



Farmers, Beware of lies

Farm Bill paves way for prosperity

Lies

Farm bill is conspiracy for denying Minimum Support Price to farmers

Now the Mandis will end

Farm bill is anti-farmer

Large companies will exploit farmers in the name of contract

Farmer's land will be given to the capitalists

Benefit to big corporate, loss to farmers

Truth

Farm bill has nothing to do with the Minimum Support Price, MSP is being given and will be continued in future too.

Mandi system will continue as it is.

Farm bill gives freedom to farmer. Now farmers can sell their crop to anyone, anywhere and it establishes One Nation One Market. Now the farmer will be able to earn more profit by partnering with large food processing companies instead of being dependent on others.

Agreement will enable the farmers to get pre-fixed price, but farmer cannot be bound against his interest by the agreement. The farmer will be free to withdraw from the agreement at any stage, without incurring any penalty.

The bill clearly directs that the sale, lease and mortgage of farmer's land are completely prohibited. The agreement will be of crops not of land.

In many States, farmers in collaboration with large corporates are successfully producing crops such as sugarcane, cotton, tea and coffee. Now small farmers will get higher benefit and they will also get the benefit of technology and equipment with assured profits.



"Indian farmer of 21st century will cultivate freely without any restrictions. Farmer of 21st century will sell his produce wherever he wants and wherever he gets better price."

Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Free Farmer

Empowered Farmer

Obituary reference to ANS BasantiSundas

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 21 SEPT:

During the obituary reference in the Assembly session today, the House paid homage to President of India, Late Pranab Mukherjee, first woman MLA of Sikkim, Late HemlataChettri and Assistant Nursing Superintendent, Late BasantiSundas.

On the passing away of Late HemlataChettri, Speaker SLA, L. B Das expressed that Late HemlataChettri was the first woman MLA of Sikkim who passed away on 10 June, 2020 in a Siliguri Hospital due to a cardiac arrest. He said that Late Chettri joined active politics after the 1973 revolution and was elected to the Sikkim Legislative Assembly in the year 1974 and served her full term as an MLA from 1974 to 1979 from the then Gyalshing constituency.

Born in TemiTarku, South Sikkim on 14th June 1955 to parents DhanBahadurTiwari and Amrita Tiwari, Late HemlataChettri has left behind her husband N.B. Khatiwara, two sons and two daughters. Late Chettri completed her primary education from TemiTarku and high school from Pelling West Sikkim. She pursued her graduation from Kalimpong College.

After serving as the first woman MLA for one term, Late Chettri resigned from active politics and joined social service. Subsequently, she opted for Government service and served as Secretary, Social Welfare Board till 2013. She continued to remain active in various organizations like the BalikaNiketan, National Blind School, mostly working for the welfare and upliftment of women and children. In the year 2000, the State Government conferred the prestigious 'Role of Honour' upon Late HemlataChettri in honour of her notable contribution to society.

In his obituary reference on the passing away of Pranab Mukherjee, the 13th President of India, the Speakersaid that Late Mukherjee was a political stalwart and a rare leader in contemporary India. Born on December 11, 1935 in Birbhoom, West Bengal to father KamadaKinkar Mukherjee and mother Rajlakhmi Mukherjee, LatePranab Mukherjee is remembered as one of the finest statesmen in the country. After completing his higher education from the University of Calcutta, Late Mukherjee served in the office of the Deputy

Accountant General. Subsequently, he joined as an Assistant Professor of Political Science in Vidyasagar College in Calcutta in the year 1963. In the 70s, on the invitation of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, he joined active politics and was elected to the Upper House of Parliament, where he served for four terms.

Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang in his obituary remarks described the passing away of Late Pranab Mukherjee as an irreparable loss to the nation. He outlined the illustrious political career of Late Mukherjee spanning over five decades, where he held key portfolios in the Union Cabinet. Late Mukherjee was the most trusted lieutenant of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Late Pranab Mukherjee went on to become the 13th President of India from the year 2012 to 2017, after which he retired from active public life citing health reasons. He breathed his last on the 31st of August, 2020 at the Army Research and Referral Hospital, New Delhi, due to multiple organ failure. He leaves behind two sons and a daughter.

Decorated with the Padma Vibhushan in

2008 and Bharat Ratna in 2018, Late Pranab Mukherjee will be remembered as one of the most astute political figure in the country. He had also visited Sikkim twice in the year 2013.

The Chief Minister condoling the demise of the former President of India expressed deep sorrow and said that an era has come to an end.

The Chief Minister also condoled the passing away of Late HemlataChettri, the first woman MLA of Sikkim, who passed away in Siliguri on the 10th of June, 2020. The Chief Minister said that the former legislator left an indelible mark both as public representative and later as a noted social worker. He shared that Late HemlataChettri was conferred with the 'Role of Honour' by the Government of Sikkim in the year 2000. She was also awarded the Best Performing Legislator Award in 2016 for her notable contribution as the lone woman legislator of Sikkim Legislative Assembly from 1974 to 1979.

The Chief Minister expressed his heartfelt condolences to the family of Late HemlataChettri and prayed for her soul.

The Chief Minister expressed his deep

sorrow and anguish over the passing away of Late BasantiSundas, Assistant Nursing Superintendent in STNM Hospital who lost her battle against COVID-19 on the 18th of September, 2020. He said that the State has lost a brave warrior who never shied away from serving the people through her noble profession. He said that the Government is pained at her death as she was the first health worker who lost her life to the virus. He said that the services of Late Sundas will always be remembered. She has left behind her husband and two sons. The Chief Minister extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family of Late BasantiSundas.

The Chief Minister also paid his tribute to all the people in the State who have lost their lives battling with COVID-19 and said that the Government stands in solidarity with their families and loved ones.

The Chief Minister made a special mention of the selfless service of all the COVID-19 frontline warriors. The Obituary Reference was also participated by members Raj KumariThapa and D.R. Thapa.

The House observed two minutes silence as a mark of respect to the departed souls.

27 quit SDF to join SKM



SUMMIT REPORT

RANGPO, 21 SEPT:

27 people from Dalep ward under Barfung constituency formally quit SDF and joined SKM today, a press release informs.

The joining was held in the presence of Advisor, State Medicinal Plants Board, SKM vice president Dechen Phigru Bhutia, Lobzang Bhutia, NT Bhutia, Govind Pradhan, Panchayat Jarrong Ward, Karna Bahadur Rai,

Over 1,300 posts vacant in CBI: Govt

NEW DELHI, SEP 21 (PTI): Over 1,300 posts are lying vacant in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) against its total sanctioned strength of 7,273, the government told Parliament on Monday.

Of the sanctioned strength, 5,944 posts are filled and 1,329 vacant in the CBI, according to data shared by Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha.

Barfung CLC president of the SKM, Bishnu Sharma, CLC Advisor-I, Kesangla D Lhasungpa, CLC Advisor II, Ram Prasad Chettri, District krishak morcha General secretary, Prakash Gurung, CLC Youth President 09 Barfung, KB Gurung, CLC Nari Shakti President, Hari maya chettri, Nari Shakti South District Vice convener, Khushi Gurung, Nari Shakti CLC coordinator, Diki Dem Bhutia,

CLC Executive member, Daden Bhutia, CLC secretary 09 Barfung, Maita Singh Tamang, DEC members, CLC functionaries, Youth Functionaries, Media Functionaries, Ward Level functionaries and senior party functionaries, the release adds.

All new members were formally welcomed by the aforementioned party office bearers with Khadas and party flags, it is informed.

Giving category-wise details, he said out of the sanctioned strength of 5,000 of executive ranks, 4,198 is the actual strength, as on August 31, 2020.

Of the 370 posts of legal ranks, 285 were filled and 66 out of 166 posts meant for technical ranks were occupied, according to

the reply.

As many as 1,368 and 27 posts of ministerial ranks and canteen staff were occupied against the sanctioned strength of 1,671 and 70 respectively, the data showed.

Singh said proactive efforts are made to ensure filling up of vacancies at all ranks speedily.

North Dakota records 731 new COVID-19 cases over weekend

BISMARCK, ND (AP): North Dakota health officials on Sunday confirmed 352 new positive tests for the coronavirus, for a weekend total of 731 and an overall total of 17,958 cases since the pandemic began.

The update included 112 active cases in the last day, bumping the weekend total to 222 and the overall mark to 3,208.

There were more than 562 new cases

per 100,000 people in North Dakota over the past two weeks, which ranks first in the country for new cases per capita, according to The COVID Tracking Project.

A combined 141 cases from Burleigh and Cass counties were listed on Sunday's report.

The state's hospitalization rate, which officials consider a key barometer for judging threat levels, remains in double figures. The latest figures showed three new

people admitted to medical facilities, for a total of 81.

No new deaths were reported Sunday, following a day when the death toll rose by eight, to 192.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia and death.

Followers celebrate Satpal Maharaj's birthday with blood donation camps

SUMMIT REPORT

RANGPO, 21 SEPT:

The 69th birthday of the founder of Manav Utthan Sewa Samiti, Satpal Maharaj, was celebrated at MUSS ashrams across the State today.

This year, district level blood donation camps were organized by South and East District to mark the birthday.

The camp was conducted under the directions of in-charge



of Gangtok tehsil, Gyan Baiji, in-charge of Namchi tehsil, Sarala Baiji and in-charge of Sumbuk tehsil, Abohd

Baiji. A total of 30 units of blood were donated to STNM and Namchi district hospitals, a press release informs.

Farm bills anti-farmer, will lead to famine: Mamata

KOLKATA, SEP 21

(PTI): West Bengal

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday alleged that the two farm bills passed in Rajya Sabha would deprive farmers of minimum support price (MSP) and will lead to famine in the country.

All opposition parties should come together and fight these bills tooth and nail, said Banerjee who is also the Trinamool

Congress supremo.

"Even as the country is reeling under COVID-19 pandemic, the Centre is trying to create famine through these farm bills," she claimed while addressing a press conference.

"The Centre has done nothing to control the price rise of essential commodities. It is bulldozing these two anti-farmer legislations. These bills will lead to

food crisis as farmers will not get MSP," Banerjee said.

Two key farm bills, dubbed by the government as the biggest reform in agriculture, were on Sunday passed by Rajya Sabha by voice vote amid chaotic scenes by opposition members who demanded that they be referred to a House panel for greater scrutiny.

KMC to administer polio vaccines at homes, not in camps

KOLKATA, SEPT 21 (PTI):

Keeping in mind the necessity of maintaining social distance to check the spread of COVID-19, Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) has decided to visit households, instead of organising immunisation camps, for administering polio vaccines to children, a senior official of the civic body said on Monday.

The hampering of routine immunisation of children against polio during the coronavirus

lockdown had triggered concerns about a possible resurgence of the vaccine-preventable paralytic disease among health experts.

"In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have decided to avoid gatherings. So we shall visit households to vaccinate the children.

This is a big task amid this pandemic and it will be quite challenging for us. But we will do it," the official said.

All these years, polio vaccines were

administered to children in KMC-organised camps. Health workers would then conduct house-to-house visits and give polio drops to those who were left out.

Such camps were held four times a year in the city.

