



MULTIPLEX ASSOCIATION APPEALS TO GOVT TO REOPEN CINEMAS, SAYS JOBS ARE AT STAKE
pg 08

NEW RESEARCH SHOWS TROLLS DON'T JUST ENJOY HURTING OTHERS, THEY ALSO FEEL GOOD ABOUT THEMSELVES
pg 04

MAHESH MANJREKAR TO STAR IN THRILLER 'TAXI NO 24'
pg 08



SummitTIMES

Vol 05 | Issue 247 | Gangtok | Thursday | 17 September 2020

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5

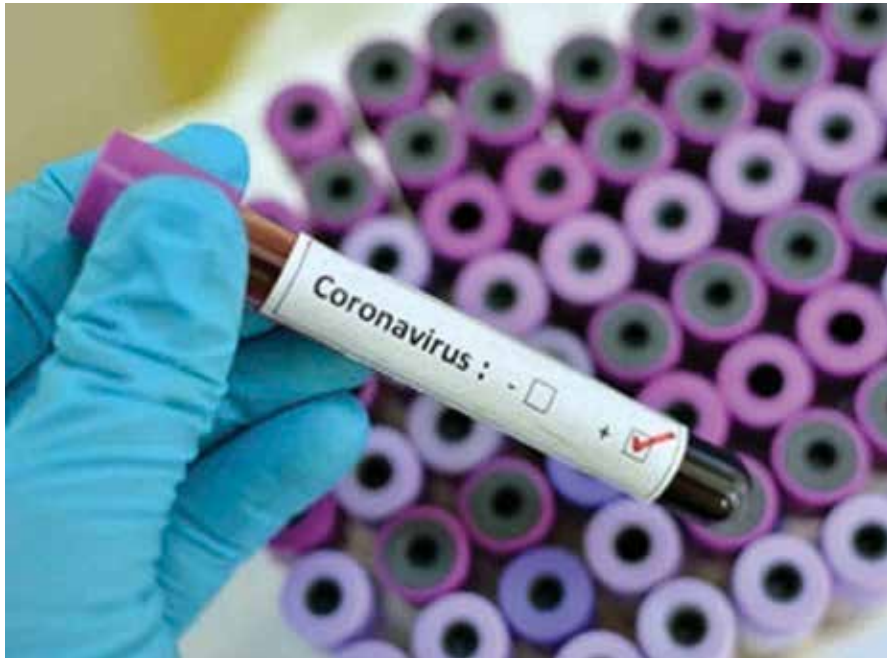
49 new COVID cases takes Sikkim's total to 2221

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 16 SEPT:**

Forty-nine fresh cases of novel coronavirus were reported in Sikkim in the last 24 hours ending 8 AM Wednesday taking the State's tally of the confirmed cases of COVID-19 to 2221. Out of these 49 new cases in the State, 38 cases were reported in East District, 01 in West District, 05 in South District and 05 in North District.

The number of active cases of COVID-19 increased to 480 in the State. In the meantime, 32 more patients recovered and were discharged from isolation facilities on Tuesday, which further improves the figure of cured & discharged patients so far in the State to 1722.

In the daily health bulletin on Wednesday, Health Department State IEC Officer, Sonam G Bhutia mentioned that 41 new cases of COVID-19 positive have been re-



ported from the RT-PCR testing of 222 samples on Tuesday here at VRD Lab in STNM hospital.

While giving the details of new cases detected in RT-PCR, State IEC Officer informed that six samples sent by Singtam District Hospital tested positive, which included one person from Sangkhola, two from Tinek-Chi-

ospani, one from Sawney Chuwatar, one from Majhitar and one from Bardang. Likewise, five samples sent by Mangan District Hospital were also found positive for COVID-19 in RT-PCR, wherein one person was from Hospital Dara Pentok, one from Pakshep and two are currently in Gangtok [one in Chand-

mari and one in Deoralij].

He added that one 31-year-old man from below DGP bungalow in Tathangchen, who has tested positive, cannot be contacted over the phone and he further requested the person to immediately contact the health authorities.

Likewise, one from the containment zone in Arithang, one from PNG

School Road, one from the containment zone near Bakthang petrol pump, three primary contacts from the containment zone near Lingding School Golai, six persons from the containment zone in Pani House, one from Development Area and one from Decheling also reported positive in RT-PCR testing, he added.

Mr Bhutia mentioned that one primary contact from the containment zone above Bike Garage in Bye Pass area, one from Ranipool, one from the fourth grade quarters in Shyari, one from near Smile Land, one person from Soreng Daragaon but presently residing in Phewa Basti, one from opposite Manipal gate, one from Upper Yangyang, one from the containment zone below Arithang School and one from near Gas Godown in DPH area were also found positive for COVID-19 in RT-PCR testing.

turn to pg 02

Lok Sabha MP pitches proposal for Mini-Food Park in Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT

NEW DELHI, 16 SEPT:

Sikkim's lone Lok Sabha MP, Indra Hang Subba called on Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries, Rameswar Teli, at his office in Panchsheel Bhawan, New Delhi today, a press release informs. Mr Subba apprised him on the importance of food processing units in the state of Sikkim for cash crops viz. Large Cardamom, Ginger, Turmeric, Kiwi, Orange and other horticulture and agriculture produces.

The Minister assured all possible help to the government of Sikkim in implementation of the policies. The MP further requested the Minister to consider establishment of Mini-Food Park in the state of Sikkim.

Mr Subba also called on Kailash Choudhary, Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, at his office in Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi today.

They discussed various issues and policies related to the Ministry



where Mr Subba apprised Mr Choudhary on how the State Government is committed to implementing central schemes in the state and is working tirelessly so that the schemes laid by the Union Government would benefit the people at the grassroots.

They also discussed elaborately on how organic farming can be promoted in Sikkim and other northeast states. The Minister showed interest

in creating better agricultural infrastructure for the farmers in Sikkim.

During the meeting with the Ministers, Mr Subba apprised them about the pending issues of "reservation of seats in the Legislative Assembly of Sikkim for Tamang and Limboo scheduled tribes" and "demand for inclusion of 11 left-out communities in the list of Scheduled Tribes" by submitting a letter to each of the Ministers.

South issues guidelines for dumping of construction muck

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 16 SEPT:**

Land Revenue and Disaster Management Department, South Sikkim, has issued an order regarding regulation of dumping sites in South Sikkim. Guidelines have been issued to all departments and executing agencies of various developmental activities regarding dumping of excavated materials.

"And whereas there is no regulation for monitoring the dumping sites which has resulted in unauthorized/unregulated dumping of material in various private and public places. These unauthorized/unregulated

dumping are posing serious threat of disaster at the downhill/valley side of such dumping locations," the order states.

