



**'TENET' LAUNCHES WITH  
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# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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## State Govt issues Unlock 4 Guidelines

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 31 AUG:**

The State Government issued fresh guidelines under Unlock 4 on Monday. As per the new guidelines, schools will remain shut till 30 Sept, however, 50% of teaching and non-teaching staff are required to report for online teaching/tele-counselling and related work w.e.f. 21st September.

From that date students of classes 9 and 12 can also visit schools for guidance from teachers subject to written consent of their parents.

Earlier, instructions were issued for the

heads of schools, colleges and educational institutes, professors, teachers, and all other non-teaching staff members to attend their workplaces regularly from 01 Sept 2020 for continuity of digital and offline classes from their workplaces, support the home-schooling initiative and assist in upkeep and maintenance of institutions.

However, it is not clear if the earlier direction to staff to attend institutions from 01 Sept 2020 stands cancelled.

These instructions shall not be applicable to those areas during the

time when containment continues and to those educational institutions which are acquired/requisitioned by the District Administration under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 until de-notified and sufficiently sanitized.

Skill or entrepreneurship training will also resume from 21 Sept while research scholars and post graduate students of technical and professional programs will also be permitted to visit their institutions from 21 Sept.

Significantly, all social, academic, sports, entertainment, cultural,

religious and political functions will now be allowed with a ceiling of 100 persons from 21 Sept onwards. The limit of 100 people will also apply to marriages and funerals.

Inter-state movement of people is also now allowed subject to online registration, screening and mandatory quarantine at home, facility or project site.

The odd-even restriction has been lifted for two-wheelers but pillion riders are still not allowed.

Rest of the lockdown restrictions already in place will continue to remain in force.

## Sikkim records fourth COVID fatality, 25 new cases and 5 more recoveries

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 31 AUG:**

Sikkim recorded its fourth COVID-19 death with the passing away of a 50-year-old male from Chisopani, Singtam, here at STNM Hospital today.

The patient was referred from Singtam District Hospital on 27 August after testing positive for COVID-19, it is informed. The patient had co-morbidities of liver cirrhosis and kidney failure, informs Health Department State IEC Officer, Sonam G Bhutia, who also added that he did not have any problems in the lungs.

Meanwhile, 25 fresh cases of novel coronavirus were reported in Sikkim in the 24 hours ending 8 AM Monday, taking the number of active cases in the State to 424.

The State's overall tally of confirmed cases reported so far has now increased to 1,652, of which 1,225 patients have already made full recoveries and have been discharged from isolation facilities.

Also yesterday, five more patients were discharged from the isolation ward at STNM Hospital after beating COVID-19.

In the daily health bulletin on Monday, the State IEC Officer mentioned that 21 out of 49 samples tested by RT-PCR at the VRD Lab at STNM Hospital on Sunday returned positive for COVID-19, while four new positive cases were detected in rapid antigen testing of 132 samples.

He added that all 20 samples tested by TrueNat

returned negative.

In the break-up of the new cases reported via RT-PCR, he informed that three persons from Namin, four from Smile Land area and 14 workers of Zuventus Healthcare Limited tested positive.

He added that one person from Zitlang tested positive in RAT at the Rangpo screening centre and has been shifted to the COVID Care Centre.

Likewise, one person from Shanti Nagar, Singtam, at the Central Referral Hospital, Tadong and two from Hee-Patal in West Sikkim were also found positive in rapid antigen testing.

Mr Bhutia appealed to people not to stigmatize COVID patients and people in home quarantine and in the containment zones.

## Second body recovered from Dikchukhola



**WANGCHUK BHUTIA**

**GANGTOK, 31 AUG:**

The body of 29-year-old Purna Rai, was recovered from DikchuKhola today by the rescue team at around 3:30pm. The rescue team comprises of SDRF, NDRF, local youth, led by BDO Tintek, Tshering Norgyal Theeng and panchayats.

The body of 22-year-old Erika Rai was recovered on Sunday while the third sibling, Chandra Rai, is still missing. The three siblings had been washed away by Bakchariver on 29 Aug.

## 78,512 new COVID19 cases in India, 971 deaths

**NEW DELHI, AUG 31 [PTI]:** The novel coronavirus tally in India crossed 36 lakh on Monday with 78,512 new cases, while the number of recoveries surged to 27,74,801, pushing the recovery rate to 76.62%, the Health Ministry said.

The death toll climbed to 64,469 with 971 more people succumbing to the infection in a span of 24 hours, according to the ministry data.

There are 7,81,975 active cases of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in the country, while 27,74,801 people have recovered. The total coronavirus cases rose to 36,21,245, it said.

The recovery rate has increased to 76.62%, while the fatality rate has declined to 1.78%.

The last five lakh recoveries have been recorded in only eight days in comparison to preceding same number of recoveries, which were recorded in 10 and nine days respectively, the ministry said.

According to the ICMR, a total of 4,23,07,914 samples have been tested so far with 8,46,278 samples being tested on Sunday.

Of the 971 fresh deaths reported, 296 are from Maharashtra, 106 from Karnataka, 94 from Tamil Nadu, 88 from Andhra Pradesh, 67 from Uttar Pradesh, 56 from Punjab, 50 from West Bengal, 29 from Madhya Pradesh, 22 in Delhi, 17 each from Gujarat and Bihar, 13 each in Jharkhand and Rajasthan, 12 each in Haryana and Odisha.

Ten fatalities have been reported from Puducherry, nine each from Jammu and Kashmir and Telangana, seven each from Assam, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand and Kerala, five each from Goa and Tripura, two each from Arunachal Pradesh and Ladakh, one each from Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Himachal Pradesh.

Of the total 64,469 deaths, Maharashtra has reported the maximum at 24,399 followed by 7,231 in Tamil Nadu, 5,589 in Karnataka, 4,426 in Delhi, 3,884 in Andhra Pradesh, 3,423 in Uttar Pradesh, 3,176 in West Bengal, 3,006 in Gujarat and 1404 people have died in Punjab.

So far, 1,374 have died in Madhya Pradesh, 1043 in Rajasthan, 827 in Telangana, 694 in Jammu and Kashmir, 682 in Haryana, 578 in Bihar, 482 in Odisha, 410 in Jharkhand, 296 in Assam, 287 in Kerala, 269 in Chhattisgarh, 257 in Uttarakhand, 221 in Puducherry, 183 in Goa, 103 in Tripura, 52 in Chandigarh, 45 in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, 35 in Himachal Pradesh.

## Online training and competition begins for boxing and football

**GANGTOK, 31 AUG (IPR):**

The first online training-cum-competition for boxing (shadow boxing, straight plank hold, bend and reach hold) and football (dribbling and juggling), a 15-day programme, was virtually inaugurated by Secretary, Sports and Youth Affairs Department, Kuber Bhandari on 30 August.

He was accompanied by senior officers and coaches of the Department and joined by International players and National coaches.

The boxing classes will be held under the supervision of State Boxing Coach, Pratima Gooroong and the Football classes will be organised under the supervision of Deputy Director Sports and Youth Affairs



Department, Milan Ranpal and Football coach Suren Chettri.

The department has also invited boxing coaches and football coaches with higher international achievements so that the aspiring players from different corners of the State can

experience world class training from them and also the coaches can upgrade and hone their coaching skills. These international players and coaches also attended the inaugural session and encouraged the athletes, and will be taking online sessions.

In boxing, the

following coaches attended: Dronacharya awardee Blas Iglesias Fernandes, originally from Cuba who has worked with the Elite Men Indian Boxing team for more than 20 years; International Boxer and AIBA 1-star coach, Ramanand, with 13 yrs of coaching experience,

wherein he spent 8 years with Elite Men Team; AIBA 2-star coach, Vijay Kumar Sharma (SAI boxing coach) also the Chief Coach of Junior Men Team; International boxer and AIBA 1star Coach, Hardeep Singh from Chandigarh.

In Football, the Department has invited Feroz Sherif who is an international player and coach. He has represented India in numerous prestigious tournaments like Asian Championship, World Cup Qualifier, Nehru Cup. He is AFC "A" licence holder and Level 3 GK Coach. He has played many tournaments with Bhaichung Bhutia of Sikkim.

There are 167 young athletes undergoing this online training-cum-competitions.

## Pranab Mukherjee: Mirati man who craved slice of village

**MIRATI (WB), AUG 31 (PTI):** He strode the corridors of power in New Delhi like a colossus, but always craved a slice of his village.

Mirati, the sunswept village in West Bengal's Birbhum district, some 200 km from state capital Kolkata, was in mourning on Monday following the death of its most famous son-- Pranab Mukharjee--the 13th President of India.

From the dusty lanes of Mirati, life took the scholar politician to the imposing Rashtrapati Bhavan through a warren of powerful offices he held, but the village stuck, the bond only grew stronger.

It will be for the first time in many years that his absence will be sorely felt at his ancestral village during Durga Puja festivities. Clad in dhoti with a stole thrown around his shoulders, Mukherjee would perform 'aarti' of the most revered deity in West Bengal.

He was there even last year, months before the deadly coronavirus spread its tentacles across West Bengal and the rest of India. Mukherjee, too, contracted the disease before undergoing a surgical procedure after which he slipped into a coma never to wake up again.

"For the people of this village, he was Pranab da,



Pranab Kaku or jethu (uncle). A down to earth man, he never made us feel that he was a senior minister or the president.

He loved children," said Susmita, a resident who made a dash for Mukherjee's ancestral home on hearing the news of his death.

Susmita, like almost every villager, was a regular at Mukherjee's Durga Puja.

"Durga Puja at his residence was the biggest annual event of our village. All of us would have lunch or dinner at his house during the five days of the festival. He was our own. Durga Puja in Mirati will never be the same again," Rabi Chatteraj, a close associate of

the Mukherjee family told PTI.

He said Mukherjee would personally call from New Delhi to ask if everything was in place.

"Every year, two months before the puja, he used to call us and sought to know about every detail. During the five days of puja, he himself used to recite Chandi Path (hymns to Goddess Chandi), he said.

Eyes closed and prayers on their lips, the villagers of Mirati collected every single day over the last fortnight so he could be in their midst once again this Durga Puja. But that was not to be.

Mukherjee died while in coma at the Army's Research and Referral Hospital in the national capital on Monday.

"He was seriously ill but we thought with his indomitable spirit and by the grace of Ma Durga he will survive. We have been praying for his recovery but finally, he left us forever," Chatteraj said.

Mukherjee, who did his schooling at Shibchandra High School in nearby Kirnagar, visited his alma mater thrice after becoming the president.

"in 2012 (the year he became the president), we had felicitated him. He again came in 2013 and 2014. Whenever he visited the school, he would come and talk with teachers and students. He was always affectionate, Nilkamal Banerjee, the headmaster of the school said.