On Sunday, the KMC organised polio camps in its jurisdiction for the first time since the outbreak of COVID-19 in March this year, he said.

"This programme will continue throughout the week," the official said.

South China Sea Watch: Taiwan alarm and Indonesia standoff

BEIJING, SEP 21

(AP): A look at recent developments in the South China Sea, where China is pitted against smaller neighbours in multiple territorial disputes over islands, coral reefs and lagoons. The waters are a major shipping route for global commerce and are rich in fish and possible oil and gas reserves.

CHINA SEND WARPLANES OVER TAIWAN

China flooded the Taiwan Strait at the northern end of the South China Sea with warplanes over two days last week in an apparent attempt to intimidate the self-governing island

democracy it claims as its own territory.

The drills were timed to coincide with the visit to Taiwan by a high-ranking US envoy for talks and to attend a memorial service for former Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui, who led the island's transition to full democracy in the face of Chinese threats.

China's defence ministry said the planes, including 32 fighters of various types, four bombers and one anti-submarine warfare aircraft, crossed into Taiwan's air defense identification zone on Friday and Saturday.

Taiwan responded

by activating its ground-based air defence systems and scrambling fighters, who ordered the Chinese planes to leave, saying they would bear all the consequences" if they did not.

The Taiwan Strait is a busy transit route to and from the South China Sea which is roughly divided between China to the west and Taiwan to the east.

CHINA COAST GUARD LEAVES INDONESIA WATERS

An Indonesian patrol ship confronted a Chinese coast guard vessel that spent almost three days in waters where Indonesia claims economic rights and are

near the southernmost part of China's disputed South China Sea claims.

We asked them to move out as it was Indonesia's EEZ. But they insisted that it is China's nine-dash-line territory. Our officers at the vessel argued with them until they moved out, said Aan Kurnia, chief of the Indonesian Maritime Security Agency.

The Chinese coast guard vessel finally left the North Natuna Sea on Monday at 11:20 am, he said.

China's nine-dash line delineates its claim to virtually the entire South China Sea. A 2016 international arbitration ruling involving the

Philippines invalidated most of China's sweeping claims in the sea, but China has ignored the ruling.

US OFFICIAL: CHINA INSINCERE TOWARD SOUTHEAST ASIA

A US official accused China last week of bullying and insincerity in its dealings with Southeast Asian nations.

US Assistant Secretary of State David Stilwell said Tuesday that Chinese insincerity is best illustrated in its aggressive behaviour in the South China Sea, where it has turned disputed reefs into weaponised artificial island outposts despite

a commitment not to militarise the region.

In later testimony before the Senate, Stilwell said it was now clear to the US and others that China seeks to disrupt and reshape the international environment around the narrow self-centered interests and authoritarian values of a single beneficiary, the Chinese Communist Party."

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi lashed back at the US in last week's ASEAN meetings, saying Washington was the biggest driver of militarisation and the most dangerous factor damaging peace in the region.

ANTYESTI KRIYA (13th Day Kriya)



The 13 days of Antyesti Kriya of our beloved father, Late Nar Bahadur Cintury, who left for his heavenly abode on 15 Sept, 2020 falls on 27 Sept, 2020 (Sunday). We would like to extend a very sincere and heartfelt gratitude to all our well wishers who have stood

by us and offered their unstinted support during our time of bereavement.

The Kriya will be held at our residence, Tarku, Zero Mile opposite of Agriculture & Horticulture Office, South Sikkim and we would like to request everyone, who wishes to attend, to kindly join us in to pray for the departed soul from the sanctity by abiding with the norms and guidelines of Covid-19 as laid down by the Government.

Once again, we would like to thank everyone for their support during these challenging times.

In loving memory of a beloved soul-we miss you!

BUILDING FOR SALE

A two storey house building constructed on plot area 50x40 ft. Situated at Upper Phong near Phong SS, South Sikkim is on sale. Cost Rs 56 Lakhs (Negotiable). Interested may contact : 8145829309, 7864937800, 9749897695.

~ SummitTIMES ~ CLASSIFIEDS

LAND FOR SALE

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

LAND FOR SALE

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

LAND FOR SALE

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

FOR RENT

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

GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

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



SCHITT'S CREEK' WINS ALL MAJOR COMEDY AWARDS AT EMMYS 2020
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LET'S PAMPER OUR 10%
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JIMMY KIMMEL DELIVERS FIRST PANDEMIC-ERA MONOLOGUE AT EMMYS 2020 TO FAKE AUDIENCE
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Sikkim Municipalities Act amended to defer elections

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 21 SEPT: Sikkim Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 2020 was passed in the Assembly session today to provide for postponement of the Municipality election due to the COVID-19 pandemic and also to provide for making the Municipalities elections apolitical, as per an IPR release.

As per the amendment, Municipality election can be deferred for a period not exceeding 6 months in one spell beyond the stipulated date and for not more than a year beyond stipulated date.

The amendment further provides for Municipality elections to be non-political party based and removal of provision for nominated Councillors.

Bill passed to ensure uninterrupted manufacturing of pharmaceutical products

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 21 SEPT: The Sikkim Essential Services Maintenance (Amendment) Bill, 2020, was passed in the Assembly session today. This will now provide for uninterrupted manufacturing, packaging, distribution and transportation of pharmaceutical products and components, as they are lifesaving drugs and medicines.

COVID spread continues with 56 new cases

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 21 SEPT: The number of active cases of COVID-19 in Sikkim has increased to 513 with reports of 56 fresh cases of novel coronavirus in the State in the last 24 hours ending 8 AM Monday. Out of 56 new cases, 36 are reported in East District, 02 in West District and 18 in South District.

In the meantime, eleven more patients were discharged from isolation facilities on Sunday. The tally of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Sikkim is now 2447, in which 1905 persons have been discharged from isolation facilities so far.

In the daily health bulletin on Monday, Health Department State IEC Officer, Sonam G Bhutia mentioned that 50 of 179 samples reported positive

for COVID-19 in the RT-PCR testing on Sunday here at VRD Lab in STNM hospital.

He added that one new case of COVID-19 positive was detected in TrueNat testing of 27 samples, while five fresh cases were reported in the rapid antigen testing of 19 samples. He mentioned that another 2-day old child, who had tested COVID-19 positive, has also returned home after recovery.

In the break-up of new cases detected in RT-PCR testing, Mr Bhutia informed that one person from below old STNM hospital, three from Ranipool, three from Shyari, one from behind housing colony in Development Area, two from near Manjushree School on Ranka Road, one CIPLA employee, one patient admitted in STNM hospital, one from Setipool and one from below Primary School in

Middle Shyari tested positive for COVID-19.

Likewise, one from VIP colony, one from near Model Private School in Upper Shyari, one from near West Point SSS in Tathangchen, one from near Zilla Panchayat office in Lower Shyari, one from near Co-operative in Mehrung, Bhusuk, one from Pakyong, one from Rumtek, one from Lingey, one from near Forest Check Post Fatak in Sichey, one from the government quarter block C above Women's Hostel in Deorali and one from near Power Department in Kazi Road also tested COVID-19 positive in RT-PCR testing.

He added that an employee of Axis Bank, Ranipool branch from Greendale School road, one person from near Canara bank in Arithang and one from the containment zone in Deorali also tested positive for

COVID-19.

Mr Bhutia informed that one 20-year-old woman from Namphing, who gave sample in the flu clinic of STNM hospital and reported COVID-19 positive, cannot be contacted over the phone and further urged her to contact the concerned authority immediately.

He mentioned that one person from Rangpo, one from Central Pandam and one from near Smile Land and 15 persons from Namchi and two from Upper Lingchum in West Sikkim tested positive for COVID-19 in RT-PCR testing.

He stated that one person from Ranka was found COVID-19 positive in TrueNat testing, while a person from Ranipool, one from Sangkhola, one from Sumbuk, one from near Singhithang ground and one from Dambu Dara in South Sikkim reported positive in rapid antigen testing.

Pay vehicle tax for 5 years in one go and get 20% off

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 21 SEPT: The Sikkim Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 2020, was passed in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly today.

Now, vehicle owners can get 20% off if they choose to pay annual tax for five years in one go. This is for all categories of vehicles.

This 20% discount hopes to encourage the public to pay one-time tax for five years and spare the public from

the trouble of coming to the Regional Transport Office every year and would reduce the footfall in the Regional Transport Offices.

The amendment also provides flexible option of paying the tax for 1 (one) or more quarterly periods, or annually or one-time tax @ 5 (five) times of the annual tax either directly at the Regional Transport Office or through online payment via electronic medium.

No permit required for bamboo felling or transport now

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 21 SEPT:

Bamboo, cultivated on private and other non-forest areas, is now exempted from the requirement of permit for felling or transit. This has been done as per an amendment to the Sikkim Forest, Water

Courses and Road Reserve (Preservation and Protection) Act, 1988, which was passed in the Assembly session today.

This step seeks to encourage bamboo plantation by farmers or cultivators resulting in the enhancement of their income from fields.

Earlier, the definition of "tree" in the Act included bamboos and attracted the requirement of permit for felling and transit under the said Act. The State of Sikkim exempted the felling permission for bamboos within the state but the inter-state movement of bamboos requires permit when being in transit through other states.

CM's wife tests positive, Mintokgang converted to Covid Care Centre

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 21 SEPT:

Chief Minister, PS Tamang's wife Krishna Rai has tested positive for COVID-19. She wrote on her

Facebook page, "I have tested Corona positive but me and my family are currently in good health and spirits. I request who has been in contact with me recently to isolate

themselves and monitor their health regularly." An office order was also issued by the Health Department on Monday, mentioning that four doctors and

two nurses have been deputed to Mintokgang, which has been turned into a Corona Care Centre. The team is tasked with monitoring all COVID related issues

of the Chief Minister and his family members. The team has to submit a weekly report to the PCC cum Medical Superintendent STNM Hospital.

ACT and Save Dzongu condemn Power Minister's claims of support for Teesta Stage-IV

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 21 SEPT:

ACT [Affected Citizens of Teesta] and Save Dzongu, two organisations which have been in the forefront of protest against hydel projects which they are convinced are detrimental for the environment, have jointly, and

"strongly," condemned the statement attributed to Power Minister MN Sherpa in which he claimed that a majority of land owners have given their consent for the Teesta Stage-IV hydel project.

In a press release issued today, the two organisation underline: "This statement

came at a time when not just Dzongu but whole of Sikkim is raising protest and concern about the NHPC Stage IV and its negative implications to the river ecology of the state."

The press statement, issued by ACT general secretary Gyatso Lepcha and

Save Dzongu president Ugen Lepcha, reminds the Power Minister that four affected GPUs had objected to the project at the Gram Sabha on Forest Rights Act for Stage IV and that there is a complaint filed by the organizations with the Ministry of Environment & Forests.

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Assembly completes business for Monsoon session

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 21 SEPT:

Two new Bills, six amendments bills and one appropriation Bill were introduced and passed in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly today in the third session of the Tenth Assembly. The session was held for one day due to prevailing situation of COVID-19.

As per an IPR release, the session began with an announcement by the Speaker, SLA, L. B. Das in the matter of Disqualification of 10 members [BJP, formerly with SDF] and Two Members [SKM, formerly of SDF] of the Tenth Sikkim Legislative Assembly under Article 191(2) and Para 2(1)(a) r/w 6(1) of the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution of India.