As per the order, all executing agencies of developmental activities will have to take permits from the concerned Sub-Divisional Magistrate for dumping of earthen material excavated from the construction sites, at the dumping sites proposed for such developmental activities.

Sub-Divisional Magistrates shall issue permits only after verifying the location proposed for dumping by the executing agency and ensuring the compliance of vari-

ous requirements.

Executing agency of road construction works have also been directed to ensure proper maintenance of drains along the roads during monsoon season failing which they will be held liable for any damages due to improper management of drains from the construction/maintenance period.

A monitoring committee will be constituted at each Sub-Division for monitoring of dumping sites which will comprise of SDM, representatives from Forest Department, SSDMA Gangtok, Mines and Geology Department and District Project Officer, Disaster Management.

COVID-19 tally in India crosses 50-lakh mark

NEW DELHI, SEP 16 (PTI):

India's COVID-19 tally of cases galloped past 50 lakh, just 11 days after it crossed 40 lakh with 90,123 infections being reported in a day, while recoveries surged to 39,42,360 on Wednesday pushing the recovery rate to 78.53 per cent, according to the Union Health Ministry data.

The total coronavirus cases mounted to 50,20,359, while the death toll climbed to 82,066 with a record 1,290 people succumbing to the disease in a span of 24 hours, the data updated at 8 am showed.

India's COVID-19 cases jumped from 10 lakh to 20 lakh in 21 days. Then it took 16 more



days to race past 30 lakh, 13 days more to cross the 40-lakh mark and 11 days to go past 50 lakh.

It took 110 days for the COVID-19 cases in the country to reach one lakh while it had taken 59 days more to go past the 10-lakh post.

The COVID-19 case fatality rate due to the coronavirus infection further dropped at 1.63

per cent.

There are 9,95,933 active cases of COVID-19 in the country which comprises 19.84 per cent of the total caseload, the data stated.

According to the ICMR, a cumulative total of 5,94,29,115 samples have been tested up to September 15 with 11,16,842 samples being tested on Tuesday.

दिवङ्गत आत्माको शान्तीकामनाको निम्ति आभार



मृत्यु अवश्यम्भावी हो। मृत्यु जीवनको विपरित पटककै होइन त्यसैको एउटा भाग हो भनेर स्वीकार गर्न बाहेक मानिससँग अन्य विकल्प नै छैन। यो सत्य हो अनि टर्दैँन। कवि शिरोमणि लेखनाथ पौड्याल आफ्नो 'कालमहिमा' कवितामा लेख्छन् -

"इन्द्रै बिन्ती गरून् झुकेर पदमा, त्यो बिन्ति मान्दैँन त्यो ॥
आयो टप्प टिप्पो, लग्यो मिति पुग्यो, टारेर टर्दैँन त्यो ॥"

यसरी जन्म अनि मृत्यु एउटा चक्र हो भनेर जान्दा जान्दैँ पनि आफ्ना स्वजन तथा प्रियजनको मृत्युले हामीलाई मनमा कष्ट दिएको हुन्छ। सबैको निम्ति नै शोक संतप्तता मनमा कष्ट पुरयाउने सर्वसामान्य अनुभव हो। घरमा मृत्युले छोएको यस्तो बेलामा परिवारको सदस्यलाई समय दिनु अनि समवेदना प्रकट गर्नुले परिवारलाई ठूलो राहत पुगेको हुन्छ। हाम्रा ससुराधपिता आदरणीय श्री रनमान राई पंचतत्वमा विलिन हुनु भौतिक रूपमा परिवारमा ठूलो क्षति थियो। समाजमा एका-अर्कामा रहेको माया, ममता, स्नेह अनि वे. दनाको साटासाटले नै जीवनको सार निर्माण गरेको हुन्छ। यस्तो बेलामा हामीलाई समवेदना प्रकट गर्न अनि दिवङ्गतको अन्तिम यात्रामा अनि शुद्धिकार्यमा सहभागी हुन् आउने सबै महानु. भवहरूमा साथै कोरोना सङ्कटको कारणले आउन नसकेका तर हामीलाई फोन, फेसबुक अनि वाट्सएपद्वारा समवेदना जनाउनु हुने सबै आत्मीयजनहरू प्रति हामी आभार व्यक्त गर्दछौं।

कृष्ण कुमारी राई (छोरी)
पी एस तामांग (ज्वाई)

Lupin Foundation provides medical equipments to Pakyong PHC



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 16 SEPT:

Lupin Foundation under its CSR program provided relief material, infrared thermal gun and pulse Oximeter to Primary Health Centre, Pakyong in East Sikkim

and Padamchey PHSC today, a press release informs. On behalf of Lupin Foundation, the material was handed over to the medical officer of PHC Pakyong and senior ANM Padamchey by Prem Kumar Chettri.

One killed in road mishap in West



RUDRA KAUSHIK GYALSHING, 16 SEPT:

Topzang Bhutia, vice president, central committee, youth wing of Sikkim Krantikari Morcha died in a road accident in West Sikkim on Tuesday night.

It is learnt that the accident occurred at around 8 pm on Tuesday night when the deceased was returning

from Rinchenpong to Hee Patal. The accident occurred at Pechrek near Hee Gaon in West Sikkim.

He was the lone occupant in the vehicle which fell into a gorge. SKM and its leadership have expressed profound grief on the demise of Topzang Bhutia. He was a loyal, dedicated and compassionate party cadre, the party has said.

Lingzey Bhir landslide poses threat to Singtam



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 16 SEPT:

The landslide at Lingzey Bhir near Singtam is pouring mud and boulders into Rani Khola and this could pose a threat to the town, local residents have said.

There is fear among residents that if the landslide is not controlled, the river could

be blocked leading to more damage in areas along the river banks near Singtam.

President of Shantinagar Gaon Sudhar Samiti, Krishana Chatri said that continued falling of boulders and mud slides may become a bigger problem, if not controlled in time. [from SANJAY AGARWAL]

Farm bills: Farmers hold protests in Punjab

CHANDIGARH, SEP 16 (PTI): Farmers' groups on Wednesday held protests at several places in Punjab against "anti-farmer" bills introduced by the Union government in Parliament.

They said the government should have consulted the farming community on the bills, which were promulgated as ordinances earlier, as they could adversely impact them.

The Union government had on Monday introduced 'The Farmers' Produce Trade And Com-

merce (Promotion And Facilitation) Bill', 'The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill', and 'The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill' to replace the ordinances.

It has argued that these measures will free farmers from the existing government-controlled markets and prices, and that they can enter into agreements with private parties for a better price of their produce.

