airline said the issue involving "a section" of staff has been resolved and operations were not affected.

"The issue with a section of SpiceJet employees at the Delhi airport has been resolved and the employees have returned to work. SpiceJet's flight operations remain normal," the airline said in a statement.

This comes at a time when an ex-pilot of the airline in a letter to the aviation watchdog Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has claimed that the airline was violating safety norms and that pilots

were under severe stress because of salary cuts.

The Director-General of Civil Aviation has acknowledged this letter and has said it "will look into the issues raised in the letter pertaining to safety violations"

The complaint letter, written by Captain Vinodh Loganathan who has now left the airline has alleged that during the coronavirus pandemic, "SpiceJet, for commercial benefit started over-filling cargo inside the cabin up to the ceiling of the aircraft which was against the guidelines of DGCA which made flying the aircraft unsafe."

Referring to the salary situation with airline staff, Captain Loganathan said, "The pilots, crew, engineers, ground staff

are already financially stressed out because of more than a year-long exploitation by SpiceJet's promoter. The pilots are not in the right state of mind to safely operate flights."

This is the second email written by the ex-Captain. In a statement yesterday, SpiceJet has refuted the charges and said the pilot was "disgruntled".

"The pilot in question had no complaints as long as he was enjoying pay and perks at SpiceJet. There were no safety issues with the airline nor ever did he highlight any violations. Once out of the company, a disgruntled ex-employee having an agenda can level any allegation."

## Supreme Court rejects Bengal's plea to appoint top cop without UPSC nod



**NEW DELHI, 03 SEPT [PTI]:** The Supreme Court today refused to entertain West Bengal government's plea seeking to appoint Director General of Police (DGP) without consulting the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), saying it would be "abuse of law".

A bench comprising Justices Nageswara Rao, BR Gavai and BV Nagarathna, however, allowed the state's impleadment application in the main matter on police reforms and said it will start hearing matter which "hasn't seen the light of day for many years".

The Supreme Court told the state government that the points it was raising were exactly the same which it had raised earlier that UPSC should not have a role in

appointment of the DGP or police chief. "We have seen your application. The points you are raising are exactly the same which you have raised earlier that UPSC should not have a role. When the main matter is taken you can argue this matter. We cannot permit this. This is abuse of process. We will dismiss your application. We cannot have petitions like this. Why are we wasting so much time on these applications," the bench observed.

The top court said if states also start filing matters like this it will be difficult for it to find time to hear other matters.

"You yourself come and tell us all bail applications are not being heard, criminal appeals are not being heard," the top court told senior advocate Sidharth Luthra,

appearing for West Bengal. Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for Prakash Singh (main petitioner), requested the bench for an early hearing of the main petition on police reforms saying "unfortunately in most states implementation of directions of the top court remains unimplemented."

The court has now posted the matter for hearing in October and said, "We will start hearing the matter. It hasn't seen the light of day for many years."

The Supreme Court was hearing an application filed by West Bengal stating that UPSC does not have expertise to consider and appoint DGP or police chief of a state as also that it is not in line with the federal System of governance.

## SLSA organizes sensitization prog for Prison Officers

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 03 SEPT:**

A sensitization programme on the functions, duties and responsibilities as also the rights of prisoners for the Senior Police Officers of State Central Prison Rongyek and Additional District Prison Namchi was organized by Sikkim State Legal Services Authority [SLSA] via virtual mode on 03 Sept, 2021, a press release informs.

The sensitization programme was held under the directions of Acting Chief Justice of High Court of Sikkim and Executive Chairperson, Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, Sikkim SLSA and in pursuance to the

directions of Supreme Court of India contained in Re: Inhuman Conditions in 1382 Prisons Writ Petition(s) (Civil) no(s).406 of 2013.

The programme was organized for Senior Police Officers including Additional Superintendent of Police and Sub-Divisional Police Officers of all the 04 (four) Districts of the State.

Twenty-six officers comprising of District Additional Superintendents of Police and Sub-Divisional Police Officers from all the four Districts including State Central Prison, Rongyek, East Sikkim at Gangtok and District Prison, Boomtar, South Sikkim at Namchi, par-

ticipated in the sensitization programme, the release adds.

Additional Inspector General, Rupak Kumar, Jail and Correctional Services, Bihar, Patna was the Resource Person who apprised the participating Officers about the functions, duties and responsibilities and also the rights of prisoners.

Member Secretary, Sonam Palden Bhutia, Sikkim SLSA in his welcome address delineated the purpose of conducting today's Training-cum-Sensitization Programme.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Deputy Secretary, Sikkim SLSA.

## Cop got iPhone 12 Pro as bribe to leak probe report on Anil Deshmukh: CBI



**NEW DELHI, 03 SEPT [NDTV]:** An iPhone 12 Pro, which costs over ₹ 1 lakh, was offered as bribe to a sub-inspector of the Central Bureau of Investigation for accessing a confidential report on a corruption case in which former Maharashtra minister Anil Deshmukh is an accused, the investigators have said.

The sub-inspector, Abhishek Tiwari, and the former minister's lawyer, Anand Daga, have been arrested by the CBI for allegedly trying to influence the probe against Mr Deshmukh, who stepped down in April after he was accused of corruption by former Mumbai Police chief Param Bir Singh.

The CBI in its First Information Report (FIR), accessed by NDTV, said, "On 28.6.2021, Abhishek Tiwari had visited Pune in connection with the investigation of case

against Anil Deshmukh. It has been learnt that Advocate Anand Daga met Abhishek Tiwari and handed over an iPhone 12 Pro as illegal gratification to him in lieu of passing details regarding the investigation."

The iPhone 12 Pro has been seized from Mr Tiwari and sent for forensic analysis, CBI sources told NDTV.

The CBI alleged Mr Tiwari had been taking "illegal gratification" from the former minister's lawyer regularly.

"Sources informed us that Abhishek Tiwari shared copies of different documents like memorandum of proceedings, sealing-unsealing memorandum, statements and seizure memos related to the investigation of the case against Deshmukh with Ananda Daga through WhatsApp on many occasions," the CBI alleged.

"Abhishek Tiwari, who was entrusted with the possession of sensitive documents as part of the enquiry into the investigation against Anil Deshmukh, in his capacity as a sub-inspector of the branch, has committed criminal breach of trust in respect of the said property," the CBI said.

Kiran, a Superintendent of Police in the CBI, who is also the supervisory officer of the case against Mr Deshmukh, had filed the complaint against the sub-inspector, who allegedly took the expensive phone made by Apple Inc that roughly costs the same as a commuter bike.

Both the sub-inspector and the lawyer were sent to two-day CBI custody on Thursday.

Mr Deshmukh's son-in-law was also questioned by the CBI on Thursday over the leak of the inquiry report.



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## Will Allow Things to Improve?

The Teesta Stage-V hydel project has been in operation for more than a decade now, and yet, it was only in July 2016 that Sikkim learned that NHPC had no protocol in place for release of water from the dam into the river. To reiterate: as put on record by the High Court of Sikkim in its judgment delivered on 01 July 2016, forget about safe release of water, the NHPC had “no protocol” in place for any release of water! But that is not what claims by NHPC and attestations by the district authorities had led Sikkim to believe. Every time people complained of sudden release of water or unreasonable surges in the Teesta, NHPC would insist that it had a “protocol” which was followed and even the concerned agencies of the State, after the routine inspections and site visits, would endorse such claims. This teamwork was displayed not just for the water release situation but also for the many sinks and slides that the hydel project caused in the area.

NHPC was occasionally made to pay ex gratia to affected families, but one cannot recollect an instance when accountability was fixed and blame established. Ex gratia payment is “a payment one makes when s/he has no obligation to do so”. In other words, even when the ex gratia amount is substantial, it does not carry any implication of guilt or responsibility. It is not compensation; it is more of a donation. And it is in the grays of such bureaucratise that mistakes, negligence and even criminal malfeasance get covered up. District authorities investigating a death due to drowning in a reservoir flooded Teesta had reported that the siren had been hooted to warn of the release of water on the ill-fated day when Radhika Gurung was overcome by a Teesta which rose without warning. The officer clearly took NHPC on its word because less than a month later, a surprise check revealed that none of the sirens were in working condition. The Court has rejected claims that adequate warning was given, because no system had ever been formalized till then and what existed at an informal level was not functional at the time. These realities were somehow kept out of the official report prepared by the East District administration at the time, and such lack of empathy and such willingness to allow even cataclysmic negligence to go unchecked go to the root of most people versus system conflicts that abound in our country. People know what happened, so when official “investigations” are so obviously tilted against them, they lose faith. Officials, whether in the police, the administration or politics, should make it clear that they will not bend or break laws and rules for each other. Unfortunately, it happens too often. When a company is found stealing the provident fund deposits of its employees and police action is recommended, the cops and the administration invariably try and settle the matter. So, the stolen money is reimbursed, but no good is served because no examples are set and a shameful theft is condoned. And such cover-ups continue until a case reaches the courts and the truth comes out or when a bigger scandal erupts and everyone wonders how the warning signs were not caught earlier.