During the Financial Business, Chief Minister, PS Tamang, who is also the Minister-in-Charge of Finance Department, presented the First Supplementary Demands for Grants for the Financial Year 2020-21.

The first batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 2020-21 includes 34 grants, with a gross additional expenditure of Rs. 45123.63 lakh comprising of Rs. 25422.02 lakh on revenue account and Rs 19701.61 lakh on capital account.

The first supplementary demands for grants 2020-21 was voted and passed by the House.

The Chief Minister introduced the Sikkim Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (Amendment) Bill, Bill No. 11 of 2020.

The statement of objects and reasons of the Bill states that the State Government



felt it expedient to amend the Sikkim Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2010 in view of the decision of Government of India to allow additional borrowing to the state up to 2% of GSDP in the current year 2020-21 to offset fiscal hardship caused on the resources of the State Government due to the serious negative effect of COVID-19. The Bill was taken into consideration and passed by the House.

Two new Bills passed by the House were Khangchendzonga University Bill and Board of Open Schooling & Skill Education Bill. Six amendment Bills were Sikkim Forests, Water Courses and Road Reserve (Preservation and Protection) (Amendment) Bill, Sikkim Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, Sikkim Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, Sikkim Essential Services Maintenance

(Amendment) Bill and Sikkim Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, and Sikkim Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (Amendment) Bill.

The House also passed the Sikkim Appropriation Bill, 2020, Bill No. 12 of 2020 for the First Supplementary Demands for Grants for the Financial year 2020-21, which was introduced in the House by Chief Minister, also the Minister-in-Charge of Finance Department.

The bill has been framed to provide for the appropriation from and out of the consolidated fund of the state of Sikkim of the money required to meet the expenditure charged in the consolidated funds of the State of Sikkim and supplementary grants made by the Sikkim Legislative Assembly for the expenditure of the Government of Sikkim for the remaining part of the

financial year 2020-21.

KHANGCHENDZONGA BUDDHIST UNIVERSITY BILL

Similarly, Minister-in-Charge of Education Department, Kunga Nima Lepcha introduced the Khangchendzonga Buddhist University, Sikkim, Bill, Bill No. 15 of 2020.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill states to promote knowledge, understanding and growth in all members of the community by providing reflective educational opportunities as well as research opportunities and by promoting and creating innovative educational models in higher education, to focus on developing professional competence in emerging area of business by establishing a Buddhist University by providing innovative and high quality programmes and training in Buddhist studies, Education, Vocational Domains, Liberal Arts, Social Sciences, Science and Engineering, Hospitality and Tourism, Architecture, Medicine and related areas, it has been propose to establish a Private University in Sikkim by the name of "Khangchendzonga Buddhist University."

While replying to the query put forward by Member, Sonam Venchungpa, Minister Kunga Nima Lepcha said that the University will be affiliated with the University Grants Commission (UGC) once it is established and functioning. The Bill was considered and passed by the House.

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*A Birthday Worth Celebrating!
A Leader Worth Supporting!*

Heartiest Birthday wishes to SDF president, the best Chief Minister Sikkim has had, Dr Pawan Chamling.



From
Tshering Gyatso Lepcha
District President, SDF Party, North Sikkim

SummitTIMES

Let's Pamper Our 10%
Invest in the children for your own future

As of 2011, exactly 64,111 members of Sikkim's population were in the 0-6 age-group, making up a neat 10.50% of its population of 6,10,577 people. The national share of population in this age-group is slightly higher at 13.1%, down from 15.9% in 2001. These figures, as per the Census of India 2011. The previous Census, that of 2001, had posted the number of children in this age-group at 78,195, making up 14.50% of Sikkim's population of 5,40,851 at the time.

There has been talk about the fall in fertility rates, with some even suggesting that Sikkimese women should bear more children. While such demands and suggestions are clearly wrong at so many levels, this section had only recently commented on such attitudes, so today, let's discuss "young age dependency", as census enumerators refer to the 0-6 age-group. Dependency ratio can be defined as the age-population ratio of those typically not in the labor force. This would mean the minors and the senior citizens, whose care rests on the shoulders of the productive/working population. Clearly then, the lower this number, the lesser the stress on the working population and better the access to available resources for the 'dependents'. At a wider, society and State level, this means that the existing infrastructure and funds can now go much further since the number of beneficiaries is fewer. Even in absolute terms, for instance, the number of minors has dropped from 78,195 in 2001 to 64,111 in 2011. Given the trend, this number must be even lower now, seven years down the line. Budget outlays have however consistently risen, and even after factoring in inflation, there should be much more available by way of funds for these children per head than was the case two decades ago.

It goes without saying that fewer number of the very young translates into an enhanced ability to invest in child development. It's simplistic, but one needs to be bear in mind that a fewer newborns now, while it might free resources to ensure better care and education for them in the immediate future, also translates as greater responsibilities on their shoulders in the longer run. As a generation ages, they will stop being active contributors to the economy and the workplace. Improved healthcare facilities will mean that they will also remain dependent for more years. The share of elderly will increase, and with fewer young coming of age down the line, the pressure on them to look after the aged will increase. China is feeling the stress of its one-child policy now. That said, today's minors will deliver on their adult responsibilities only as well as they have been groomed in the present. All the more reason why they should be exposed to the best education and groomed with a stronger sense of responsibility and belonging if the present generation wants to be looked after better when they retire and grow into the dependency of old age.

If education is genuinely touched by quality, a more confident and definitely more resourceful generation can be prepared. But Sikkim has been failing its young embarrassingly. Take the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) of 2013, for instance. Where one had hoped that fewer children would have missed improved classroom teaching, the opposite seems to be happening. Reading levels among standard III students dropped from 52% in 2009 to 51% in 2013. Agreed, the drop is marginal, but reading levels were measured as class III students being able to read standard I texts. It should have improved substantially. But it dropped. This was for government schools, and for those who think private schools must have performed better, they didn't. Combined govt and private school data registers an even sharper drop from a combined acceptable level of 61% in 2009 to a worrying 57% in 2013. In mathematics, the fall in learning quality is even more dramatic. In 2009, 60% of the standard III students could do subtraction, the basic for this age, but in 2013, barely 50% in that class could do so anymore!

Where the young should have been learning better because there are fewer of them and still the same number, if not more, of teachers attending to them, the quality of teaching has fallen!

But quality education is something everyone owes to the very young. And now it is also affordable. Think about it, if 90% of the population wakes up to its responsibilities towards the remaining 10% who depend on them for everything, they can ensure that the minors receive the best of everything. If this 90% consciously resolves to genuinely care, a much more responsive, warm and compassionate generation will take charge of Sikkim in the very near future.

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How the modern world was shaped by epidemics 500 years ago

MATTHEW WARD
THECONVERSATION.COM

The coronavirus pandemic has been compared with many previous contagions, including the great plague and the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic. However, there has been little consideration of probably the most significant historical episode of disease. The modern world as we know it would not have existed without the epidemics that swept through the Americas in the 16th and 17th centuries. These epidemics created the modern world.

In the wake of Christopher Columbus's voyages of exploration, Europeans arrived in the Americas in ever-increasing numbers. They brought with them a range of viruses, such as smallpox, influenza, measles, mumps and chickenpox, to which Native Americans had no prior exposure and no immunity. Historians call the resulting epidemics "virgin soil epidemics".

Coronavirus has demonstrated the impact that epidemic disease can have on a vulnerable population. Similarly, these virgin soil epidemics rapidly swept through Native American communities. Societies were overwhelmed. Everyone fell sick at once: there was no one to care for the sick and no one to plant or harvest crops.

The impact of the epidemics was extensive. At one level, they removed the people who could have resisted European expansion. Studies now suggest that the population of the Americas may have been as high

as 100 million before contact with Europeans. In many regions, within a century of exposure to these diseases, 95% of the population died.

We are well aware of the Aztec and Inca empires, but similar, if not quite so complex, societies existed elsewhere. When Hernando de Soto explored what is now the south-eastern United States in the 1540s, he found the local population living in large towns, which could raise armies with thousands of men. When English explorers entered the region at the end of the following century, they found only a few scattered tribes.

For many years, historians questioned the validity of the accounts of de Soto's expedition. However, archaeology has now verified many of the descriptions that his men brought back. These societies were eradicated by virgin soil epidemics, even though their direct contact with Europeans was limited.

These epidemics not only killed the people, but they also destroyed culture and morale. Most Native American societies were non-literate – they did not have a written language. Consequently, when elders died simultaneously, much of the community's culture and knowledge also disappeared. This loss fed into a cycle of despair and demoralisation, which both undermined Native American resistance and provided a justification for European expansion.

MANIFEST DESTINY

Some observers in east Asia have viewed the failure of western governments to control the coronavirus as evidence of the weakness and fragility of western democracy. Similarly, in the 16th century, Europeans saw the virgin soil epidemics as proof of their moral and biological superiority. They were evidence that God intended Europeans to take control of the Americas.

When the Pilgrims arrived in New England in the 1620s, they found the local population already decimated by disease. Along the coast were abandoned villages that provided perfect settlement sites. It was as if God had blessed the Pilgrims' mission.

The epidemics themselves helped to rationalise colonialism – it was God's will, after all. They allowed Euro-Americans to appropriate native lands while abrogating them of any blame, and to view their imperialism as some divinely preordained "manifest destiny".

We do not yet know how extensive the long-term social and economic effects of coronavirus will be, but these virgin soil epidemics had unexpected consequences. Many of the early European adventurers anticipated that Native Americans would provide the labour to work their fields. When they began to produce lucrative staple crops such as sugar, coffee and tobacco, the demand for labour

became intense. Without a local population to exploit, Europeans turned to Africa to provide them with that workforce.

ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

The slave trade had long existed in various forms, but its scale in the 17th and 18th centuries, the methods used, and the justifications provided, were unprecedented. The absolute ownership of people – chattel slavery – justified by concepts of racial superiority was, in many respects, a result of these virgin soil epidemics.

While "alternative history" can be difficult and dangerous, it is apparent that had these virgin soil epidemics not swept the Americas, the modern world would have developed very differently. The American nations, not least the US, would not have existed in their current form.

The clearly defined racism and sense of European superiority that emerged in the 18th century, and that has plagued the world ever since, would not have developed in the same way. We might also consider whether, without the profits from the natural wealth of the Americas, Europe would have become so predominant in the world.

Without virgin soil epidemics, the world would have been very different. It remains to be seen how far coronavirus will also transform the world.

[the writer is Senior Lecturer in History, University of Dundee]

Why hard-core Trump supporters ignore his lies

Ron Stagg
THECONVERSATION.COM

The United States is in a mess.

COVID-19 is raging out of control in many areas of the country. Black Lives Matter protests are disrupting cities, in some cases themselves disrupted by counter-protesters. Debates over gun control continue across the country, tornadoes, hurricanes and wildfires seem to increase in numbers and size each year.

Could matters get worse? Yes, they could, in large measure due to Donald Trump's core supporters.

Who are these people and why is it possible, indeed likely, that they will make the situation worse?

