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# Summit TIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Pailo  
Baisakh  
greetings  
from CM

**GANGTOK, 13 APR**  
[IPR]: Chief Minister PS Tamang has extended New Year [Vikram Samvat] and Baisakhi greetings to Nepalese living all over the world.

He highlights the warm tidings that the New Year brings with the change in seasons from winter to spring and of how this signifies "a new time of happiness, peace, hope and enthusiasm."

"I wish you victory over the epidemic and pray that everyone keeps safe," the CM conveys while praying for everyone's good health, prosperity and progress.

**1,000 Covid cases in 2 days in Haridwar as millions gather at Kumbh Mela**

**HARDWAR, 13 APR**  
[NDTV]: Uttarakhand's Haridwar reported 594 new cases of coronavirus today, taking the active caseload of the city to 2,812, as thousands gathered to take dips in the Ganges for the 13th day of Mahakumbh. On Monday, Haridwar had registered 408 cases. **Uttarakhand logged 1,925 cases with 13 deaths in the last 24 hours.**

Devotees continue to throng the ghats of Haridwar even as the country reels under a more severe second wave of coronavirus infections with many states running out of vaccines and beds for patients.

Nearly a million people have flocked to the banks of the Ganges to participate in the months-long "Kumbh Mela" or pitcher festival.

On Monday, the day of the auspicious Shahi Snan (ritualistic bath), nearly a lakh had gathered for the holy dip in absolute violation of Covid protocols issued by the Union Health Ministry.

## 25 new cases and 8,770 more vaccinations

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 13 APR:**

Sikkim recorded 25 new cases of novel coronavirus in the last 24 hours taking the state's tally of confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported so far to 6,435.

With this, the number of active cases of coronavirus in Sikkim has now increased to 175. Meanwhile, the number of recovered cases of COVID-19 in Sikkim also improved a bit with five new recoveries.

In his daily health bulletin on Tuesday, Health Department State IEC Officer, Sonam Gyalsen Bhutia, mentioned that these new cases were picked up from the testing of 230 samples on Monday, of which 17 were found in RT-PCR testing and one in Truenat testing of two samples and seven in rapid antigen testing of 63 samples.

While providing details of new cases reported from in and around Gangtok, he informed that among these are two per-



sons from Tibet Road, two from Chandmari, two from Indira Bye Pass Road, three from Tadong [one from 5th Mile and two from ICAR quarters], one from Sichey and one from Upper Sichey.

Likewise, two persons from Pakyong,

one from Chanatar-Rangpo, one from Gaidhara, one from Rhenock and one from Sirwani in East District have also tested positive for COVID-19.

Mr Bhutia added that samples of a person from Middle Gyalshing, one from Upper Fambong [Sombaria] and one from Darap in West District have also returned positive for COVID-19.

He added that an Army personnel also tested positive for COVID-19 and was following the COVID protocol of the Army.

Similarly, one person from Dimapur, Nagaland, one from Bihar and one from Chennai also tested positive for COVID-19 and the rooms/ hotels they stayed in have been contained.

On the other hand, Sikkim managed 8,770 more vaccinations on Monday. Of these, while 8,312 received the first dose of the Covid vaccine, 458 were administered their second shots to complete their vaccination schedule.

## Gorkha problem will be solved after BJP comes to power in Bengal: Amit Shah

**SMRITA KHAWAS**

**DARJEELING, 13 APR:**

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who is currently on a North Bengal election campaign trail, was in Darjeeling today and while assuring that the "Gorkha problem" will be resolved after BJP forms the government in West Bengal, also invoked Darjeeling's history from more than a century ago to underline that the Hills will be reverted to their position of prominence and path-breaking development under a BJP government.

He assured that a political solution to the long-drawn "Gorkha problem" in the Hills will be reached once the BJP forms the government in West Bengal.

He also played to

vide the double-engine boost to address issues which have wracked the region, he said.

"I promise that a permanent political solution to the Gorkha problem will be reached... You will not have to resort to agitations anymore," he said.

He also played to

lished here.

He rued that a region which led on all indices at one time had been allowed to fall by the wayside when it comes to development and announced that this will be corrected by the BJP.

He alleged that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has "put a full stop"

to development work in Darjeeling and was continuing a condescending attitude manifested in TMC leaders visiting the Hills only for leisure.

He also thanked the Hills for being among the first in West Bengal to support the BJP and giving it MPs for two terms

TMC has left the three Darjeeling constituencies to its allies from the Hills -- the two GJM factions led by Gurung and Binay Tamang. Both the sparring factions have fielded candidates, who are contesting the elections from the three seats as Independents.



**Bimal Gurung's statement unfortunate, says BJP Sikkim**



**SAGAR CHETTRI**

**GANGTOK, 13 APR:**

By Sikkim Pradesh

spokesperson, Dr Raju

Giri today called it unfor-

that Sikkim Chief Minister, PS Tamang is "holding on to BJP's dhoti to save himself".

He asserted that it was important for political parties to make responsible statements in the interest of the people to get their mandate and not irresponsible statements just for political benefit.

Dr Giri further said that BJP believes in Sabka Saath Sabka Vikash and Mr Gurung's statements are just reflecting his frustration since it is election time in West Bengal.

"It is very unfortunate for a leader from the hills to make statements against a national party like BJP which follows the principle of Sabka Saath and Sabka Vikash. Although BJP is indebted to Mr Gurung and even he is in debt to BJP, now to make such statements after a long association with BJP might be his frustration during this election time," Dr Giri said.

He also said that it is very unfortunate that Mr Gurung made racist statements against the attire of a certain community. This was in response to Mr Gurung's recent statement

**turn to pg02**

Department of Social Justice and Empowerment  
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment  
Government of India

## Babasaheb's Vision, Our Mission

Shaping a New India built upon Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas

- Over 3000 Safai Mitras trained in desludging operations in 69 Municipalities across India.
- 13,128 SC majority villages taken up under Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana.
- 5000 copies of Babasaheb's writings and speeches published in both Hindi and English.
- Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan is being implemented vibrantly. Women and young adults are actively involved.
- Dr. Ambedkar Central Sector Scheme of Interest Subsidy on Educational Loans for Overseas Studies for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) & Economically Backward Classes (EBCs) launched in 2014-15.
- Dr. Ambedkar Scheme of Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship for Denotified Tribes (DNTs) launched in 2014-15 for the welfare of those DNT students who are not covered under SC, ST or OBC.
- Dr. Ambedkar Scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship for students belonging to EBCs launched in 2014-15.

"Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar made indelible contributions towards India's progress. His efforts to further social empowerment, harmony and equality are inspiring."

Narendra Modi  
Prime Minister



Floral Tribute to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on his Birth Anniversary

dwp 3810/13/0002/2122

Government of Sikkim  
Department of Information & Public Relations

### Dawai Bhi Kadai Bhi

"I appeal to those above 45 years to come forward and participate in the Teeka Utsav"

- Pema Singh Tamang (Galay)  
Chief Advisor of Sikkim

Let's follow the 5 fold strategy:  
 • Testing  
 • Tracing  
 • Treatment  
 • Covid Appropriate Behaviour  
 • Vaccination

and strengthen the fight against COVID-19

#SikkimFightsCorona

#VaccineSavesLives #Unite2FightCorona

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ENSURE THAT THE NEWSPAPER REACHES YOU.**

## 602 above 45 yr olds vaccinated at Central Pendam PHSC



**RANGPO, 13 APR:** Central Pendam PHSC under Rangpo PHC administered Covid vaccine shots to 602 people in the area aged 45y and above. The vaccination team was led by Gopal Dhakal (MPHW) and included the PHSC staff, ASHA workers, AWWs and was especially supported by Bipal Khanal of Bhurung. [from SANJAY AGARWAL]

## DC-North convenes meeting to discuss vaccination and Covid's second wave

**MANGAN, 13 APR [IPR]:** District Collector, North, Tenzing T Kaledon, chaired a meeting with stakeholders from North Sikkim District Task Force at the District Collector's chamber in Mangan today.

The main objective of the meeting was to discuss proactive measures to check Covid-19 and Covid-19 vaccination coverage throughout the district.

The District Collector, North, who is also the Chairman of North Sikkim District Task Force for Covid-19 was accompanied by Additional District Collector, HQ (North), Sonam Lepcha, DRCHO, North, Dr Tara Gautam, Chief Medical Officer, North, Tempot Kaledon, Sub-Division-



al Magistrate, Mangan, KT Bhutia, Additional District Collector (Dev), North, RB Bhandari, District Medical Superintendent (North), Dr Rinzing Doma Bhutia and officials from various line departments.

The DC/N suggested that to contain the virus,

primary contacts should stay in home isolation and they should be taken to the nearest testing centre by Health officials with the help of the Police.