Mukherjee's son Abhijit, a former Congress MP, recently told a national newspaper that his father, before he was put on ventilator support, had asked him to bring some 'kathaal' (jackfruit) from Mirati.

Abhijit Mukherjee went to Mirati from Kolkata, bought a 25 kg ripe jackfruit and boarded a train to New Delhi on August 3.

Pranab Mukherjee savoured the pulpy, juicy treat from Mirati and was very happy, Abhijit Mukherjee had told The Times of India.

Life's journey took him out of home but could not take home out of him.

## 21 IRB Jawans test positive in Delhi

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 31 AUG:**

Twenty-one IRB personnel from Sikkim posted in Delhi have tested positive for COVID-19, sources inform. These figures are of Rapid Antigen Tests conducted on Sunday and Monday. They have been placed under isolation. There are more than 500 IRB personnel from Sikkim currently posted in Delhi, it is informed.

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## economy contracts 23.9 pc in April-June quarter

**NEW DELHI, AUG 31 (PTI):** The Indian economy contracted by 23.9 per cent in the April-June quarter of this fiscal amid the COVID-19 crisis, official data showed on Monday.

The gross domestic product (GDP) had expanded by 5.2 per cent in the corresponding April-June period of 2019-20, according to data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

The government had imposed a nationwide lockdown on March 25 to curb the spread of coronavirus infections. The Centre began easing the lockdown for certain economic activities from April 20 onwards.

Most rating agencies had projected contraction in India's GDP for the first quarter of 2020-21.

China's economy grew by 3.2 per cent in April-June after recording a decline of 6.8 per cent in January-March 2020.



## Chisopani FC cleans up Berbotay Primary School



**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 31 AUG:**

Chisopani Football Club carried out a cleanliness drive at Government Primary School, Berbotay in South Sikkim on Monday. It is informed that that the club has decided to carry out cleanliness drive, plantation drive, voluntary blood donation and other social activities once a month apart from

its sporting activities.

The club was established in the year 2010 with a vision to promote and provide exposure for youth especially in the field of football.

A press release of the club mentions that the club has decided to take up cleanliness drive of the school premises this month as the school would be opening soon

only for teachers in the month of September. Berbotay Primary School Headmistress, Rekha Subba has thanked the CFC family for their initiative to make the school premises neat and clean, the release adds.

President Dik Bahadur Chettri and advisor, Tshering Bhutia of CFC has thanked the Chief Minister PS Tamang for his announcement

to increase sports quota from 2% to 5% in government jobs and expressed that such initiative of the government would motivate upcoming young sportspersons.

The release adds that the announcement of the CM to provide financial support to registered clubs would help to provide better exposure and training

to local sportspersons and to bring out talented sportspersons from all corners of the State.

The club has been facing difficulties in sending local players outside the state for selection trials as well as for exposure due to financial constraints so help from the government would make it possible for talents of the State to reach higher, the release mentions.

## Cleanliness drive at Mani Chokerling Gumpa

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 31 AUG:**

A cleanliness drive was initiated by the Pang Lhab Sol Celebration Committee, Rabong at the Mani Chokerling Gumpacomplex today. People undertook a cleanliness drive along with the officers as well as employees of various departments, a press release informs.

The puja will

commence from Tuesday and the final puja rituals will be conducted on 02 Sep, 2020 by the Lamas to thank the guardian deities for bestowing peace and prosperity to the state and all sentient beings all over the world.

All the COVID-19 protocols will be duly followed during the entire period of puja ceremony. Today's

cleanliness drive was undertaken with proper social distancing along with the usage of gloves and masks by all.

As informed earlier, this year there will be no Chham and other festivities during Pang Lhab Sol at Rabong. Only prayers will be conducted by monks with no public participation keeping the COVID-19 protocols in mind.



## NBMC Siliguri begins plasma collection for COVID treatment

**SMITAKHAWAS**

**SILIGURI, 31 AUG:**

Plasma donation camp started in North Bengal Medical College today as per the direction of the West Bengal government and in collaboration with Covid-19 Care Network Force.

Members of COVID-19 care network force along with DM, S Ponnambalam and SDO, Sumant Sahay were

present.

Doctor Anirwan Roy has become the first plasma donor in North Bengal, who has donated his plasma for treatment of others suffering from Covid-19. Along with him there were nine donors today.

Addressing the press, Dr Sandip Sen Gupta, Dr Kalyan Khan, Dr Anirban Roy and the members of Covid-19 Care Network Force said that the collection of

plasma has been started today from patients who have won the battle against this virus. They can donate the plasma within 28 days to 4 months of their recovery to help patients who are suffering from novel corona virus.

"This might work as new supportive weapon for our medical team to fight against this virus, but at the same time we want to request all the

families of patients not to force the doctors to treat the patients with plasma therapy because it is very difficult to treat the patients with plasma therapy. Only patients in critical condition will be treated with plasma therapy first. For that also the health department will perform a complete test of the patient and the donor after which, if the physical condition of the donor and patient is

stable then only further treatment will be started by doctor with plasma therapy," added doctors.

They further highlighted the need to promote plasma donation so that many patients can be treated with plasma therapy.

This is not a magical treatment, but we can consider it as an experimental treatment, added, Dr Sandip Sen Gupta.

## SOA thanks CM for sporting announcements

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 31 AUG:**

Sikkim Olympic Association has expressed gratitude towards Chief Minister PS Tamang [Golay] for his recent announcements made on the occasion of National Sports Day for the upliftment of sports in Sikkim and for the betterment of sportspersons.

An SOA press release thanks the CM for "his tireless contribution for the upliftment of Sports in Sikkim and also for his positive outlook which has always been a source of inspiration to the Sports fraternity of the State and to

the Sikkim Olympic Association."

The release further thanks the CM for his announcements to increase the sports quota from 2% to 5% in government jobs and to award 30% cash incentive to elite sports coaches based on their performance at national and international competitions.

The association has further thanked the CM for the announcement to lay more emphasize on infrastructure-development especially on incomplete projects and more focus on interschool sports competitions.

## Monsoon Session to start from Sep 14: Notification

**NEW DELHI, AUG 31 (PTI):** Parliament's monsoon session will begin from September 14, a notification issued on Monday said.

The notification issued by the Lok Sabha Secretariat said President Ram Nath Kovind has called the lower house to meet on Monday, September 14 at 9 AM. Rajya Sabha is expected to meet at a different time on the same day, as it has been decided to stagger the sitting of the two houses due to the COVID-19 guidelines.

The Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs

had earlier recommended that the monsoon session be held from September 14 to October 1. There will be in total 18 consecutive sittings with no holiday or weekend break, according to officials.

Hectic preparations are underway for the session with several first-time measures because of the COVID-19 pandemic such as testing of all MPs, staggered sitting of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and use of both chambers and galleries to accommodate members while following physical distancing norms, officials had said.

## Labour Dept provides essentials to R&B field staff



**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 31 AUG:**

Labour Department distributed

essential items and safety materials like, blankets, torch lights, jackets, raincoats,

masks and helmets to field workers under Roads and Bridges Department today at Zoom Salghari, a press release informs.

Total of 30 workers received the materials from MLA, Sunita Gajmer. The distribution program was held at the Office of Assistant Engineer (Road and Bridges) premises at Jorethang in South Sikkim.

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30% cash incentive to elite sports coaches based on their performance at national and international competitions.

The association has further thanked the CM for the announcement to lay more emphasize on infrastructure-development especially on incomplete projects and more focus on interschool sports competitions.

## 26 families quit SDF to join BJP



**SUMMIT REPORT**

**RANGPO, 31 AUG:**

Former Panchayat and CEC member of the Sikkim Democratic Front, Hem Kumar Gurung, along with 26 families of Daragoan, Majhitar in East Sikkim joined BJP at an official function organised by

BJP's West Pendum committee at Majhitar today.

The joining function was attended by BJP State President, DB Chauwan, Gangtok MLA YT Lepcha along with other constituency level party members, a BJP press release

informs.

"Due to social distancing norms, the numbers were kept low today. Mass joining will be done after the COVID-19 crisis gets over," BK Gurung, the party's West Pendum Committee treasurer stated.

## Governor mourns Pranab Mukherjee's death

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 31 AUG:**

Governor Ganga Prasad has expressed grief over the demise of former President of India, Bharat Ratna Pranab Mukherjee who passed away at the Army Hospital, New Delhi, where he had been hospitalized since 10 August.

The Governor said, "Deeply anguished by the demise of 13th President of India and Bharat Ratna, Shri Pranab Mukherjee ji. His demise is a great loss to the nation, we have lost a great and finest son of India, who worked to make country on strong nation. He was one of the favorite President of India. Late Pranab Mukherjee will be remembered for generations for his deep knowledge of Indian history, diplomacy, public policy. He served the nation with diligently and dedication."

The Governor has described the late Mr Mukherjee as an unparalleled mentor whose doors were always open for all.

"A man who ignited many minds and had been guiding light for all of us. His contribution to the nation will be cherished forever," he states while praying for peace of the departed soul.

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## Bageykhola village sanitized



### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 31 AUG:**

Bageykhola under Rangpo Nagar Panchayat was sanitized by Samaj Sudhar Samiti, Bageykhola-Majhitar today. A total of 40

houses and the ICDS were covered in the initiative, a press release informs.

The initiative was taken up by the Bageykhola C o n g r e g a t i o n Convener, Ganesh

Pradhan, Sathya Sai Organization, including members of the disaster branch, the release adds.

A Sanitizer spraying machine was provided by the Zydus Pharma unit located in the village.

**NEW DELHI, AUG 31 (PTI):** Billionaire Gautam Adani's conglomerate on Monday said it will take controlling stake in Mumbai airport through deals in which it will acquire the debt of current promoter GVK and buy out minority shareholders.

Adani Group will acquire GVK Airport Developers Ltd's 50.50 per cent stake as well as buyout 23.5 per cent stake of Airports Company of South Africa (ACSA) and Bidvest Group (for which it has obtained Competition Commission of India approval), it said in a regulatory filing.

A controlling 74 per cent stake in Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL), together with the six non-metro airports it bagged in a government tender, will make Adani Group the largest private operator of airports in India.

State-run Airports Authority of India (AAI) runs most of the airports in the country.

Adani Airport Holdings will acquire the debt of GVK Airport Developers, the holding company of GVK Power and Infrastructure, the filing said.

The debt will be converted into equity at mutually-agreed terms, GVK said in a separate filing.

This conversion

would lead to Adani Group getting all of 50.5 per cent stake of GVK Group.

The two firms did not give details of the deal including the debt that Adani is taking over and the terms of conversion.