Sometimes, when people are kicked around without even an excuse me, “national interest”, an aspect of “developmental” projects that the developers never tire of highlighting, is flaggged. Even in the present case, NHPC did make a mention of such a role when it proclaimed that it was a “very responsible organization of national importance” and that the media had over-sensationalised the matter. A child was dead because of apparent negligence. There was no need to sensationalise such news, it was already staggeringly shocking. Someone should banish claims of “national importance” and “national interest” from ever being claimed in the public domain because what really is of more national importance than the people themselves? And it is invariably the lay people who get stomped all over in the name of national interest by agencies which are of “national importance”.

People blame the system, they blame the officers and they blame corruption. All of these factors own a portion of the blame, but the largest slice has to go to the ethical deficit which we have created by not allowing anyone to do their job properly. By negotiating compromises for everything from teenager brawls to an attempt to murder to rape to theft to corruption, we have institutionalized a system under which no institution is free – they all await directions to even do what is their prescribed task because one never knows when a phone call will come to “adjust” or “settle” or go easy. The constituents of the system get so used to such dilutions, that it takes the death of an 11-year-old, an earnest advocate and a High Court order to reveal how ugly we have become. Will we change? We should, because hydel is still not finished business in Sikkim and some big ones are on the verge of being revived.

### WRITE US:

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## Tokyo Paralympics: why para taekwondo is the most thrilling new sport

JOŽEF ŠIMENKO  
*theconversation.com*

For fans of martial arts, Tokyo 2020 was always going to be something to look forward to. Along with para badminton, the programme this year saw para taekwondo make its debut.

The new discipline joins para judo and wheelchair fencing in the combat sports roster, but because of the way points are scored – by landing powerful kicks on the body – para taekwondo is the first full-contact para sport in the history of the Olympic Games. And it has not disappointed.

For the sport’s first bout on Thursday September 2, Afghanistan’s Zakia Khudadadi emerged on the mat to spar with Ziyodakhon Isakova of Uzbekistan, AC/DC’s Thunderstruck playing over the speakers. Khudadadi was one of only two Paralympians who made it out of Kabul in time to compete in Tokyo.

Isakova won and para taekwondo has continued making headlines. Leonor Espinoza Carranza took Peru’s first gold medal in Tokyo, and the country’s first Paralympic gold since Sydney 2000, in the women’s up to 49kg category.

Chances are that even if you don’t know the rules, you’ll find para taekwondo exciting to watch. For many, the spectacular kicks that characterise the sport make it the new highlight on the Paralympic calendar.

### DEVELOPING A PARA SPORT

Taekwondo was first showcased at the Seoul 1988 Games and, in 2000, made an official Olympic discipline at the Sydney Games. The subsequent development of the sport for para athletes by

World Taekwondo, the official sports organisation, opened up the possibility that para taekwondo might follow suit in the future.

Starting in 2005, para taekwondo was developed from the kyorugi or free-form sparring discipline, one of several that make up taekwondo. The eligible impairments include limb impairments, arm amputations and the loss of toes which impact the ability to lift the heel properly.

The first Para Taekwondo World Championships were held in Baku, Azerbaijan in 2009, with 40 athletes from 20 nations. Participation worldwide has been on the rise ever since. The Tokyo 2020 events comprise kyorugi in three weight categories per gender, with 72 athletes competing in total.

Para athletes, like their Olympic peers, wear helmets and trunk protectors (padded vests around their chest). They compete on an octagonal padded mat, 8m wide. And bouts are organised in three two-minute rounds.

Points in taekwondo are scored by landing kicks to the body with sufficient power and accuracy. Minor adjustments have been made to the rules for para-athletes’ safety. Kicks to the head are strictly forbidden, contrary to taekwondo, and punches to the body do not score because para taekwondoins do not have the full ability to block.

Instead, athletes can score two points for a valid kick to the trunk protector. They can score additional points for more difficult kicks – one more for a turn kick; two more for a spinning kick; and three points for a kick involving a 180-degree turn.

### SPECTACULAR POTENTIAL

Since 2017, athletes can score four points for

360-degree spinning kicks too. This has meant that entire matches can turn on a single move, making spectacular spin-kick combinations the essence of the sport.

Taekwondo allows for various attacks and counter-attacks with linear, spinning and circular types of kicks. Analysis of how the perfect kick is pulled off has shown that an initial so-called loading phase of the knee and hip extension is essential to the athlete being able to launch into the kicking phase.

Research shows that para athletes frequently execute dynamic moves, including turning kicks, fast kicks, cut kicks, jump back kicks, and tornado kicks, in both defence and offence. To perform these, they need exceptional speed, agility, explosive power and dynamic balance.

In addition, all elite taekwondo athletes are trained to anticipate the opponent’s moves. They pre-empt attacks by kicking the opponent directly and performing spinning kicks from short distances when they perceive an opponent’s cutting action.

To successfully perform the turning kicks, taekwondo athletes use their arms to control their rotation (angular momentum). What sets para taekwondoins apart is that they do not have the same use of their upper limbs. Instead they deploy other compensatory motions to achieve extraordinary attacks, counter-attacks, combinations and defensive movements. For many, para taekwondo offers more thrills than its Olympic counterpart.

*[the writer is Lecturer in Anatomy and Physiology, Essex Pathways Department, University of Essex]*

## Boomers vs Millennials? Free yourself from the phoney generation wars

BOBBY DUFFY  
*theconversation.com*

Generational thinking is a big idea that’s been horribly corrupted and devalued by endless myths and stereotypes. These clichés have fuelled fake battles between “snowflake” millennials and “selfish” baby boomers, with younger generations facing a “war on woke” and older generations accused of “stealing” the future from the young.

As I argue in my book, Generations, this is a real shame. A more careful understanding of what’s really different between generations is one of the best tools we have to understand change – and predict the future.

Some of the great names in sociology and philosophy saw understanding generational change as central to understanding society overall. Auguste Comte, for example, identified the generation as a key factor in “the basic speed of human development”.

He argued that “we should not hide the fact that our social progress rests essentially upon death; which is to say that the successive steps of humanity necessarily require a continuous renovation ... from one generation to the next”. We humans get set in our ways once we’re past our formative years, and we need the constant injection of new participants to keep society moving forward.

Understanding whether, and how, generations are different is vital to understanding society. The balance between generations is constantly shifting, as older cohorts die out and are replaced by new entrants. If younger generations truly do have different attitudes or behaviours to older generations, this will reshape

society, and we can, to some extent, predict how it will develop if we can identify those differences.

But in place of this big thinking, today we get clickbait headlines and bad research on millennials “killing the napkin industry” or on how baby boomers have “ruined everything”. We’ve fallen a long way.

### MYTH BUSTING

To see the true value of generational thinking, we need to identify and discard the many myths. For example, as I outline in the book, gen Z and millennials are not lazy at work or disloyal to their employers. They’re also no more materialistic than previous generations of young: a focus on being rich is something we tend to grow out of.

Old people are not uncaring or unwilling to act on climate change: in fact, they are more likely than young people to boycott products for social purpose reasons.

And our current generation of young are not a particularly unusual group of “culture warriors”. Young people are always at the leading edge of change in cultural norms, around race, immigration, sexuality and gender equality. The issues have changed, but the gap between young and old is not greater now than in the past.

Meanwhile, there are real, and vitally important, generational differences hidden in this mess. To see them, we need to separate the three effects that explain all change in societies. Some patterns are simple “lifecycle effects”, where attitudes and behaviours are to do with our age, not which generation we are born into. Some are “period effects” – where everyone is affected, such as in a war, economic crisis or a pandemic.

And finally, there are “cohort ef-

fects”, which is where a new generation is different from others at the same age, and they stay different. It’s impossible to entirely separate these distinct forces, but we can often get some way towards it – and when we do, we can predict the future in a much more meaningful way.

There are many real generational differences, in vitally important areas of life. For example, the probability of you owning your own home is hugely affected by when you were born. Millennials are around half as likely to be a homeowner than generations born only a couple of decades earlier.

There is also a real cohort effect in experience of mental health disorders, particularly among recent generations of young women. Our relationship with alcohol and likelihood of smoking is also tied to our cohort, with huge generational declines in very regular drinking and smoking. Each of these point to different futures, from increased strain on mental health services to declining alcohol sales.

But lifecycle and period effects are vitally important too. For example, there is truth in the idea that we grow more conservative as we age. One analysis suggests that this ageing effect is worth around 0.35% to the Conservatives each year, which may not sound like a lot, but is very valuable over the course of a political lifetime.

And, of course, the pandemic provides a very powerful example of how period effects can dramatically change things for us all.

### REACHING BEYOND THE AVO-CADO

When there is such richness in the realities, why are there so many myths? It’s partly down to bad mar-

keting and workplace research – that is, people jumping on the generation bandwagon to get media coverage for their products or to sell consultancy to businesses on how to engage young employees.

This has become its own mini-industry. In 2015, US companies spent up to US\$70 million (£51 million) on this sort of “advice” according to the Wall Street Journal, with some experts making as much as US\$20,000 an hour. Over 400 LinkedIn users now describe themselves solely as a “millennial expert” or “millennial consultant”.