In such scenario, the vehicle moving to-and-fro from their residence to the nearing testing centre would be pro-

vided by the Health department if the primary contact does not have a vehicle.

He assured that all support will be provided to the concerned department and individuals for tasks mentioned above. He requested the CMO/N to provide infor-

mation on daily cases in the district and directed ADC/N (Dev) and Health Educator (North) to disseminate information to rural areas, including less reached places such as Passingdong and Hee Gyathang. Furthermore, he requested the ADC/N (Dev) to work on containing fake news and discourage rumour mongering regarding the vaccination process.

Various issues such as current active cases in the district, AEFI Covid-19 vaccination report, temperature testing of mainline taxi drivers from outside Rangpo, random testing of shopkeepers in the district, and quarantine facility (North District Zilla Bhawan) for North Sikkim were discussed at length.

## India's Mobile Payments Revolution Dragged Down By Bank Tech Glitches



Amazon.com, Facebook, and Google are pouring billions of dollars into building their own ecosystems for apps, linking payments to the retail networks of thousands of mom and pop stores. They've been able to piggy-back on India's innovative Unified Payments Interface, a retail payments platform that lets banks and apps interact seamlessly.

In India's tightly regulated financial sphere, financial technology companies still need banks to complete transactions and offer services such as loans. But banks in India risk seeing a repeat of what's happened in China, where customer engagement and loyalty have shifted from conventional banks to fintech brands.

"Over a period of time these global big tech firms will be able to take away market share," says Mahesh Ramamoorthy, managing director of banking solutions at

FIS India. "Banks will be more on the back end, settling these transactions than facing online customers."

On the afternoon of Nov. 21, online transactions for HDFC Bank's 56 million customers crashed when diesel-powered back-up generators at its data center on the fringes of financial capital Mumbai failed to fire up after the main power failed. The outage lasted for several hours and also disrupted service for some customers of Google Pay, HDFC Bank's online payments partner.

HDFC Bank staff had flagged risks stemming from a lack of adequate tech infrastructure as early as 2017 after they started noticing brief but frequent downtime, according to people familiar with the matter. But it took HDFC Bank more than three years to shift to a new data center, and the transition wasn't

complete when the November outage happened, the people say.

It was one of about 14 tech glitches for HDFC Bank over the past 12 months. The government-backed State Bank of India has seen its internet and mobile banking go down 68 times over that period, while the second largest private lender ICICI Bank Ltd. had 21 outages, according to data published by Down Detector.

Ten of India's top 30 banks recorded a 3% failure in transactions over the payments backbone in September 2020, according to a PwC report.

HDFC Bank CEO Sashidhar Jagdishan has said the lender is working on "war footing" to strengthen its digital capabilities. A central bank investigation will determine when the ban on new digital offerings will lift. "We have also utilized the time to not only

reinforce our platforms but also strategize and re-skill our work force," a bank spokesperson said in an emailed statement.

The Reserve Bank of India, the nation's central bank and top financial regulator, has also questioned SBI about the reported glitches on its internet banking and mobile apps, according to people familiar with the matter. SBI is putting more resources into its private cloud and expanding the capacity of its data centers, they say. SBI didn't respond to emails seeking comments.

The central bank didn't respond to questions about the outages. But at an industry conclave in March, Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das urged banks to strengthen cyber security and tech infrastructure.

Despite the problems, online transactions are expected to keep growing quickly. But for that banks will need to spend more on technology. "It is as if the living room was kept clean but the attic was messy," says Vivek Belgavi, a partner and leader of the fintech practice at PwC India. "Banks need to reprioritize and fix their core infrastructure. The need of the hour is intent and speed to do so."

## IPR Deptt mikes Covid awareness across Sikkim



**GANGTOK, 13 APR (IPR):**

In order to generate massive awareness on the ongoing Tika Utsav which is being held in the State from 11 to 14 Apr, 2021, and to provide necessary information with regard to the second wave of COVID-19, the Information and Public Relations Department, Government of Sikkim has initiated a miking process in the State from 12 April.

The miking is being done to reach out to the masses with regard to the COVID-19 appropriate behaviour which includes compulsory use of face mask, maintaining physical distancing and frequent hand washing and also appealing to everyone for the age group of 45 years and above to come forward and get themselves vaccinated.

Apart from this, various COVID-19 safety protocols are being disseminated through Public Address System stressing on "Dabai Bhi, Kadaai Bhi".

The areas covered by the miking will be conducted in all urban and rural places located in the

district were Ranipool, 6th Mile, 5th mile, Lumsey, Tadong, Deorali, Gangtok, Chandmari, Vajra, Tashi Viewpoint, Burtuk, DC Office Sichey, Arithang, Lalbazar, Bojoghari 2nd Mile, Tibet Road, Kazi Road, Convoy Ground, Development area and other surrounding areas.

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**NAMCHI, 13 APR (IPR):**

With an objective to spread awareness about COVID-19 and to familiarize the masses regarding the ongoing 'Tika Utsav', a small miking procession was being undertaken by South District Information and Public Relations Department.

The aim of this public address system is to disseminate information regarding prevention and control of COVID-19 pandemic amongst the public. Brief information on COVID-19, basic principles of infection prevention and control will be emphasized.

This awareness via miking will be conducted in all urban and rural places located in the

South District in the coming days.

**GVALSHING, 12 APR (IPR):** Information and Public Relations Department (IPR) being the nodal department to coordinate and collaborate with all line departments to effectively implement the 'Jan Andolan Campaign for Covid-19' and 'Teeka Utsav' in the State, today geared its first day extensive miking on massive vaccination drive and Covid-19 and its prevention.

The extensive miking started from Tikkuk, covering various places around Gyalshing including Pelling, Chumbung, Legship, Reshi and Nayabazar.

During the miking it was also informed that the citizens belonging to the age group of 45 years and above compulsory has to complete the dose of vaccine provided by Government of Sikkim.

The awareness campaign will continue upto one week covering entire West Sikkim.

## Culture Deptt staffers celebrate Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav



**GANGTOK, 13 APR [IPR]:**

As a part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav', the Culture Department, Government of Sikkim, organized a programme comprised of patriotic song, dances, poetry and prose recitation by the artistes and librarians of the Department, at Manan Hall, Gangtok today.

Similarly, poetry recitation was also held in all the Community Centre District Libraries in the State.

The programme was attended by Advisor Culture Department, Bhim Kumari Sharma, Chairman, Sikkim Culture, Heritage and Communal Harmony Board, Sonam Sherpa along with Secretary Culture, Sherap

Shenga, officers and staff of the Department.

The programme was also attended by representatives of some of the departments housed at Manan Bhawan.

Our Nation is just a few months away from celebrating the 75th Anniversary of India's Independence.

To commemorate the monumental occasion, the Central Government had proposed various programmes and activities exactly 75 weeks, prior to Independence Day celebration, 2022.

Similarly, to mark the occasion, the Culture Department has been organizing a series of programmes since 12 Mar,

**Bimal Gurung's statement unfortunate....**

BJP Scheduled Caste Front state president, Birendra Poureli mentioned that BJP state unit has been observing the week-long celebration of 130th birth anniversary of Dr BR Ambedkar from 07 to 14 April with series of activities across the State. As a part of the celebration, BJP Scheduled Caste Front has paid homage to Dr Ambedkar with 108 butter lamps before the statue of Dr Ambedkar at the State Legislative Assembly complex on Tuesday evening.

The press conference was also addressed by a BJP senior member, Bhanu Dahal.

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## CM greets people on Ambedkar Jayanti

**GANGTOK, 13 APR (IPR):** Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang extended warm greetings and best wishes to the people of Sikkim on the occasion of Dr BR Ambedkar Jayanti which falls on Wednesday.

In his message, the Chief Minister highlights that Dr Ambedkar played a vital role in including provisions in the Constitution to remove disparity prevailing in the society



by eliminating social ills and dedicated his entire life to the service of the underprivileged.

The Chief Minister paid homage to Dr BR Ambedkar who believed in an inclusive and equitable society.

"Let us imbibe Ambedkar's ideals and principles of true service and commit ourselves to the path shown by him," states the Chief Minister.

and helped ensure social justice.

He believed that an ideal society can only be established

## Kopchey-Sayabung Samaj undertakes cleanliness drive



**RANGPO, 13 APR:** A daylong cleanliness drive was organised by Kopchey-Sayabung Samaj at Kopchey today. The organisation undertakes such a drive ahead of monsoons every year.

## Covid's second wave crashes Sikkim Fight Night plans, event postponed



**PREETI GURUNG**  
**GANGTOK, 13 APR:**

The eagerly-anticipated international MMA event, Indian Fight Night 'Battle of Warriors- Sikkim MMA', has come up against an adversary much more destructive than the mixed martial art fighters it normally contends with - Covid-appropriate protocols.