Farmers have ex-

pressed apprehension that once these bills are passed, they would pave the way for dismantling of the minimum support price (MSP) system and leave the farming community at the "mercy" of big corporates.

In Mohali, members of 11 farmers' groups held a protest. They termed the bills "anti-farmer".

They said the Centre should have sought the farming community's opinion before promulgating the ordinances.

The protesters were

stopped midway by police during their march to the residence of the Punjab governor to handover a memorandum to him. Later, 11 leaders of different farmers' groups were allowed to proceed, officials said.

Bhartiya Kisan Union (Lakhowal) general secretary Harinder Singh Lakhowal, however, claimed they held a protest outside the governor's house over the non-acceptance of their memorandum.

Farmers also held protests in Badal village

in Muktsar and Patiala under the banner of the BKU (Ekta Ugrahan). Many women also joined the protest, BKU (Ekta Ugrahan) general secretary Sukhdev Singh said. Meanwhile, the Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee lifted road blockades at three places.

The members of the group had blocked traffic at the Amritsar-New Delhi national highway on the Beas bridge in Amritsar, Harike headworks in Tarn Taran and Tanda-Hargobindpur bridge

in Gurdaspur. Farmer leaders said they have lifted their 'dharna' in view of the hardships faced by the general public.

The Lok Sabha on Tuesday passed the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020 which seeks to deregulate food items, including cereals, pulses and onion, a move aimed at transforming the farm sector and raising farmers' income.

The Centre has said the existing government support measures for farmers will continue.

BJP Sikkim observe Sewa Saptaha at Rangpo

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 16 SEPT:

Bharatiya Janta Party Sikkim unit is going to observe Sewa Saptaha to commemorate the birthday of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi. As part of the program, a plantation drive was organised by BJP West Pendum constituency members at Rangpo today.

Naga talks continue sans interlocutor RN Ravi

NEW DELHI, SEP 16 (PTI):

A delegation of top NSCN-IM leaders and officials of the Intelligence Bureau continued the ongoing peace talks to find a lasting solution to the vexed Naga insurgency problem in the Northeast, officials said on Wednesday.

The negotiations are being held almost on a daily basis for the last few days between the NSCN-IM leadership and two senior officers of the IB here.

However, Nagaland Governor and interlocutor for the talks, R N Ravi, has not participated in the meetings due to opposition by the NSCN-IM, which accused him of trying to divide the Naga people on the Framework Agreement signed on August 3, 2015, an official privy to the development said.

The peace talks are going on to resolve contentious issues like the NSCN-IM's demand for a separate flag and a separate constitution, but no decision has been taken so far, the official said.

Once the issues are resolved, the NSCN-IM is likely to hold discussions with the political leadership of the central government, another official said.

The central government is unlikely to accept the NSCN-IM's demand for a separate flag and constitution for the Nagas.

On August 5 last year, the central government had announced abrogation of the special status given to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of the Constitution. With the annulment of the special status, the separate flag and the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir ceased to exist.

The ruling BJP, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah had on many occasions made it clear that they believe in one flag and one Constitution for whole India.

NHPC Teesta-V observes Engineers Day



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 16 SEPT:

NHPC Teesta-V Power Station observed Engineers Day at Balutar, East Sikkim on 15 Sept, 2020 to commemorate the birthday of vision-ary engineer "Bharat

Ratna", Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya, a press release informs.

Sahadev Khatua, Head of the Project of Teesta-V Power Station & CEO of Teesta-VI HE Project said that Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya was a

great engineer who made significant contribution in creating infrastructure facilities in India.

He urged engineers to follow on the footsteps of Sir Visvesvaraya which will help them to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

SpiceJet starts cargo service in North East

Guwahati, Sep 16 (PTI): Budget carrier SpiceJet on Wednesday launched a dedicated cargo service connecting the North East with the rest of the country and international destinations with 14 aircraft to transport all types of goods, including fruits and vegetables.

Addressing the gathering at a function here, Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said that farmers from the region can now transport their fresh farm produce across the country and internationally with the help of this cargo service. "Assam alone has more than 37 lakh farmer families.

Today is a big day for all of them as their produce can now go global. This initiative will provide a big boost to traders and business houses in Assam and North East, a region that has terrific growth potential," he added.

Sonowal said that SpiceJet dedicating a part of its fleet to improving connectivity and strengthening the supply chain in Assam and North East is a welcome step that will boost local business.

SpiceJet Chairman and MD Ajay Singh said that the North East still suffers from a lack of connectivity despite being one of the most culturally and geographically rich regions in India, known for their natural produce,

consumables and other essential products.

"Our dedicated cargo service will provide the quickest access to farmers and businesses in the North East to transport their goods to the rest of the country, while at the same time facilitating easy transportation of essential cargo to the region," he added.

The service will carry both perishable and general cargo to 44 international destinations of the SpiceJet network, Singh said through video link from New Delhi.

The SpiceJet has launched 14 new cargo flights to and from North Eastern states using its Bombardier Q400 freighters, thus ensuring uninterrupted connectivity with the rest of the country.

The company said that it also operates a fleet of 13 cargo aircrafts, including two wide-body planes, and is the only Indian carrier to operate long-haul cargo flights to Europe, Africa and CIS countries.

The dedicated cargo flights for North East will help transport fresh fruits, vegetables, flowers, perishables, fish seeds, fresh fish, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, express cargo and other general cargo.

"Besides improving logistics and connectivity, the new freighter service will boost the growth of trade in the

North Eastern markets and help Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises," SpiceJet Chief Marketing Officer Debojo Maharshi said.

The airline will operate daily cargo flights on Kolkata-Guwahati and Kolkata-Imphal sector, besides flying between Kolkata and Guwahati via Aizawl and Dimapur twice a week.

It will also operate cargo flights on the Kolkata-Agartala and Agartala-Guwahati sectors thrice a week and Kolkata-Silchar and Silchar-Guwahati routes twice a week.

SpiceJet connects Guwahati with key cities across the country, including Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Chennai, Patna, Hyderabad, Jaipur and Amritsar, and has been transporting cargo both using the belly space of its passenger aircraft.

Since the nationwide lockdown began on March 25, the airline said it has operated more than 7,000 cargo flights and transported over 50,000 tonne of cargo. Out of these flights, around 3,000 were to international destinations.



49 new COVID...

He added that samples of a person from below Taxi Stand in Lingding, one from Upper Yangyang but currently residing at Metro Point, Gangtok, one from Gairi Gaon Tadong and one patient from the Central Referral Hospital also tested positive for COVID-19.

Out of 41 cases detected via RT-PCR, details of 40 cases were provided in the health bulletin.