Campaigners and politicians also play to these imagined differences. Our increasing focus on “culture wars” often involves picking out particular incidents in universities, such as the banning of clapping at events or the removal of a portrait of the Queen to exaggerate how culturally different young people today are.

Maybe less obviously, politicians such as former US President Barack Obama repeatedly lionise coming generations as more focused on equality, when the evidence shows they’re often not that different. These assertions are not only wrong, but create false expectations and divides.

Some have had enough, calling on the Pew Research Center in the US, which has been a champion of generational groups, to stop conducting this type of analysis. I think that misses the point: it’s how it’s applied rather than the idea of generations that’s wrong.

We should defend the big idea and call out the myths, not abandon the field to the “millennial consultants”.

*[the writer is Professor of Public Policy and Director of the Policy Institute, King’s College London]*



# Nitish Kumar govt in Bihar sees red over varsity dropping thoughts of JP, Lohia from syllabus

**PATNA, SEP 3 (PTI):** The Nitish Kumar government in Bihar has expressed strong displeasure over one of the state's universities dropping the thoughts of socialist ideologues Ram ManoharLohia and Jay-aprakash Narayan from its postgraduate course in political science.

The government's dis-approval was conveyed by Education Minister Vijay Kumar Chaudhary who, on Thursday, summoned the authorities of the Jay-aprakash Narayan Univer-sity in Saran district.

I was appalled when I read the report on Wednesday morning. I made calls to the depart-ment's additional chief secretary and officials of the Directorate of Higher Secondary, who had no idea. By that time, I also received a call from the chief minister, who sounded upset," Chaud-hary told reporters.

The minister said he learnt from officials of the varsity that changes



were effected in syl-labi in accordance with recommendations of an experts' committee in 2018, which was set up after the new education policy came into force.

The government, however, maintains that any such change should not have been brought in without taking the administration into the loop. Socialism has been a unique ideological stream in Indian politics,

and Bihar has been one of its main laboratories. Moreover, the state has strong sentiments for JP who was a son of the soil," Chaudhary said.

Notably, both Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and his arch-rival Lalu Prasad owe their entry into politics to the JP movement of 1974.

Prasad, a former CM himself, had also shared a clipping of the news-paper report on his Twit-

ter handle, dubbing it as an attempt to saffronise education in Bihar an al-lusion to the BJP sharing power. Chaudhary was also asked about the re-ported inclusion of the thoughts of RSS ideo-logue DeenDayalUpad-hyay in the curriculum.

Our contention is that no politically relevant thinker should be ex-cluded from the syllabus. We do not think there is any point in objecting to

anybody's inclusion," he said. The minister also said he looked forward to take up the matter with Governor FaguChauhan, who is the Chancellor of all state universities.

Officials in my de-partment have also been directed to check up with other state universities and intervene suitably if similar changes have been proposed in the curricula there," Chaud-hary said.

# Singh, Chikara keep Indian medal hopes alive, make last-16

**TOKYO, SEP 3 (PTI):** Indian recurve archer duo of VivekChikara and Harvinder Singh kept medal hopes alive, sailing into their respective pre-quarterfinals of the men's open section in the Paralympic Games here on Friday.

World number 23 Singh, who became the first athlete from India to win a gold medal in para archery at a major com-petition in Asian Games Jakarta 2018, overcame a stiff challenge from Ste-fano Travanisani of Italy to win 6-5 (10-7) via shoot-out.

The 30-year-old, who qualified as 21st seed, squandered a 4-0 lead after shooting a 7 in the third set as the Italian slowly bounced back to make it 5-all and force a shoot-off.

But Singh, who hails from a remote village Kaithal in Haryana, clinched the issue shoot-ing a perfect 10 in the tie-breaker as his rival man-aged just 7.

An economics scholar

from the Punjabi Univer-sity, Singh will face Rus-sian Paralympic Com-mittee's BatoTsyden-dorzhev later in the day.

Hailing from a mid-dle-class farming family, Singh had dengue at one-and-a-half years and a lo-cal doctor administered him with an injection that had an adverse ef-fect and his legs stopped working properly since then.

Asian Para Champi-onship winner in 2019, VivekChikara, who finished in top-10 in the rankings round, stormed past Sri Lankan SampathBandaraMega-hamulea Gadara 6-2 to set up a last-16 clash with Great Britain's Da-vid Phillips.

World number 13 Chikara, who competes with a prosthetic left-leg, overcame a blip in the second set when he mis-fired a 6 as he wrapped the issue with some con-sistent shooting.

An MBA and leading a corporate life, Chikara was about to marry his

long-time girlfriend but life took a twist as he met with an accident on the New Year's day of 2017.

Travelling to be with his family from Saha-ranpur, the Meerut lad's motorcycle was hit by a speeding truck and his left leg had to be ampu-tated below the knee.

Chikara then took up archery with the guid-ance of Athens 2004 Olympian Satyadev Prasad and won his ma-jor medal, winning a gold in Bangkok.

The Open event com-bines W2 (wheelchair) and ST (standing) class-es, including athletes who have an impair-ment in the legs and use a wheelchair or have a balance impairment and shoot standing or resting on a stool.

In archery, the use of assistive equipment or an assistant is allowed depending on the im-pairment, while a variety of techniques may be em-ployed, including pulling the bowstring with the mouth.

# Army foils infiltration bid along LoC in J-K's Poonch

Jammu, Sep 3 (PTI): The Army has foiled an in-filtration bid along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, defence officials said on Friday.

This is the second in-filtration bid foiled by the Army in the last five days.

"There was an in-filtration attempt (by terrorists) along LoC in Poonch sector last night," said the PRO defence.

The infiltration bid

has been foiled with ef-fective fire by the troops on our side of the LoC, he said.

Further details are awaited, the PRO added. He, however, denied any ceasefire violation along the LoC.

Earlier in the week on Monday, two terror-ists were killed as Army troops foiled a similar infiltration attempt along the LoC in Poonch dis-trict.

# Bengal logs 695 new COVID-19 cases, 13 fresh fatalities

**KOLKATA, SEPT 2 (PTI):** West Bengal's CO-VID-19 tally rose to 15,49,978 on Thurs-day as 695 more peo-ple tested positive for the infection, while 13 fresh fatalities pushed the state's coronavirus toll to 18,472, a health bulletin said.

Of the fresh fatalities, five deaths were report-ed from Nadia district, and three from North 24 Parganas.

The state now has 8,734 active cases, while 15,22,772 people have

recovered from the dis-ease to date, including 749 in the last 24 hours.

The recovery rate among coronavirus pa-tients now stands at 98.24 per cent.

West Bengal has thus far tested 1,70,79,421 samples, including 40,270 in the last 24 hours, the bulletin said.

As many as 5,75,886 people have been in-oculated in the state, of whom 4,21,97,811 have received the first dose, a health department offi-cial said.

# Arunachal logs 54 new COVID-19 cases, one more fatality

**ITANAGAR, SEP 3 (PTI):** At least 54 more people tested positive for CO-VID-19 in Arunachal Pradesh, taking the tally in the northeastern state to 53,156, an official said on Friday.

The death toll in the state rose to 261 as a 56-year-old man from the Capital Complex Re-gion succumbed to the infection on Wednesday at a dedicated COVID hospital here, State Sur-veillance Officer DrLob-sangJampa said.

"The patient died due to acute respiratory dis-tress syndrome with CO-VID Pneumonia and was also suffering from hy-pertension," the SSO said.

Fifty fresh cases were detected through rapid antigen test, three through TrueNat method

and one through RT-PCR, the official said, adding that 23 people have de-veloped symptoms of the coronavirus infection.

The Capital Complex Region reported the highest number of new cases at 18, followed by Lower Subansiri (11), Tawang (six), Lohit (four), East Siang (three), Papumpare, Upper Siang and West Kameng (two each).

One each was re-corded in Lower Dibang Valley, Leparada, Kamle, Changlang, Dibang Val-ley and Anjaw districts, Jampa said.

Arunachal Pradesh now has 829 active cases, he said.

The Capital Complex Region - comprising Ita-nagar, Naharlagun, Nir-juli and Banderdewa ar-

reas - has the maximum number of active cases at 169, followed by Lower Subansiri (91), West Ka-meng (61). Ninety-seven people were cured of the disease on Thursday, tak-ing the total number of recoveries in the state to 52,066, he said.

The recovery rate among coronavirus pa-tients stands at 97.95 per cent.

Over 10.65 lakh sam-ples have been tested for COVID-19 in the state so far, including 2,866 on Thursday, and the posi-tivity rate is at 1.88 per cent, Jampa said.

State Immunisation Officer DrDimongPadung said 9,87,214 people have been administered vaccine doses so far since the beginning of the ino-culation drive in January.