We can help you make informed decisions with our independent journalism.

The 20 per cent or so of Americans who follow Trump no matter what, as opposed to the other 20 plus per cent who vote for him as a Republican or because they believe he'll cut their taxes, are largely the forgotten, the ignored, the disrespected.

In the early 20th century, those in the southern and western United States resented the federal government, largely controlled by politicians from the northeastern reaches of the country.

The West was underpopulated and felt ignored; the South was angry over the loss of the Civil War, the harsh terms of Reconstruction and the end of slavery, which had fuelled the southern economy.

The West, especially California and Texas, is now an economic powerhouse, and no longer feels ignored. In the South, however, there is still a degree of resentment that southern views are not reflected in national policies. Trump has been trying to amplify this resentment with his defence of statues of Confederate heroes and of keeping the names of Confederate officers on military bases.

EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANS

Trump's followers are a diverse alliance. Southerners who feel ignored are just one faction within a broad alliance of citizens who feel that the national government does not serve them. One other easily identifiable group are evangelical Christians.

Non-Americans tend not to realize the scope of evangelical Christianity in the United States and are often puzzled by the many references to God in speeches by politicians, especially federal politicians.

These are references to the idea that Americans are God's chosen people. This is, however, not a homogeneous group, despite media generalizations. Not all are anti-abortion and anti-gay, but many have a sense that America is sliding backwards morally.

That explains why a segment of the movement supports a president who is almost certainly a serial adulterer – his speeches and his actions correspond with their concerns.

Trump was the first president to attend the annual March for Life this past January, and supporters also welcomed his appointment



of social conservatives to the Supreme Court, bringing it closer, they believe, to overturning Roe vs. Wade, which legalized abortion.

XENOPHOBES, THE ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED

Another segment of hard-core supporters feel strongly that America is under attack by foreigners, including Central Americans crossing the southern border. They also falsely believe the Chinese sent COVID-19 to kill Americans.

Sixty years ago, these supporters would have been in the "my country right or wrong" camp supporting American involvement in the Vietnam War. They believe they are supporting traditional American values, free enterprise, hard work and white society against destructive change.

For these supporters, Trump promised the wall along the southern border to keep out "rapists," talks often about "the Chinese virus" and says kind things about counter-protesters, even excusing the actions of the young man, Kyle Rittenhouse, accused of killing two people at a Black Lives Matter demonstration in Wisconsin.

A sizeable segment of Trump supporters, and the ones who often get the most attention, are the economically abandoned. When Trump was elected, some in the media were quick to dismiss his supporters as lacking education, and therefore unable to grasp that Trump lied, embellished the truth and stoked bigotry.

That's unfair on several levels.

For one, as corporations move their manufacturing offshore and the U.S. economy relies more on high-tech jobs, the less educated have lost their jobs, whether in the coal mines of West Virginia or the industrial areas of the Midwest.

Understandably, they're attracted to a president who slapped tariffs on foreign countries, including China and Canada, in the hopes manufacturing jobs will return to America.

Not surprisingly, people who believe they've watched the American dream of "work hard and you will succeed" vanish have lost patience with politicians on Capitol Hill who seem only to care about power. And so they've turned to a populist, someone who

seems to understand. A lot of them don't care about Trump's lies; they only care that he talks about their problems.

And not all of those suffering economically are manufacturing or industrial workers service with poor education. There are middle-income earners who have been hurt by the flight of industry, which resulted in regional downturns in the economy.

THE NEWS INDUSTRY

Fifty years ago, a sizeable portion of the American population would tune in every evening to the nightly news on one of three networks and listen to a trusted anchor deliver the news. Now many choose either CNN or Fox, throwbacks in many ways to newspapers of the 19th century that supported one political party and framed the news to favour that party.

Not surprisingly, this approach reinforces existing views of what is going on in the United States. The traditional networks have lost the large audiences of earlier years and local news in most markets has become infotainment.

Many people, even those who didn't bother watching news in past, now get a quick fix from the internet, the source of much of the "fake news" that Trump claims the mainstream media circulate, but really originates in the minds of internet fraudsters.

How many times, for example, have we heard that COVID-19 is a Chinese biological weapon, sent to destroy the American population?

Can we blame lack of education for Trump support when even well-educated individuals have their views of the world reinforced by what they see on the internet or on a cable news channel?

Throw in a number of militant supporters of small government and lower taxes, and you have the hard-core Trump supporters.

VIOLENCE A REAL POSSIBILITY

Many who identify with these different groups may fall into more than one category; for instance, evangelical Christians who are angry about the de-industrialization of America.

Why are Trump supporters likely to make the situation worse this election?

The answer should be obvious. When a group feels that something critical has been denied them for a long time, its members will protest. If the protest still does not bring about change, some or all will resort to violence to try to force change.

Among the staunch Trump supporters are those who will merely vote for him, those who will demonstrate for him – something Trump encourages – and those who will use violence in order to ensure the re-election of the man they see as their only potential saviour. Violence is a real possibility as the campaign progresses.

Should Trump lose to Joe Biden, the new president must quickly show sympathy towards the economic issues embodied in the pro-Trump movement and empathy towards the more contentious goals of Trump's supporters, or it is almost certain the violence will escalate.

[the writer is Professor of History, Ryerson University]

Indian Bank inaugurates amalgamated branches in Chennai

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 21 SEPT: Consequent to the amalgamation of Allahabad Bank with Indian Bank, Tiruvannamur Branch of the erstwhile Allahabad Bank was merged with Indian Bank's L.B. Road Branch and e-AB's Nanganallur Branch was merged into Indian Bank's Nanganallur Branch, a press release informs. K. Ramachandran, Executive Director, Indian Bank, inaugurated the two amalgamated branches in Chennai on 31 August.



Sikkim Students' Parliament holds online interactive session

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 21 SEPT: Sikkim Students' Parliament, an organization which believes in empowerment and upliftment of youth, hosted an online interactive session on 20 Sept, 2020 with Yangchen Doma Bhutia who recently cleared UPSC Civil Service Examination 2019-20 with all India ranking of 667. As per a press release, the event was hosted by vice president of SSP, Nawraj Gurung and was held from 7.00pm and ended around 8.30pm wherein the aspirants exceeding 50, interacted and clarified their doubts regarding the preparation. Yangchen Domaengaged with

the participants citing experiences and sharing her knowledge. Her advice was to work hard without worrying about the results, to make learning fun by sharing and studying in groups with other aspirants. She also gave tips on making of notes and writing answers to name a few.

The participants were satisfied and grateful towards our speaker and Sikkim Students Parliament for conducting such interactive sessions.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Literary Secretary of SSP, Denmit Lepcha.

General Secretary of the organization, Ramesh Chettri conveyed to all the participants that many such sessions will be conducted by Sikkim Students' Parliament in future.

Romila Thapar explores history of dissent in new book

NEW DELHI, SEP 21 (PTI): Historian Romila Thapar will come out with a historical essay next month, exploring dissent, including its articulation and public response to its particular forms, with a special focus on recent protests in the country.

Penguin Random House India and Seagull Books have come together to publish the book titled "Voices of Dissent".

The book will be available in stores from October 19.

Commenting on the tie-up with Penguin India, Naveen Kishore, publisher of Seagull Books, says, "It takes time for good things to happen. Sometimes as much as 25 years! Two birds that have the sea in common finally collaborating at last to bring you a special book that reflects the immediate times."

According to Nandan Jha, senior vice president (product and sales) at Penguin Random House India, this "collaboration will open a new and enriching way of publishers working together to widen the reach of specially curated books that are vital to the times we live in".

Dissent has a long history in the subcontinent, even if its forms have evolved or changed through the centuries. Thapar looks at the articulation of dissent, focusing on nonviolent forms, that which is so essential to all societies, and relates it to various moments of time and in varying contexts as part of the Indian historical experience, the publishers said.

Beginning with Vedic times, she takes

readers from the second to the first millennium BC, to the emergence of groups that were jointly called the Shramanas - the Jains, Buddhists, and Ajivikas. She explores the views of some Bhakti saints and others of the 15th and 16th centuries, and brings the readers to a major moment of dissent that helped to establish a free and democratic India: Mahatma Gandhi's satyagraha.

In her argument she emphasises the use of the idiom of religion as reflecting social change, ending with the eventual politicisation of religion in the present. She also highlights the public response to particular forms of dissent. She places in context the recent protests against the citizenship law and the National Register of Citizens.

IAF's Rafale fleet to have first woman pilot soon

NEW DELHI, SEP 21 (PTI): A woman fighter pilot of the Indian Air Force will soon join the newly-inducted Rafale fighter fleet as one of its crew flying the multi-role aircraft, official sources said on Monday.

The woman pilot has been flying MiG-21 fighters and was selected to join the Ambala-based Golden Arrows squadron operating the Rafale jets, they said.

"She was chosen to fly Rafale jets following a stringent selection process. She is undergoing training now," said a source.

In 2018, flying officer Avani Chaturvedi scripted history by becoming the first Indian woman to fly a fighter aircraft solo. She flew a MiG-21 bison in her first solo flight.

Chaturvedi was part of a three-member women team commissioned as flying officers in July 2016, less than a year after the government decided

to open the fighter stream for women on an experimental basis. The other two women pilots were Bhawana Kanth and Mohana Singh.

At present, the IAF has 10 women fighter pilots and 18 women navigators. The total strength of women officers serving in the IAF is 1,875.

Last week, Minister of State for Defence Shripad Naik told Parliament that women fighter pilots are inducted and deployed in IAF as per strategic needs and operational requirements.

Five French-made multirole Rafale fighter jets were inducted into the Golden Arrows squadron of the IAF on September 10 at the Ambala air force base. The Golden Arrows squadron of the IAF was resurrected on September 10 last year. The squadron was originally raised at Air Force Station, Ambala on October 1, 1951.

Assembly completes business...

BOARD OF OPEN SCHOOLING & SKILL EDUCATION

Minister-in-Charge of Education Department, Kunga Nima Lepcha introduced the Board of Open Schooling & Skill Education, Sikkim, 2020 Bill No. 14 of 2020.

The statement of objects and reasons states that the crucial role of universal school education along with skills and vocational education for strengthening the social fabric of democracy through provision of equal opportunity to all has been accepted since inception of our republic. Over the years there has been significant spatial and numerical expansion of schools in the country, yet the goal of providing education to all continues to elude. The number of children particularly children from disadvantaged groups, weaker sections and children from border and hilly areas, who drop out of school before completing school education, remains very large. Moreover, the quality of learning achievement is not always entirely satisfactory even in the case of children who complete elementary, secondary and senior secondary education.

ii. In order to enhance the infrastructural support to cater to the needs of growing number of students in the field of school education at secondary and senior secondary level in general and in the area of skill and vocational education in particular, it is felt necessary to involve public private participation and partnership to improve literacy, enhance and accelerate the enrolment/retention of students and to attain universalisation of school education, vocational education in the State.