Meanwhile, 08 new positive cases were detected in the rapid antigen testing of 22 samples. Samples of a person from Bardang and one from near SBS in Singtam sent by Singtam District Hospital tested positive for COVID-19 in rapid antigen testing, while one four-month old child from Tikjuk in West Sikkim also reported positive in RAT, Mr Bhutia informed. He added that a person from Chisopani, two from Melli Bazaar and one person from Majhigaon and one from Daragaon in Jorethang also tested positive for COVID-19 in RAT.

He added that all 16 samples tested by TrueNat returned negative for COVID-19.

To book ad-space, contact SummitTIMES at GANGTOK:

For circulation details Contact: (Sandeep) 9734152451

& for Advertisement booking at 9933427505 or at office no 03592 208698. Mail us at advertise@summittimes.com

SILIGURI:

Mr. Mani Rai, M/s. Space Ads, B.R. Ambedkar Building, Room No.7, 1st floor.

Opp. Ganga Hotel. Hill Cart Road. Siliguri - 03. Ph. 9832318644/ 9800682989/ 9153035100 or mail at mani_siliguri@yahoo.co.in.

KOLKATA OFFICE:

Irshad Ali/ Imteeyaz. Synapse, 6, Madan Street, Mezzine - 2, 2nd floor. Kolkata - 700072. Ph. 033-22124348/ fax 033-22124337/ mob. 9830547774/ 983108397.

E-mail: contact.synapse@gmail.com/ irshad_ali123@rediffmail.com

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Rebecca Lucksom D/O Satish Lucksom, age 31 years, by faith Christian R/o Sichey, P.O & P.S. Gangtok, East Sikkim do solemnly declare that my correct name is Rebecca Lucksom as recorded in my Electoral Card : CNP0155838, and further recorded as Rabecca Lucksom in my Aadhar Card : 904593934761 and as Rebika Lucksom in my Birth Certificate. Therefore I swear by this affidavit signed on 23rd May 2018 before Oath Commissioner, East Sikkim Gangtok that all the name i.e. Rebecca ucksom, Rabecca ucksom and Rebika Lucksom is the name of one and same person i.e. myself.

**Rebecca Lucksom
DEPONENT**

AFFIDAVIT

I, Chandra Kala Chawan, daughter of Chandra Bhadur Chawan, resident of Radhu Khandu basti under Maneybung Dentam constituency, West Sikkim, have lost my original Certificate of Identity (COI) while travelling from Dentam Bazar on 5/3/2020 from Radhu khandu west sikkim.

If found please contact: 9832380791

~ 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 Sadam 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.

Building for sale

A two storey building constructed on plot area 50x40 ft. Situated at Upper Phong near Phong SS, South Sikkim is on sale. Cost Rs 60 Lakhs (Negotiable). Interested may contact : 8145829309, 7864937800, 9749897695.

to book advertisements in
SummitTimes
call 03592-208698 9734152541
9647102692
advertise@summittimes.com



Stress management session for health workers

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 16 SEPT:

District Mental Health Program (East) conducted 4 sessions on Stress management for mental health and wellness during COVID 19 for healthcare providers in District Hospital, Singtam, a press release informs.

DMS (DHS) Dr Manoj Mishra briefed the participants on caring for patients

and dealing with them with compassion and with safety measures. Dr. Satish Rasaily (Psychiatrist) gave a motivational talk on coping at work place during the pandemic.

Dr Deki Wangmu Phempu (DNO) engaged the participants with a toolkit on ABC (Adversity/Belief/Consequences).

This toolkit allows the participant to take their own experience during this pan-

demically and analyse that adversity to take steps forward and make good decisions. They were made to take the Acute Stress Disorder test which was for self-analysis and the test gives an idea about one's own stress level and guides them to seek help whenever the need is felt.

Sonam Tongden ended the session with a Relaxation therapy which could be repeated at work or at home by the individual.

Bishwakarma greetings from CM

GANGTOK, 16 SEPT [IPR]: On the occasion of Bishwakarma Puja, the Chief Minister of Sikkim, Prem Singh Tamang has extended his warm greetings to the people of Sikkim.

Bishwakarma Puja is celebrated across the country to honour Lord Bishwakarma, also known as the Architect of the Universe in Hindu mythology. It falls on the last day of Bhadra and is observed on 17 Septem-

ber as per Gregorian calendar every year.

In his message, the Chief Minister sought blessings from Lord Bishwakarma the deity of all craftsman and architect to endow upon the Sikkimese people his virtue and goodwill with skills and creativity.

He sincerely wished that the auspicious occasion be the new start of happiness, success and prosperity in the lives of Sikkimese people.

Forest Minister releases book on Forest Nurseries



GANGTOK, 16 SEPT (IPR): Minister for Forest and Environment Department, Karma Loday Bhutia released a book on 'Status Report of Forest Nurseries 2020-21' in presence of Principal Secretary cum PCCF, ML Srivastava and senior officers of the department today.

Minister in his brief address congratulated the entire team for preparing the book and stated that it will be im-

mensely beneficial for the practising foresters, researchers, academicians, scientists and general public per se.

It may be mentioned here that the Research and Extension sector of the department has taken up a commendable initiative by coming out with detailed status report of forest nurseries in the state of Sikkim in the current financial year i.e. 2020-21. This includes

inter alia, the past and present history, soil and water analysis, current seedling stock and prescription for further improvement and so on.

The report has been prepared under the supervision of Assistant Conservator of Forest, Chewang Tashi Bhutia and his team comprising of Robish Pradhan (Tour In-charge), Ramesh Sharma and Pasang Dawa Tamang.

McIlroy shaped by perspective of fatherhood at U.S. Open

WASHINGTON, SEP 16 (AP): First-time fatherhood has suited Rory McIlroy. He has doted on daughter Poppy in the two weeks since she was born, and he felt the pang of having to leave her and wife Erica to prepare for this week's U.S. Open. He's also embraced the sleepless nights, even diaper duty. "I've got my hands dirty, put it that way," McIlroy said Tuesday at Winged Foot.

McIlroy is hoping to do the same this week during what figures to be a brutal test. Still one of golf's best, the 31-year-old is attempting to end a lengthy at least for him drought at the majors.

Since winning the 2014 PGA Championship for his fourth career major, McIlroy has gone 0 for 20 in golf's four most important tournaments. He's come close with 10 top-10 finishes since winning at Valhalla.

In that span, Brooks Koepka has won four majors, Jordan Spieth three. Danny Willett became a first-time major champion at the Masters; Tiger Woods returned from a series of back surgeries to win his 15th major at Augusta last year; and 23-year-old Collin Morikawa won this year's PGA Championship in his second career major start.