# Myanmar refugee kids to study in Mizoram schools on "Humanitarian Ground"



Since March, after the military junta take-over of Myanmar, thou-sands of refugees have crossed the border into Mizoram

Guwahati: The chil-dren of migrants and refugees from Myan-mar will be enrolled in schools in Mizoram on humanitarian grounds, sources in the state gov-ernment have said. Thou-sands had fled Myanmar after a military coup and many are living in refu-gee camps in Mizoram.

A circular from the Mizoram Directorate of School Education to all district education offi-cers and sub divisional educational officers on

Tuesday asked them to ensure children of the refugees are enrolled in schools. "...Admission to migrant/refugee chil-dren... continue their schooling," the circular signed by head of Direc-torate of School Educa-tion, James Lalrinchhana, reads.

The decision was taken under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009.

"Children aged be-tween 6 and 14 years be-longing to disadvantaged communities have the right to be admitted to school in a class appro-priate to his or her age for completing elemen-

tary education," the cir-cular said, quoting the law.

Since March, after the military junta take-over of Myanmar, thou-sands of refugees have crossed the border into Mizoram. While the cen-tre had ordered that the borders be closed to Myanmar refugees, the Mizoram National Front (MNF) government led by Zoramthanga had al-lowed them to come, cit-ing "common tribal lin-eage" and "deep ethnic bonds".

Sources said Mizoram has some 10,000 refu-gees from Myanmar, in-cluding 20 legislators of the country before the military coup.



**H**irdesh Singh, known professionally as YoYo Honey Singh, and Shalini-Talwar got married on Jan 23, 2011. In her plea, MsTalwar has charted out how she was allegedly physically assaulted by Honey Singh over the last ten years of their marriage. She also alleged that Honey Singh cheated on her.

New Delhi: Punjabi singer YoYo Honey Singh today moved an applica-tion seeking that the domestic violence case filed against him by his wife be heard in-camera.

Metropolitan Magistrate Tania Singh called Honey Singh and his wife ShaliniTalwar to her chamber and they are still being counselled.

Later, the counsels for both parties were also called by the Magistrate in her chambers.

In the last hearing, the court had pulled up Honey Singh after he failed

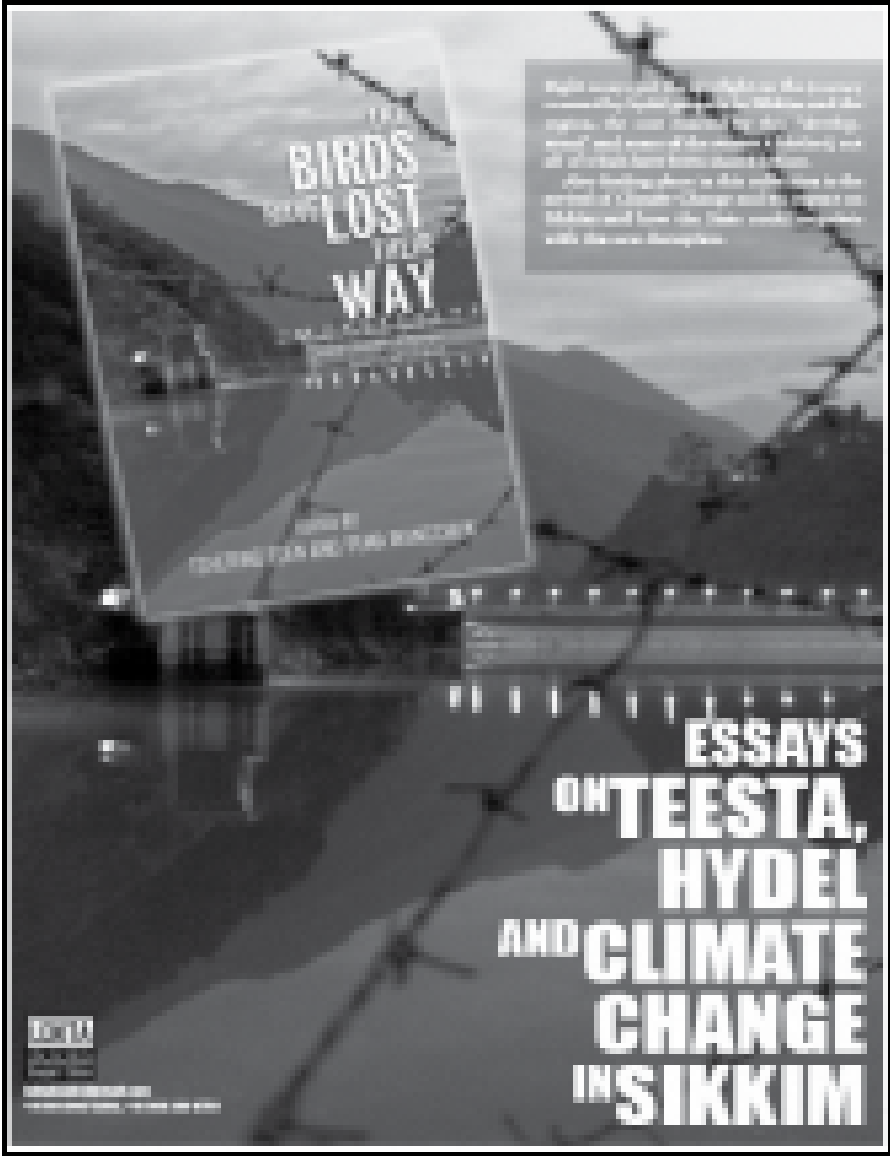
to appear before it and gave him a final warning. "No one is above the law," the judge had said.

MsTalwar has filed the domestic violence case against her singer-actor husband and sought ₹ 20 crore as com-pensation from him under the Protec-tion of Women from Domestic Violence Act.

Hirdesh Singh, known profession-ally as YoYo Honey Singh, and ShaliniTal-war got married on January 23, 2011.

In her plea, MsTalwar has charted out how she was allegedly physically assaulted by Honey Singh over the last ten years of their marriage. She also al-leged that Honey Singh cheated on her.

The 38-year-old woman claimed that Honey Singh and his family broke her mentally and emotionally to an ex-tent that she almost started identifying herself as a "farm animal".





## Oman shocks Japan 1-0, Iraq holds South Korea to 0-0 draw

**OSAKA, SEP 3 (AP):** Australia beat China 3-0 in the opening round of Asian World Cup qualifying, while Japan surprisingly lost 1-0 to Oman.

AwerMabil and Martin Boyle scored first-half goals on Thursday for the Socceroos in a game played in Doha, Qatar, because of travel restrictions limiting entry into Australia. Mitchell Duke added a third with 20 minutes remaining.

"It was exactly what we expected as a team," Boyle, who plays for Hibernian FC in Scotland, said.

"It's nice to be on the scoresheet again and to carry my form from club football to here, so I'm happy."

The win put Australia in first place in Group B above Oman. Substitute Issam Al-Sabhi swept home from close range in the 88th minute for Oman in rainy Osaka to claim victory against Asia's top-ranked team.

It could have been worse for Japan as Oman, ranked 55 places lower, saw a second-half penalty overturned by VAR after the referee initially pointed to the spot following a handball by YutoNagatomo.

Japan has made six consecutive World Cup appearances, but Oman has never qualified. The Japanese enjoyed the majority of possession but struggled to create clear chances against their well-organized opponent.

"It was a disappointing defeat," Japan coach Hajime Moriyasu said.

"Now the focus is to bounce back to take three points in the next game."

That comes against China on Tuesday while Australia faces Vietnam in Hanoi. Vietnam, playing for the first time at this stage of qualification, lost 3-1 to Saudi Arabia despite taking an early lead through Nguyen QuangHai.

The game in Riyadh turned after 55 minutes as Vietnamese defender Do DuyManh was adjudged to have handled in the area and was also shown a second yellow card. Salem Al-Dawsari scored from the spot and soon after Yasser Al-Shahrani headed the host into the lead. The win was sealed with 10 minutes remaining as Saleh Al-Shehri fired home a penalty.

In Group A, South Korea was frustrated after being held by Iraq to a 0-0 draw in an empty Seoul World Cup Stadium.

The host, aiming for a 10th successive appearance at the World Cup, was in charge for much of the game against the hard-working visitors but could not break the deadlock.

Lee Jae-sung came closest, blasting over in the first half from close range after a goal-line clearance.

Hwang Hee-chan, who recently signed with English Premier League team Wolverhampton, headed straight at the goalkeeper from a good position after the break.

# 23 down, 5 to go: Djokoviceyeing calendar-year Slam at Open

**NEW YORK (AP):** Novak Djokovic missed an overhead along the way to getting broken for the only time Thursday night and stared at a man in the Arthur Ashe Stadium stands who made noise during the point.

After breaking right back in the next game of his second-round victory at the U.S. Open, Djokovic glared in that direction again, as if to say, "How you like me now?" Miffed as the distractions persisted, he later spoke to the chair umpire about what's considered a no-no in tennis.

That, then, is pretty much what provided some intrigue and interest in this one, because the ultimate outcome — a 6-2, 6-3, 6-2 victory for Djokovic over TallonGriekspoor — seemed fairly obvious after all of about 15 minutes. Or maybe even before the No. 1-ranked Djokovic and his 121st-ranked opponent stepped on court on a cool, breezy evening.