After seaports, Adani Group is betting big on the airport sector and has won the bids to run six AAI-built non-metro airports in Lucknow, Jaipur, Guwahati, Ahmedabad, Thiruvananthapuram, and Mangalore. It has now entered the country's second busiest airport.

The move comes at a time when the COVID-19 pandemic has hit brakes on the aviation sector.

"The aviation industry has been severely impacted by COVID-19, setting it back by many years and has impacted the financials of MIAL," GVK Chairman GVK Reddy said in a statement. "It was therefore important that we bring in a financially strong investor in the shortest possible time."

GMR Infrastructure is the other big private airport operator in the country. GMR, which operates the international airport in New Delhi, is also selling a 49 per cent stake in the airport business to a consortium led by Tata Group, a unit of

Singapore's sovereign wealth fund GIC and SSG Capital Management.

"Mumbai, the City of Dreams! It is a privilege to have an opportunity to serve the air travelers of one of the greatest Metropolis on our planet. #GatewaytoGoodness - Look forward to helping transform the Indian Airport Sector!," Gautam Adani, 58, tweeted.

GVK also said it has separately terminated a Rs 7,614-crore investment agreement with Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA), Canada's Public Sector Pension Investment Board and state-owned National Investment & Infrastructure Fund (NIIF).

In October last year, debt-laden GVK Group had entered into an agreement to sell 79 per cent of its stake in GVK Airport Holdings for Rs 7,614 crore to three investors to help retire debt.

"Adani Airport Holdings intends to infuse funds into MIAL to ensure it receives much-needed liquidity and also achieves financial closure of Navi Mumbai International Airport to be able to commence construction," Adani Enterprises, the promoter of Adani Airport Holdings, said.

"The GVK Group and AAHL have agreed that AAHL will offer a stand-still to GVK, in addition, to release the guarantee given by GVK Power and Infrastructure Ltd with respect to the debt acquired by it," the company said in the filing.

"Upon the acquisition of the debt of GVK Airport Developers, Adani Group will take steps to obtain necessary customary and regulatory approvals, as may be required, to acquire controlling interest in MIAL," it said.

GVK said it has "agreed to cooperate with Adani Airport Holdings Ltd (AAHL)" under which the Adani Group firm will acquire debt from various lenders including a Goldman Sachs led consortium and HDFC.

"When the transaction is consummated, which is subject to customary approvals, we would be reducing a significant portion of liabilities to our lenders, which is of utmost importance to the group," GVK Reddy said.

Adani Group had in March 2019 agreed to acquire a 13.5 per cent stake of South African company, Bidvest for Rs 1,248 crore. However, GVK Group blocked the deal claiming the right of first refusal.

GVK, however, could not bring money to the table to buy Bid Services Division Mauritius' (Bidvest) stake and the matter went to court.

With GVK Group's finances under strain, it has now come around to the idea of selling the stake to Adani Group.

ACSA owns 10 per cent in MIAL and the balance 26 per cent stake is held by the AAI.

GVK said has "notified ADIA, NIIF and PSP that the transaction documents stand terminated as it is no longer effective and implementable."

"The reason for this decision was (a) the terms of the transaction envisaged in the transaction documents were not implementable and (b) the alternative proposals discussed would not provide a resolution to the lenders of ADL by the end of August, which was a requirement of our lenders," it added.

The deal comes after the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) earlier this month charged the GVK Group with siphoning off funds totaling Rs 705 crore. It is charged with causing a loss of Rs 310 crore to the exchequer by entering into fake work contracts on the land given by the government to MIAL.

## Aveek Sarkar is new PTI Chairman

**NEW DELHI, AUG 31 (PTI):** Aveek Sarkar, the Editor Emeritus and Vice Chairman of the Ananda Bazar Group of Publications, has been elected Chairman of Press Trust of India, the country's premier news agency.

Sarkar's election was ratified by PTI's Board of Directors at their meeting on Saturday. He succeeds Vijay Kumar Chopra, Chief Editor of the Punjab Kesari Group of newspapers.

Sarkar, 75, started training as a journalist while he was a student, just out of school. After graduating from the University of Calcutta, he went to Britain where he came under the tutelage of the legendary editor of The Sunday Times, Sir Harold Evans. He was schooled in journalism by such iconic figures as Edwin Taylor in design and Ian Jack in sub-editing.

As Chief Editor of the Ananda Bazar Group, Sarkar was the moving force behind the transformation of the group's publications, which include Bengali language daily Anandabazar Patrika and English daily The Telegraph, both of which he personally edited.

In addition, the Kolkata-based group also runs six television news channels in various languages, of which the most prominent is the Hindi-language ABP News. The group also publishes a large number of magazines.

Sarkar is a man of varied interests and counts books, food, wine and art among

his principal loves. He is a fitness fanatic and spends almost two hours every day on yoga, weights and rowing. He was captain of the Royal Calcutta Golf Club (RCGC) for 10 years.

He was the founding Managing Director of Penguin India, the Indian counterpart of Penguin Books, the founding Editor of Business Standard and also the pivotal figure behind the acquisition of STAR News by the ABP Group in 2003.

Besides Sarkar and Chopra, the PTI

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## 'Modi idlis' be sold in Salem at Rs 10 for 4 pieces

**COIMBATORE, AUG 31 (PTI):** 'Modi Idlis', priced at Rs 10 for four pieces, named after the Prime Minister, are all set to be offered to the public at Salem in Tamil Nadu, courtesy a senior BJP functionary.

'Modi idli' posters have been put up in various parts of the city as part of giving wide publicity to the

initiative, a brainchild of BJP propaganda cell state vice president Mahesh.

The posters have the picture of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the left side, "four idlis for Rs 10" written on the centre and a photograph of Mahesh.

"Lotus hero Mahesh presents Modi idly. Four idlis for

Rs 10 with sambar, to be introduced soon in Salem. Made with modern kitchen equipment, tasty and healthy," the posters read.

Salem is the native district of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami.

'Bharath' R Balasubramanian, BJP Tamil Nadu secretary, Media, said the plan

was to open 22 shops initially to sell the idlis and depending on its success, the number of outlets would be increased.

Machinery for the project, to make 40,000 idlis per day has already arrived and is expected to start next week, he said.

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		Design Development for promotion of handloom Products	06	—	06	
		Marketing of handloom products	10	—	10	
<b>Total</b>			<b>74</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>84</b>

2. For more information regarding eligibility criteria, age, experience etc., details can be downloaded from the website of office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms ([www.handlooms.nic.in](http://www.handlooms.nic.in), <https://myhandlooms.gov.in>). You may contact your nearest Weavers Service Centre for any information / assistance.

3. The Online Application is to be submitted through integrated website of office of the Development Commissioner for handlooms (<https://myhandlooms.gov.in>) & ([www.handlooms.nic.in](http://www.handlooms.nic.in))

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## Promote Confidence, Not Anxiety

*Leverage merit to play entitlement out of the public discourse*

A seminar at Sikkim University some years ago grappled with the theme on how the North-East could be “re-framed”. The complications of identifying locals and othering the outsiders were expectedly a common thread running through most deliberations. And the more one learns of the “unique” situations that now beset the region, the more one realises that there is nothing very unique to any situation and that the conditions are common to every place with an identity-driven confrontation with only the protagonists differing.

Speak to people from the mainland and it gets confirmed that even they are confronted with this problem. This then is clearly a human condition, so why should it be discussed at regional levels and not resolved through wider collaborations? Maybe the time will come for that as well, but for now, it will be within smaller circles that the issue is discussed. Until wider deliberations happen though, localised discussions will have to do and should be encouraged because the sooner issues of identity and belonging are discussed more openly, even if within sub-regions, the fewer, hopefully, will be the feelings of resentment.

Who is local? Being a sensitive issue, emotional responses were expected, but the whole exercise is at risk of becoming a parody of itself with anyone wanting to have a say in the discussion, instead of engaging, forms an association/ organisation and begins issuing press releases expounding a fear or occupying a position. There is nothing wrong in holding an opinion, but before one foists it on the public, some basics have to be worked out. When something as sensitive as local issues are being debated, at least proper homework and due diligence to identify the fault lines need to be invested. Instead, it is increasingly being seen that “leaders” take the easier option of stoking the generalised fear that inflicts every community and person and then fans this into rage. The success rate of this approach is disturbingly high as is being proven with every electoral victory being reported from the around the world. All the more reason then to encourage engagement, even if uncomfortable to begin with, before things come to such a pass that confrontation becomes the only response that people find themselves equipped with. The casual arguments that consistently get played into the public domain nowadays has become a worrying strain that laces almost all the voices that one hears on the issue. The local-non local, insider-outsider debate, because those who understand issues better are not speaking up, is flirtingly close to becoming a Frankenstein that could soon run amok.

Now, to look at the effectiveness of the whole exercise. Making local protection the highlight of all aspirations is counter-productive. Government jobs, except in the very rare cases, are being given only to locals. Government jobs are also drying up. The challenge for Sikkim, specially the generation that calls the shots, is not so much to secure these jobs but to empower and train the generation in the making to find employment while competing against the best outside Sikkim. It will take more than protectionism and reservation to achieve this. To understand how government jobs have stemmed to a trickle, one needs to recall the number of years taken up from announcement of vacancies to holding of selection exams to interviews to appointments being made. Too many years get blocked and the years between these exams will also keep increasing. At the end of the day, even though every job in Sikkim is reserved for local candidates, the supply of jobs will still run short of the demand. To defend protection for locals is fine, but to prioritise it over everything else not only dulls the competitive edge of the youth, but also demeans their ability, compromises their confidence.

What Sikkim requires is not more protection or quotas - there is already enough of that - but more inspiration to compete harder. Focus on these, replace the system of patronage with meritocracy, and the debilitating sense of entitlement will play out of the public discourse... hopefully.

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# African farmers are younger than you think. Here is why

**FELIX KWAME YEBOAH & THOMAS JAYNE**

**THECONVERSATION.COM**

Over the past 20 years sub-Saharan Africa has registered the highest rate of agricultural production in the world. There have been knock-on effects with the region also seeing the fastest growth in off-farm employment and non-farm labour productivity.

There's a widely held view that Africa's agricultural growth trajectory could be jeopardised by an ageing farm population because young people are fleeing from farming. Several sources indicate that the average age of Africans in farming has risen to 60 years or more. But we are unaware of any empirical evidence to support this claim.

To understand what's really going on, we used nationally representative survey data collected by the government statistical offices of six African countries – Ghana, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia, Nigeria and Tanzania. Because these surveys were replicated multiple times in each country between 2000 and 2018, we can compute how much time people spent annually in farming and off-farm jobs. We can examine trends in the age distribution of the labour force in farm and off-farm employment since 2000.

This was done as part of our research into young people's access to land as well as their migration

decisions and employment opportunities.