It's not like McIlroy's skills have faded. He was the FedEx Cup champion in 2016 and 2019, has 12 victories over the past six years nine on the PGA Tour and arrived at Winged Foot ranked No. 4 in the world.

The majors have proved elusive, in large part due to slow starts.

McIlroy grinded out an even-par

70 at TPC Harding Park in last month's PGA Championship before fading to 33rd, but too often he has stumbled out of the gate and spent the rest of the week chasing. One glaring example was the British Open at Royal Portrush in his native Northern Ireland last year, when he hit his opening tee shot out of bounds and made a quadruple-bogey 8.

I probably just put a little too much pressure on myself going into tournaments, he said.

And from there, shooting a bad score on the first day and putting yourself under even more pressure from there to just make it to the weekend, and then to try to play catch-up. I think that's been the big thing.

McIlroy followed his second FedEx Cup title in 2019 with seven straight top-10 finishes early in 2020 and moved back to No. 1 in the world for 10 straight weeks. But since the PGA Tour resumed from its stoppage during the coronavirus pandemic, McIlroy has mostly been a nonfactor. In nine events, his only top 10 finish was at the Tour Championship, which has a 30-man field.

The key this week, as it usually is with McIlroy, will be his driver.

At the top of his game, McIlroy is one of the world's best off the tee, hitting towering shots that sail past his playing partners' into the middle of fairways. When the driver goes awry, McIlroy finds himself hacking out from difficult positions, often scrambling for pars instead of setting up birdies.

"Understand Chronology": Rahul Gandhi's Latest Jibe At Centre Over China

NEW DELHI, 16 SEPT: Rahul Gandhi may not be in the country as Parliament takes place but the Congress MP has continued his attacks on the Narendra Modi government over the India-China border stand-off.

Mr Gandhi, who accompanied his mother Sonia Gandhi as she flew out last week for a medical check-up, tweeted: "Aap chronology samajhiye (Please understand the chronology)" and claimed that days before PM Modi said China had not crossed into Indian territory, the government "took a huge loan from a China-based bank".

The tweet doubled as a swipe at Home Minister Amit Shah, who used the same phrase last year about the controversial CAA and NRC programmes.

"Aap chronology samajhiye (Please understand the chronology). PM said no one entered the border... Then took a huge loan from China-based bank... Then defence minister said China had encroached ... Now Minister of State for Home said no encroach-

ment," Mr Gandhi tweeted. "Is Modi government with Indian Army or China? Modiji, why so scared?" he asked.

In June Prime Minister Modi, after the Galwan violence, said: "Neither has anyone intruded into our territory nor taken over any post" - a comment seen by the Congress as indicating China had crossed the LAC, because the alternative was India had crossed it. The government immediately put out a clarification.

According to news agency Reuters, around that same time the government took out a \$750 million loan from the Beijing-backed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) in June. The money was to help India battle the coronavirus pandemic, Reuters reported.

Since then the government has cracked down on business dealings with China, including banning China-made mobile phone apps and revoking tenders with Chinese companies.

This morning the Home Ministry told Parliament no infiltration had been reported along

the LAC (Line of Actual Control, the de facto border with China) in the past six months. However, this seemed to contradict Defence Minister Rajnath Singh who yesterday said China had made attempts in mid-May.

Mr Gandhi has been a vocal critic of the Narendra Modi government.

On Tuesday he tweeted after the Defence Minister's statement, urging him to "not be afraid of taking China's name". Earlier this year he accused the Prime Minister of "surrendering" to the Chinese and has since frequently alleged that the government is trying to mislead the people on this issue.

India and China have been engaged in a serious border stand-off since skirmishes were reported from the Pangong Lake region in Ladakh in May.

Multiple talks at different levels - from military to ministerial - have, so far, failed to defuse the situation. The Foreign Ministers of the two countries met in Moscow last week and drew up a five-point plan to resolve the prolonged issue.

No infiltration along Sino-Indian border in last 6 months: Govt tells RS

NEW DELHI, SEP 16 (PTI): The government on Wednesday said there has been no infiltration along the Sino-Indian border in the last six months, while 47 infiltration bids have been reported along the Indo-Pak border during the period.

The Union Home Ministry also informed the Rajya Sabha that 594 attempts of infiltration into Jammu and Kashmir by Pakistani militants have been reported in the last three years, of which 312 were successful.

"No infiltration has been reported along In-

do-China border during last six months," Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said in a written response to a question.

Replying a separate question, Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy said 582 terrorists were killed in Jammu and Kashmir by security forces in last three years, while 46 terrorists were arrested during the period.

As many as 76 army personnel were also killed in Jammu and Kashmir from 2018 till September 8 this year, he said.

Bihar reports more recoveries than new COVID-19 cases

PATNA, SEPT 16 (PTI): Single-day recoveries outnumbered new COVID-19 cases in Bihar on Wednesday as 1,724 people were cured of the disease and 1,531 tested positive for the infection, health department bulletin said. The recovery rate in the state has increased to 91.16 per cent on Wednesday which is 13 per cent more than the national average, Information and Public Relations Department Secretary Anupam Kumar said.

The number of recoveries has shown a steady increase in the state since August 17, except on September 3 and 4. Out of the total 1,62,631 COVID-19 cases, the number of people who have recovered from the contagion increased to

1,48,257. Twelve fatalities have been reported in the past 24 hours taking the death toll to 848, the bulletin said. Four deaths were reported from Patna district, two each from Aurangabad and Bhojpur, and one each from Buxar, East Champaran, Samastipur and Vaishali.

There are 13,526 active cases in the state. As many as 1,07,970 samples were tested for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours while 52.02 lakh samples have been examined for coronavirus infection across Bihar so far, it said.

Of the 1,531 new cases, Patna district accounted for the highest number of 215 cases, followed by 109 in Saharsa, 95 in Bhagalpur and 72 in Araria.

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

GANGTOK DENTAL CLINIC

NOW OPEN

10AM to 7PM

BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT

82106 99271

Dr. Anjali Gupta
BDS, Dental Surgeon

Near Sisa Golai
Below Greendale Hotel
Gangtok, East Sikkim

+91 8210699271
+91 8768213966

What is Novel Coronavirus - nCoV?