"That guy, for some reason, was calling, raising the sound and kind of screaming just before I would hit my smash, which was a big point. Before that, he would do it a few times. After that, again," Djokovic said. "That wasn't nice. That's all. I don't mind the noise. Don't get me wrong. I think it's important for the entertainment, for the crowds, the music. I get it. But if someone does it over and over again ... he knows why he's doing it. The guy that I pointed out, he knew exactly what he was doing, and that's all."

If that bothered Djokovic, his shot-making and serving boosted his mood as he took another step toward completing the first calendar-year Grand Slam in men's tennis since 1969 and claiming a



21st major championship to eclipse the mark he shares with Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

"All in all very good, very good. I'm very pleased with the level of my tennis," Djokovic said. "All is going in the right direction."

He considered this a better performance than in his win Tuesday, when he dropped a set and was taken aback by hearing what he thought were boos but actually were last-name chants of "Ruuuuune!" for his 18-year-old foe, Holger Vitus Nodskov Rune.

Here's what matters the most: Djokovic is 2-0 at Flushing Meadows this week and 23-0 in Grand Slam tournaments this year, with five more wins standing between him and history.

"I am motivated as ever

to do well," said Djokovic, a 34-year-old from Serbia who will face 2014 U.S. Open finalist Kei Nishikori next. "I am trying to be the best I can be every single day and let's see what happens."

Djokovic has won their past 16 matchups, including at the Tokyo Olympics in July, although Nishikori's last head-to-head victory came in New York seven years ago.

This was only the fourth Slam match for Griekspoor, a 25-year-old Dutchman who tends to appear on the lower-level ATP Challenger Tour. And he never really stood much of a chance against Djokovic, who broke to lead 3-1 and was on his way.

"There's a reason he's the best of all-time, probably. Just, every ball comes back. You hit a great serve, the ball's back

on your feet," Griekspoor said. "There's just not one shot that you can go at that he's not so good at. He's everywhere."

Djokovic dominated every statistical category. He served well, to the tune of 13 aces. He serve-and-volleyed occasionally. He returned well enough to win half of Griekspoor's service games. He dominated baseline exchanges.

Maybe that's why ESPN's telecast cut away in the third set.

About the only problems No. 1 Ash Barty and other top women encountered earlier Thursday came in the delays trying to get to Flushing Meadows in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida's remnants blowing through the Northeast a night earlier.

Barty, a two-time major champion including at Wim-

bledon in July, three-time Grand Slam champ Angelique Kerber, Tokyo Olympic gold medalist Belinda Bencic, double Wimbledon title winner Petra Kvitova and other seeded women including No. 14 Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, No. 17 Maria Sakkari, No. 23 Jessica Pegula and No. 28 AnettKontaveit all won in two sets during the afternoon to reach the third round.

At night, 2019 U.S. Open champion Bianca Andreescu improved her tournament record to 9-0 by defeating Lauren Davis 6-4, 6-4.

Among the men's winners were Summer Games gold medalist and 2020 U.S. Open runner-up Alexander Zverev, 2021 Wimbledon finalist MatteoBerrettini, No. 17 Gael Monfils and No. 22 seed Reilly Opelka of the U.S.

But No. 10 Hubert Hurkacz, a Wimbledon semifinalist, lost to Andreas Seppi of Italy, and No. 31 Alexander Bublik was beaten by American wild-card recipient Jack Sock 7-6 (3), 6-7 (2), 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.

Another U.S. man who got a wild card, 20-year-old Jensen Brooksby, won an all-Californian matchup against Taylor Fritz 6-7 (7), 7-6 (10), 7-5, 6-2.

With nary a cloud around, play in second-round matches on the outer courts was pushed back from 11 a.m. to noon to allow the U.S. Tennis Association time to clean up downed tree branches and other scattered debris and make sure everything was ready for competition on Day 4 of the year's last Grand Slam tournament.

Once all was ready to go, it was just a matter of players' transportation navigating traffic delays caused by road closures and vehicles that were abandoned overnight; a trip from Manhattan to Queens that normally might take 30-45 minutes took 1 1/2 hours or longer for some.

"Trying to grasp what was happening here on-site was quite unbelievable, and I know that there has been a lot of flash flooding and a lot of people in trouble," Barty said. "Hopefully, a lot of people from site got home safely, and New Yorkers in general were able to get home, because it was quite a wild storm. It did wreak some havoc; obviously there was a later start today, I think, because of, obviously, the damage to the site."

"It took us a while to get in this morning, but we kind of allowed for that time," she added, "expecting there would be a little bit more of an issue than just a normal commute coming in."

## Italy held to draw, Spain loses in World Cup qualifying

**MILAN, SEP 3 (AP):** Italy finally came back down to earth a bit in its first game as European champion.

Less than two months after winning the European Championship at Wembley, Italy was held to a 1-1 draw by Bulgaria in World Cup qualifying on Thursday.

That ended Italy's perfect start to the qualifying campaign but nevertheless matched Spain's record run of 35 matches unbeaten, set between 2007 and 2009.

Spain lost 2-1 away to Sweden to drop to second place in Group B, while England and Belgium earned big wins to consolidate their group leads.

Federico Chiesa gave Italy the lead after a dominant start but the Azzurri conceded its first goal in the qualifiers when Atanaslijev leveled at the end of the first half. Some great stops by Bulgaria goalkeeper GeorgiGeorgiev prevented Italy from restoring its lead.

Only the group winners directly qualify for the World Cup. Second-place finishers face a playoff.

Here's a look at the action in each group.

### GROUP B

Sweden came from behind to beat Spain and leapfrog the visitors for first place.

Carlos Soler scored five minutes into his debut for Spain to put the visitors in front, but AleksanderIsak leveled seconds later.

Viktor Claesson put Sweden ahead for good in the 57th. Only some desperate defending by Spain's defenders denied Isak a chance to add another goal on the counterattack.

Sweden has a perfect nine points from three games, while Spain fell to second place with seven points from four games.

Kosovo moved up to third after beating Georgia 1-0.

### GROUP C

Mancini had recalled all the fit players from his European Championship-winning squad for the three World Cup qualifiers and nine of the starting lineup against Bulgaria started the Euro 2020 final against England in July.

The Azzurri dominated from the start and took the lead in the 16th minute when Chiesa played a one-two with Ciro Immobile before firing into the bottom right corner.

Italy seemed fully in

control and had several chances to extend its lead before Bulgaria leveled five minutes from halftime against the run of play. KirilDespodov burst down the left before sending in a low pass for Iliev to sweep past GianluigiDonnarumma.

Italy moved four points ahead of second-place Switzerland, which has played two matches less.

Lithuania is bottom of the group with zero points and lost 4-1 at home to Northern Ireland.

### GROUP E

Romelu Lukaku scored twice as top-ranked Belgium came from an early goal down to beat Estonia 5-2 and stay atop Group E.

Estonia midfielder Mattias K it put the hosts ahead in the second minute but the heavily favored Red Devils were quick to turn things around.

With 10 points from four games, Belgium retained a three-point lead in the group ahead of the Czech Republic, which defeated Belarus 1-0. Belgium has scored 17 goals in the campaign, the most of all European teams. Wales and Belarus are on three points while Estonia is

pointless.

### GROUP I

England weathered a hostile atmosphere to beat Hungary 4-0 in its first game since losing the Euro 2020 final.

Raheem Sterling, Harry Kane and Harry Maguire scored in a 14-minute flurry and Declan Rice added a second-half goal as England secured a fourth straight victory in the group to extend its lead to five points on the road to qualifying for Qatar.

Poland is second after beating Albania 4-1 while Andorra earned its first win by beating fellow minnow San Marino 2-0 at home.

### GROUP J

Germany beat Liechtenstein 2-0 to move into second in the group, a point behind surprise leader Armenia.

Goals in each half from Timo Werner and Leroy San helped Germany to a labored win in its first match under new coach Hansi Flick.

Armenia dropped its first points of the campaign with a 0-0 draw against North Macedonia, which remained third.

It is three points behind Armenia and a point above Romania after it won 2-0 in Iceland.

## Legend at 19: Lekhara becomes first Indian woman to win 2 Paralympic medals

**TOKYO, SEP 3 (PTI):** Trailblazing shooter AvaniLekhara on Friday became the first Indian woman to win two Paralympic medals by claiming the 50m Rifle 3 Position SH1 bronze to add to an unprecedented gold she had won earlier in the ongoing Games here.

The 19-year-old Lekhara, competing in her debut Games, qualified second for the event with a score of 1176, including 51 inner 10s.

In the fiercely contested finals, Lekharatotalled 445.9 to finish ahead of Ukraine's IrynaShchetnik, who let slip her grip on the medal spot with a poor third shot of 9.9 in the elimination.

Lekhara had become the first Indian woman to win a Paralympic gold by claiming the top honours in the 10m air rifle standing SH1 event.