The event, which was scheduled for 17 April, this Saturday, at Paljor Stadium, the same day that the 50-people limit for gatherings kicks into place in the State.

The organisers, addressing a press conference here today, announced that the event has been postponed due to the current COVID -19 situation in the state and also to keep in line with the

new SOPs issued by the State Government.

The organisers also clarified that the event has not been cancelled and stressed that it has been put on hold until the COVID situation improves in the state.

This was literally a big-ticket Rs 1.5 to 2 crore event and tickets for the celebrities and 106 fighters had already been booked. Now, since the event has been put on hold because of the global pandemic, the celebrities have agreed to attend on the rescheduled date, they inform.

Given that the event was scheduled for Saturday, and would have involved international fighters, all preparations were already in place and foreign guests already in the country.

As for people who have already bought tickets for the show, they will be valid for the rescheduled event as well, they inform.

It is informed that 32 MMA fighters from different parts of the

country and other countries had already confirmed for the event

and around 106 people including fighters, officials and celebrities from outside the State were likely to attend the event.

Other highlights of the event were the special presence of WWE champion The Great Khali and Fitness Icon of India- Sahil Khan and performance of popular Rapper of the country, Badshah and other nationally and internationally famed artists apart from MMA fights.

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 13 APR:**

The Rotaract Club of Gangtok Hills, the youth wing of the Rotary Club of Gangtok South, executed "We for Her 4.0," a sensitisation programme on menstrual health and hygiene, on 12 April. A mass sanitary pad distribution drive was also undertaken on the day.

For the past two years, the Club has held such events between the months of March and April.

The Rotaract intervention is being initiated in light of the fact that

## Rotaract Club takes 'We for Her' initiative to North Sikkim



studies have shown that it takes approximately 500 to 800 years for an ordinary sanitary pad to fully decompose.

"As a generation with conscience, it is then our duty and responsibility to understand the se-

verity of the situation," a Rotaract press release informs.

Hence, this year the Club has put up the cause for the distribution of biodegradable sanitary pads.

Through this event, the club has distributed

70 menstrual friendly kits, each consisting of one packet of Biodegradable Sanitary Napkins, 4 pieces of Panty Liners, Sanitizers, medicated soap, Antiseptic Handwash, 2 pieces of wom-

en's undergarments, pocket calendar and a face mask.

The Club distributed 45 menstrual friendly kits at Phodong Senior Secondary School and another 25 at Eklavya Model Residential School, North Sikkim.

Alongside the distribution, an hour-long counselling on health and hygiene was provided by Dr Reena Subba.

The Club also installed a sanitary pad vending machine at EMRS, North Sikkim.

The vending machine has been sponsored by Indian Medical Association's Sikkim branch.

## District Health Mission meets in Singtam

### WANGCHUK BHUTIA

**SINGTAM, 13 APR:**

District Hospital, Singtam, convened a District Health Mission Meeting on 12 April.

The meet was chaired by the East Zilla Adakshya, Samsher Rai, and also attended by Chief Medical Officer East, Dr Tempo Gyaltsen, DPO (E), Sonam G Bhutia,



DRCHO (E), Dr Solomit Lepcha, District Medical Superintendent (E), Dr Manoj Mishra, Sr MSO (E), Somnath Pandey, Municipal Executive Officer Singtam Nagar Panchayat, Prakash Sharma, Nodal Officers from District Hospital Singtam, MO Ayush, ANS, RKS Con-

tributors, NGO Members, DPM and DAM.

The main agenda of the meeting was to review the Rogi Kalyan Samiti works and discuss the various issues related to patient welfare and the function of RKS bodies.

The Zilla Adhyaksha assured all possible support from his side to meet of the gaps to

strengthen the Hospital's functioning.

Lastly, on behalf of Chairman, Governing Body of District Health Mission, the Zilla Adakshya contributed Rs 50,000 as RKS Fund to the District Hospital.

The Adakshya also took his first dose of COVID-19 vaccine followed by DPO (E) during the day.



**SIKKIM STATE TEACHER'S RECRUITMENT BOARD**  
(Constituted Vide Notification No. 933/HRDD, 2015)

Upper Syari, Gangtok, East Sikkim



Date: 12/04/2021

Memo No. 38/SSTRB/ADM

### NOTICE

1. Applications are invited from the in-service eligible Post Graduate Teachers and Headmasters/Headmistresses of Secondary Schools serving in the Government Schools of Sikkim for filling up the following posts:

Sl.No.	Name of the post	No of posts	Post Ratio	Pay in the (Level + Grade Pay)
1.	Principal, Senior Secondary School	30*	a) 50% by promotion of Post Graduate Teachers b) 50% by promotion of "Headmasters/Headmistresses of Secondary Schools"	GP-6700/-Level-18

Note: In the event of non-availability of eligible candidates from category (b) the post of Principal shall be filled up from among the eligible candidates of category (a) in order of merit and vice-versa.

\* (A list of 15 names on the merit basis will be maintained to meet the subsequent vacancies likely to arise because of promotions, retirement or failing vacant by any other means, for a period of 11 months).

2. Eligibility criteria, educational and professional qualifications for the post of Principal are given below: Candidates must have possessed the following minimum educational and professional qualifications:

Sl. no	For Principal	Qualifications		Teachers Experience	Age limit
		Academic	Professional		
1	From PGT	a) Post Graduate Degree in any subject from a recognized University	a) B.Ed degree from an institute recognized by the NCTE	a) Twelve years of uninterrupted regular service as a Post Graduate Teacher as on March 31,2021	No age bar
2	From HM, Secondary School	a) Post Graduate Degree in any subject from a recognized University	a) B.Ed degree from an institute recognized by the NCTE	B) Six years of regular service as Headmaster/ headmistress of Secondary School as on March 31, 2021.	

Note: Service period on deputation to any Department shall not be counted as regular service for the post of Principal.

3. Candidates on fulfilling the above criteria may visit the official website of Education Department [www.sikkimhrdd.org](http://www.sikkimhrdd.org). Last date for filling up of the forms online is April 27, 2021 by 4.30 pm. However, if a candidate could not fill up the form online, offline form may be submitted to Deputy Controller (Examination Cell), Sikkim State Teachers' Recruitment Board, Upper Syari, Gangtok along with Bank Receipt and Two Passport Size photographs after obtaining the offline form from the SSTRB office on or before April 27, 2021 within the working hours.

4. Bank Receipt of Rs. 200/- has to be credited in the State Bank of Sikkim under the Revenue Head 0202-102-03-edn.

5. Candidates shall bring the self-attested or attested (as instructed below) photocopy of such documents along with originals on the date of interview.

6. Candidates at the time of the interview shall bring the following documents along with the copy of the application form.

a. Marksheets and Pass Certificate of Class X and XII or equivalent issued by recognized Board (self attested copy).

b. Marksheets and Degree Certification Certificate issued by recognized University and B.Ed certificate recognized by NCTE (self attested copy).

c. Appointment Order of "Post Graduate Teacher/Promotion Order of Headmaster/ Headmistress Secondary School (attested copy).

d. Department Clearance/NOC from the concerned District "heads (original).

e. Vigilance Clearance (original).

f. Last Increment Order (attested copy).

g. Bank receipt in original.

Whereas, under Notification no. 1720/ADM/HRDD dated 17/02/2021, State Government has relaxed the provision relating to the matter of recruitment, under Rule 6 of the Education Department, (Principals of Senior Secondary Schools and Headmasters of Secondary Schools) Recruitment Rules, 1992, limiting it to only screening cum interview as a one-time measure.

7. Syllabus of the examination therefore comprise of the following:

i) General awareness.

ii) Education policies.

iii) Government rules and orders pertaining to school administration, duties and responsibilities of school-heads.

iv) Sikkim Government Servants' Conduct Rules 1981, Sikkim Government Servants' (Discipline Appeal) Rules, 1985, Sikkim Government Service (Leave) Rules, 1986, Sikkim Government Service Rules, 1974, and such other rules as applicable while discharging the duty as a School Principal.

8. Admit Card will be issued in due course of time. No TA and DA will be paid for attending the interview.

9. Date and venue of the Interview will be intimated later on.

Note: Incomplete application shall be rejected summarily. If found on verification that candidates does not fulfill the prescribed criteria, the candidature for the post will be cancelled by the Board without specifying any further reason.