Breaking the myth

Our findings debunk the myth that most farmers in sub-Saharan Africa are over 60 years of age – far from it in fact.

According to the national government-administered data in the six countries, the average age of the agricultural workforce ranges from about 32 years to 39 years. Even when not counting young adults in the 15 to 24 year old range, the average age of the agricultural workforce ranges from 38 to 45 years of age. And even going beyond the generally accepted labour force age range of 15 to 64 years to include all elderly people of any age working in farming, the mean age of farmers barely changes.

This is explained by the fact that only 3% of sub-Saharan Africa's population is 65 years and over. And less than half of this group is economically active and engaged in farming.

Secondly, the average age of the agricultural workforce in the six African countries examined has either increased by one or two years or remained constant over the past decade. Between the first and latest survey periods, which spanned from seven to 12 years, the average age of the labour force in farming increased by less than two years in four of the six study countries (Ghana, Rwanda,

Uganda, Zambia). The mean farmer age remained unchanged in Nigeria and declined slightly in Tanzania.

In other words, the age of Africans in farming is barely rising, if at all. Considering that roughly 7 million to 10 million young people are entering the labour force in sub-Saharan Africa each year, it is easy to understand why the average age of the farming population is not rising, even with large numbers of young people partially or fully moving out of farming.

Based on these nationally representative surveys, it is clear that of the region's many agricultural challenges, an ageing workforce in farming is fortunately not one of them.

Third, our study found that individuals in off-farm jobs are on average one to three years younger than those in farming, especially when the sample excludes the 15-24 year old age group.

How to make farming profitable for young people

As highlighted in previous studies, the share of employment in farming has been declining over time as opportunities for off-farm employment expand in Africa's rapidly transforming economies. But farming still accounts for a significant proportion of the jobs held by working-age individuals and remains the single largest employer of rural youth. Most of the jobs, however, are, part

time.

It is true that many young people from rural areas are leaving farming as off-farm opportunities continue to expand. Nevertheless, most young people who are economically active remain engaged in farming. What is missing, however, is a critical mass of skilled young Africans with access to finance and know-how to drive productivity growth in farming and related value chains.

The idea of keeping young people in farming for fear of African agriculture becoming the preserve of the elderly is misplaced. A more effective strategy would prioritise resourcing the millions of rural youth already engaged in farming to make farming more profitable. Making agriculture “sexy” is not nearly as important as making it profitable. Young people will flock to agriculture if and when it becomes clear that it can make good money.

A related priority is to encourage skilled young Africans to apply their expertise to address the many policy, regulatory, and financing barriers that inhibit them from starting and expanding agribusiness firms that provide important services to African farmers.

*[Felix Kwame Yeboah is Assistant Professor of International Development, Michigan State University; Thomas Jayne is MSU Foundation Professor, Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics, Michigan State University]*

## Fridays for Future: How the young climate movement has grown since Greta Thunberg's lone protest

**BENJAMIN BOWMAN**

**THECONVERSATION.COM**

At the end of her first week on strike in August 2018, Greta Thunberg handed out flyers that said: “You grownups don't give a shit about my future.” Her appearance at the 2019 UN Climate Summit capped a year in the spotlight for the teenage climate activist. Delegates at the summit gave her a standing ovation, but the sound of their applause couldn't mask Greta Thunberg's deep frustration.

“This is all wrong,” she said. “I shouldn't be up here ... yet you all come to us young people for hope. How dare you!”

Everything from posters to children's picture books have captured the inspiring example of Thunberg's bravery and determination. But adults, even supportive ones, still shirk the opportunity to really pay attention to the remarkable movement she is a part of – its history, its present and its visions for the future.

In doing so, they miss the significance of the last two years. The climate strike movement has grown into a network of global campaigns focused on systemic change to tackle the climate crisis. In the process, young people have outgrown the mainstream environmental movement. They don't want recognition in the world of today. They want a new world, and they are building it.

**SYSTEM CHANGE NOT CLIMATE CHANGE**

Why is Thunberg frustrated? For one thing, adult leaders have applauded young activists before. In 2014, the then 25-year-old Marshallese poet and climate campaigner Kathy Jetñil-Kijiner addressed the opening of the UN Climate Summit, and delegates were in tears. In 2018, she published a poem with another young indigenous activist, Aka Niviana, which captured their disillusionment with the failing international leadership on climate change.

- We demand that the world see beyond

- SUVs, ACs, their pre-package convenience

- Their oil-slicked dreams, beyond the belief

- That tomorrow will never happen

The celebration of Thunberg's speech by adults in power overlooks the oratory of Jetñil-Kijiner and others who came before. It's an open wound for young climate activists who hear adults applaud them for having a voice, but continue to act as if the catastrophe scientists warn is already here will never come.

Certainly since 2018, the youth climate movement has outgrown the search for applause. The environmentalist Bill McKibben famously said that environmentalists won the argument on climate change long ago, but need to win the fight.

The youth climate movement that continues to build on Thunberg's strike



doesn't aim to give adults hope that the world can be saved. They say the world that adults knew is gone. In its place, young people are determined to build a better one.

**A MOVEMENT OF MOVEMENTS**

This movement is run by young people, learning from young people, and for young people. Thunberg explained that her climate strikes were inspired by student walkouts for gun control in Parkland, Florida.

Those school strikes, in turn, learned from young people who had gone before, not least the activism of young people of colour in the US civil rights movement in the 1960s and 70s. This included the 1966 Seattle School Boycott and the work of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), founded by Ella Baker in 1960.

The young climate movement's links to the fight against systemic racism aren't just tactical. Mainstream environmental movements led by adults tend to focus on changing policies so that the world as it currently exists can be made sustainable.

A good example is the slogan “listen to the science”, popularised by Extinction Rebellion. It imagines change as a process of pressuring politicians to improve existing economic, social and political systems.

Young climate activists today tend to perceive climate change as the symptom of a broader systemic problem, connected to the same economic and political roots that produce other forms of violence, injustice and inequality, including racism. They do not advocate making these systems sustainable. Their demand is climate justice, and a new, more just, global system.

For instance, Extinction Rebellion activist Daze Aghaji explained in 2019 that young people are in their own,

distinct branch of Extinction Rebellion that's distinct because young people focus on “talking about indigenous communities... the global south... and climate justice”.

Another young activist called Aneesa Khan said at a demonstration ahead of the 2018 UN climate summit that this new wave of climate activism is being led by the people who bear the brunt of climate change – or will in the future. These are young people, women, indigenous people, people who suffer under racist oppression or who live in places that were conquered and colonised by European empires. Essentially, those who bear historical traumas and continue to be impoverished by an unfair global economy.

Khan said: “From environment defenders in Latin America to the Standing Rock Sioux in the US to the anti-coal activists in the Philippines and right here in Poland, we're here, we're rising, we're resisting, we're fighting, but where are you?”

In research with young climate activists, we have found that many young people are inspired by Greta Thunberg, and by other icons of the movement. But they also tend to share her sense of the problem – that “our biosphere is being sacrificed so that rich people in countries like mine can live in luxury.”

On the second anniversary of Thunberg's first strike, young climate activists were probably not looking at 2018 as the start of their movement. They will have placed her strike in broad sweep of other movements for justice, past and present, and they will be planning for the future. Most of all, they will be sharing with other young people their visions of a new world.

*[the writer is Lecturer in Politics, Manchester Metropolitan University]*



## Andamans & Nicobar Islands COVID tally rises to 3,104

**PORT BLAIR, AUG 31 (PTI):** The COVID-19 caseload of Andaman and Nicobar Islands rose to 3,104 as 23 more people tested positive for the infection, while one more fatality pushed the Union territory's coronavirus death toll to 45, a health department official said on Monday.

Nineteen fresh infections were detected during contact tracing, while four persons were found positive after arrival at the airport, he said.

It is mandatory for all passengers coming from the mainland to undergo rapid antigen test at the airport on arrival.

The fresh infections have pushed the number of active COVID-19 cases in the archipelago to 473, the official said.

As many as 45 more people were cured of the disease, taking the total number of recoveries to 2,586, he said.

The administration is mass testing various tribes in the archipelago, another official said.

Samples of 120 members of the Onge tribe of Little Andaman and 50 members of the Jarawa tribe have been collected and sent for COVID-19 tests, he said, adding the reports are awaited.

Ten members of the Great Andamanese tribe, which has a population of only around 50, have recently tested positive for COVID-19, a senior health official said.

Four of the infected tribe members are from Strait Island, while six reside in Port Blair, he said.

"Two of the infected persons are undergoing treatment at a hospital, two are in quarantine in a COVID care centre and six of the tribe members who live in Port Blair have been placed under home isolation," Deputy Director of Health Department and nodal officer for COVID-19, Dr Avijit Roy, told PTI.

"We are mass testing the Great Andamanese tribe as some other members might have come in contact with these infected persons," he added.

## Orissa HC allows Durga Puja in Cuttack

**CUTTACK, AUG 31 (PTI):** The Orissa High Court on Monday gave its stamp of approval to holding Durga Puja in Cuttack by adhering to COVID-19 guidelines issued by the state and Central governments.

A division bench headed by Chief Justice Mohammad Rafiq gave the directive while hearing a petition filed by Balubazar Puja Committee.

The puja committee had filed a PIL in the high court appealing it to direct the state government to allow the festival with an assurance that it would be held with strict adherence to COVID-19 guidelines.

"The High Court has allowed our petition for holding the puja by adhering to COVID-19 guidelines issued by the Government of

India and the State government", petitioner Suryakant Sangneria, president of the puja committee, said.

The puja committee had sought permission for making clay idol of Goddess Durga, perform puja at the 'mandap' without mass gathering and take out a simple procession to immerse the idol, Sangneria said.

The district administration that was initially reluctant to give permission for organising Durga Puja this year, in view of the pandemic, has now allowed all other puja committees to observe the puja in a simple manner.

The administration has also asked the puja committees not to hold the Durga Puja immersion (Bhasani) in a grand manner.

## Odisha FC signs Brazilian striker Diego Mauricio

**BHUBANESWAR, AUG 31 (PTI):** Odisha FC on Monday announced the signing of Brazilian striker Diego Mauricio, who has played alongside Neymar and Ronaldinho, ahead of the seventh edition of the Hero Indian Super League.

Mauricio signed a one-year contract with the Bhubaneswar-based side.

The 29-year-old striker has the experience of playing at many top football leagues around the world.

He made his senior club debut for Brazil's Flamengo in 2010 where he linked up with football legend, Ronaldinho. He has played for other Brazilian teams like Sport Club do Recife, Bragantino and Centro Sportivo Alagoano.