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

Symptoms of nCoV

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

Treatment

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

Precautions to Prevent nCoV

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

If you seek help, you may call :

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

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

Tell Me Why

...because questions reinforce your right to know

Clearing out the inbox can be enlightening sometimes. Sometimes, one ends up reading those bulk mails that mostly get junked unopened. One such mail from some years ago which popped to pique interest spoke of how a citizen of the United Kingdom, as per one of those many trivia seeking surveys, asks an average of 300 questions everyday! And these are not of the rhetoric kind. This gets one thinking about why even grown-ups need to make so many questions a day. But stay with the question, and it dawns that it is this inquisitiveness that led humans out of the cave and into the world of microchips; developed language from monosyllables to epics and communication from shouted greetings to mobile phones and now a whole emoticon language. It is curiosity that provides the spur for all inventors and path-breakers. Among the lay people, an inquisitive mind strengthens democracy, reinforces accountability and substantiates public opinion. Stop being inquisitive, give up asking questions and we are back to the stone ages when everything happened because it was destined to be so and no one was the wiser.

Let's turn the mirror on Sikkim. Whys and wherefores do not infiltrate conversations here. The public domain, even the very active social media space is not so much about asking and learning as it is about complaints and ridicule. End result, a collective throwing up of hands in defeat and acceptance of status quo. And that lies at the root of most of Sikkim's problems—from corruption to a poor human resource development record. The inquisitiveness is gone, replaced by, dare we say, defeatism, an acceptance of fate and absence of the energy to launch inquisitions. Examples proliferate all around –the government bans import of poultry and no one wonders how supplies are still sustained; an order bans public servants from holding office in organizations of the public and no one asks why even when the same order is withdrawn. Come on, colleges in Sikkim have straitjacketed students into uniforms and everyone accepts it as a move to end disparity! What about the possibility of this shallow move succeeding in keeping the young pliant and docile in the most excitingly rebellious years of their lives? Of course, that particular embarrassment was effected such a long time back that no one in Sikkim even remembers what college casuals look like any more. And then there are the ITFT students and their protest. Everyone is catching the news, but not enough are asking why this course was considered so special that students were sponsored to it or why the selected students gave the courses three years of their lives without having clearly understood what they had signed up for. Similarly, no one is asking how protests, assurances and threats in Gangtok can get a course in Chandigarh recognized by a UGC based in Delhi? When the follow-up questions are not asked, the people allow the narratives to be decided by “vested” interests. And what happens then is that “issues” get hijacked into every direction except towards a resolution. In the ITFT case, if past experiences are any indicators, the issue will disintegrate into allegations of political instigation, corruption, blackmail and pointless confrontation; it will hit a highpoint and then fizzle away. Hope that does not happen, but in all likelihood, that is the trajectory it will follow.

There are several reasons why protests and negotiations falter so often in Sikkim. One reason is that in the absence of a culture of inquisitiveness, there is also no culture of fielding queries without getting offended. What is forgotten is that what starts with an inquisitive nature, grows into better refined aptitude for negotiations. Sikkim lacks this quality. What happens then is that the people give up hope of getting answers and/ or don't bother with questions and discussions because they believe they already know the answers/ reasons. These are dangerous signs. People cannot give up their inquisitiveness, not in a democracy, because without it, we set-up necessary virtues like trust for frequent implosions. So, while episodes like the ITFT will calm down after a while, because they were not resolved to everyone's satisfaction, they will keep simmering under the surface only to explode the next time some group becomes offended and refuses to relent because it has no faith in the system. This trust-deficit should worry everyone.

Returning to the UK survey; it also reveals that for the 300 questions each Briton asks every day, they receive only 54 answers in return. A very poor average one might say, but look at it this way, they learn 54 new things every day. What is more, every person makes 54 others practice the habit of answering and explaining! There are no limits to inquisitiveness and people should start questioning everything, from the reports that are published in newspapers, to why landslides strike Sikkim so often, to why the weather surprises every season, to why they are reading this column... Not every query will receive an answer, but with every question, they will reinforce their right to know and force someone else to accept and respect that right. That is always good for a democracy, and in Sikkim's case, much required.

New research shows trolls don't just enjoy hurting others, they also feel good about themselves

EVITA MARCH
theconversation.com

There is an urgent need to understand why people troll.

Recent Australian estimates show about one in three internet users have experienced online harassment.

Across several research studies, I have attempted to construct the psychological profile of those who trolls to harm others.

In my most recent study, I wanted to see if trolling could be linked to self-esteem. Do people troll because they have low self-worth?

WHAT IS TROLLING?

In scientific literature, internet trolling is defined as a malicious online behaviour, characterised by aggressive and deliberate provocation of others. “Trolls” seek to provoke, upset and harm others via inflammatory messages and posts.

Trolling can refer to a variety of online behaviour. In some circumstances, the intent of the trolling behaviour may even be to amuse and entertain. However, in my research, I have explored trolling as a malevolent behaviour, where the troll wants to hurt their online victim.

WHY IS TROLLING A PROBLEM?

Trolling can cause significant harm and distress. It is associated with serious physical and psychological effects, including disrupted sleep, lowered self-esteem, depression, self-harm, suicidal ideation, and in some cases, even suicide.

In 2019, The Australia Institute estimated trolling and online abuse had cost the Australian economy up to \$3.7 billion in health costs and lost income.

Alarmingly, it is extremely common to experience trolling. Combined with the psychological and economic costs of trolling, this demonstrates the urgency of understanding why people troll.

If we can understand why people troll, this can inform management and prevention.

RESEARCHING TROLLS

In my latest study, I explored gender, psychopa-

thy, sadism and self-esteem as predictors of engaging in malevolent trolling.

Psychopathy is characterised by callousness, deceitfulness and a lack of personal responsibility. Sadism is characterised by enjoyment of physically and/or psychologically harming other people.

The study recruited 400 participants via social media advertisements. Almost 68% of participants were women, 43% were Australian, while the average age was 25. They completed an anonymous, confidential online questionnaire, which assessed personality and self-esteem.

The study also measured the extent to which participants displayed troll-like behaviours. For example:

- I enjoy upsetting people I do not personally know on the internet
- although some people think my posts are offensive, I think they are funny.

WHAT THE STUDY FOUND

Results showed that gender, psychopathy, and sadism were all significant independent predictors of malevolent trolling. That is, if you are male, have high psychopathy, or high sadism, you are more likely to troll.

The most powerful predictor of trolling was sadism. The more someone enjoys hurting others, the more likely it is they will troll.

Self-esteem was not an independent predictor of trolling.

However, we found self-esteem interacts with sadism. So, if a person had high levels of sadism and high self-esteem, they were more likely to troll. This result was unexpected because low self-esteem has predicted other antisocial online behaviour, such as cyberbullying.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

These results have important implications for how we manage and respond to trolling.

First, based on the results of psychopathy and sadism, we understand the internet troll as someone who is callous, lacks a sense of personal responsibility and enjoys causing others harm.