The Jaipur-based shooter, who sustained spinal cord injuries in a car accident in 2012 rendering her immobile, had fired a world record equalling total of 249.6, which was also a new Paralympic record. Prior to her, Joginder

Singh Sodhi was the lone Indian to win multiple medals in the same edition of the Games when he fetched one silver and two bronze medals in the 1984 Paralympics.

His silver came in shot put, while the two bronze medals were won in discus and javelin throw.

Javelin thrower DevendraJhajharia is the other multiple Paralympic medallist but all his three medals (two gold and a silver) have come in different editions of the Games.

The gold in Friday's event was claimed by China's Zhang Cuiping with a new Games record of 457.9, while German NataschaHiltrop took the silver with a 457.1 in the final.

Athletes in SH1 Rifle have an impairment in their legs, for example amputations or paraplegia. Some athletes compete in a seated position, while others compete in a standing position.

Lekhara started shooting on the insistence of her father in 2015 at a city shooting range.

"She was angry at her condition and hardly had a desire to talk to anyone. For a change, I used to take her to JDA shooting range in Jagatpura, Jaipur where she developed interest in shooting," her father Praveen Lekhara had told PTI after the gold medal she won in 10m air rifle competition.

The youngster was also inspired by Olympic gold-medallist rifle shooter AbhinavBindra after reading his autobiography, which was a gift from her father.

A student of law, Lekhara made her debut for India in 2017 World Cup in Al Ain, UAE.

In the men's event 50m Rifle 3P, Deepak failed to qualify for the finals after finishing 18th with a score of 1114.

With Lekhara's bronze, India's medal tally has risen to 12.

The country has won two gold, six silver and four bronze medals so far, an unprecedented and truly remarkable performance given that its combined haul for all previous Games stood at 12 before this.

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New Zealand police kill ‘terrorist’ after he stabs 6 people

**WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND (AP):** New Zealand authorities were so worried about an extremist inspired by the Islamic State group they were following him around-the-clock and were able to shoot and kill him within 60 seconds of him unleashing a frenzied knife attack that wounded six people Friday at an Auckland supermarket.

Three of the shoppers were taken to Auckland hospitals in critical condition, police said. Another was in serious condition, while two more were in moderate condition.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said the incident was a terror attack. She said the man was a Sri Lankan national who was inspired by the Islamic State group and was well known to the nation's security agencies.

Ardern said she had been personally briefed on the man in the past but there had been no legal reason for him to be detained.

“Had he done something that would have allowed us to put him into prison, he would have been in prison,” Ardern said.

The attack unfolded at about 2:40 p.m. at a Countdown supermarket in New Zealand's largest city.

Police Commissioner Andrew Coster said a police surveillance team and a specialist tactics group had followed the man from his home in the suburb of Glen Eden to the supermarket in New Lynn.

But while they had grave



ongoing concerns about the man, they had no particular reason to think he was planning an attack on Friday, Coster said. The man appeared to be going into the store to do his grocery shopping.

“He entered the store, as he had done before. He obtained a knife from within the store,” Coster said. “Surveillance teams were as close as they possibly could be to monitor his activity.”

Witnesses said the man shouted “Allahuakbar” — meaning God is great — and started stabbing random shoppers, sending people running and screaming.

Coster said that when the commotion started, two police from the special tactics group rushed over. He said the man

charged at the officers with the knife and so they shot and killed him.

One bystander video taken from inside the supermarket records the sound of 10 shots being fired in rapid succession.

Coster said there would be questions about whether police could have reacted even quicker. He said that the man was very aware of the constant surveillance and they needed to be some distance from him for it to be effective.

Ardern said the attack was violent and senseless, and she was sorry it had happened.

“What happened today was despicable. It was hateful. It was wrong,” Ardern said. “It was carried out by an individual. Not a faith, not a culture, not an ethnicity. But an individual

person who is gripped by ideology that is not supported here by anyone or any community.”

Ardern said the man had first moved to New Zealand in 2011 and had been monitored by security agencies since 2016. She said authorities are confident he acted alone in the attack.

Ardern said legal constraints imposed by New Zealand courts prevented her from discussing everything that she wanted to about the case, but she was hoping to have those constraints lifted soon.

Some shoppers in the supermarket tried to help those who had been wounded by grabbing towels and diapers and whatever else they could find from the shelves.

“To everyone who was there and who witnessed such a horrific event, I can't imagine how they will be feeling in the aftermath,” Ardern said. “But thank you for coming to the aid of those who needed you when they needed you.”

Auckland is currently in a strict lockdown as it battles an outbreak of the coronavirus. Most businesses are shut and people are generally allowed to leave their homes only to buy groceries, for medical needs or to exercise.

Extremist ideology is rare in New Zealand and Ardern said that only a tiny number of people would be subject to such intense surveillance.

In 2019, a white supremacist gunned down worshippers at two Christchurch mosques, killing 51 people and injuring dozens more. After pleading guilty last year, Brenton Tarrant was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. The killings sparked changes to gun laws in New Zealand, which has now banned the deadliest types of semi-automatic weapons.

Among those to condemn the attack on Friday were members of the Al Noor mosque in Christchurch, which was at the center of the mosque attacks two years ago.

“We stand with the victims of the horrible incident,” said Gamal Fouda, the imam of Al Noor. “We feel strongly the pain of terrorism and there are no words that can convey our condemnation of such a horrible act.”

Justin Trudeau criticised for calling Canadian election in 4th wave

**MONTREAL, SEP 3 (AP):** Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau defended his decision to call an election during the pandemic in first debate of the campaign for this month's election.

Trudeau is facing a tough re-election battle against his Conservative Party rival, Erin O'Toole. The vote is on September 20.

Why did you trigger an election in the middle of a fourth wave? O'Toole asked Trudeau at the French-language debate in Montreal. Trudeau said he needs a mandate from voters. We must give Canadians the choice, he said.

He criticised O'Toole for not requiring his candidates to be vaccinated.

O'Toole said he be-

lieves the country can find reasonable accommodations for those who are unvaccinated, like rapid testing and social distancing.

Four provinces including Quebec and Ontario, Canada's largest, are bringing in vaccine passports that require citizens to be vaccinated to enter places like restaurants and gyms.

Trudeau called the election last month seeking to win the majority of seats in Parliament but polls show that is unlikely and that he might even lose power to O'Toole and the Conservative party.

Trudeau had wanted to capitalise on the fact that Canada is now one of the most fully vaccinated countries in the world,

but the country is now in a fourth wave driven by the Delta variant.

The 49-year-old Trudeau, the son of the late Liberal Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, became the second youngest prime minister in Canadian history when he was first elected with a majority of seats in Parliament in 2015. He reasserted liberalism in 2015 after almost 10 years of Conservative Party government in Canada, but scandals combined with high expectations damaged his brand.

His father served as prime minister from 1968 to 1984 with a short interruption and remains one of the few Canadian politicians known in other countries.

Poland probes deadly mushroom poisoning of Afghan evacuees

**WARSAW, POLAND (AP):** Prosecutors and police in central Poland are investigating the mushroom poisoning of an Afghan family evacuated from Kabul last month, including a 5-year-old boy who died after the family made soup from death cap mushrooms they found in a Polish forest.

The boy's 6-year-old brother has undergone liver transplants, but doctors at Poland's main children's hospital said Friday that his survival prospects were very small. A 17-year-old sister was treated and reported to be in good condition.

The family of two adults and four chil-

dren allegedly cooked soup with the highly poisonous mushrooms they found in the forest around a center where they were undergoing a mandatory quarantine. They entered the center in Podkowa Lesna, a town near Warsaw, on Aug. 23.

Prosecutors are questioning the center's staff as part of a criminal investigation that could lead to possible criminal charges for inadvertently exposing people to a serious threat of loss of health or life, Aleksandra Skrzyniarz, a spokesperson for the prosecutors' office in Warsaw, said. The offense carries a maximum prison term of

three years, she said.

Poland evacuated the family last month at Britain's request after the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. The father had worked for the British. Doctors at the children's hospital reported the 5-year-old's death on Thursday.

In a separate incident at a different center near Warsaw, four Afghan men were hospitalized after eating poisonous mushrooms, according to the state Office for Foreigners.

Death cap mushrooms, among the most poisonous in the world, closely resemble Poland's edible parasol mushrooms.

Half-shredded Banksy could fetch over \$5 million at auction

**LONDON (AP):** A Banksy artwork that sensationally self-shredded just after it sold for \$1.4 million is up for sale again — at several times the previous price.

Auctioneer Sotheby's said Friday that “Love is in the Bin” will be offered at a sale in London on Oct. 14. The piece has a pre-sale estimate of 4 million pounds (\$5.5 million to \$8.3 million).

It consists of a half-shredded canvas bearing a spray-painted image of a girl reaching for a heart-shaped red balloon.

Then known as “Girl With Balloon,” the work was sold at Sotheby's in October 2018. Just as an anonymous European buyer made the winning bid, a hidden shredder

embedded in the frame by Banksy whirled to life, leaving half the canvas hanging from the frame in strips.

The buyer decided to go through with the purchase — a decision that would be vindicated if the picture achieves its estimated price.