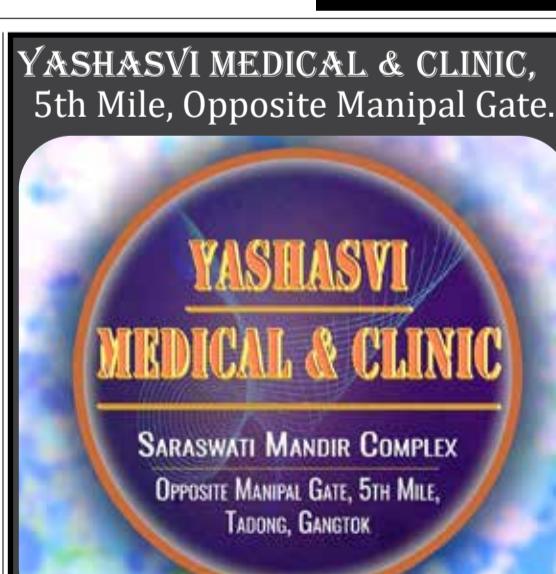
Sd/-

*Secretary  
Sikkim State Teachers' Recruitment Board.*

R.O. No. 19/IPR/Pub/Calsi./21-22

Date. 13.4.2021

## YASHASVI MEDICAL & CLINIC, 5th Mile, Opposite Manipal Gate.



### NEW CLINIC TIMING.

**Doctor Available: (Monday- Saturday)**

1.General Physician: 7 AM-9AM,

2.ObG & Gynecologist: 9-10 AM.

3.Pediatrician: 8:30-9:30 AM.

4.Skin Specialist: 5-7 PM.

5.Orthopaedic : 5-7 PM.

6.Cardio Specialist: 4-6PM.

7.Medicine (Gastrointestinal Specialist): 5-6PM.

**Call For Appointment: 6294683018 / 7908242665**

**GYALSHING, 13 APR [IPR]:** As directed by District Collector /West, Karma RBonpo, a surprise raid was carried out by three teams headed by ADC/West, Agawane Rohan Ramesh, SDM/Gyalshing, Tshering Topgay Bhutia, SDM /HQ, Anant Jain, SDPO/Gyalshing, Santosh Baniya, MEO/Gyalshing, Bhumika Pradhan and GMC Officials.

The main purpose of the raid was to ascertain the ground reality of the sublet shops where Gyalsh-

ing Nagar Panchayat had pre-identified around 50 locations running on sublet licenses. During the raid it was found that several shops were running on sublet license and using bill books without GST.

As informed by SDM/Gyalshing, Tshering Topgay Bhutia, SDM /HQ, Anant Jain, SDPO/Gyalshing, Santosh Baniya, MEO/Gyalshing, Bhumika Pradhan and GMC Officials.

Informed necessary police personnel in order to have smooth execution of the raid.

The main purpose of the raid was to ascertain the ground reality of the sublet shops where Gyalsh-

# SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

## Peer Pressure Can be Positive too

*To help the young grow well, provide them access and counsel*

A young lad, having arrived at the age when he needs to begin thinking about which career to begin preparing for, has decided to explore the option of working on his "hobby" – photography – and refining it to professional levels. He caught the shutter-bug early in life inspired by the passion of his grandfather, who, by the way, was not a professional photographer but obviously a passionate one. It is not rare for the young to follow, or at least initially inspire to, in the footsteps of their parents, but these are mostly the regular professions. But as this anecdote bears out, introduce them to a passion, and out of the box thinking follows almost instinctively. And that is what one wants from the young, the courage to dream different. We call on them often to challenge themselves more, but don't provide them the environment or the catalysts to feed their inherent inquisitiveness or open their horizons. With the society "modernizing" and the joint family system splintering, exposure to a diversity of careers, hobbies and pursuits has also shrivelled. But the kids still have friends. Here is another story. A 13-year-old who used to tear open a bag of chips or kurkure whenever his hands were free and the moment allowed, has managed to stay away from such "junk" food for over a year now. And for the past two months, he has not even taken the occasional cheat days. True story. From Gangtok. What convinced him to go "clean" and "live healthy" was the discovery of football as a passion and a senior who came along at the right moment and coached and guided him. And the 13-year-old is not even a good footballer! He does however have a passion for the sport which motivates him to be the best footballer that his late initiation into the sport and lean frame will allow. Earlier, no amount of sage counsel or dire warnings succeeded in weaning the child away from junk food. Eventually, all it took was for a peer elder to say, "Sportspersons need discipline. We do not do junk food".

We have often seen such course corrections around us. Some of us might have even experienced it first hand when had a peer, elder or colleague who put things in perspective and gave us context, may be even set us off on the course of our life. In the episodes shared here, three things converged – inspiration, access and counsel. While the photography example is still rare, it is not so for soccer. The latter child developed an interest in football because just about every school and town has a ground where one can kick a ball around. What if he had taken an interest in lawn tennis?

Just access to something one can get passionate about is obviously not enough. What also came along at the right time was counsel in the form of a senior at school who could channel the passionate energy into what will hopefully be lifelong discipline. There is an important lesson here for Sikkim which is grappling with more teen-problems than it has fashioned solutions for.

Significant attempts like SAATHI (Sikkim Against Addiction Towards Healthy India) are underway at select schools to build a network of peer-educators and counselors who can intervene and assist fellow students deal with the challenge of addiction and other influences that beset them. But this, if we are go by the analogy drawn above, addresses only one part of the problem. Sikkim, hence, needs to also provide access to its young if it wants to keep them away from, as leaders here are wont to say, "antisocial" activities and distractions. The young, as anyone who was young at one time will attest, are not excited with counseling sessions and rarely take such advise seriously, which is why it is a good idea to have someone closer to their age speak to them about their concerns. But even this will meet with limited success unless their energies find proper release. Iceland has done so with remarkable success. Teenage smoking, drinking and drug use have been radically cut in the past 20 years, a development directly credited to a policy shift which saw the country invest heavily in after-school activities by setting up well appointed clubs and community centres for sports, music, dance, art or whatever else the young could take a fancy for. Simultaneously, mentors from among the young were groomed. And now, twenty years down the line, the change is obvious. The need for "human" mentors and physical activities cannot be stressed enough in these times of online connectedness and human detachments. Sikkim will do well to ponder of this option...

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## New research shows South Africa's levy on sugar-sweetened drinks is having an impact

KAREN HOFMAN

THECONVERSATION.COM

Three years ago South Africa introduced Africa's first major tax on sugar-sweetened beverages based on grams of sugar. The tax now stands at about 11% of the price per litre.

We assessed the impact in recently published research. We found that the health promotion levy coincided with large reductions in purchases of taxable beverages, in terms of both volume and sugar quantities. We didn't find significant changes for non-taxable beverages.

This isn't the first research to show positive outcomes from the levy. A national study one year after it was introduced found households in urban areas halved the volume of sugary beverages they bought, cutting their sugar intake by nearly a third. Similar results were found regionally in Soweto in Gauteng.

The new research is the first to evaluate this particular tax design. At a national level, we measured changes in household purchases of taxable and non-taxable beverages in terms of volume, sugar and calories. We also assessed changes in the purchasing behaviour of households stratified by household socioeconomic status. We assessed changes between the period before the levy to after its announcement and through the first year of its implementation period.

Research shows that excess sugar, particularly in liquid form, is a major cause of obesity and is a risk factor for diseases like type 2 diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, many common cancers and tooth decay. Recognising this danger, the

World Health Organisation (WHO) has recommended that individuals should consume no more than 10% of total calories from added sugar, and preferably less than 5%.

Carbonated sugary drinks play a major role in making these numbers hard to attain. A 250ml cooldrink contains upwards of 26g of sugar – more than half the daily recommended limit.

Sub-Saharan Africa faces a tidal wave of diet-related noncommunicable diseases, with rapidly rising intake of sugar-sweetened beverages and other ultra-processed foods. South Africa, in particular, has a heavy burden of these noncommunicable diseases.

While other countries in sub-Saharan Africa have levied sugar-sweetened beverage taxes, South Africa is the first country in the region to evaluate such a policy.

Our results clearly show positive changes that could offer useful public health gains across the region. The reductions in sugar from taxable beverage purchases suggest a potential role for sugar-based taxes more broadly.

### TO TAX, OR NOT TO TAX

More than 50 jurisdictions across the globe have used taxes to curb the consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages.

For example, in 2014, Mexico introduced a tax of one peso per litre on beverages containing added sugar. Research has shown that it resulted in a 6% reduction in purchased volume relative to pre-tax trends over the first year of the tax, and a 7.6% reduction over the first two years of the tax.

Tax policies in other countries

such as the UK and several subnational jurisdictions in the US have also resulted in statistically significant reductions in purchases of sugar-sweetened beverages.

South Africa has led the continent firstly by introducing the tax, and secondly by making the levy about sugar content rather than volume.

Given that sugar-sweetened drinks contain variations in sugar levels, taxing them according to their sugar content is a more precise way of targeting the source of these products' harm. It also gives beverage manufacturers an incentive to reduce the sugar content of their products. This strategy formed the basis of South Africa's 2018 tax policy.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

South Africa's levy showed that in 2018 the country was prepared to put the health of the public in first place.