Advertising campaigns: what you don't see

DR. RAEESAH CHOCHAN
theconversation.com

The advertising and media industry, like many, have taken a hit from the Covid-19 pandemic. But, unlike a host of others, it's been fragile for a number of years. Global advertising spend is forecasted to fall by 9.1% by 2021.

Advertising agencies are faced with shorter consumer attention spans, plummeting budgets, an ever-evolving media channel dynamic and the pressure to deliver faster than ever before. This, coupled with clients' growing concern over their return-on-investment, has resulted in issues in the relationships advertising agencies have with their clients.

An unspoken issue in this relationship is the opportunistic behaviour by both parties, to the deliberate detriment of each other. Beneath the glamorous award ceremonies, witty campaigns by our favourite fast food joints and jumping on the latest Instagram challenge bandwagon are deceptive behaviours. A case in point is the Wimpy-McDonald's scandal. After pitching an idea to McDonald's, employees of advertising agency OwenKessel Leo Burnett began working at a new advertising agency, 'The Odd Number'. There, they pitched the same idea that they had pitched to McDonald's. In the end, the competing fast-food chains released the same advert.

A recent study exposes how clients (i.e., marketing managers at firms) and advertising agencies in South Africa act this way. This is confessed by advertising agencies and clients themselves. Both parties

acknowledge that opportunism happens, blame the other, yet recognise the existence of opportunism on their part as well.

The study directs attention to client-agency opportunism by describing how it happens. It concludes with a discussion on how today's client-agency dynamics can be improved. One suggestion, for example, is a simple two-way communication. Both advertising agencies and clients should clearly state what their objectives and available resources are. This will set the expectations of the relationship, to avoid misunderstandings, assumptions or tit-for-tat behaviour.

We interviewed account managers at leading advertising agencies, representing the advertising agency, and marketing managers at established firms, representing the client.

OPPORTUNISTIC BEHAVIOUR

The research shows that advertising agencies and clients act opportunistically both before and after the signing of a contract. Based on verbatims from the key account managers and marketing managers, the following findings were obtained.

Pre-contract, advertising agencies over-promise and withhold information. Often, the senior executives who pitch to the client are promised to work on the actual campaign, yet junior employees end up working on it post-contract. Other advertising agencies list clients on their website who they have done menial, or no, work for giving a misleading impression of their credibility.

A particularly unique trait of advertising agencies is their prioritisation of winning awards, rather than

doing what is best for the client's return-on-investment. They might suggest, for example, the client pays R150 000 (about US\$8990) for a television commercial, with the intention of using the campaign to win an advertising award. The client in this case would have benefited more from spending the money elsewhere.

Clients act opportunistically pre-contract by exploiting advertising agencies and withholding information. They might promise to pay the advertising agency for 80 hours of work, yet intend to subtly ask the advertising agencies for 10 more hours of work during the process without extra pay. Some clients steal the creative ideas that advertising agencies have pitched to them.

Once the honeymoon phase is over, the opportunism grows. Both parties continue to withhold information to maintain an advantage over the other. Advertising agencies overcharge by misrepresenting their actual hours working on the campaign. They also mislead their client to believe that the work undertaken is strenuous. This type of behaviour was prevalent with the advent of digital marketing. Clients overpaid for setting up websites or Facebook campaigns because it was unfamiliar territory to them. They did not know how few hours it actually took to create a Facebook advert.

Some agencies neglect, or stall, smaller client work to meet the demands of larger clients. Other agencies create separate entities, to work with competing brands from the same industry. For example, Entity A works with 'Betty's Burgers' and Entity B works with 'Bob's Burgers'. In

The significance of psychopathy in the results also indicates trolls have an empathy deficit, particularly when it comes to their ability to experience and internalise other people's emotions.

On top of this, the interaction between high sadism and high self-esteem suggests trolls are not trolling because they have low self-worth. In fact, this is quite the opposite. The more someone enjoys hurting others and the better they feel about themselves, the more likely they are to troll.

SO, HOW CAN WE USE THIS INFORMATION?

Unfortunately, the psychological profile of an internet troll means you will not get far appealing to their sense of humanity. And don't just brush off the troll as someone who has low self-worth. Their character is far more complex, which makes managing the behaviour all the more challenging.

Previous research has found showing the troll they have upset you may only reinforce their behaviour.

It appears the popular refrain is correct: don't feed the trolls and give them the hurt or angry response they are looking for.

This does not mean we should just ignore this behaviour. People who commit this type of cyber abuse should still be held accountable for their actions.

I propose we change the narrative. Trolls are not to be feared — their power lies in the reactions they cause.

One way we can start is to become active bystanders. Bystanders are those who witness the trolling. Active bystanders intervene and say “this is not okay”.

Don't fight fire with fire. Respond with outward indifference and strict no tolerance. Let's work together to dismantle the power of the troll and take back the internet from their influence.

It is not only up to the person experiencing the trolling to respond and manage the behaviour. We all need to take responsibility for our online environment.

[The writer is Senior Lecturer in Psychology, Federation University Australia]

the case where allocated human and financial resources are agreed in advance, some agencies fail to disclose to the client when an employee has left their agency. This leaves the advertising agency with more money to distribute among their staff.

Post-contract, clients primarily use their power advantage to illtreat advertising agencies. This includes calling the advertising agency's key account manager on a Sunday morning to demand work for 8am the next day. Some clients also send vague WhatsApp messages as briefs and expect the agency to deliver an outstanding campaign off that. In some cases, marketing managers may blame advertising agencies for 'poor work'. This is done to encourage their board to hire an alternative advertising agency with whom the marketing manager has a personal relationship with.

Be that as it may, opportunistic behaviour in these relationships will continue to prevail. While there are sincerely altruistic people out there, opportunism is inherent in human behaviour. This is evident by the cases, such as Facebook and Cambridge Analytica; Volkswagen's Dieselgate; and the North Face-Wikipedia scandals.

That said, favourable working relationships can be fostered by two-way communication, accountability from both parties, seeking an appropriate culture-fit early on, being fair and realistic when charging and paying, embodying reliability and adapting to changes in the environment as partners.

[The writer is Senior Lecturer of Marketing, University of Cape Town]

Arunachal Pradesh reports 170 new Covid-19 cases

ITANAGAR, SEP 16 (PTI): Arunachal Pradesh's COVID-19 tally rose to 6,466 as 170 more people, including 24 security personnel have tested positive for the virus, a health department official said on Wednesday.

The COVID-19 death toll rose to 13 in the northeastern state after two people in Changlang district succumbed to the infection, State Surveillance Officer Dr Lobsang Jampa said.

"A 63-year-old non-tribal woman with Covid-19 positive from Miao in Changlang district, died on way to the Dedicated Covid Hospital at Pasighat in East Siang district on Tuesday," the official said.