Alex Branczik, Sotheby's chairman of Modern and Contemporary Art, described “Love is in the Bin” as “the ultimate Banksy artwork and a true icon of recent art history.”

“Love is in the Bin was born of the most spectacular artistic happening of the 21st century,” he said. “When ‘Girl With Balloon’ ‘self-destructed’ in our sale-

room, Banksy sparked a global sensation that has since become a cultural

phenomenon.” The artwork will travel and go on public display in London, Hong Kong, Taipei and New York ahead of its sale next month.

Banksy, who has never confirmed his full identity, began his career spray-painting buildings in Bristol, England, and has become one of the world's best-known artists. His mischievous and often satirical images include two policemen kissing, armed riot police with yellow smiley faces and a chimpanzee with a sign bearing the words, “Laugh now, but one day I'll be in charge.”

“Girl With Balloon” was originally stenciled on a wall in east London and has been endlessly reproduced, becoming one of Banksy's best-known images.

German carmakers reject environmental groups’ climate demand

**BERLIN (AP):** German automaker Daimler on Friday dismissed a “cease and desist” demand from two environmental groups to commit to ending the sale of combustion engine vehicles by 2030.

Lawyers for Greenpeace and the group Deutsche Umwelthilfe have threatened to sue Daimler, BMW and Volkswagen unless they sign a legal pledge not to put new gas-fueled vehicles onto the market from the end of this decade.

The groups argue that companies are bound by the same rules as governments when it comes to reducing greenhouse gas emissions to combat climate change. The same lawyers successfully sued the German government earlier this year, forcing

it to adjust its emissions reduction plans to shift more of the burden onto older generations.

In a letter addressed to Volkswagen, Greenpeace said it believes VW “poses a threat to the absolute rights, such as the property, health, and life of our clients” by being responsible for the release of large amounts of planet-warming carbon dioxide.

Daimler said in a statement that it saw “no basis” for the groups’ demand.

“If it comes to a lawsuit, we will use all legal means to defend ourselves,” the company said.

Daimler said it is committed to the goals of the 2015 Paris climate accord and aims to make its entire vehicle

fleet climate-neutral by 2039, more than a decade before current European Union rules require it.

BMW said it would examine the legal threat from the environmental groups, but said it was likewise already committed to the Paris accord's goal of capping global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit). The luxury carmaker said it wants to put 10 million fully electric cars on the road over the coming decade. BMW sold more than 2.3 million cars in 2020.

Deutsche Umwelthilfe also sent a cease and desist demand to the oil and natural gas company Wintershall Dea, one of the investors in the Nord Stream 2 pipeline being built from Russia to Germany.

Japan likely to get new PM as Suga bows out of party vote

Tokyo, Sep 3 (AP): Japan's Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga won't run for the leadership of the governing party, indicating he will step down as Japanese leader at the end of this month, a party official said Friday.

Suga told executives of his ruling Liberal Democratic Party on Friday that he will not run in the leadership race set for Sept. 29, LDP Secretary General Toshihiro Nikai told reporters.

LDP has the majority in Parliament, meaning the new government leader likely will be whoever is elected the party's leader.

The move is largely a political decision so the LDP can have a fresh leader before national elections later this year. The lower house term ends in late October and elections for the new Parliament must be held by late November.

Suga has faced criticism and nosediving sup-

port ratings over slow coronavirus measures and holding the Olympics despite the public's health concerns.

Suga took office in mid-September a year ago after his predecessor Shinzo Abe resigned due to health problems.

Suga, the son of a strawberry farmer from Japan's northern prefecture of Akita, enjoyed support ratings as high as 70 per cent early in his tenure because he was a leader from the common people rather than blue-blood political families like Abe.

Suga introduced a series of pragmatic measures including digital transformation and administrative reforms, but his support ratings slid quickly over his virus measures seen as too slow and too small to prevent growing outbreaks. In the latest media surveys, support ratings have declined to around 26 per cent.

Missing ancient Mesopotamian artifacts seized in Norway

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP): Nearly 100 missing tablets and other archaeological objects from ancient Mesopotamia have been found in Norway and seized, police said Friday.

Authorities said they would now be examined to determine their authenticity and establish their provenance if possible.

The Norwegian National Authority for Investigation and Prosecution of Economic and Environmental Crime said they were “objects of significance to the global cultural heritage.”

The agency said it had “assisted the (aster-

isk) Norwegian) Ministry of Culture in a matter in which Iraqi authorities have reported a large number of ancient artifacts missing which they suspect have been smuggled out of the country.”

“A large number of objects were seized during the search, and a number of witnesses interviewed,” the agency known as Oekokrim said. “Our assistance is not an ordinary police investigation, but is limited to locating the missing objects.”

The police didn't say how or when the objects ended up in Norway. No further details were immediately available.

**CORONAVIRUS**  
PRECAUTIONS & SAFETY TIPS  
DON'T LOWER THE GUARD

LOCKDOWN HAS BEEN LIFTED. BUT UNFORTUNATELY, THE THREAT OF COVID-19 HAS NOT YET SUBSIDED.

As we adapt to the new normal, here is a reminder of the precautions you must take-

**WEAR A MASK**  
Always wear a mask to prevent droplets from going outside

**GET A FLU VACCINATION**  
Get your flu shot to develop an immune response before flu season begins, particularly if you have comorbidities

**WASH YOUR HANDS**  
Wash your hands often, for about 20 seconds each with soap & carry a sanitizer

**MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING**  
Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms length) from other people

**GET TESTED**  
Get tested if you have symptoms of COVID-19. Stay at home until you get the result.

**COVER YOUR MOUTH & NOSE WHILE SNEEZING, OR COUGHING**  
Before stepping outside, make sure to carry a handkerchief or a packet of tissues.

**FOLLOW PRECAUTIONS BEFORE STEPPING OUT**  
Carry your sanitizer, water bottle and, most importantly, avoid crowded areas.

**CHECK YOUR TEMPERATURE**  
Monitor your temperature on regular basis



# ABBA back after 40 years with new album, virtual stage show

**LONDON (AP):** ABBA is releasing its first new music in four decades, along with a concert performance that will see the “Dancing Queen” quartet going entirely digital. The forthcoming album “Voyage,” to be released Nov. 5, is a follow-up to 1981’s “The Visitors,” which until now had been the swan song of the Swedish super-group. And a virtual version of the band will begin a series of concerts in London on May 27.

“We took a break in the spring of 1982 and now we’ve decided it’s time to end it,” ABBA said in a statement Thursday. “They say it’s foolhardy to wait more than 40 years between albums, so we’ve recorded a follow-up to ‘The Visitors.’” The group has been creating the live show with George Lucas’ special-effects company, Industrial Light & Magic. They say the virtual versions of themselves are “weird and wonderful,” and go beyond holograms.

“It was suggested to us that we could go on tour as a hologram. And this is now four, five years ago,” Björn Ulvaeus, ABBA’s 76-year-old guitarist, backup singer and co-songwriter said at a news conference Thursday. “And we found out very soon that that wasn’t even possible because holograms is an old technology, but I mean, the vision was there of having our digital selves, that even was a possibility.” “And also,” said Benny Andersson, 74, who plays keyboards, sings and writes songs with Ulvaeus, “we

want to do it before we were dead.”

Ulvaeus added, “it’s good if you do that before you dead. Because it gets more accurate then.” They sang and played together for hours every day for

began with sessions in 2018 and was delayed by the coronavirus pandemic.

“It was so joyful to be together in the studio again, the four of us,” Andersson said. “The show will come 50



weeks, using motion capture and other techniques to create the 22-song, approximately 90-minute show.

“We dressed up in a leotards with dots or little things on them,” Ulvaeus said. “And we had dots in our faces and helmets with cameras. And there we were, the four of us on stage together doing these songs.” They say it was hard work but a great pleasure, but for one thing. “I’d say the only big problem was that we had to shave our beards,” Andersson said. “I’ve had my beard for 50 years.” The planned show spurred the making of the album, which features the new songs “I Still Have Faith In You” and “Don’t Shut Me Down.” It

years after the founding of the group that consisted of two married couples for most of its existence, and whose name is an acronym of the first names of its members, Agnetha Fältskog, 71, Anni-Frid Lyngstad, 75, Ulvaeus and Andersson.

Their music has remained ubiquitous in the decades since their breakup, in part because of the stage musical “Mamma Mia!” and the two films that followed it. They were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2010.

Last week the group launched a website with the title “ABBA Voyage,” teasing the new announcement. Tickets go on sale Tuesday.

## Drugs case: Actress RakulPreet Singh appears before ED

**HYDERABAD, SEP 3 (PTI):** Actress RakulPreet Singh appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) here on Friday after being summoned as part of a money laundering probe in connection with a high-end drugs racket that was busted in the city in 2017. The ED had earlier summoned over 10 Tollywood (Telugu film industry) personalities in connection with the sensational racket of supplying high-end narcotics such as LSD and MDMA, that was busted by the Telangana’s Prohibition and Excise department.

The ED had already grilled Telugu director Puri Jagannadh and actress CharmeeKaur in the case.