It is also deemed essential, to create a mechanism to provide for secondary education, senior secondary education, skill and vocational education up to pre-degree level so as to create and provide opportunity for continuing education to those who have missed opportunity to complete school and development education for adult neo-literates, working men and women to reinforce their functional literacy and not to allow them to relapse into illiteracy and other children/

persons desirous of pursuing school level education, skill and vocational education by offering courses and programmes of general education/life enrichment and vocational and skill education.

iii. In order to achieve the aforesaid, it is expedient and necessary to establish the Board of Open Schooling and Examination in the State of Sikkim to provide school education, skill and vocational education through all possible modes including face to face mode, flexible mode, open and distance learning mode and e-learning /online mode with a view to comprehensively enhance the access to education, to upscale the activities and to provide opportunities to the learners in all possible ways so as to provide ample access to sustainable learner-centric quality school education, skill up gradation and training to learners by using innovative technologies and methodologies of learning and imparting education. The Bill was considered and passed by the House.

Thereafter, the Chief Minister, also the Minister-in-Charge of Finance Department presented the Audit Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on State Finances for the year ended March 2019 (Report No. 1 of 2020).

The Speaker also presented the Annual Reports of Government Departments in the House.

While presenting his valedictory remarks, the Chief Minister thanked the Speaker, Dy. Speaker, Members, Chief Secretary, DGP, Heads of various Departments, SLA Secretariat, Officials and staff for their presence and contribution to the session. The CM also thanked all the COVID-19 front liners for handling the testing procedures ahead of the SLA session.

Speaker, L.B. Das while presenting his valedictory remarks thanked the Members for concluding the session in one day on the purview of COVID-19 pandemic. He also thanked all the individuals involved in the smooth holding of the one day session.

The Session came to an end with the Speaker adjourning the House Sine-Die.

ACT and Save Dzongu...

The release adds that as recently as on 20 Sept, Zilla Panchayats and Panchayats President of eight GPUs of Dzongu had clearly registered their rejection of the said hydel project.

"The new government we believe was formed to correct the blunders of the past not to repeat or carry forward the same onslaught of our rivers land and indigenous people's rights," the release highlights, while advising the Minister to do thorough research "on the ground story and the history of this controversial project and give statement."

Such statements and claims as the one made by the Minister "will bring mistrust between the government and people," the statement adds.

The press release concludes with an appeal to the government to "really take this matter in priority and scrap this controversial NHPC Stage IV and save the last stretch of free flowing river."

7 new cases push COVID-19 tally of Andamans to 3,651

PORT BLAIR, SEP 21 (PTI): The COVID-19 tally of Andaman and Nicobar Islands rose to 3,651 on Monday as seven more people tested positive for the infection, a health official said.

Four new patients have travel history while three fresh infections were detected during contact tracing, he said. Fifteen more people have been cured of the disease, the official said. The Union territory now has 148 active coronavirus cases, while 3,451 people have recovered from the disease and 52 patients have succumbed to the infection so far, he said.

350 detainees in Assam released this year; 15 died due to illness: Govt

NEW DELHI, SEPT 21 [PTI]: As many as 350 detainees, who were lodged in different detention centres in Assam, have been released on bail this year, while 15 others died due to illness in the last two years, Rajya Sabha was informed on Monday.

Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said the Supreme Court on April 13 had directed that the prisoners or detainees, who have been under detention for two years shall be entitled to be released subject to fulfilment of stipulated conditions

including furnishing of a bond of Rs 5000 with two sureties of the like sum for Indian citizens, in view of the coronavirus pandemic.

In compliance of the Supreme Court order, 350 detainees lodged in different detention centres in Assam have been released on bail.

Fifteen detainees lodged in different detention centres in Assam have died due to illness during last two years till September 16. They were undergoing treatment in various hospitals of the state, he said in a written reply to a question.

New Zealand to begin lifting virus restrictions

WELLINGTON, SEP 21 (AP): All remaining virus restrictions will be lifted across much of New Zealand from late Monday with the exception of the largest city, Auckland, which will continue to have some restrictions for at least another 16 days.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern made the announcement on Monday after meeting with top lawmakers. The nation of 5 million people reimposed some restrictions last month after the Auckland outbreak, which now appears to be under control. Under the plan,

maximum gathering sizes in Auckland will be increased from 10 to 100 on Wednesday and then caps removed two weeks after that.

Auckland needs more time, Ardern told reporters in the city. Whilst we have reasonable confidence we are on the right track, there is still a need in Auckland for that cautious approach.

Health authorities reported no new cases on Monday. The number of active COVID-19 cases is 62, with 33 of those from community spread and 29 among quarantined returning travellers.





What is Novel Coronavirus - nCoV?

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

<h4>Symptoms of nCoV</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fever ● Difficulty in breathing ● Dry Cough ● Severe acute respiratory syndrome ● Pneumonia - like symptoms 	<h4>Precautions to Prevent nCoV</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wash your hands often with soap. ● Use an alcohol based hand sanitizer ● Observe good personal hygiene. ● Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands. ● Avoid contact with people with possible symptoms. ● Avoid contact with animals and consumption of undercooked meats. ● Avoid travel to nCoV affected places. ● Wear a mask if you have respiratory syndrome and cover your mouth while coughing or sneezing.
<h4>Treatment</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Treatment is symptomatic and supportive, based on the patient's clinical condition. ● No vaccinations available as of now ● Visit Doctor in case symptoms detected 	<p>If you seek help, you may call :</p> <p>-Toll free no. 104</p> <p>District surveillance Officer</p> <p>EAST : 7029372100</p> <p>WEST : 9593297800</p> <p>NORTH : 9641957468</p> <p>SOUTH : 7407691463</p> <p>New STNM</p> <p>AMS : 9434711402</p>



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It really hurts to not close off game against Capitals: Agarwal

DUBAI, SEP 21 (PTI): Crestfallen after losing their IPL opener, Kings XI Punjab batsman Mayank Agarwal said it feels terrible to not close off the game after making a stupendous comeback against Delhi Capitals here.

Chasing 158 to win, KXIP were looking down the barrel at 55 for 5 but Agarwal's blistering 89-run knock took them to 157. They needed one run off the final two balls but Marcus Stoinis' twin strike took the game to the Super Over, which they lost on Sunday night.

"We had a tough day. There are a lot of positives to take out. The way we came back was fantastic, the way we bowled with the new ball was terrific. It really hurts to not close off the game from the situation we were in, feels terrible," Mayank told KXIP TV.

"This is just the first game. We can get things rolling again, let's see



how we will go in the coming games. I think to play a game like that first up was fantastic. Everyone was up for it, guys really put in the effort.

"Definitely, we should have finished the game when we needed one run," he added.

The 29-year-old from Bengaluru said 158 was a decent score to chase.

"It was a par score and going into the break,

we knew that if we can stitch a partnership and not give them wickets with the new ball, we could win the game," he said at the post-match press conference.

"We batted extremely well to reach there. I don't know what to say (about the final moments)."

Mayank heaped praise on Stoinis, who smashed 53 off 21 balls as Delhi scored 57 in the last three overs to reach 157 for 8.

"Stoinis batted extremely well and even if we made a little mistake, he took us apart. So credit to him and he had a great game and he did really did well for them at the death," he said.

Delhi's left-arm spinner Axar Patel said Stoinis form will "have a good impact on the team".

"If the team wants to go with six bowlers then you need an all-rounder

and if he can contribute with both bat and ball it's really good for the team," Axar said.

"Stoinis performing like this in the first game itself means we don't have to change our strategy too much. It's good we won the Super Over and the morale is high in the dressing room."

Delhi didn't have a good start as they were reduced to 13 for 3 in 4 overs but skipper Shreyas Iyer (39 off 32) and Rishabh Pant (31 off 29) resurrected the innings before Stoinis finished with a flourish.

"We didn't expect we will lose three wickets in Powerplay. It happens sometimes you can't read the pitch quickly but the way Shreyas (Iyer) and Rishabh (Pant) contributed with their partnership, it gave us the momentum and in the end Stoinis completely handed us the momentum," Axar said.

Bayern Munich blow Schalke away with sensational silent symphony



ANDY BRASSELL MUNICH, 21 SEPT [THE GUARDIAN]:

Friday night. Opening night. Gala night for the champions. Yet if it was so familiar for Bayern Munich, it was alien too. The Rekordmeister has been here so many times before that you could forgive it being cruised through on autopilot, as the board did when they and their guests from Gelsenkirchen sat in the directors box without social distancing or masks, earning the club a ticking off from Bavaria's minister of health, Melanie Huml.

Despite all the regular tells – not least a pair of effervescent wingers wearing the numbers 7 and 10 who tore poor Schalke to bits, more of whom later – there were more unfamiliar, unexpected moments, in line with Karl-Heinz Rummennigge showing contrition to Huml.

Firstly, there was the emptiness of a stadium whose atmosphere has been an underrated element of Bayern's rise. With local authorities wary of rising infection rates, the late decision was made to close Allianz Arena to spectators, after the hope that a limited number would be allowed elsewhere in the Bundesliga.

Then there was the football. In the circumstances, with the Champions League victory still fresh in the memory (and the legs) and with David Alaba and Alphonso Davies missing, one could have forgiven them for nudging their way to a routine win. Instead it was a silent symphony, as they chased down their vulnerable visitors "mercilessly" as

Süddeutsche Zeitung's Tim Brack put it.

"[Hansi] Flick's Bayern displayed their intensive pressing despite a short holiday, and despite the treble season they exuded a greed for victory," wrote Brack. "Anybody who expected Bayern in energy-saving mode were shown that they should have known better." They looked, he continued, "as if they had a two-month training camp with Felix Magath behind them."

The dizzying combinations between Serge Gnabry, the scorer of a hat-trick, and Leroy Sané, a rare elite European footballer to have enjoyed a full pre-season, were electrifying. With 'Sanabry' lifting the heavy load, Robert Lewandowski even had time to fashion an outrageous rabona assist for Thomas Müller, and England youth international Jamal Musiala became the club's youngest-ever scorer to cap it off. "It was, to paraphrase Jay-Z, using a sledgehammer to kill ants.

It was certainly enough to temporarily forget Thiago Alcântara's departure. Rummennigge's image of the pair's tearful car-park farewell, as recounted on Sky 90 on Sunday ("It is a big loss that he leaves us," said the CEO. "Not just quality on the pitch, but also as a person"), reminded us of the moving parts behind the glossy sheen. Oliver Kahn, who will be running the show shortly, warned ZDF after the game that "we no longer live in the same football world as before Corona" in tempering Alaba's

wage expectations. The sagas of Thiago's and Alaba's futures have overshadowed the imminent exit of Javi Martínez and if there is no doubt of the strength of Flick's midfield, extra numbers will be required. Bayern will, it is clear, face greater tests.

What of David Wagner and Schalke, though? A Schalke that didn't help themselves, a Schalke caught between an ambitious past and pared-back present, who insisted on playing a high line against Sané and Gnabry in making a token effort to chase a game that was already long gone. Lessons which should have been learned in a chastening coda to last season appear to have gone unheeded.

Cutbacks have been made but even so, the predictability of this from a team seemingly hellbent on filling Hamburg's erstwhile role in the Bundesliga was stark. Benjamin Stambouli called the result "unacceptable" but some will question whether his pain was shared by returning loanees such as Sebastian Rudy, Mark Uth and Ralf Fährmann, previously unwanted but with nowhere else to go. Already, Wagner is playing for high stakes against Werder Bremen – the prime TV slot next Saturday evening – with little room for manoeuvre.