The Rio de Janeiro-born forward was part of Brazil's U-20 squad and played in a team that boasted of stars

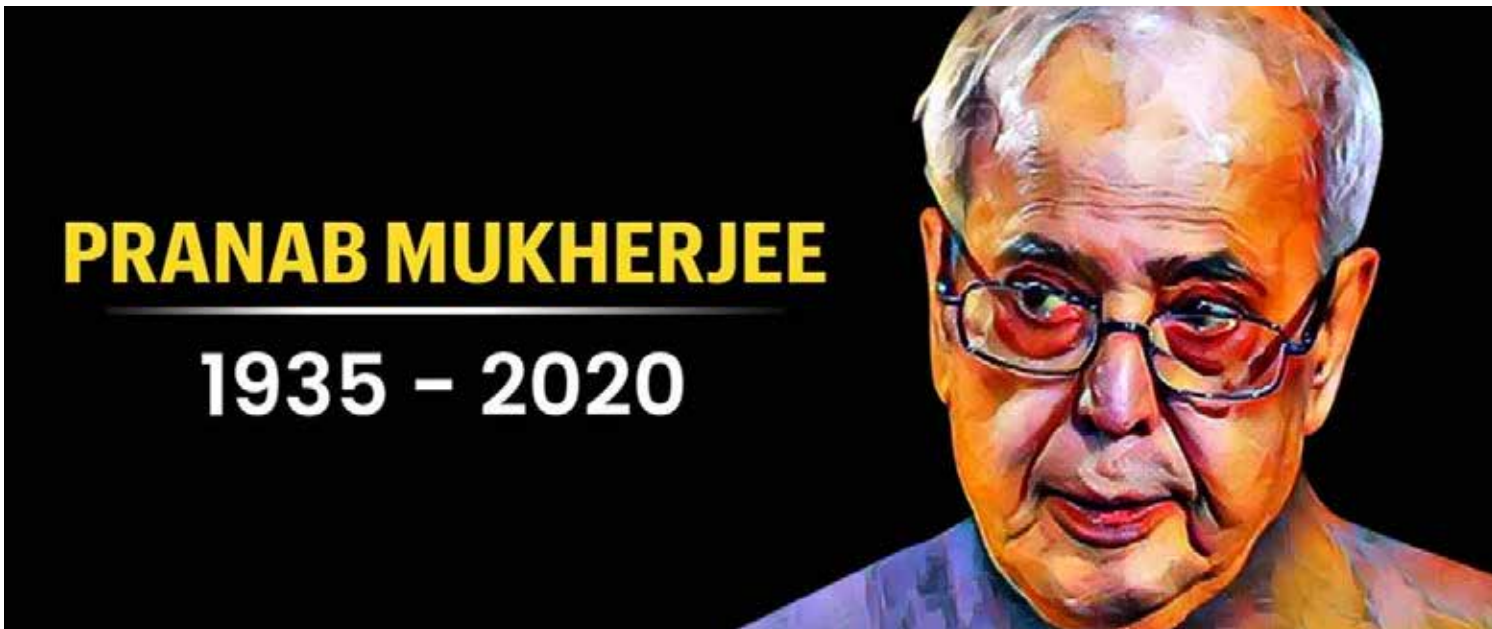
like Phillipe Coutinho, Casemiro, Oscar, Felipe Anderson, Firmino and Neymar.

He has also travelled around the world playing in South Korea for Busan IPark and Gangwon FC, Al Qadisiyah in Saudi Arabia, Vitoria FC in Portugal, Russia's FC Spartak Vladikavkaz and Chinese club Shijiazhuang Ever Bright FC.

Welcoming Mauricio at OFC, head coach Stuart Baxter said, "He is a player who can both combine with his teammates and also create chances on his own. When he gets to know the squad he will be a major asset for us."

After signing for Odisha FC, the striker said, "I have heard and read a lot of interesting things about the young Indian players at Odisha FC, the juggernauts and India as a country. This project excites me a lot and I am coming with the aim to win the league.

## Former president Pranab Mukherjee passes away



**NEW DELHI, AUG 31 (PTI):** Former president Pranab Mukherjee died on Monday in an army hospital here, his son Abhijit said. He was 84. Mukherjee was admitted to hospital on

August 10 and a health bulletin this morning said he was in a deep coma and on ventilator support.

"With a Heavy Heart, this is to inform you that my

father Shri Pranab Mukherjee has just passed away in spite of the best efforts of Doctors of RR Hospital and prayers duas and prarthanas from people throughout

India! I thank all of You Folded hands," his son Abhijit Mukherjee tweeted.

The former president was admitted to the hospital in Delhi Cantonment on August

10 and was operated the same day for removal of a clot in his brain.

He later developed a lung infection.

Mukherjee was the 13th president of India from 2012 to 2017.

## Jamshedpur FC rope in Brazilian midfielder Alex



and yet, it would not be enough to describe him," Jamshedpur FC head coach Owen Coyle was quoted as saying in the club website.

"He is an amazing talent who can unlock the

toughest of defences. I remember I signed him when I was a coach at Houston and he did his job perfectly well for the club and I hope he will do the same here. A warm welcome

to Alex. Wishing him a successful time with us," Coyle added.

He will be Jamshedpur FC's fourth foreign recruit along with Aitor Monroy, David Grande

and Nerka Valskis.

The Brazilian began his career in the youth system of Gremio Mauaense in his country and in 2008, he went on to sign as a professional player for FC Wohlen in Switzerland.

The big moment for Alex came in 2012 when the USA's Major League Soccer club Chicago Fire FC signed him. He made 82 appearances for them.

In 2015, he was signed by Houston Dynamo, under the tutelage of Owen Coyle and played for the club till 2017.

The team qualified for the MLS Playoffs in 2017 and subsequently progressed to the Western Conference finals. However, they missed out on the MLS Cup final with a loss to Seattle Sounders FC.

## Mizoram's COVID-19 tally rises to 1,011

**AIZAWL, AUG 31 (PTI):** Three more persons tested positive for COVID-19 in Mizoram, taking the state's tally to 1,011, an official said on Monday.

The three cases were reported from Kolasib district, the official said.

The newly infected persons were truck drivers, who came from Assam and all of them were asymptomatic, he said.

Of the total 1,011 COVID-19 cases, 422 are active cases as 589 people have already recovered from the virus, the official said.

According to data released by the health department on Sunday, as many as 40,383 samples have been tested, of which 2.50 per cent have come out as positive for Covid-19.

The COVID-19 recovery rate is 58.26 per cent.

Aizawl district has reported the highest number of COVID-19 cases at 590, followed by Kolasib (174) and Lunglei (119).

Siaha district has reported 27 cases, Champhai district (16), Serchhip (15), Lawngtlai (31), Mamit (30), Khawzawl (3), Hnahthial (2) and Saitual (4).

Mizoram has not reported any death due to Covid-19 till date.



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Return examination fees of students, demands ABVP

**AURANGABAD, AUG 31 (PTI):** Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) activists staged a protest here on Monday demanding refund of examination fees taken from students in Maharashtra.

They submitted a memorandum to the Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University (BAMU) administration here listing five demands, including 30 per cent reduction in fees for students for the academic year 2020-21 in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ABVP activists also raised slogans against the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government over alleged lathi-charge by police on students who tried to stop the convoy of Shiv Sena minister Abdul Sattar a few days ago in Dhule in north Maharashtra.

They took out a march to the BAMU administrative building and staged the protest inside the university campus.

The agitators demanded return of exam fees taken from students since tests have not been conducted in view of COVID-19.

Talking to PTI, Professor Pravin Wakte, pro-VC of BAMU, said, "The university administration met the agitators and heard them. The issues raised by them will be placed before the Management Council at its upcoming meeting."

No offence was registered in connection with the agitation, an official from the Begumpura Police station said.



## Lyon push the right buttons and remain in a league of their own Till Stillman

**LYON, 31 AUG [THEGUARDIAN]:** This year. Maybe this year. There was a sense that Lyon's vice-like grip on the Champions League trophy was loosening. Maybe. Possibly that stranglehold had relaxed, that now the French behemoths had only one firm hand and four fingers on silverware they have colonised for the past four seasons. There are signs, not of Lyon slackening, but of the competition closing the gap.

Shorn of the talents of the Norwegian sensation Ada Hegerberg, dominant centre-half Mbock Bathy and midfield lynchpin Amandine Henry due to injury for this mini-tournament in northern Spain, there was an optimism that 2020 might see someone other than the familiar, towering figure of Wendie Renard hoisting the trophy aloft.

Wolfsburg, Europe's "second team" for some years, hardly represented a shock challenger to Lyon's hegemony – they won the trophy in 2013 and 2014, after all.

However, the German side have been relegated to bridesmaid status emphatically by Lyon in recent years – Lyon had eliminated Wolfsburg from the Champions League in each of the last four seasons prior to Sunday.

Lyon didn't sparkle in victories over Bayern Munich and Paris Saint-Germain in the quarter- and semi-finals. Instead it was muscle memory that saw them through, the rarefied air of "been there, done that and now we own the T-shirt stall".

"Wendie Renard [the captain] and Sarah Bouhaddi [the goalkeeper] have played all eight of Lyon's Champions League finals," the French football journalist Romain Ballard tweeted before the game. "That is 840 minutes or 14 hours of final [experience]."

Wolfsburg are a women's footballing powerhouse and even they cannot match the pedigree of their opponents. The Wolves had looked in excellent condition in the build-up to this final, which, added to Lyon's injury problems, meant that there was a sense that now was the time to interrupt their hegemony.

Such hope was dashed in a clinical opening 45 minutes from Lyon. The left-back Sakina Karchaoui fizzed down her side of the pitch with intent; but Wolfsburg were undone on their own left-hand side. Delphine Cascarino and Lucy Bronze overloaded Lyon's right flank, ganging up on the Wolfsburg left-back, Sara Doorsoun-Khajeh, who later went off with a twisted ankle [and no doubt some twisted blood too].

## Black power: the fists and the fury that shook America – and inspired generations

**SEAN INGLE LONDON, 31 AUG [THEGUARDIAN]:** Chaos on the streets. Poison seeping into minds. Athletes speaking out against racial injustice being vilified as villains by those in power. Right now 2020 looks a lot like 1968, recast and rebooted.

Certainly when LeBron James and other NBA stars went on strike last week, they were standing on the shoulders of giants of that era. And two in particular: Tommie Smith and John Carlos, whose podium protests at the 1968 Olympics are the subject of a timely and vital new film, *The Stand: How One Gesture Shook The World*.

In the Guardian's report on the 1968 Olympic 200m final, won by Smith in a world record 19.83sec despite a groin strain, it described the two Americans as "the black power disciples". But, as the film makes clear, when Smith and Carlos jabbed the Mexico air with two gloved fists while the Star-Spangled Banner played they were doing so to highlight racial injustice, and to call on America to finally live up to the values set out in iron gall ink in its constitution. Nearly 52 years later they are still waiting.