But the government has failed to capitalise on these early gains, despite the evidence that's been presented to it about the impact of the levy on consumption patterns. An example of this is that it has not raised the rate at which the tax is imposed.

Health experts had been lobbying for an increase to 20% – the levy recommended by the WHO. No country in the world has reached this benchmark. Nations are only getting part of the benefits in terms of preventing obesity. This matters to the future health of children, in particular. South Africa has seen a rise in childhood obesity rates since 1994. And some forecasts suggest that the country will have

the 10th highest level of childhood obesity in the world by 2030, affecting over 4 million children aged 5 to 19 years.

The campaign to get the levy increased is based on the growing body of research showing that sugar is addictive, that it is harmful to people's health and that it is overwhelming the country's health system.

Earlier this year the government made it clear that it had no intention of raising the 11% after the subject was left out of the February budget.

Yet, the country is paying a heavy cost to treat type 2 diabetes and hypertension.

Government has the power to make healthy choices the easy choice. Healthy food like fresh fruit and vegetables is often not available or affordable for many living in rural or urban areas. People eat what is available and cheap.

The government can save lives and reduce the numbers of people who develop diseases by taking three very simple steps.

Firstly, it needs clear regulations.

Secondly, it needs preventative strategies.

Thirdly, it needs watertight policies for reducing consumption of unhealthy foods.

Increasing the health promotion levy, introducing mandatory front of package labelling and banning the marketing of unhealthy products to children should be at the very top of the priority list.

[The writer is Professor and Programme Director, SA MRC Centre for Health Economics and Decision Science - PRICELESS SA (Priority Cost Effective Lessons in Systems Strengthening South Africa), University of the Witwatersrand]

## Have introverts really fared better in lockdown?

LIS KU

THECONVERSATION.COM

Since the onset of the pandemic, everyone from newspaper columnists to Twitter users has advanced the now idea that extroverts and introverts are handling the crisis differently.

Many claim that introverts adapt to social distancing and isolation better than extroverts, with some even suggesting that introverts are practically "loving" the crisis, as it offers them a rare chance to play to their strengths.

According to personality theories, extroversion-introversion constitutes one of the fundamental psychological axes along which people differ. Extroverts typically exhibit higher levels of energy and sociability compared to introverts, enjoying a boost in mood after social interactions. Introverts do not tend to experience such benefits.

It therefore seems intuitive that introverts will fare better than extroverts during periods of lockdown isolation. Some anecdotal evidence supports this contention, but scientific evidence is now stacking up to dismiss the idea that introverts love lockdowns. In any case, it's worth bearing in mind how complex and multifaceted our personalities are – with many other traits determining how we've fared during the pandemic.

### COPING WITH LOCKDOWN

In psychology, extroversion is associated with better wellbeing, happiness and mental health. Despite the social isolation we've been experiencing during the pandemic – something said to suit introverts – evidence suggests that extroverts' wellbeing has held remarkably firm during successive lockdowns.

Indeed, recent studies have found that introversion was predictive of more severe loneliness, anxiety and depression after the circumstantial changes brought about by the pandemic. Extroversion, meanwhile, was correlated with lower levels of anxiety and a lower likelihood of experiencing mental health issues during lockdown.

These results were further supported by a recent longitudinal study that followed 484 US college students through their 2020 spring term. As the pandemic progressed, introverts experienced increases in stress, while more extrovert students reported slight decreases in stress.

Interestingly, the trend was reversed for positive mood: extroverts tended to experience a decline in mood during the early pandemic period, while introverts experienced a slightly improved mood.

If this finding appears to validate claims that introverts fare better than extroverts in a lockdown, it's important to note that despite the decline in mood among extroverts, they still reported an overall more positive mood than their introverted peers.

### EXPLAINING EXTROVERTS

Certain lifestyle factors may partly explain these findings. As the pandemic unfolded, even extroverts who lived alone may have found communication apps like Zoom, Houseparty and Club-



house adequate in maintaining their social lives.

Equally, introverts who had greeted lockdown with a certain amount of glee may have soon discovered that being locked in with housemates or family hardly delivered the solitude they'd been looking forward to.

But recent findings are also consistent with what psychologists would expect of extroverts – even during a crisis. Many theories have been proposed to explain why they tend to enjoy higher levels of wellbeing, with some researchers pointing to the support offered by extroverts' wider social network, while others highlight links between extroversion and healthy activities.

A particularly relevant study recently investigated the coping responses of extroverts at times of crises, and found that extroversion was related to more problem-solving coping strategies such as seeking emotional support. These patterns are consistent with the well-documented association of extroversion with greater optimism.

### ADDITIONAL TRAITS

Behind these diverse explanations lies a further consensual principle held by psychologists: personality is multifaceted, and it's the different combinations of personality traits that ultimately determine our behaviour and wellbeing.

Let's take the five-factor theory of personality, one of the most popular personality theories, as an example. In addition to the extroversion-introversion spectrum, the theory also accounts for four other traits: openness (being open to new experiences, feelings and ideas); conscientiousness (being organised, self-disciplined and goal-driven); agreeableness (being helpful, cooperative and good-natured); and neuroticism (being emotionally unstable).

These other traits will also have influenced how people have reacted to the pandemic. While

extroversion is often associated with healthy activities, it is conscientiousness that predicts health-related behaviours best. Similarly, while extroverts tend to have a larger social network than introverts, it is agreeableness that ultimately predicts the quality of that social network.

In other words, extroversion-introversion on its own is far too simplistic a measure for us to use when thinking about people's response to the pandemic. When it comes to coping with lockdown, different combinations of personality traits could entail very different behaviours.

### BEYOND PERSONALITY

Aside from personality traits, we all follow motivational forces, usually guided by values and beliefs, that could also influence our behaviour and wellbeing during lockdown.

Even someone with high levels of extroversion and conscientiousness, which would predict a healthy set of behaviours during lockdown, could have found their wellbeing affected by their values.

A materialistic person, for instance, might be compelled to follow maladaptive coping behaviours such as impulsive online shopping, which one study revealed to have increased during the pandemic – as a coping mechanism for negative emotional states.

Such motivational forces can guide our behaviour as much as our personalities, and our wellbeing during the pandemic will be determined by how all these forces intersect and interact.

Even though extroversion-introversion can be a revealing measure of our lives, it's missing the much more complex and intriguing picture of human behaviour that psychologists are continuing to study with interest during the pandemic.

[The writer is Senior Lecturer in Psychology, De Montfort University]



# Curry scores 53 as Warriors beat Nuggets 116-107

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP):** Stephen Curry scored 53 points to pass Wilt Chamberlain for the most in Warriors franchise history as Golden State beat the Denver Nuggets 116-107 on Monday night. Draymond Green had 18 points, seven rebounds, and seven assists. Andrew Wiggins scored 17 points and Kent Bazemore added 14 for the Warriors.

Nikola Jokić led the Nuggets with 27 points, 12 rebounds, and eight assists. Michael Porter Jr. added 24 points and nine rebounds.

Jamal Murray scored 17 points before injuring his left knee in the final minute of the game. He was helped off the court and did not return. Nuggets coach Michael Malone said Murray would get an MRI to determine the severity of the injury.

"Some of the coaches said when they watched the replay, it looked like he hyper-extended it," Malone noted. "It's just an awful feeling. Keep Jamal in your thoughts and prayers and hopeful-



ly, we'll get some good news."

Curry scored 21 points in the first quarter, giving him 17,786 in his career. That passed Chamberlain's 17,783 with the franchise, a record he'd held since 1964.

"You can feel it when he's really got it going on and we could feel it pretty early tonight," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "It was kind of surprising to see him break that record in the first quarter. We all figured he'd find a way to get 19 points tonight, but maybe not in the first quarter."

Curry shot 14 of 24 from the field, making 10 of 18 3-pointers. The

two-time league MVP added six rebounds and four assists in 35 minutes. It marked his seventh straight game scoring at least 30 points, the longest streak by a Warrior since Rick Barry during the 1966-67 season.

"That was a big game for us," Kerr said. "We have a chance to get on a little run. It was important for us to get a win, especially against a really good team."

Denver has now lost two in a row, following an eight-game winning streak.

CURRY COOKING FROM DEEP

lead into halftime, but Golden State took over in the third quarter, outscoring the Nuggets 43-22 for a 99-83 lead.

Denver outscores Golden State 54-36 in the paint, but the Warriors made 18 three-pointers to the Nuggets' eight.

Warriors: James Wiseman is out indefinitely with a meniscus injury in his right knee. He is getting opinions from multiple experts following an MRI to determine the next step. ... Kelly Oubre Jr. missed his second straight game with a sprained left wrist. He remains day-to-day.