For Bayern it doesn't stop, with Budapest the next stop ("It's one thing I can't understand," Flick said of the venue) for Thursday's Uefa Super Cup with Sevilla. The concern for Schalke is that it won't stop for them either.

Chennaiyin FC ropes in Bosnian central defender Enes Sipovic

CHENNAI, SEP 21 (PTI): Two-time champions Chennaiyin FC has signed up Bosnia and Herzegovina center-back Enes Sipovic for the 2020-21 Indian Super League season, the club announced on Monday.

The towering 6'6" feet defender joins the former ISL champions on a free transfer after a stint at Qatar top-flight side Umm Salal SC.

According to a statement issued by

the franchise, Sipovic is CFC's third signing ahead of the upcoming season, following the arrival of Indian full-backs Reagan Singh and Chhuanatea Fanai recently.

Sipovic, who just turned 30 last week and will be the first Bosnian to feature in the ISL, is excited about playing in India and is looking forward to joining the ranks of new CFC head coach Csaba L szl.

"I was instinctive with the team physio.

Ashwin endured dream and nightmare in a space of six deliveries as he scalped two KXIP batsmen and then suffered a suspected shoulder dislocation on Sunday.

"I briefly spoke to

that India will be my next destination. I am very happy to be part of such a beautiful club. I have been following Chennaiyin since its very first season in 2014 under Marco Materazzi, and I am aware that it is a team that has a tremendous fanbase and is incredibly successful," said Sipovic from the Bosnian capital city of Sarajevo, his hometown.

Ashwin, and Ashwin said he'll be ready for the next game. But at the end of the day it's the physio's decision," Iyer said after Delhi Capitals beat Kings XI Punjab in Super Over in their opening IPL 13 match here on Sunday night.

Sipovic is a former Bosnia and Herzegovina U-21 international who came through the youth ranks of FK eljeznica in Sarajevo, who have produced the likes of striker Edin D eko.

Sipovic then spent six years at Otelul Gala?i in Romania, with whom he won the 2010-11 Romanian top-division championship title.

Interestingly, Sipovic came up against

CFC's skipper from last season Lucian Goian during his time in the Romanian Liga 1.

Following O?elul, Sipovic enjoyed stints in Belgium (KVC. Westerlo) and Morocco (Ittihad Tanger & RS Berkane) before foraying into Asia with Saudi Arabia's Ohod Club. He then returned for a short spell with his alma mater FK eljeznica before turning out for Umm Salal in Qatar last season.

Injured Ashwin says he'll be ready for next game, but final decision rests with physio: Iyer

DUBAI, SEP 21 (PTI): Delhi Capitals captain Shreyas Iyer said senior India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin is hopeful of recovering from his shoulder injury before their next IPL game but a final call on his availability will rest

with the team physio. Ashwin endured dream and nightmare in a space of six deliveries as he scalped two KXIP batsmen and then suffered a suspected shoulder dislocation on Sunday.

"He's a strong-minded guy and hopefully he will be available."

Brought in during the final Powerplay over, Ashwin first got rid of Karun Nair and then bowled Nicholas Pooran through the gate but a needless dive to stop a

single off the last delivery saw him land awkwardly on his left arm with shoulder taking the jerk. Writhing in pain, Ashwin's jersey became a temporary sling as he left the field along with Capitals' physio Patrick Farhard.

'I deserved it': Djokovic gets obscenity warning in SF win

ROME, SEP 21 (AP): Novak Djokovic knows it isn't model behaviour when he loses his cool on the tennis court. Yet he just can't help himself.

Exactly two weeks after he was defaulted from the US Open, and a day after he was warned by the chair umpire for breaking his racket in a fit of rage, Djokovic received an obscenity warning midway through a 7-5 6-3 win over Casper Ruud in the Italian Open semifinals Sunday.

The obscenity came in the third game of the second set, by which time Djokovic had a running dialogue with the chair umpire over a series of contested calls.

"I deserved the warning," Djokovic said.

"I didn't say nice things in my language.

"I had a couple of disputes with the chair umpire with those calls," Djokovic added.

"As I understood, I was three out of three right, but doesn't matter. Everybody makes mistakes. It's fine. It was a kind of the heat of the battle. There is a lot of intensity on the court. A lot of pressure for him, for both players. It's kind

of whatever happens, happens."

As opposed to his previous two outbursts, this time there were fans in the stands who could clearly hear how Djokovic dealt with his frustration.

With 1,000 spectators allowed in to the Foro Italico for the first time this week, a large proportion of those in attendance were children.

"I don't want to do it, but when it comes, it happens," Djokovic said Saturday.

"That's how I, I guess, release sometimes my anger. And it's definitely not the best message out there, especially for the young tennis players looking at me. I don't encourage that definitely."

Ruud was Nick Kyrgios' opponent during last year's Italian Open when the Australian walked off the court and threw a chair onto the red clay, leading to him being defaulted and fined.

"Some players, or especially Djokovic, (are) very passionate," Ruud said.

"Some players just by nature can show more

emotions than other ones. That's part of the game."

D j o k o v i c ' s behavior once again overshadowed his performance, in a match where he had to save two set points when Ruud served for the first set at 5-4 one of them with a delicate backhand drop-shot winner.

The top-ranked Djokovic also served five aces in a single game to take a 6-5 lead in the first.

Ruud, 21, the first Norwegian player to contest a Masters 1000 semifinal and a product of Rafael Nadal's academy, put up plenty of resistance and also produced the shot of the day: a leaping over-the-shoulder hook shot for a winner as he raced back to chase down a lob earning a thumbs-up from Djokovic.

"He has that pattern of play on clay with a lot of spin," Djokovic said.

"I'm sure we will see more of him in the big tournaments, especially on this surface. He's got the game."

Djokovic improved to 30-1 this year. His only loss came when he was

thrown out of the US Open for unintentionally hitting a line judge in the throat with a ball during his fourth-round match against Pablo Carre o Busta.

In Djokovic's 10th Rome final on Monday he has won four he'll face eighth-seeded Diego Schwartzman, who edged 12th-seeded Denis Shapovalov 6-4 5-7 7-6 (4) in a match that lasted 3 hours, 15 minutes.

Schwartzman, who will play his first Masters 1000 final, beat nine-time Rome champion Nadal late Friday in the quarterfinals.

If Schwartzman also beats Djokovic he's lost in all four of their previous meetings he'll enter the top 10 of the rankings for the first time.

"That was in my mind all the match," Schwartzman said. "I was fighting."

In the women's final, top-seeded Simona Halep will face second-seeded Karol na Pl kov , the defending champion. Halep reached her third Rome final by beating Garbi e Muguruza 6-3 4-6 6-4 to improve her record in tennis' restart to 9-0. Pl kov defeated fellow

Czech and last year's French Open finalist Mark a Vondrou ov 6-2 6-4.

Muguruza struggled with her serve and double faulted on the final two points of the 2 hour, 16-minute match.

Halep lost to Elina Svitolina in the 2017 and 2018 finals.

"I'm not playing (Svitolina), so I have a plus," Halep said.

"I have just to manage it a little bit better than previous years. ... Now I'm more mature. So let's hope that I can be better tomorrow and to win it."

The second-ranked Halep is 13-0 overall stretching back to February, when she won a title in Dubai. After the tour's five-month break due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Romanian returned by raising another trophy in Prague last month. She then skipped the US Open due to travel and health concerns.

Pl kov dictated play against Vondrou ov with her serve, hitting six aces to Vondrou ov's one and saving five of the seven break points she faced.

The French Open starts next weekend.

Kepa Arrizabalaga's confidence is shot and the way Chelsea play doesn't help him

JONATHAN WILSON LONDON, 21 SEPT [THE GUARDIAN]:

Kepa Arrizabalaga's time as Chelsea goalkeeper, you suspect, will be remembered for two incidents. First there's him on the Wembley turf, defying Maurizio Sarri and refusing to be substituted before the penalty shootout in the Carabao Cup final in 2019. And then there's him on Sunday, playing the ball straight to Sadio Mané to concede a second against Liverpool.

Two moments 19 months apart in which the world's most expensive goalkeeper went from self-belief that only he could get the job done to swigging awkwardly at his water bottle, apparently desperate to be anywhere but in his six-yard box having confirmed his side's defeat.

It's perhaps fortunate for Kepa that the stadium was empty, that he didn't have to endure the guffaws of the away fans behind that goal, the ironic cheers every time he managed to deal with a backpass without kicking it straight to an opponent, or, perhaps even worse, the (temporary) exaggerated encouragement of his own support, sympathetically applauding moments of basic competence. Few things can sting so much for a professional sportsman as pity.

But there was something pitiable about Kepa in that final half-hour. It was one of those awful periods when a player seems consumed by self-doubt so he was having to concentrate on the most basic tasks. Suddenly even standing up required intense concentration,

a feat nowhere near as easy as others make it look. When that happens, there is no option but to withdraw the keeper from the firing line. Willy Caballero will play against Barnsley in the Carabao Cup on Wednesday and by the time Chelsea face West Brom next Saturday, Édouard Mendy, soon to be signed from Rennes for £22m, could be in goal.

The error on Sunday was the just the final straw. Even if it might reasonably be asked why nobody closed down Brighton's Leandro Trossard on Monday, his shot skipped through Kepa's hands. Last season Kepa saved only 54.5% of shots on target, the lowest figure for any regular Premier League goalkeeper over a full season since records began to be collated in 2003-04.

2020 serves another blow as Ginsburg's death ignites fight

WASHINGTON (AP): Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's death drew mourners to the steps of the Supreme Court, where they sang "Amazing Grace" in the dark. Fresh off a rally stage in Minnesota, President Donald Trump learned of the loss and praised Ginsburg as an "amazing" woman.

Such grace notes didn't last long. They were overwhelmed as swiftly as the sagebrush of Western wildfires, little boats in the hurricanes and hospitals at the height of infections in this year of calamity and a book named "Rage."

With a court seat open, yet another fiery fight is lit between partisans clashing over matters of racism, masks, lockdowns, how to vote and for whom to vote, as one crisis after another pummels the country, bringing no unity and no common heroes, just another flashpoint.

How many more of them can America take?

Perhaps not since Weather Underground

radicals bombed buildings in a drive to "disrupt the empire" and the Nixon-era Southern Strategy seized on racism as a political tool has the country faced tension and turmoil from so many corners at once.

Inevitably, and against her last wishes, Ginsburg became a political football mere minutes after her death was disclosed Friday night. New winds of rage picked up.

Condolences from public figures across the divide came with opening salvos in the struggle over her replacement. Republicans are pressing for preelection action on a Trump nominee; Democrats for a post-election, post-inauguration nomination that they hope will come from a new president, Joe Biden. Trump says he'll name his choice this week.

Protesters are protesting. The political battle is joined. Campaign money is being leveraged from Ginsburg's death by both sides. It's the American way.

"BREAKING: The



future of the Supreme Court is on the line," said a fundraising email from Republican Sen. Joni Ernst's Iowa campaign shortly after the justice's death was announced.