"It wasn't about destruction and tearing America down or blowing up the Statue of Liberty," says Carlos. "We were just letting them know that we are a powerful force not just merely in the track but in society, you're going to have to accept us as being a part of society."

Overnight it became an iconic image. But other parts of the protest were missed, including how both men wore black socks with no shoes to symbolise poverty. Smith also had a black scarf as a sign of black pride, while Carlos was wearing beads to represent those who had been lynched throughout the south. It was also, as the film reveals, largely spontaneous. In fact, both men only decided on the exact form it would take while waiting to collect their medals. "I felt something was needed to emphasise solidarity and strength," says Smith in the film. "Not black power sign. Not that at all. Solidarity and strength."

But such subtleties were lost on the International Olympic Committee and most of white America, as after the fists came the fury. The writer and broadcaster Brent Musburger referred to the athletes as "black-

skinned storm troopers". And within 48 hours they had been kicked out of Mexico at the urging of the IOC president Avery Brundage – a man who, coincidentally, repeatedly defended Nazi Germany before and after the 1936 Berlin Olympics. Then came the numerous death threats, with Smith fearing for years after that every little crack he heard was a rifle bullet.

Later the stress and pressure was a factor in their marriages breaking down and Carlos was subsequently forced to work in what he considered demeaning jobs, including as a park groundskeeper and a nightclub bouncer. Muhammad Ali, who knew a thing or two about protesting, called what Smith and Carlos did "the single most courageous act of the century". He might just have been right. Meanwhile Peter Norman, the Australian who stood with them on the podium having won a silver medal, was also treated like a pariah and cut from the 1972 Olympics despite having run the qualifying time.

Shamefully the IOC has yet to issue an apology to the three men. It also continues to stress to athletes that sport and politics

should stay separate – which is a bit rich from an organisation whose zeal in squeezing every pith of propaganda from the combined Korean team at the 2018 Winter Olympics would have impressed Leni Riefenstahl.

More fundamentally, the IOC should understand that all this is not so much about politics but fundamental human rights. And while it has made belated noises about consulting athletes about reforming Rule 50, banning protests, the rule is still in place. Which means that, as things stand, anyone who emulates Smith and Carlos next summer in Tokyo will be on the wrong side of the IOC but the right side of history.

The IOC could also learn from the NBA, which over recent days has worked with its players on a range of proposals to bring about social justice. They include establishing a coalition that will focus on access to voting for the 3 November presidential election, promoting civic engagement, and advocating for meaningful police and criminal justice reform.

Yet still the IOC wants athletes to know their place, and stay in it.

Perhaps they should heed the words of Martin Luther King Jr, which begin the film: "Three hundred years of humiliation, abuse and deprivation cannot be expected to find a voice in a whisper."

The Stand ends with Harry Edwards – the sociology professor who inspired the 1968 protests by founding the Olympic Project for Human Rights – talking about the modern-day protests led by Colin Kaepernick and the NBA stars. "There has been a change," he says. "Whether there has been progress is a different discussion."

Incidentally last weekend Carlos told the New York Post that he felt invigorated by seeing the WNBA and NBA players speak out. "These women as well as men became my heroes," he said. "I wanted to knock all the stuff I had off my mantelpiece and put each and every one of them on my mantelpiece as someone I should commemorate, cherish, respect and honour. They're my heroes."

Smith and Carlos were, of course, the original athlete superheroes. It's just a shame that it took sport and society so long to realise it.

## England Women to play Germany in first game since Phil Neville's exit confirmed

**LONDON, 31 AUG [PA MEDIA]:** England Women will travel to play Germany in a friendly on 27 October, in their first match since it was announced that Phil Neville will be stepping down as manager next year.

The Lionesses will take on Germany in Wiesbaden, and Neville will gather his players for a training camp at St George's Park from 15-21 September. The current Netherlands head coach, Sarina Wiegman, will take over from Neville as England manager in September 2021.

"I know the players are so hungry to pull on an England shirt again and this is a good test to see where we are early in the new

season against strong opposition," Neville said. "Germany away is a tough challenge but we know what we are capable of producing. I'm sure the players are excited about testing themselves against one of the best teams in the world."

England have not played a game since their disappointing SheBelieves Cup campaign in the USA in March, where they beat Japan but lost to both the hosts and Spain. Germany travelled to Wembley last November for a friendly, winning 2-1 in front of a record 77,768 fans. Coronavirus restrictions mean the fixture at the Brita Arena will be played



behind closed doors.

In April, the FA confirmed that Neville would leave his post in the summer of 2021 with a new manager to lead the team into the delayed European Championship, to be held in England in 2022. Wiegman was

announced as Neville's replacement in August, and is set to take charge after coaching the Dutch team at the Tokyo Olympics.

"Next year is going to be a vital one for the players ahead of some major international tournaments in quick

succession," Neville added. "While you can never fully replicate the pressure of a major finals, I know my squad will take a lot from the experience. I am sure the fans will be relishing the chance to see us play again – even if unfortunately it has to be on television."

## After deciding to stay, Lakers could be in bubble a while

**LAKE BUENA VISTA (US), AUG 31 (AP):** There was a point this week when LeBron James and the Lakers weren't sure they would remain in the bubble.

They decided to stay and look like they could be here a while.

The Lakers moved into the Western Conference semifinals by finishing off the Portland Trail Blazers with a 131-122 victory on Saturday night.

It was the Lakers' first series victory since 2012 and set them up for a second-round matchup against Houston or Oklahoma City. The Rockets lead 3-2 with Game 6 on Monday, so the Lakers will have some time off.

They just got back from a break.

Los Angeles was scheduled to play Wednesday night and

the players were relaxing in their rooms when they got word that the Milwaukee Bucks had decided not to play their game that afternoon against Orlando.

It was a surprise to everyone else in the league and there was some frustration that night when players held a meeting.

James was one of the frustrated people, having realized the Bucks hadn't fully thought through their actions.

"And then from that point on, my mind began to figure out, what is the plan going forward? And if we don't have a plan, then what are we talking about? Why are we still here?" James said.

"That's what my mind went to. And at one point there was no plan of going forward. There was



no plan of action. And me personally, I'm not that type of guy. I'm not a guy who one, doesn't have a plan, and then is not ready to act on it as far as action."

Players eventually came up with one and agreed with owners Thursday on some expanded initiatives, including increased voter participation and the creation of a social justice coalition.

James joked that he probably thinks about leaving the bubble at least once a day, but agreed with players that

their hopes of getting their message about change out was best done in Disney.

When the Lakers finally got back on the court for the first time since Monday, they weren't particularly sharp. Portland finished with its highest point total of the series despite playing without leading scorer Damian Lillard.

Anthony Davis said the Lakers know they have to get back to their usually stronger defense in the next round.

"When we play Laker basketball, running in

India awarded chess gold with Russia after server outage leads to reprieve

**LONDON, 31 AUG [THEGUARDIAN]:** India and Russia were declared the joint winners of a major international chess tournament in unprecedented circumstances on Sunday after a global internet outage marred the final of 2020 Fide Online Chess Olympiad.

Teams from more than 160 countries have participated in this year's event, which began in July, and the final was delicately poised until two Indian players – Nihal Sarin and Divya Deshmukh – were disconnected due to a server outage.

The players could only watch in horror as their time ran out, causing their team to lose the match 4.5-1.5, after the first round had ended in a 3-3 tie.

However India were granted an unlikely reprieve after formally appealing, citing the server malfunction. It led to Fide, the governing body of chess, investigating the problem for over an hour, its president, Arkady Dvorkovich, deciding that naming two winners would be the fairest result.

"The Online Chess Olympiad has been impacted by a global internet outage that severely affected several countries, including India," said Dvorkovich, who hails from Russia. "Two of the Indian players have been affected and lost connection, when the outcome of the match was still unclear."

"The appeals committee has examined all the evidence provided by Chess.com, as well as information gathered from other sources about this internet outage," he added. "After being informed of their considerations and in absence of a unanimous decision, and taken into account these unprecedented circumstances, as Fide president I made the

decision to award gold medals to both teams."

It was the first time that Russia had won the Chess Olympiad since 2002, while this was India's maiden title. It was the first time it has been held online, because of the coronavirus pandemic.

But the former women's world champion Alexandra Kosteniuk, playing for Russia, quickly expressed her displeasure. "Let's clarify one thing: India didn't win the Olympiad, but was rather named by Fide a co-champion," she tweeted. "Imho, there is a huge difference between actually 'winning' the gold or just being awarded one without winning a single game in the final."

Her team-mate Yan Nepomniachtchi offered a sarcastic response. "Smart decision to please Indian chess community," he wrote. "Meanwhile forgetting about other fans and players. Selective nobleness."

But India's prime minister, Narendra Modi, praised his team's result. "Congratulations to our chess players for winning the Fide Online #ChessOlympiad. Their hard work and dedication are admirable. Their success will surely motivate other chess players. I would like to congratulate the Russian team as well."

The final is not the first time the tournament has come under scrutiny. On Friday Armenia said one of their players was disconnected from the server during the quarter-final match against India, and lost on time. But the appeal was rejected and they withdrew from the competition in protest.

Armenia's top-ranked grandmaster, Levon Aronian, raised an eyebrow at Sunday's decision. "I guess like always some of are less disconnected that the others #1984," he wrote on Twitter.

## Morgan leads England to 5-wicket win vs Pakistan in 2nd T20



**MANCHESTER, AUG 30 (AP):** England captain Eoin Morgan smashed 66 runs off 33 balls to help his side to a five-wicket win over Pakistan in the second Twenty20 international on Sunday.

Pakistan scored a challenging 195-4 after losing the toss at Old Trafford before England finished on 199-5 in 19.1 overs.

England openers Jonny Bairstow (44) and Tom Banton (20) shared a 66-run partnership. When they departed in the space of two balls, Morgan came in to hit six fours and four sixes to keep the momentum going.

He was dismissed with 18 required in the last three overs but Dawid Malan, the junior partner in a match-changing 112-run stand

with Morgan, went to another fifty to help England over the line with five balls to spare.

Malan's unbeaten 54 in 36 balls his seventh 50-plus score in only 12 T20 innings helped England move into a 1-0 series lead on a day when the BBC screened live coverage of a cricket match for the first time in 21 years.

Pakistan's innings, bolstered by 56 from 44 balls from captain Babar Azam and a more belligerent 69 from 36 deliveries by Mohammad Hafeez, was in vain and it now must win the third and final T20 on Tuesday to avoid a series defeat.

The first T20 was abandoned as a no result because of rain in Manchester on Friday. England won a rain-affected test series 1-0.