## UP NEXT

Nuggets: Host Miami on Wednesday night. Denver won the first meeting 109-82 on Jan. 27.

Warriors: At Oklahoma City on Wednesday night, the first of three meetings in the next month.

KKR but the experienced seamer is expected to get his rhythm back sooner than later.

The likes of Rashid Khan and Mohammed Nabi can also ask probing questions with their crafty bowling.

## Teams (from):

Royal Challengers Bangalore: Virat Kohli (c), Devdutt Padikkal, Finn Allen (wk), AB de Villiers (wk), Pavan Deshpande, Washington Sundar, Daniel Sams, Yuzvendra Chahal, Adam Zampa, Shahbaz Ahmed, Mohammed Siraj, Navdeep Saini, Kane Richardson, Harshal Patel, Glenn Maxwell, Sachin Baby, Rajat Patidar, Mohammed Azharuddeen, Kyle Jamieson, Daniel Christian, Suyash Prabhudesai, K.S. Bharat

Sunrisers Hyderabad: David Warner (c), Kane Williamson, Jonny Bairstow (wk), Manish Pandey, Sreevats Goswami (wk), Wriddhiman Saha (wk), Priyam Garg, Vijay Shankar, Abhishek Sharma, Abdul Samad, Virat Singh, Mitchell Marsh, Jason Holder, Mohammad Nabi, Rashid Khan, Shahbaz Nadeem, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, T. Natarajan, Sandeep Sharma, Khaleel Ahmed, Siddarth Kaul, Basil Thampi, Jagadeesha Srichait, Kedar Jadhav, Mujeeb-ur-Rahman.

Skipper Samson hit 12 fours and seven sixes in a 63-ball innings but in the end failed to hit Arshdeep Singh's final ball for a six as RR lost to Punjab Kings by four runs in the IPL on Monday night.

Needing five off last two balls, Samson had refused to take a single, sending back Chris Morris had 17

# Randle leads Knicks over Lakers and back above .500

**NEW YORK (AP):** Same city, whole different kind of game for the Los Angeles Lakers.

Two nights after dominating the Nets, the defending champions got a look at how much better the New York Knicks are defensively.

Julius Randle had 34 points and 10 rebounds against his former team and the Knicks beat the Lakers 111-96 on Monday night for their third straight victory.

"Really poor passing, some bad decisions and some it you have to credit the defense. But as good as we were offensively two nights ago, we were just as bad tonight," Lakers coach Frank Vogel said.

Even without them, the Lakers routed Brooklyn 126-101 on Saturday, tying their season high with 19 3-pointers. But they committed 25 turnovers Monday, leading to 29 points.

"Even when AD or LeBron is there in a basketball game we get turnovers as well," Schroder said. "So end of the day we've just got to be extra careful and myself — not putting nobody into this but myself — I've got to control even my turnovers."

Bigger up front than Brooklyn, the Knicks rebounded the Lakers 47-33. Andre Drummond, who had 20 points and 11 rebounds Saturday, took only three shots and had three points and 10 boards.

The Lakers were at least healthier in this one, getting Kyle Kuzma back after he missed two games with a left calf strain. Wesley Matthews and Marc Gasol also played after sitting out in Brooklyn with injuries.

"They're a good defensive team and I was just aggressive from the start," Randle said, "and it's important early on on the second night of a back-to-back to bring energy and that's what I tried to do."

Dennis Schroder scored 21 points and Markieff Morris had 17



for the Lakers, who fell to 5-7 since LeBron James sprained his ankle March 20, joining fellow All-Star Anthony Davis on the sideline.

"Really poor passing, some bad decisions and some it you have to credit the defense. But as good as we were offensively two nights ago, we were just as bad tonight," Lakers coach Frank Vogel said.

Coming off tense finishes against Memphis and Toronto, the Knicks led comfortably for much of the fourth quarter and moved back above .500 at 28-27, bouncing back nicely after narrow losses to Brooklyn and Boston last week.

"There's ups and downs in a season and you have to keep going. If you get knocked down, dust yourself off, get up and come back with more fight and grit. That's what this team has," Knicks coach Tom Thibodeau said. "It has a togetherness and a belief that we can get it done."

Elfrid Payton scored 20 points and Derrick Rose added 14 off the bench for the Knicks, who were sparked by Randle's 13 points in the first quarter had plenty of energy on the second night of back-to-back games.

The likes of Rashid Khan and Mohammed Nabi can also ask probing questions with their crafty bowling.

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## Next time Samson will hit 10 yards further to win us the game: Sangakkara

**MUMBAI, APR 13 (PTI):**

Rajasthan Royals team director Kumar Sangakkara has backed Sanju Samson's decision to retain strike for the last ball during a stiff run-chase against Punjab Kings, saying it was encouraging to see him take responsibility.

"Sanju took it upon himself to finish that game and he just fell a few yards short and that happens, but the next time I believe that he will hit that 10 yards further to win us the game."

Asked how can Samson become more consistent, Sangakkara said: "I know when you start off with a bang, you always want to talk about consistency, but the real key is to understand it defers from game to game... it is about constructing an innings on a new day."

"When he keeps those thought processes simple, there is nothing else for him to worry in terms of technique or execution. I just want him to keep relaxed and focus on just the ball that he is facing."

Fernando equalized for Sevilla in the 35th and Brais M ndez put Celta ahead again near half-time. The visitors rallied in the second half with a goal by Ivan Rakitic in the 60th and another by Papu G mez in the 76th.

Sangakkara also lavished praise on the youngsters, especially pacer Chetan Sakariya and batsman Riyan Parag.

"Riyan is a special player, as you would have seen. He has got amazing

through the fourth to get within 92-87, but Payton scored before Randle converted a three-point play to push it back to double figures. He followed with another basket and then a free throw as the lead grew to 100-87.

**TIP-INS**

Lakers: Morris rolled his left ankle in the first quarter and left to have it re-taped before returning. ... Alfonzo McKinnie was out because of health and safety protocols.

Knicks: RJ Barrett missed his first eight shots and finished with seven points on 2-for-11 shooting. ... The Knicks signed F/C Norvel Pelle to a second 10-day contract on Monday.

## PLENTY OF PLAYERS

Between their injuries and Schroder's ejection, the Lakers were down to eight rotation players available during the second half of their victory Saturday. Eight is the minimum number to begin a game, but Vogel said he wasn't worried about the Lakers facing that problem.

"We got down to eight the other night just because we had a player get ejected," Vogel said. "But typically, when it seemed like we were extremely depleted we still had nine guys and I'm not going to worry about that getting any lower until it happens."

**UP NEXT**

Lakers: Visit Charlotte on Tuesday.

**Knicks:** Visit New Orleans on Wednesday.

## RCB look to consolidate position as SRH eye first win



ington Sundar.

RCB might try out the likes of Mohammed Azharuddeen and Australian leg-spinner Adam Zampa in the coming matches.

Kohli and the incomparable AB de Villiers will be the key men again for RCB in batting, with Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell hoping to make invaluable contributions with the willow.

He looked good in the first game in RCB jersey, and has the backing of the team management, including skipper Kohli.

Barring the trio of Kohli, de Villiers and Maxwell, RCB look thin on batting and that's why Padikkal's presence at the top is important for them.

The 20-year-old Karnataka left-hander was

RCB's highest run-getter in IPL 2020 with 473 runs from 15 matches, including five half-centuries in what was his debut season.

Padikkal continued rich form in the last Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (218 runs at an average of 43.60 in six matches) and Vijay Hazare Trophy (737 runs in seven matches).

After their failure in the opener, Rajat Patidar and Washington would look to make amends against SRH.

Almost all of RCB's bowlers were economical against MI's formidable batting with medium pacer Harshal Patel returning excellent figures of 5/27. They will certainly look for an encore.

As far as SRH are concerned, both their

openers Wriddhiman Saha and Warner failed to get going against KKR in the first game and will look to make up for that against RCB.

The swashbuckling Warner has close to 600 runs against RCB and he will aim to add to that impressive tally.

In opening, SRH have the option of reuniting Warner with Jonny Bairstow, who made a fifty while batting in the middle-order against KKR alongside Manish Pandey, who made a 44-ball 61.

Kane Williamson is unlikely to return on Wednesday as coach Trevor Bayliss had said the Kiwi would require some more time to regain full match fitness.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar went for runs against

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Sevilla opened the scoring with a goal by Jules Kound less than 10 minutes into the match, but the hosts went ahead with a pair of goals by striker Iago Aspas in the 20th and 23rd minutes.

Fernando equalized for Sevilla in the 35th and Brais M ndez put Celta ahead again near half-time. The visitors rallied in the second half with a goal by Ivan Rakitic in the 60th and another by Papu G mez in the 76th.