"Fill that seat," Trump supporters chanted at his North Carolina rally Saturday, when the president playfully fake-pollled the crowd about whom to choose as his nominee, seeing opportunity to turn the race around.

From the other side, a sign read: "Ditch Mitch" at a protest outside the home of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, the Republican at the center of the coming

power play.

"We must mobilize, organize, and remove Donald Trump from office to ensure that her service to our country and her commitment to justice and equality are never lost or forgotten," said Democratic Sen. Ed Markey of Massachusetts.

Mobilize. Organize. Fight. To the ramparts Americans are summoned again.

The supposed national trauma that ushered in 2020, a president's impeachment, is all but forgotten because it segued into so much more. All of it plays out as the novel coronavirus infects tens of thousands

more people in the U.S. each day and deaths from it mount, soon to pass 200,000. And soon to be layered with the flu season.

"Today people feel the insecurity and they feel it in almost every venue," said historian Cal Jillson of Southern Methodist University. "The presidency is in the hands of a serial disrupter. Congress is polarized and often immobilized. The court is balanced on a knife's edge."

Beyond those pillars, the structure is stressed, too.

Practically every part of government and

public service — the post office, the Census Bureau, the Justice Department, the Pentagon, the storied public-health institutions, the national security, intelligence and foreign affairs apparatus — is reeling from some form of Trump disruption.

About two-thirds of people polled by The Associated Press are frustrated by the campaign. Beyond Trump vs. Biden, the feeling that the U.S. is going in the wrong direction hit its highest point in the summer and remains overwhelmingly in negative territory.

Nor is the pursuit of happiness going so well. NORC polls found that since the pandemic began, Americans are less likely to call themselves very happy than in surveys conducted over nearly the last 50 years.

Trump supporter Chris Holmes, a 58-year old engineer from Fayetteville, North Carolina, who attended Trump's rally, said a preelection nomination fight is not what the

country needs or what Republicans should take on in these incendiary times. He's already worried about what might happen after Nov. 3, Election Day, if the result is contested or unclear: "Violence is coming."

Jillson graduated from college in 1971 and spent two years in the Army, a student turned soldier when the country was reeling from protests, riots, the Vietnam War, racial animus and a deep sense "the whole damn thing was coming apart."

These days resemble those ones, but with crucial differences, as he sees it. "This feels like a deeply uncertain and dangerous time, as in the late '60s and early '70s," he said. "But I don't think the fear is the same because we've now undergone decades of social change."

He points to weeks of stability in the presidential race, as measured by polls, as a sign that Trump's law-and-order message doesn't have the power of Richard

Nixon's and that Trump's talk of antifa radicals has not convinced people their neighborhoods will be overrun by leftists in a Biden presidency.

The election will settle that question. Meantime there are fights to be fought across the divide and there is rage to be heard. In the aftermath of the justice's death, the players are bringing it.

But not Christopher Scalia, son of the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, a conservative foil to the liberal Ginsburg who also happened to be a dear friend.

On Twitter, the son told the story of his father getting two dozen roses to take to Ginsburg for her birthday, not long before his death in 2016. A judge visiting Scalia's chamber saw them on the desk and asked why he would give flowers to a justice who never helped him win a 5-4 decision in a major case.

"Some things are more important than votes," Justice Scalia replied.

Born to prevent war, UN at 75 faces deeply polarized world

UNITED NATIONS (AP): Born out of World War II's devastation to save succeeding generations from the scourge of conflict, the United Nations officially marks its 75th anniversary Monday at an inflection point in history, navigating a polarized world as it faces a pandemic, regional conflicts, a shrinking economy and growing inequality.

Criticized for spewing out billions of words and achieving scant results on its primary mission of ensuring global peace, the U.N. nonetheless remains the one place that its 193 member nations can meet to talk.

And as frustrating as its lack of progress often is, especially when it comes to preventing and ending crises, there is also strong support for its power to bring not only nations but people of all ages from all walks of life, ethnicities and religions together to discuss critical issues like climate change.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, looking back on the U.N.'s history in an AP interview in June, said its biggest accomplishment so far is the long period during which the most powerful nations didn't go to war and nuclear conflict was avoided. Its biggest failing, he said: its inability to prevent medium and small conflicts.

The United Nations marked its actual 75th anniversary — the signing of the U.N. Charter in San Francisco on June 26, 1945 by delegates from about 50 countries — on that date this year at an event scaled down because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Then, Guterres said people are continuing to lose trust in government and political establishments. He had warned about the rise of populism triggering increasing threats to multilateralism and called for multilateralism to be given "teeth." He has often denounced what he calls a "groundswell of xenophobia, racism and intolerance."

He also urged the inclusion of civil society, cities, the private sector and

young people at top tables, saying they are "essential voices in shaping the world we want."

Monday's mainly virtual official commemoration will not be a celebration. It will include a declaration on the U.N.'s 75th anniversary, approved by diplomats from all U.N. member states after sometimes heated negotiations. Then, representatives from over 180 countries are expected to deliver pre-recorded speeches lasting three minutes.

The declaration recalls the U.N.'s successes and failures over more than seven decades and vows to build a post-pandemic world that is more equal, works together, and protects the planet.

"The urgency for all countries to come together, to fulfill the promise of the nations united, has rarely been greater," it says, while praising the United Nations as the only global organization that "gives hope to so many people for a better world and can deliver the future we want."

Even at times of great tension, it says, the U.N. promoted decolonization, freedom, development, human rights and equality for women and men, "and worked to eradicate disease." And it "helped mitigate dozens of conflicts, saved hundreds of thousands of lives through humanitarian action and provided millions of children with the education that every child deserves."

As for disappointments, the declaration says the world "is plagued by growing inequality, poverty, hunger, armed conflicts, terrorism, insecurity, climate change and pandemics." It says the poorest and least developed countries are falling behind, decolonization is not complete, and people are forced to make dangerous journeys in search of refuge.

"It's very unfortunate that it's going to be a pretty gloomy celebration for the U.N.," said Richard Gowan, U.N. director for the Crisis Group, a Brussels-based think tank.

He said the declaration was weakened

by U.S. opposition to strong language on climate change, and negotiations were delayed because the United Kingdom and others objected to China trying to insert language into the document, a reference to Beijing's now hallmark phrase "win-win" which was not included.

"Although it was pretty minor, that captures the real question that has emerged over the U.N. in 2020, exacerbated by COVID, which is how is this organization going to navigate an era of U.S.-China tension," Gowan said.

"There is a real sense that China has taken advantage of the Trump administration's relative disengagement from the U.N. to increase its influence here," he told a media briefing.

A year ago, Guterres warned global leaders attending the General Assembly's high-level meeting of the looming risk of the world splitting in two, with the United States and China creating rival internets, currency, trade, financial rules "and their own zero-sum geopolitical and military strategies."

Former Trump national security adviser John Bolton, a longtime U.N. critic who previously served as an ambassador here, said the United Nations did not meet

expectations at the end of the Cold War in the early 1990s "that with Cold War gridlock removed, it would once again be effective."

Bolton said President Donald Trump isn't going to tackle the U.N. reforms that he would like to see if he wins a second term. "I think he doesn't fully understand it, doesn't care about it, like much of the world of foreign

policy," Bolton said.

If Democratic candidate Joe Biden wins, "they'll want to do more through the U.N., but I don't think they've thought it through either," Bolton said. "So I think you're at a period of uncertainty that's going to last for some time."

To mark its 75th anniversary, the United Nations launched "a global conversation" in January using surveys, polls, online and in-person gatherings to find out what all kinds of people were thinking about the future. The results, which secretary-general called "striking," were released Monday.

According to the results, over one million people from all 193 U.N. member nations took part, including 50,000 people in 50 diverse countries who were part of a scientific poll.

"People are thinking big — about transforming the global economy, accelerating the transition to zero carbon, ensuring universal health coverage, ending racial injustice and ensure that decision-making is more open and inclusive," the U.N. chief said. "And people are also expressing an intense yearning for international cooperation and global solidarity — and rejecting go-it-alone

nationalist approaches and divisive populist appeals."

Fabrizio Hochschild-Drummond, the secretary-general's special adviser on the 75th anniversary commemoration, said it was striking that against the backdrop of polarization, disagreement and deadlock, respondents across all regions, ages and social groups "were remarkably united in their priorities for the future."

Amid the COVID-19 crisis, he said, the immediate priority for respondents is access to affordable health care, safe water and sanitation and education, followed by greater international solidarity and increased support to those hardest-hit by the pandemic.

Over 87% of respondents "believe global cooperation is vital to deal with today's challenges," Hochschild-Drummond said, and 74 percent said they believe the U.N. is essential in tackling the challenges the world faces.

Guterres said the 75th anniversary is an ideal time to realize these aims.

"We face our own 1945 moment," he said. "We must meet that moment. We must show unity like never before to overcome today's emergency, get the world moving and working and prospering again."

Nebraska man charged in protester's death dies by suicide

OMAHA, NEB. (AP): A white business owner charged with manslaughter for fatally shooting a Black man during protests in Nebraska has died by suicide days after his indictment, his attorney said Sunday.

Jacob Gardner, of Omaha, Nebraska, was found dead Sunday outside a medical clinic in Hillsboro, Oregon, the Hillsboro Police Department said in a news release. His attorney, Stu Dornan, said in a news conference Sunday evening that Gardner's death was a suicide.

"Unfortunately there are two men who have died in a terrible tragedy," Dornan said. "It's a terrible tragedy for the Omaha community, it's a terrible tragedy for James Scurlock and his family. It's a terrible tragedy for the Gardner family."

A grand jury on Tuesday charged Gardner, 38, with manslaughter in the death of James Scurlock, the Black man authorities say Gardner shot May 30 during a protest against police brutality and racial injustice outside Gardner's bar in Omaha, Nebraska. Gardner was also charged

with attempted assault, making terroristic threats and using a gun to commit a felony.

Gardner had said the shooting was done in self-defense. Douglas County Attorney Don Kleine initially decided not to charge Gardner, saying he acted in self-defense. After intense criticism, a grand jury was called to examine the case, resulting in charges being filed against Gardner.

Dornan said Gardner, who had gone to California after the shooting, was "really shook up" after the grand jury's indictment. "The grand jury

indictment was a shock to him, and it was a shock to us," Dornan said.

Attorney Tom Monaghan, who also spoke during Sunday's news conference, said "the community of Omaha had convicted Mr. Gardner on social media."

Special Prosecutor Frederick Franklin has said the grand jury reviewed additional evidence that Kleine didn't have, including texts from Gardner's phone, messages on his Facebook profile and his interactions with bystanders before coming into contact with Spurlock.

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SummitTIMES

Jimmy Kimmel delivers first pandemic-era monologue at Emmys 2020 to fake audience

LOS ANGELES, SEP 21 (PTI): As Jimmy Kimmel returned to the hosting duties of Emmys 2020, his opening monologue for the virtual television award ceremony was all about having fun in the pandemic.

Kimmel, who has previously hosted the 64th and 68th editions in 2012 and 2016, started this year's ceremony by welcoming the audiences at home to Pand-Emmys.