# Israeli, US delegations depart to UAE in 1st direct flight

**ABOARD EL AL FLIGHT TO THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (AP):** A Star of David-adorned El Al plane took off Monday from Israel's Ben-Gurion Airport, carrying a high-ranking American and Israeli delegation to Abu Dhabi in the first-ever direct commercial passenger flight to the United Arab Emirates.

The Israeli flag carrier's flight marks the implementation of the historic U.S.-brokered deal to normalize relations between the two nations and solidifies the long-clandestine ties between them that have evolved over years of shared enmity toward Iran.

With the U.S. as matchmaker, Israel and the UAE agreed earlier this month to work toward normalization, which would make the UAE the third Arab nation to have full relations with Israel, after Egypt and Jordan. But unlike those two nations, Israel has never fought a war against the UAE and hopes to have much-warmer relations.

The American delegation includes President Donald Trump's senior adviser and son-in-law Jared Kushner, as well as national security adviser Robert O'Brien, Mideast envoy Avi Berkowitz and envoy for Iran Brian Hook. Israel will be represented by national security adviser Meir Ben-Shabbat and the director generals of several ministries, who will meet with their Emirati counterparts.

"While this is a historic flight, we hope that this will start an even more historic journey for the Middle East and beyond," Kushner told reporters before boarding the plane.

Meir Ben-Shabbat, Israel's national security adviser and head of the Israeli delegation, said he was excited about the trip and that the aim was to lay the groundwork for cooperation in areas like tourism, medicine, technology and trade.

"This morning the traditional

greeting of 'go in peace' takes on a special significance for us," he said.

The El Al flight, numbered LY971 as a gesture to the UAE's international calling code number, flew into Saudi Arabian airspace shortly after takeoff and later passed over the capital, Riyadh. That marked another historic first for Israel and at least an acquiescence by the kingdom for the UAE's move.

Saudi King Salman, along with other Gulf Arab leaders to varying degrees, maintain their boycotts of Israel in support of Palestinians obtaining an independent state. Any long-term flights between Israel and the UAE would require Saudi clearance to be profitable. Otherwise the three hour, 20 minute flight would take more than seven hours.

El Al spokesman Stanley Morais said the 737-900 is equipped with a missile-defense system, a standard feature on these types of planes and a requirement for this flight. After grounding its fleet due to the coronavirus, it is the airline's first flight since July 1.

The plane was decorated with the the words for peace in Arabic, Hebrew and English above the pilot's window. Journalists were handed special face masks decorated with the Israeli and Emirati flags. The seat protectors said "Making History" in all three languages, and Israeli folk music played in the background.

The plane's captain, Tal Becker, said he has not worked for several months and received a call out of the blue asking him to prepare for the flight.

The 45-year veteran, who is the senior captain in El Al's 737 fleet, said he never dreamed of flying to Abu Dhabi, calling it a "very special feeling."

The Israeli delegation will stay in the capital, Abu Dhabi, for one night before returning home on El Al flight



LY972, a nod to Israel's international calling code.

Private jets have earlier flown between the two nations as part of covert talks, and Abu Dhabi's Etihad Airways flew cargo freighters to Israel before to deliver coronavirus aid to the Palestinians. But the high-profile flight Monday, eagerly promoted by U.S. officials, looks to place a solid stamp on the surprise Aug. 13 White House announcement of Israel and the UAE establishing ties.

Since then, telephone calls were connected, and the UAE's ruler issued a decree formally ending the country's decades-long boycott of Israel. Some Israeli firms have already signed deals with Emirati counterparts, but Monday's visit is expected to usher in a slew of further business cooperation. The official repeal of the boycott looks to open the door to more joint ventures, such as in aviation, banking and finance.

The UAE has touted the deal as a tool to force Israel into halting its contentious plan to annex parts of the West Bank

sought by the Palestinians for their future state. It also may help the Emirates acquire advanced U.S. weapons systems that have been previously unattainable, such as the F-35 fighter jet. Currently, Israel is the only country in the region with the stealth warplanes.

The Palestinians, however, have fiercely opposed the normalization as peeling away one of their few advantages in moribund peace talks with Israel. Palestinians have held public protests and burned the UAE flag in anger.

Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh said it was "very painful" to see the flight, which he said was a "clear violation of the Arab position on the Arab-Israeli conflict."

"We had hoped to see an Emirati plane landing in a liberated Jerusalem," he added.

Israelis eagerly anticipate the prospect of mutual embassies, expanding tourism to the Gulf and solidifying business opportunities with another country that shares its penchant for technology and

innovation.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has touted the deal as validation of his vision that regional peace doesn't have to go through Palestinian acquiescence and come at the cost of ceding land. But he has come under fire from supporters at home for seemingly giving up on dreams of annexation and tacitly agreeing to a questionable arms sale that could undermine Israel's regional superiority. Netanyahu denies such a deal exists.

In a Facebook post, Netanyahu said Monday "is a historic day for the state of Israel that I have worked to achieve for decades."

For Trump, the accord delivers a key foreign policy victory as he faces a tough reelection campaign.

On Sunday, Kushner said "the stage is now set" for other Arab countries to follow the UAE. However, he gave no indication that any other deals are imminent, despite a swing through the region last week by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

## Olympic flame out on display in Japan Olympic Museum

**TOKYO (AP):** The Olympic flame is going on display in Tokyo, just a short walk from the new National Stadium where it was supposed to be burning a month ago.

The flame arrived in Japan from Greece in March and has been largely hidden away in Tokyo since the Olympics were postponed until next year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The flame was unveiled on Monday at a small ceremony with Yoshiro Mori, the president of the Tokyo Olympic organizing committee, and Yasuhiro Yamashita, the president of the Japanese Olympic Committee.

"In this situation during COVID-19, I think athletes aiming for the Olympic and Paralympic Games are training hard each day — with great anxiety," said Yamashita, a former Olympic judo

gold medalist, speaking in Japanese. "I am convinced that the torch displayed today will support the hearts of those athletes."

Mori added: "I hope this flame will be passed on by about 10,000 torchbearers next year, and the cauldron will be lit to make the event a great success."

The flame will be on display beginning Tuesday at the new Japan Olympic Museum for at least the next two months. Visitors can only enter the museum, which is located across the street from the new stadium, with a reservation.

The flame's unveiling comes just days after Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced his plans to resign.

Abe was on hand in 2013 in Buenos Aires when the IOC picked Tokyo, and he was

the highlight of the closing ceremony of the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro when he appeared as Nintendo game character Super Mario.

The fate of the Tokyo Olympics remains uncertain. Organizers and the International Olympic Committee say it will open on July 23, 2021. But they have not revealed any details about how 15,400 Olympic and Paralympic athletes will be safe in Tokyo.

Thousands of other staff, technical officials and media would also need to enter Japan. The IOC says it wants fans at events but has not explained how this will happen, or if non-Japanese fans will be allowed.

Organizers are unlikely to start providing details until the fall, or into next

year as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Olympic prospects becomes clearer.

A poll this month of almost 13,000 Japanese companies showed 53.6% want the games canceled or postponed again. The IOC has said if the Olympics can't happen in 2021, they will be canceled. They cannot be postponed again.

A poll in July found that two-thirds of the public also favors another postponement or cancellation.

Tokyo organizers say they are officially spending \$12.6 billion to hold the Olympics, although a national audit board says it's twice that much. In addition, local estimates say the bill for the delay could add on several billion more. Organizers and the IOC have yet to give a detailed breakdown of the new costs.

## Abe 'greatest' prime minister in Japan's history, says Trump

**WASHINGTON, AUG 31 (PTI):** US President Donald Trump has hailed Shinzo Abe as the "greatest" prime minister in Japan's history during a telephonic conversation between the two leaders.

Abe, 65, on Friday announced that he intends to step down because of poor health, his long-running battle with ulcerative colitis, ending a tenure as Japan's longest-serving prime minister.

President Trump on Sunday night telephoned Abe during which the two leaders spoke at length and reflected on the last four years.

"The two leaders remarked that their relationship is

extraordinary; the President called Prime Minister Abe the greatest prime minister in Japan's history, the White House said in a readout of the call.

This was the first phone call between the two leaders after Abe's announcement to resign.

"The President said that Prime Minister Abe has done a fantastic job and that the relationship between the United States and Japan is better today than it has ever been," the White House said.

"Although Prime Minister Abe will be leaving his position soon, the President noted that he will undoubtedly keep playing a big role in the future of Japan," it said,

adding that the leaders said they look forward to continuing their wonderful friendship for years to come.

Abe, whose term ends in September 2021, is expected to stay on until a new party leader is elected and formally approved by Parliament.

On Saturday, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the US deeply values the enduring contributions of Abe in making the US-Japan relationship the strongest it has ever been.

"He championed our alliance as a cornerstone of peace and security and he advanced a free and open Indo-Pacific by working with the United States to build a network of partnerships across the

region," Pompeo said.

In a separate statement, Senator Ted Cruz said he is saddened to hear that Abe is resigning due to health reasons.

"In the last eight years, he has countered the Chinese Communist Party's expanding influence and has been the strongest Japanese prime minister to do so since 1946, the Texas Senator said.

"He has called for Taiwan's inclusion in international organizations and he has also rebuilt much of the Japanese military, which, thanks to his leadership, is now doing military exercises with our allies Australia and India.

## Australia records its deadliest day of pandemic

**MELBOURNE, AUG 31 (AP):** Australia recorded its deadliest day of the pandemic on Monday as the government urged hot spot Victoria state to announce its plans to lift a lockdown on the country's second-largest city.

Victoria's health department reported 41 deaths from COVID-19 and 73 new infections in the latest 24-hour period.

While the deaths were a state and national high, the tally of new infections was Victoria's lowest since 67 new cases were recorded on June 30 in the early weeks of the second wave of the pandemic, which has primarily been concentrated in the state capital, Melbourne.

A six-week lockdown in the city is due to be



relaxed on September 13. But the state government has not said how it will be relaxed or given any assurances that it won't be extended.

Victoria has recorded more than 19,000 infections with the coronavirus, almost 80 per cent of Australia's more than 25,000 cases, according to a tally from Johns Hopkins University. The state also accounts for the vast majority of Australia's more than 650 deaths.

Australia's Treasurer Josh Frydenberg said on Monday he disagreed with the Victorian government that it was too early to announce plans to reopen the economy.

Business is very frustrated because they haven't been told when can they open up, when can people get back to work, Frydenberg told Nine Network television.

Frydenberg pointed to a Treasury Department forecast

that in the next three months more people in Victoria will be receiving pandemic employment subsidies than from the rest of Australia combined. Australia pays employers an allowance known as Job Keeper to continue paying staff who have no work to do.

Consumer spending had fallen 30 per cent in Victoria due to the lockdown while spending had declined by only 3 per cent across the rest of Australia.