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"Sanju took it

*Iran warns sabotage affects Vienna talks over nuclear deal*



**DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (AP):** Iran's foreign minister warned Tuesday that an attack on its main nuclear enrichment site at Natanz affects ongoing negotiations in Vienna over its tattered atomic deal with world powers.

Mohammad Javad Zarif's remarks, alongside visiting Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, come as the U.S. has insisted it had nothing to do with the sabotage Sunday at the Natanz nuclear facility. While not claiming the attack, Israel is widely believed to have carried out the still-unexplained assault that damaged centrifuges there.

"Americans should know that neither sanctions nor sabotage actions would provide them with an instrument for talks," Zarif said in Tehran. "They should know that these actions would only make the situation difficult for them."

Kayhan, the hard-line Tehran newspaper, urged Iran to "walk out of the Vienna talks, suspend all nuclear commitments, retaliate against Israel and identify and dismantle the domestic infiltration network behind the sabotage."

"Despite evidence that shows the role of the U.S. as main instigator of nuclear sabotage against Iran, unfortunately some statesmen, by purging the U.S. of responsibility, (aid) Washington's crimes against the people of Iran," the paper said in Tuesday's editions.

While Kayhan is a small-circulation newspaper, its editor-in-chief, Hossein Shariatmadari, was appointed by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and has been described as an adviser to him in the past.

Such a walkout remains unlikely as the administration of President Hassan Rouhani, whose main diplomatic achievement was the 2015 accord, hopes to get the U.S. to rejoin it and provide desperately needed sanctions relief. However, pressure does appear to be growing

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## Canary Islands hotel offers shelter to migrants in need

**PUERTO RICO DE GRAN CANARIA, Spain (AP):** When hotel director Calvin Lucock and restaurant owner Unn Tove Saetran said goodbye to one of the last groups of migrants staying in one of the seaside resorts they manage in Spain's Canary Islands, the British-Norwegian couple didn't know when they would have guests again.

Details remained scarce about what happened early Sunday at Natanz. The event was initially described only as a blackout in the electrical grid feeding above-ground

workshops and underground enrichment halls — but later Iranian officials began referring to it as an attack. Israeli media, which has close ties with the military and intelligence services of that country, have described the sabotage as a cyber-attack, without offering evidence or sourcing to support that.

The extent of the damage at Natanz also

remains unclear, though Iran's Foreign Ministry has described it as damaging Iran's first-generation IR-1 centrifuges, the workhorse of its nuclear program. A former Iranian Revolutionary Guard chief said Tuesday that the assault set off a fire while a civilian nuclear program spokesman mentioned a "possible minor explosion."

In remarks aired late Monday by state television, the former head of the country's civilian nuclear arm offered his own description of the attack, calling its design "very beautiful." The attack appeared to target both the power grid at Natanz, as well as the facility's emergency backup power fed by separate batteries, Fereydoun Abbasi said.

Abbasi said a similar attack targeted Iran's underground Fordo facility in 2012 with two explosions: one 30 kilometers (18.5 miles) away at a power station and the other at Fordo's emergency battery system.

"We had predicted that and we were using a separate power grid," Abbasi said. "They hit but nothing happened for our machines."

It remains unclear on which power source Natanz in central Iran relies. Satellite photographs appear to show an electrical substation at the facility's northwest corner.

Ahead of U.S. President Joe Biden's climate summit with world leaders next week, European officials and industry representatives called in an open letter for a trans-Atlantic alliance to tackle climate change and achieve a "just and sustainable transition" toward a low-carbon economy.

The suggested goal would almost double the target set by the Obama administration after it signed the Paris climate accord in 2015.

The European Union last year agreed to cut its emissions of carbon dioxide and other planet-warming gases by at least 55% by 2030 compared



couldn't sleep knowing the migrants would be left on the street.

So they reopened the hotel doors again, this time at their own expense.

"They were very scared, they didn't have anywhere to go, and there wasn't any other solution," said Saetran who has lived in the Canary Islands with Lucock since the '90s and has a Spanish-born daughter.

Today, the family, with the help of some of the hotel staff and other volunteers, provide food through Saetran's restaurant, shelter through the hotel and care to 58 young men, including eight unaccompanied minors, mainly from Morocco and Senegal as well as other West African countries, who fell out of the official migrant reception and integration system for one reason or another.

One of them is Fode Top, a 28-year-old Senegalese fisherman who left his country in search of better work in Europe last November. The fish in Senegal, he says, have disappeared from the ocean following years of industrial fishing by Chinese and European vessels. Nowadays one can hardly make a living being a fisherman.

To make matters worse, Top's 3-year-old son needed life-saving and expensive heart surgery. To pay medical bills, Top borrowed money he

wasn't able to pay back, resulting in threats.

"If I return to Senegal I will have problems. Many problems," Top said.

The official camps have also been plagued with problems, with reports of overcrowding, insufficient food, unsanitary conditions and lack of legal and medical assistance.

Most recently, police intervened with rubber bullets in the largest camp on the island of Tenerife after a fight broke out between two groups of residents.

The Canary Islands and their year-round sunny beaches normally attract millions of northern European tourists each year. But for the migrants at Puerto Calma, staying in the hotel is no vacation.

The islands were just meant to be a stepping stone toward stability, security and employment in continental Europe, not their final destination. Today, it is a place of limbo for thousands who were denied access to the Spanish peninsula and live in waiting, unable to work and send money back to their families.

"They've come here looking for a better life, one of the reasons I came to Spain," said 47-year-old Lucock. There's only one difference: "They are not born with a European passport so they can't travel in the same way I can."

"In our culture we have so much that we forget to appreciate the small things," Saetran said.

On a recent evening,

**Ecuador picks conservative for president; Peru sets runoff**

dorian people.

That definition of the left and right is a reductionism in disuse at the present time, he said.

Elections officials have not officially declared a winner, but Arauz conceded the election Sunday and at least one head of state has congratulated Lasso on the outcome.

Economist Nikhil Sanghani with the firm Capital Economics on Monday wrote that the divided National Assembly may water down some of Lasso's policies, but that concerns over a shift towards interventionist policymaking under Arauz should give way to relief that left-wing populism did not prevail.

The South American nations held elections Sunday under strict public health measures amid a surging coronavirus pandemic that has brought on new lockdowns and exacerbated a general sense of fatigue. Peru, which also elected a new Congress, reported its highest single-day COVID-19 death count just as voters headed to the polls.

The victory of former banker Guillermo Lasso in Ecuador came after less than half of a percentage point put him ahead of another candidate and allowed him to claim a spot in Sunday's runoff. The result breaks off the country's years under the so-called Correismo, a movement labeled after former President Rafael Correa who governed Ecuador from 2007 through 2017, grew increasingly authoritarian in the latter years of his presidency and was sentenced to prison last year in a corruption scandal.

As the men wait month after month to either move north or be returned south, Lucock and Saetran try to keep them busy. Volunteers come three times a week to give English and Spanish classes. The athletic ones play soccer on the beach or run up the mountain with locals. There's also a lot of checkers and card games.

The couple says they hope to continue helping young migrants even after tourism kicks off again, and are setting up a charity.

"In our culture we have so much that we forget to appreciate the small things," Saetran said.

The first action will be to put the economy in order, promote investment and generate employment so that all Ecuadoreans do not emigrate, stay in Ecuador and achieve the dreams they want for their families here, Lasso said at a press conference Monday.

He said his immigration policy is twofold, defending Ecuadoreans abroad but at the same time, also acting humanely with Venezuelans who have arrived in Ecuador. ... We cannot be so inconsistent in asking for a good treatment for Ecuadoreans living abroad and mistreating foreigners living in Ecuador; we have to be coherent and will seek to work with the United Nations.

Ecuador is among the countries that have seen an influx of Venezuelan immigrants who have left their troubled nation in search of better opportunities.

Asked about his future international policy, Lasso said he will promote the broadest multilateralism as a democrat with a project that seeks the well-being of the Ecuadorean people.

# Akshaye Khanna, Raveena Tandon team up for web series 'Legacy'

**MUMBAI, APR 13 (PTI):** Actors Akshaye Khanna and Raveena Tandon are set to share screen space as rivals in "The Accidental Prime Minister" director Vijay Gutte's upcoming drama series "Legacy".

The duo were previously part of the ensemble in JP Dutta's 2003 war drama "LOC: Kargil".

"Legacy" would mark Khanna's debut in the digital space.

The "Ittefaq" actor said he was thrilled to come on board the series as it aims to provide quality entertainment to the audience.