Wow, it's great to finally see people again. Thank you for risking everything to be here. Thank me for risking everything to be here. You know what they say, You can't have a virus without a host', Kimmel said in what looked like a usual monologue, full of laughter and reaction shots of a star-studded audience.

The host, however, soon revealed that the audience laughter and celebrity shots were from the previous ceremonies.

Of course we don't have an audience. This isn't a MAGA rally, he quipped.

It was announced in July that the 72nd Primetime Emmy Awards would be held virtually this year due to COVID-19, with nominees attending the ceremony from their homes.



Kimmel said it might seem frivolous and unnecessary to organise an awards show during a global pandemic, but it is fun and we need fun.

"This has been a miserable year. This has been a year of division, injustice, disease, zoom school, disaster and death.

We've been quarantined and locked down. We've been confined to our homes like prisoners in a dark and lonely tunnel, and what did we find in that dark and lonely tunnel? I'll tell you

what we found: a friend who is there for us 24 hours a day. Our old pal, television, he said.

During the monologue Kimmel was joined by actor Jason Bateman in an empty room, decorated with cutouts of this year's nominees.

Bateman, however, left soon after the host said he could only stay if he promised to laugh at all his jokes.

Kimmel remotely hosted the ceremony from a stage inside the Staples Center.

Richa Chadha initiates legal action after her name dragged in #MeToo case against Kashyap

MUMBAI, SEP 21 (PTI): Actor Richa Chadha on Monday said she has initiated "appropriate" legal action after her name was dragged in a "defamatory" manner by actor Payal Ghosh, who has accused filmmaker Anurag Kashyap of sexual harassment.

On Saturday, Ghosh took to Twitter, claiming that the "Gangs of Wasseypur" director was sexually inappropriate towards her, an allegation Kashyap called "baseless".

In a video released to ABN Telugu, Ghosh claimed that the incident happened in 2014-2015.

The actor, who made her Hindi debut with Rishi Kapoor-Paresh Rawal starrer "Patel Ki Punjabi Shaadi", also claimed that Kashyap boasted about his connection with megastar Amitabh Bachchan and claimed that there were other female artistes who he got intimate with, including Chadha.

Chadha took to Twitter to share her lawyer Saveena Bedi Sachar's statement. "Our Client has initiated appropriate

legal action and shall further pursue her legal rights and remedies in law as may be advised in her best interest."

The statement further read that the "Fukrey" star condemns her name being "unnecessarily and falsely dragged in a defamatory manner" into controversies and allegations raised by "third parties."

"Though our client believes that genuinely wronged women should get justice at all costs, there are legislations that are intended to ensure that women have an equal standing in their workplace and to ensure that they have a cordial workplace in which their dignity and self-respect is protected.

"No woman can be allowed to misuse their liberties to harass other women with unsubstantiated or non-existent, false and baseless allegations."

When a Twitter user criticized the actor for speaking against casting couch in the past and now siding with Kashyap, Chadha called her out for being agenda driven.

Attempt to rape is a serious allegation. She should have gone to the cops. You think feminism is women dragging your name in an obscene, unnecessary way in their personal battles? So I can make cheap allegations about you on TV? Your agenda has blinded you towards truth. Shame, the actor wrote in reply.

Kashyap, too, shared a statement from his lawyer, Priyanka Khimani, that said the 48-year-old director has been "fully advised of his rights and remedies in law and intends to pursue them to the fullest extent."

Dismissing the allegations on Sunday, Kashyap called Ghosh's claim an attempt to "silence" him for his outspoken views.

The director found support in his industry friends, including Hansal Mehta, Taapsee Pannu, Mohd Zeeshan Ayyub as well as former wives, film editor Aarti Bajaj and actor Kalki Koechlin who credited him for creating safe work space for women.

Schitt's Creek' wins all major comedy awards at Emmys 2020

Los Angeles, Sep 21 (PTI): Popular sitcom Schitt's Creek created history as it made a clean sweep in the comedy category at the 72nd Emmy Awards.

The Canadian television sitcom, created by Daniel Levy and Eugene Levy, follows the trials and tribulations of the formerly wealthy Rose family when they are forced to relocate to Schitt's Creek, a rundown small town they once purchased as a joke.

Schitt's Creek was nominated for 15 Emmys this year and the ceremony opened with seven straight wins for the show, including outstanding comedy series, lead actor and actress for Eugene and Catherine O'Hara, and supporting actor and actress for Daniel and Annie Murphy.

Daniel and Eugene also took home statues in the writing and directing categories, making it the first series to win all the top prizes in the section.



"Our show at its core, is about the transformational effects of love and acceptance, and that is something that we need more of now than we've ever needed before, said Daniel while accepting the outstanding comedy series trophy.

He also urged people to register to vote in the 2020 United States presidential election.

"Go out and vote because that is the

only way that we are going to have some love and acceptance out there, the actor-writer said as he apologised for making it political.

Schitt's Creek was nominated alongside Insecure, Dead to Me, The Good Place, Curb Your Enthusiasm, The Kominsky Method, The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel, and What We Do in the Shadows. The series finished its six-season run earlier this year.



PUCKER UP! Actress Anne Hathaway wore a facemask decorated with red lips as she left a hair salon in NYC

Zendaya becomes youngest lead drama actress to win Emmy

LOS ANGELES (AP): Zendaya said her "heart was filled" when she saw her fellow nominees, including Jennifer Aniston, cheering on the "Euphoria" actress for becoming the youngest drama lead actress to win an Emmy.

The 24-year-old Zendaya became emotional after she took home the trophy for her role in the HBO series, scoring one of the few long shot victories Sunday night. She is only the second Black actress to claim the lead drama actress award, following Viola Davis' groundbreaking 2015 win for "How To Get Away With Murder."

Zendaya's family and friends screamed, cheered, hugged and cried behind her as the stunned actress accepted the award in what appeared to be a hotel suite.

"I usually don't cry," she said in a virtual backstage interview. "I got through it without letting it take over me. It was a very emotional moment. I still can't believe it myself. It's pretty crazy."

On "Euphoria," Zendaya plays Rue Bennett,

a teenage addict struggling with her sobriety and recovery on the series that delves into sex, drugs, trauma and identity among high-schoolers.

"I just want to say there is hope in the young people out there," she said. "I know our TV show doesn't always feel like a great example of that," but she thanked them for "doing the work."

Zendaya said she was grateful to share the moment with family and friends despite the coronavirus pandemic, which has restricted interaction with loved ones.

"I think it's moments like this that we really have to hold on to and cherish," said the actress, who overcame a strong group of nominees that included Aniston, Olivia Colman, Jodie Comer, Laura Linney and Sandra Oh.

"I definitely felt like this wrapping of love around me as I was sitting here," Zendaya continued. "I'm just trying to take it all in. Just being grateful for the moments that we do have of joy and happiness."

ARIES:

What's been done cannot be undone, Aries. But do you really want to carry the burden of your past into the future? Something to think about in the days to come. The Universe is giving you the chance to cleanse and purge, to let go of your excess baggage, and heal the relationships that stand on shaky ground. Ho'oponopono is a wonderful Hawaiian prayer that will alleviate the process of forgiveness. "I am sorry. Please forgive me."

TAURUS:

Taurus, visualise a parallel reality for yourself, where everything is working out seamlessly. The help and support you need is available to you at each step. The abundance you desire is constantly flowing in as well. Now visualise a door that leads to this portal and allow yourself to step in. Program every fibre of your being to believe that you deserve to live a life of greatness, and allow yourself to receive the blessings. Overheard at the cosmic conference: you are ready to rewrite the script.

GEMINI:

Gemini, you are a master manifestor, and you don't even know it yet. The cards are reminding you of the ancient Hermetic principle 'As above, so below', which is based on the belief that we are capable of bringing forth miracles into our physical reality by tapping into the power of our superconsciousness, or our higher selves. So, how and where would you like to bring about a shift? Will you live a mundane existence or align yourself with the virtue of greatness? It's time to make a choice and commit to it.

CANCER:

It's a 'thoughts to things' kind of day in the Cancer HQ, and you're ready to put your wonderful ideas into action. Trust that the Universe is propelling you forward and creating a conducive environment for the manifestation of your dreams. Now is not the time to second guess yourself. Know that you're being guided by your higher self to make the right decisions at the right time. Remember, your swiftness will redefine the game for you.

LEO:

Leo, you are stepping into a new cycle, one that requires you to embrace your power fully and acknowledge the gifts you've been blessed with. No more playing it small. It's time to give that cloak of invisibility the send-off it deserves. There are three more months for you to achieve the things that you'd set out to earlier this year. Yes, you will be faced with challenges. Keeping in mind that the road to success is paved with failures will help you triumph over them.

VIRGO:

Monday sees you shifting your gaze from the material plane to one that is synonymous with inner illumination. The world of mysteries has your attention, Virgo. You are feeling inspired to delve deeper into your superconsciousness and uncover the gifts of your soul. The path of self-learning will prove to be rewarding for you. Recently been initiated into the world of magic? Consider studying about ancient art and exploring the idea of Quantum physics.

LIBRA:

We're never really prepared for what life is about to bring our way, yet we are. You have been working towards this moment for lifetimes, Libra. Don't waste a minute doubting yourself. What you want to do instead: jump into action mode and allow the world to see the most glorious version of you. Standing in your power will set the stage for positive change. For some of you, a new project may be in the pipeline. Trust that the Universe is helping you make your dreams come true.

SCORPIO:

The planning and strategising stage is over, Scorpio. It's time to get into action mode. Keep your vision in mind as you move forward, and vow to not deviate from the grand plan. You've got this! The Universe is playing on your team too by creating a conducive environment for your growth. It's all about working with the masculine, or the yang force within, which is connected to the energy of the Sun. Consider going for a run in the morning and practicing surya namaskars in your backyard.

SAGITTARIUS:

Monday mood: building an empire, creating art, making magic, living consciously, and inspiring those around you to achieve their highest potential. You are more *you* than you have ever been, Sagittarius. You're shining your light on the world like never before. But that doesn't mean the road ahead won't come with its fair share of challenges. When you find yourself wanting to give up, reflect upon Robin Sharma's words:

Capricorn:

That life on the earthly realm is synonymous with trials and tribulations is not news to you, Capricorn. Challenge yourself to look beyond the chaos and find underlying order anyway. Letting go of your attachment to a specific outcome will help you stay present. As such, flexibility is a superpower that will help you wiggle your way out of the trickiest of situations. So let go of rigidity in any and all forms, and be receptive to what the Universe has to say.

AQUARIUS:

'As above, so below' from the Hermetic texts is a principle that accurately describes where you are in your soul's journey, Aquarius. Big manifestation energy surrounds you—and you are witnessing your desires take form in your physical reality. Let this shift inspire you to co-create with the mysterious forces above. Remember, your intention is the most powerful tool at your disposal. So, dream in HD and cast your spell with unyielding faith!

PISCES:

Dream a little dream, Pisces, and while you're astral travelling through the subtle realms, write us a love song. Taking flights of fantasy is going to be a big theme for you today, and no, that's not a bad thing at all. In fact, the cards are urging you to step back from the chaos and commotion of the outside world in order to surrender to your creative process. Will your time out lead to massive revelations? Yes and no. But the outcome is not something you're meant to attach yourself to.