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**SummitTIMES**





SHAKE IT! The MTV VMA host, Keke Palmer does double duty performing at the Skyline Drive-In during the award show.

# List of winners at the 2020 MTV Video Music Awards

Winners of the 2020 MTV Video Music Awards, held Sunday night at various locations throughout New York City.

- Video of the year: The Weeknd, “Blinding Lights”
- Artist of the year: Lady Gaga
- Song of the year: Lady Gaga and Ariana Grande, “Rain on Me”
- Push best new artist: Doja Cat
- Best collaboration: Lady Gaga and Ariana Grande, “Rain on Me”
- Best group: BTS
- Best quarantine performance: CNCO, “MTV Unplugged at Home”
- Best music video from home: Ariana Grande and Justin Bieber, “Stuck with U”
- Best pop: BTS, “On”
- Best hip-hop: Megan Thee Stallion, “Savage”
- Best R&B: The Weeknd, “Blinding Lights”
- Best Latin: Maluma featuring J Balvin, “Qué Pena”
- Best rock: Coldplay, “Orphans”
- Best alternative: Machine Gun Kelly, “Bloody Valentine”
- Best K-pop: BTS, “On”
- Song of summer: BLACKPINK, “How You Like That”
- Video for good: H.E.R., “I Can’t Breathe”
- Best direction: Taylor Swift, “The Man”
- Best editing: Miley Cyrus, “Mother’s Daughter”
- Best choreography: BTS, “On”
- Best cinematography: Lady Gaga and Ariana Grande, “Rain on Me”
- Best visual effects: Dua Lipa, “Physical”
- Best art direction: Miley Cyrus, “Mother’s Daughter”
- MTV Tricon award: Lady Gaga

# Lady Gaga’s masks were the real winner of the MTV VMAs



Lady Gaga asked viewers to mask up while speaking at Sunday’s MTV Video Music Awards, and she led by example.

During her multiple appearances during the show, Gaga displayed an impressive collection of masks, but it’s fair to assume she didn’t pick these up at GAP or have them mailed to her by her auntie who can sew.

These masks were 100% what one would expect from Gaga, the woman who once made charcuterie into a fashion statement.

Below, we rank Gaga’s wonderfully OMG PPE -- because why not?

**4. THE ARTIST OF THE YEAR/TRICON AWARD MASK**

Possibly sponsored by Reynolds Wrap, this mask was definitely the most accessible of Gaga’s facial coverings. It’s glam without being too much, like something you’d wear to a particularly fabulous trip to CVS. Gaga must have had particular affection for this one, as she wore it twice on Sunday’s broadcast -- once while accepting artist of the year and again to accept her TRICON award.

**3. THE BEST COLLABORATION MASK**

This whole look seemed like something crafted by the

team at FOX’s “The Masked Singer” -- in the best way. It was fabulously fowl, without being foul. The mask itself looked like a Project Runway contestant would put together if the challenge was to craft only using materials from Home Depot. They’d win, by the way.

**2. THE “RAIN ON ME” PERFORMANCE MASK**

Ironically, the mask Gaga wore during her performance is not something you’d probably want to be rocking if you were actually being rained on. For her electric duet with Ariana Grande, Gaga sported a mask with an electronic edge that seemed to respond to the notes she was belting. Perhaps it was her way of proving she was actually singing, which seems like the kind of thought only an artist like Gaga would have. If ever replicated by Best Buy, this mask would sell out faster than you could say “brain piano.”

**1. THE SONG OF THE YEAR MASK**

Finally, proof Lady Gaga beat us all to the next stage of evolution: She has horns. With her new tusks, she will spear social injustice and the patriarchy. Hail our horned queen, the one celebrity who always remembers that the VMAs are all about fun and individuality.

## ‘Tenet’ launches with USD 53M in overseas gambit at box office

**NEW YORK, AUG 31 (AP):** The first wave of big new movies released since the beginning of the pandemic, including Christopher Nolan’s mind-bending thriller Tenet and the long-delayed X-Men spinoff The New Mutants,” arrived in theaters over the weekend, testing the waters of a radically different theatrical landscape.

Warner Bros.’ Tenet the most hotly anticipated movie of the year and the one that has repeatedly positioned itself to lead the return of multiplex moviegoing opened with an estimated USD 53 million overseas in 41 markets, including most of Europe, South Korea and Canada.

Given the circumstances, it was difficult to forecast the performance of the USD 200 million Tenet, starring John David Washington Robert Pattinson and Elizabeth Debicki.

But the result exceeded the expectations of most. Toby Emmerich, chairman of Warner Bros. Pictures Group, called it a fantastic start. Given the unprecedented circumstances of this global release we know we’re running a marathon, not a sprint, and look forward to long playability for this film globally for many weeks to come,” said Emmerich in a statement.

While many of Hollywood’s largest productions have postponed their release and others have rerouted to streaming platforms, Warner Bros. gambled that Tenet could roll out abroad first, and then gradually debut in the U.S.

So far, it seems to be working. The overseas opening for Tenet was greeted by some as proof that blockbuster moviegoing can be resurrected even while the virus continues to circulate and large indoor gatherings are considered higher risk.

As part of their safety protocols, movie theaters are mandating mask wearing, cleaning cinemas in between showings and operating at 50 per cent capacity to distance moviegoers usually crowded shoulder to shoulder.

The strong international debut of Christopher Nolan’s



“Tenet” is an emphatic statement that audiences around the world are ready to return to theaters where local guidelines allow, said Rich Gelfond, chief executive of IMAX. The large-format exhibitor accounted for USD 5 million of the film’s box office.

In nine markets, including Ukraine and the Netherlands, Tenet did better than any previous movie directed by Nolan, including The Dark Knight. It was the largest opening yet in Saudi Arabia, which in 2018 ended its ban on cinemas. In the United Kingdom, Tenet accounted for 74 per cent of ticket sales, Warner Bros. said.

Tenet will open this week in the U.S. and China, the two largest markets. In the U.S., the conditions remain far from ideal. About 60 per cent of theaters are currently open. The largest chains, including AMC and Regal, reopened the week prior. Any new release is trying to coax moviegoers back to the movies any movie in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the U.S. over the weekend, the Walt Disney Co.’s The New Mutants, a critically panned horror riff for Marvel made by 20th Century Fox before the Disney acquisition, led the domestic box office with an estimated USD 7 million in 2,412 locations. Cathleen Taff, Disney’s president of global distribution, called it a success for times requiring recalibrated expectations.

THE DAY AHEAD

**ARIES:**  
You can think, rethink, and overthink all of your decisions, but where’s the fun in that? Today, the cards are urging you to awaken your spontaneous nature, follow the stirrings of your heart, and surprise yourself by doing something you wouldn’t have in the past. You won’t come to regret this decision—we promise! Remember, you’re not letting anybody down by following your sacred purpose. Let go of the guilt that is attached to walking this path.

**TAURUS:**  
Like the rams, you’re being encouraged to stop overthinking and take that leap of faith. What’s standing before you is a major opening, Taurus, one that you have consciously invited into your experience. Surprise yourself by doing one thing you would have shied away from in the past—it can be as drastic as changing your career, or as small as standing up to your boss. You won’t come to regret this, we promise!

**GEMINI:**  
You’re leaving the past and all the turmoil associated with it behind. This is a time of transitions, Gemini. Trust that you’re being led towards calmer shores where peace and prosperity will be yours to keep. But, before you move on, take a moment to offer a prayer of gratitude to the mysterious forces for the not-so-good moments too. As Amy Poehler once said, “Sometimes painful things can teach us lessons we didn’t think we needed to know.”

**CANCER:**  
You’ve been pushing yourself to your limits, Cancer. But, there’s only so much you can accomplish when you’re out of fuel. The cards are reminding you to prioritise your own needs and give your body what it deserves, whether it’s rest, nourishment, exercise or therapy. If you’re dealing with ailments on the physical front, it’s best to turn to a healer or healthcare professional you trust.

**LEO:**  
What are you going to do with all that money in the bank, Leo? The cards are reminding you that desires are an integral part of the earthly experience. So allow yourself to indulge in a few pleasures without bringing guilt or shame into the equation. In the immortal words of Stephen Fry, “It’s the useless things that make life worth living and that make life dangerous too: wine, love, art, and beauty. Without them, living is safe, but not worth bothering with.”

**VIRGO:**  
We all have a destiny to fulfill, Virgo. While some of us are fortunate enough to consciously create it, others walk their paths unknowingly. But your connection with the divine has always been a special one. So instead of looking outside for guidance, turn inwards. In moments of deep connection, you will receive the reaffirmation you’re looking for. This is also a time of reuniting with your soul tribe. evolution.

**LIBRA:**  
A significant chapter in your life has just ended, making way for another one. Right now, you’re in that in-between place where the old hasn’t completely loosened its grip on you, and the new is yet to reveal signs of life. Don’t let the discomfort throw you off, Libra. You are being led to a place where your dreams and desires will take physical form. Some of you may be carrying a torch for a special someone who lives in another city or country. If your feelings are real, don’t let distance play buzzkill at your party.

**SCORPIO:**  
What if we said nothing is written in stone and that you have the power to create the future as you go along? The cards are reminding you that there is a parallel reality available to you, where you are so loved and so supported. Stop glorifying the struggle. Scorpions who have put in the work will find that things are taking off at great speed. Projects that were stuck for a while are being set into motion. Buckle your seatbelt. You’re going to love every bit of this ride.

**SAGITTARIUS:**  
This weekend, you’re in the mood to revisit the goals you set for yourself earlier this year. So what if the world is on hold, Sagittarius? You still have four months to achieve all the things you set out to. Today, the cards are bringing your attention to a personal project—something you may have dismissed as merely a hobby.

**CAPRICORN:**  
Carl Jung once said, “What you resist, persists.” This quote holds true for where you are right now, Capricorn. Take a moment to look within. Ask yourself where you are unwilling to relinquish control. Breathe in the courage and breathe out the fears. The Universe is holding space for you to make this colossal change. You have nothing to worry about.

**AQUARIUS:**  
Weekly reminder, Aquarius: you still have four months to accomplish all the things you set out to earlier this year. So don’t let the trials and tribulations of the past few months get to you. The cards are reminding you that this is a blessed time to move forward. Become cognisant of the signs being revealed to you and keep facing your True North. Some of you may be entering a significant business/creative partnership. Oh, the mountains you will move once you sync your forces!

**PISCES:**  
The past hasn’t been rainbows and sunshine, but you’re willing to take responsibility for who you were and how you acted. Truth and authenticity is all that there is, and they help build the foundation of a solid relationship. Today, the cards are urging you to listen to your inner guidance, and bring about a positive shift in your relationship dynamics. For single Pisceans, this is a time of attracting a partner who’s vibing at your frequency and is willing to meet you from a space of open-heartedness.