"It is refreshing to work on content that challenges our boundaries as an industry as a whole. Given the massive scale of the show, we are cognizant of the immense responsibility to deliver our best to create a content piece the audience looks forward to. I'm glad 'Legacy' is going to be my first web series," Khanna, 46, said in a statement.

According to the makers, the show will be mounted on a big scale with the team intending to shoot it across multiple foreign locations.



Tandon said the series presents an "interesting tale of power struggle" with an engaging drama at the backdrop.

"It is a fine work of content articulated interestingly to resonate with a global audience. I am excited to be associated with the show and looking forward to begin this journey," she said.

The series would also reunite Khanna with Gutte after their 2019 political drama "The Accidental Prime Minister".

The director called "Legacy" an aspirational project which would reflect the "dark realities of the professional world."

"I am thrilled to be reuniting with Akshaye for this and exhilarated to have Raveena Tandon on board with us. This talent powerhouse is set for an epic rivalry," he added.

"Legacy" is produced by After Studios, AA Films and Sunny Bakshi.

## American singer, actress Mary Millben recites Sanskrit shlokas to greet Indians on New Year



**WASHINGTON, APR 13 (PTI):** Popular American singer and actress Mary Millben has greeted the Indian communities across the globe, particularly in India and the US, on the occasion of New Year by reciting Sanskrit shlokas.

According to the Hindu calendar, Indians ushered in New Year on Tuesday with various states celebrating the festivals of Ugadi, Gudi Padwa and Vaisakhi.

In the video, Millben started with the chanting of Sanskrit shlokas followed by a greeting to India and Indian communities worldwide.

Happy New Year to my beloved India, the Indian-American community, and Indian communities across the world, Millben, 39, said after releasing the New Year greetings video.

After performing for Diwali 2020 last year, I wanted to learn more about the traditional festivals and religious observances in India. My relationship with the Indian culture and love for India has grown through my learning and study of Hindi, she said.

Millben in a video in November last year had released a rendition of 'Om Jai Jagdish Hare' as her Diwali greetings to the Indian communities worldwide. Her video gained

instant popularity and has crossed 1 million views.

She thanked her Hindi coach and teacher of Indian culture Dr Moxraj.

It has been enlightening to continue learning about the importance of Diwali, Holi, and especially today's celebration. A celebration of the new year on the Hindu calendar and the entrance of spring, she said.

"During today's chanting, I lifted prayers for India, communities across the world, and I will continue to pray for your safety, she said.

May the Almighty bring healing to our homes and our planet. I hope today, as you are gathered in your homes, you are blessed with the new spirit of the new year. May time with family, reflection, your favourite foods, and the energy of a new year bring you much joy and happiness, she added.

Dr. Moxraj, Teacher of Indian culture in the US, said that Millben is a student of his Hindi language class.

"Mary is also learning about India through Hindi. She is influenced by the great culture of India. I am happy to know her passion and love for India," Moxraj said.

## 'Court' actor Vira Sathidar dead

**NAGPUR, APR 13 (PTI):** Actor-activist Vira Sathidar, best known for featuring in the National Award-winning film "Court", died on Tuesday due to COVID-19 related complications, filmmaker Chaitanya Tamhane confirmed.

The actor, who was in his early sixties, was admitted to a city hospital after he contracted the coronavirus.

According to Tamhane, who directed him in the acclaimed 2014 "Court", the actor was put on ventilator and breathed his last around 3 AM.

"It's true. He passed away at around 3 AM in the hospital. He had COVID-19 and was on ventilator. It's an extremely unfortunate news. It is yet to sink in," Tamhane told PTI.

Sathidar rose to prominence after playing the role of protest singer NaNarayan Kamble in "Court", who is accused of encouraging a manhole worker to commit suicide through one of his folk songs.

Tamhane said the news of Sathidar's demise has come as a "huge shock" to him.

"He was not only an actor, activist and a poet but also one of the nicest human beings I've met. I still can't process it. He was a fantastic person and I can now only think of the time we spent making 'Court,'" the director added.

Apart from "Court", which was India's official entry to Oscars 2016, Sathidar went on to feature in two more short films.

**CUP OF JOE!** The actress/singer, Selena Gomez is seen on set with coffee while wearing a cute leather skirt.

## Macaulay Culkin, Brenda Song welcome first child together



**LOS ANGELES, APR 13 (PTI):** Actors Macaulay Culkin and Brenda Song have become parents to a baby boy.

Song and Culkin, best known for their respective breakout roles in The Suite Life of Zack & Cody and Home Alone, announced that they welcomed their first child together on April 5.

The couple has named their new born Dakota Song Culkin in honour of Culkin's sister Dakota, who died in 2008.

Mother, father and baby are all healthy

and happy. We are overjoyed," the duo said in a statement issued to Times.

Song, 33, and Culkin, 40, who both started their journey in showbiz as child actors, started dating back in 2017 after meeting on the set of Seth Green's "Changeland". In 2018, they moved in together.

The duo have kept their relationship away from media scrutiny. They have hardly made any red carpet appearances or indulged in any public display of affection on social media.

### ARIES:

Aries, when you mean business, you mean business, and there is nobody in the world who can mess with you when you're trying to get stuff done around here. Expecting others to co-operate or stick to the vision may be a bit of a task, though. Word for the wise: it's time for you to put your bossy pants on. In the realm of interpersonal relationships, you're being asked to pay attention to what you do not want to allow, and communicate your boundaries to those you love.

### TAURUS:

You've got major expansion plans on your mind, and you want to set things in motion. The world is your oyster, Taurus! So set your gaze upon the desired destination and get ready to take focused action. The divine forces are with you, helping you take your life to the next level. Some of you may be thinking about expanding your social media outreach as well. Work with an expert, if you must, but remember to keep things authentic to your brand.

### GEMINI:

There was a time you let others decide what

you are worth. There was a time when you didn't put a price on your work. But your days of underestimating yourself are behind you, Gemini. You know who you are and the value of what you have been giving to the world. Your unyielding faith in yourself will bring about a major shift for you. An affirmation to work with now and for the rest of the week: 'I am enough'.

### CANCER:

You knew something was fishy here from the word 'go', but you kept pushing through because you couldn't make sense of things. The bad news is, everything is a mess. The good news? You finally have clarity on the situation. Remember, you're not obliged to put up with any of this simply because of the relationship you share with the given person. Take your stance and exit.

### LEO:

They're a bad habit, Leo, and they're keeping you stuck in an endless loop. It's time to get real about what is and isn't right for you. It's time to decide what you want to allow in your

world and what you don't. Yes, you will have to take a few drastic measures in order to liberate yourself. Trust that you have the courage and wisdom required to do what is right for \*you\* at this moment.

### VIRGO:

Virgo, you're in a wonderful place. You are at peace with where you are and do not feel the need to compare your journey with that of anybody else. Does that mean you're complacent about your goals? Anything but. You know where you have to be five years from now and you're willing to put in the work. What the cards want you to remember: 'patience' and 'persistence' are your magic words.

### LIBRA:

You've been ignoring the signs for a while. It's time to tune into the wisdom of your body and being Libra. It's time to understand what's really going on here. Remembering the cliché 'a stitch in time saves nine' will help you take the measures you need to right now. Remember, western medicine will only alleviate the symptoms you are experiencing. Delve deeper into

the root of the issue and substitute your treatment with holistic therapies.

### SCORPIO:

Hidden secrets are coming to light, Scorpio. But all the information you seek may not be revealed at once. So be patient. Work with what you have right now and resist the urge to make any important decisions.

### SAGITTARIUS:

The good thing is you will finally have clarity on who is a friend and who is a foe. So what if it has never been done before? That doesn't mean it can't. This phase of your life is all about taking chances and breaking past your own boundaries. Nothing will bring you more joy than giving the world something it has never seen before! In the realm of romance, you may find yourself attracted to somebody who's free-spirited, contrary to your usual type. Word for the wise: don't be afraid to let your guard down.

### CAPRICORN:

You have been doing things a certain way and that has worked for you. But there's no reason for you to stick to the tried-and-tested when

there is so much room for experimentation. The cards are urging you to change things up a little. To blend two different ideas or concepts in a way they haven't been done before. PS: Something tells us there is a major 'aha moment' on your cards!

### AQUARIUS:

The cards are speaking of big yang energy, Aquarius! You know you can have it all and you are willing to do what it takes to achieve it. The Universal forces are with you, helping you take your ideas to the next level. Speaking of ideas, be mindful of what's coming through from the unseen realms as it could be the answer to the question you have had for a long time now.

### PISCES:

You're wearing that unmistakable glow that comes from being where you are meant to be and doing what you are meant to be doing. This is what being in alignment feels like, Pisces! Attracting miracles is now slowly becoming your reality. Remember, not everybody is going to be happy to see you vibing, and that's okay. Don't let anybody play buzzkill at your party.