The drug racket was exposed in July 2017 and several cases related to drug trafficking were registered and over 20 people were arrested including a US citizen, who was a former aerospace engineer and had worked with the NASA, a Dutch national, a South African national besides seven B.Tech degree holders employed with multi-national companies here. The names of some Tollywood personalities came out during the interrogation of people arrested in connection with the racket.

A Special Investigation Team (SIT) of Telangana’s Prohibition and Excise department, as part of its investigation had also probed the alleged drug-links with Tollywood, and had then questioned 11 people connected to the Telugu film industry including actors and directors besides the driver of one of the actor and had also collected hair and nail samples.

## Actor SidharthShukla cremated

**MUMBAI, SEP 3 (PTI):** TV and film actor SidharthShukla, whose sudden death at the age of 40 stunned the film industry and TV fandom, was cremated here on Friday afternoon in the presence of his family, friends and colleagues.

The actor, who became a household name with his role in the long-running TV show BalikaVadhu and as the winner of Bigg Boss 13, was declared dead on arrival around 10.20 am on Thursday when he was taken to the Cooper Hospital in suburban Juhu.

While the last rites were conducted at the Oshiwara crematorium, scores of people gathered outside. Curious fans hoping to catch a glimpse of their favourite TV stars jostled with mourners, shocked at the death of the popular actor, and TV crews.

The actor’s mortal remains left Cooper Hospital around 1.20 pm in a hearse decorated with marigold flowers and amid heavy police security and crowds of people hoping to catch a last glimpse of the actor.

Shukla’s mother Rita and his colleagues, including actors AlyGoni, AsimRiazParasChhabra, Mahira Khan, AbhinavShukla, Jay Bhanushali with wife MahhiVi, were among those inside the crematorium.

Shukla’s friend and rumoured girlfriend, Shehnaaz Gill arrived at the crematorium with her brother. Shehnaaz and Shukla met during “Bigg

Boss 13” and became an extremely popular couple. Before stepping out of the car, Shehnaaz was seen breaking down as her brother comforted her. She was then escorted inside the crematorium by her brother and police officials amid a crowd of journalists and videographers.

Bollywood actors VarunDhawan,



who worked with him in Humpty Sharma Ki Dulhania and RajkumarRao were among those who visited the actor’s house to pay their tributes.

Shukla’s body was kept at the state government post mortem centre overnight.

The model-turned-actor made his debut with a lead role in the television show “Babul KaAangannChhoote Na” and attained popularity with “BalikaVadhu”.

Besides daily soaps, Shukla also participated in reality shows, including “JhalakDikhhlaJaa 6”, “Fear Factor: KhatronKeKhiladi 7” and “Bigg Boss 13”.

In 2014, Shukla made his Bollywood debut with the Karan Johar-produced “Humpty Sharma Ki Dulhania” where he had a supporting role.



**RED CARPET READY!** Model Adriana Lima was a vision in red at the opening of the 78th annual Venice International Film Festival in Italy.

## China bans men it sees as not masculine enough from TV

**BEIJING (AP):** China’s government banned effeminate men on TV and told broadcasters Thursday to promote “revolutionary culture,” broadening a campaign to tighten control over business and society and enforce official morality.

President Xi Jinping has called for a “national rejuvenation,” with tighter Communist Party control of business, education, culture and religion. Companies and the public are under increasing pressure to align with its vision for a more powerful China and healthier society.

The party has reduced children’s access to online games and is trying to discourage what it sees as unhealthy attention to celebrities.

Broadcasters must “resolutely put an end to sissy men and other abnormal esthetics,” the National Radio and TV Administration said, using an insulting slang term for effeminate men — “niangpao,” or literally, “girlie guns.”

That reflects official concern that Chinese pop stars, influenced by the sleek, fashionable look of some South Korean and Japanese singers and actors, are failing to encourage China’s young men to be masculine enough.

Broadcasters should avoid promoting “vulgar internet celebrities” and admiration of wealth and celebrity, the regulator said. Instead, programs should “vigorously promote excellent Chinese traditional culture, revolutionary culture and advanced socialist

culture.”

Xi’s government also is tightening control over Chinese internet industries.

It has launched anti-monopoly, data security and other enforcement actions at companies including games and social media provider Tencent Holding and e-commerce giant Alibaba Group that the ruling party worries are too big and independent.

Rules that took effect Wednesday limit anyone under 18 to three hours per week of online games and prohibit play on school days.

Game developers already were required to submit new titles for government approval before they could be released. Officials have called on them to add nationalistic themes.

The party also is tightening control over celebrities.

Broadcasters should avoid performers who “violate public order” or have “lost morality,” the regulator said. Programs about the children of celebrities also are banned.

On Saturday, microblog platform Weibo Corp. suspended thousands of accounts for fan clubs and entertainment news.

A popular actress, Zhao Wei, has disappeared from streaming platforms without explanation. Her name has been removed from credits of movies and TV programs.

Thursday’s order told broadcasters to limit pay for performers and to avoid contract terms that might help them evade taxes.

leaving you drained. The need for stronger boundaries is showing up in your cards. That, and the ability to say ‘no’ when something doesn’t resonate with your soul.

Tip: It’s time to reaffirm your boundaries.

Cancer:

Cancer, we’re moving closer and closer to the dark moon. As a result, you may feel like you’re not feeling as energetic as you were in the past week. Honour this phase by giving yourself the time to pause, breath, and reflect. Here’s three things you can do with that to-do list of yours: 1. Bury it in your garden and forget about it until la luna makes a comeback on Monday. 2. Organise a ritual with your coven and offer it to the sacred fire in your garden. 3. Make a rocket out of it and let your kids have a gala time! PS: While you’re at it, consider a social media detox as well.

Tip: It’s time to take a breather, beautiful.

Leo:

There are no shortcuts, Leo. No magic spells that will take you directly to the desired destination. Spirit is reminding you of the importance of keeping the long-term vision in mind and putting in the work it takes, even when you want to give up. Remember to look past the fluctuations in your current reality as you do. Reaffirming your commitment to the path “and” recruiting the right team will help you move mountains.

Tip: It’s all about the long-term vision, baby!

Virgo:

The scarcity mindset is showing up as the block in your path, Virgo. The mental block that no matter how much work you put in, there will never be enough. What if we said the Universe is a kind and loving parent, one who wants you to create your best life? Step back and think about how you need to let go of that false sense of control, strike a work-life balance, and allow what is yours to flow into your world. PS: It gets better from here—we promise!

Tip: Abundance is a mindset, beautiful.

Libra:

The process of manifestation requires a deep, deep sense of surrender. An unyielding faith in the forces and the inner knowing that they’ve got your back no matter what. So, when something doesn’t work out in accordance with your expectations, know that you’re being protected. And when something takes longer than you expect, know that you’re being prepared to make space for miracles. Remember, the Universe is a kind and loving parent who wants you to know that what is meant to be yours will never pass you by, beautiful.

Tip: The process of manifestation requires a deep, deep sense of surrender.

Scorpio:

The funny thing is that sometimes it is the people who are closest to us that end up betraying us. Yes, we’re talking about people who know us intimately and understand our triggers. But, what if this trauma is a part of the great awakening? An opportunity to look within, to pluck out the weeds from our garden, and to rise from the murky waters of karma like a lotus? Rise above, beautiful. Look at your circumstances from a higher perspective.

Tip: This experience is meant to awaken you.

Sagittarius:

Sagittarius, what you’re experiencing right now is the mother of all betrayals. But, no pain is without a purpose, right? Pay attention to what you are being awakened to. In the days to come, you will receive major downloads about your path, your purpose and your relationships. Yes, you may have to let some things go in the process. It helps to remember that it is only by releasing the old that you will be able to make space for new experiences.

Tip: Let it go, beautiful. Let it all go.

Capricorn:

We all have our way of expressing love. Some display their affection through words. Others rely on acts of service. What is “your” love language, Capricorn? How do you feel called to show up for your tribe today? Remember, the smallest of actions count, and have the potential to move other people. As such, your relationship

with your father or a father figure in your life is also in the spotlight today. Work through the differences, nurture this bond, and let them know you care.

Tip: What’s your love language?

Aquarius:

What do you do when your body asks for rest and rejuvenation? What do you do when that endless to-do list is becoming the cause for panic? Breathe, Aquarius, breathe. Give yourself the timeout you need. They’ve been a rollercoaster ride, these past few days. Spirit wants you to slip into yin mode, so that you become more receptive to the healing energy that’s being sent your way. PS: a simple chakra-clearing exercise will help you release the residual energy and activate the flow of good chi.

Tip: Slip into yin mode, beautiful.

Pisces:

It’s one of those days. One of those days when nothing and nobody seems to be going your way. In fact, you’re constantly fire-fighting because those around you are causing more problems than they’re solving. Breathe, Pisces, breathe. Step back and watch the unfolding. This will help you realise that you are not the ‘doer’ and you do not have to control everything. The ability to find order in chaos will help you level up spiritually.

Tip: Remember, you do not have to control everything.