She was suffering from chronic asthma and gastritis.

She was referred to the District Hospital at Tezu in Lohit district on September 13 and later referred to Pasighat due to low SpO2, Jampa said.

Another non-tribal man died at Kharsang in Changlang district on Tuesday. The 52-year-old



man who was detected with Coronavirus was in home isolation and was suffering from terminal stage lung cancer, the official said.

Of the fresh cases, 87 were reported from the Capital Complex region, 17 from Papumpare, 15 from West Kameng, 10 from Changlang, 7 each from Tawang and Lower Subansiri and five each from Lower Dibang Valley and East Siang districts respectively.

Four new cases each were also reported from

West Siang and Longding, two each from Namsai, Tirap, Lohit and Upper Subansiri besides one from Pakke Kessang, the official said.

"Fourteen Army men, four Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) jawans, three Assam Rifles personnel, two Indian Reserve Battalion (IRB) constables and one CRPF constable are among the fresh patients," Jampa said.

A health care worker from Upper Subansiri and a Border Roads Or-

ganisation (BRO) man from Lower Dibang Valley were also diagnosed with the disease, he added.

Barring 30, all are asymptomatic and shifted to Covid Care Centres, he said.

As many as 127 people were cured of the disease and discharged from hospitals on Tuesday, taking the number of recoveries to 4,658 in the state, he said.

The recovery rate among Covid-19 patients in Arunachal

Pradesh now stands at 72.03 per cent.

Arunachal Pradesh has 1,795 active Covid-19 cases at present, Jampa said.

The Capital Complex region, comprising Itanagar, Naharlagun, Nirjuli and Banderdewa areas, has the highest number of active cases at 517, followed by Papumpare at 190, he said.

The state has so far tested 2,10,345 lakh samples for Covid-19, including, 2,186 on Tuesday, the official added.

Total tax collection falls 22.5% till Sep 15: Source

MUMBAI, SEP 16 (PTI): Total tax collection of the Centre, including advance tax collection for the second quarter, fell 22.5 per cent to Rs 2,53,532.3 crore till September 15 of the current fiscal as compared to the year-ago period, according to an income tax department source.

The source shared some details about the provisional data.

During the same period ended September 15, 2019, total tax collection stood at Rs 3,27,320.2 crore, the income tax department source from Mumbai zone told PTI over phone on Wednesday.

However, the source refused to share the advance tax numbers separately for the current quarter.

The numbers are provisional as banks will be able to update the final data by the end of the day, the source said.

During the first quarter ended June, gross

tax collections fell 31 per cent driven down by a massive 76 per cent plunge in advance tax mop-up, as the country was in a full lockdown due to the pandemic.

Of the total collection till September 15, when taxpayers, both individuals and companies, are supposed to pay advance tax for the quarter, personal income tax at the national level stood at Rs 1,47,004.6 crore and corporation tax at Rs 99,126.2 crore, totalling the two major components of the tax revenue at Rs 2,46,130.8 crore, the source said.

The total collection fell 22.5 per cent, led by a 13.9 per cent dip in collections from Mumbai, which is the largest tax base, contributing to more than a third of the national collection.

The megapolis still continues to be the most affected region by the pandemic. Total collection from the nation's

financial capital fell to Rs 74,789.6 crore, down 13.9 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y), the source said but refused to share advance tax numbers for the quarter.

Of the total mop-up from Mumbai, total personal income tax till September 15, stood at Rs 34,808.8 crore and corporate tax was at Rs 32,921.2 crore.

Among the major tax collection zones, Bengaluru is the only zone where collection grew y-o-y clipping at 9.9 per cent over the past year.

The tech city contributed Rs 40,665.3 crore to the national tax kitty, up from Rs 36,986 crore a year ago, while Kochi reported the worst collection for the year with a massive 49 per cent plunge in collections at Rs 3,214.7 crore, the source said.

The numbers are provisional as banks will be able to update the final data by the end of the day, the source added.

17 new cases push COVID-19 tally of Andamans to 3,574

PORT BLAIR, SEP 16 (PTI): The COVID-19 tally of Andaman and Nicobar Islands rose to 3,574 on Wednesday as 17 more people tested positive for the infection, a health official said.

Eight new patients have travel history, while nine infections were detected during contact tracing, he said.

The fresh infections have taken the number of active coronavirus cases in the archipelago to 204,

the official said. Forty more people were cured of the disease, taking the total number of recoveries in the Union territory to 3,318, he said.

Fifty-two patients have succumbed to the infection in the islands so far, the official said.

The administration has so far sent 46,823 samples for COVID-19 tests, of which 46,639 reports have been received and 184 are awaited, he added.

BJP women's wing to give self-defence training in Bengal

KOLKATA, SEP 15 (PTI): The BJP women's wing announced on Tuesday that it will give self-defence training to the women of West Bengal, workshops for which will start on September 17, the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Fifty women from each of the 23 districts of the state will be taught basic self-defence skills by trained experts in the workshops named 'Uma', BJP Mohila Morcha president Agnimitra Paul told PTI. "We have chosen PM Modi's birthday to officially flag off the programme, and September 17 also happens to be Mahalaya. The ground-level workshops

will begin from October 2 with one day slotted for every district. Any woman can enroll.

We speak for the safety of every single woman in the state, it is not for women of any particular party," she said.

Paul also referred to the incident of a taxi driver making lewd remarks at actor and Trinamool Congress MP Mimi Chakraborty, and alleged, "It shows that no woman is safe in the state."

"We are happy Mimi mustered the courage to protest.

This shows the need for imparting self-defence skills to every single woman, on the street or at home," she added.

EB submit bid paper, inch closer to join ISL

KOLKATA, SEP 16 (PTI): East Bengal took another step towards joining the top-tier Indian Super League by submitting the Invitation-to-Bid (ITB) papers to the organisers Football Sports Development Limited.

The ITB was submitted by a consortium of East Bengal and their investors Shree Cement Ltd., the century-old club announced on their Twitter handle late on Tuesday.

Organisers of the ISL,

Football Sports Development Limited, is expected to announce East Bengal as the 11th team of the seventh edition of the tournament by next week. In a last-gasp move to play the ISL from this season, East Bengal managed to rope in Shree Cement with the state's chief minister Mamata Banerjee personally negotiating in the deal.

The tournament will be played in three venues of Goa, starting in November.

Another low-pressure area brews over Bay of Bengal



BHUBANESWAR, SEP 16 (PTI): A fresh low-pressure area brewing over the Bay of Bengal is likely to trigger heavy rainfall for four days in Odisha next week, the Meteorological Centre on Wednesday, advising fishermen not to venture into the deep sea.

In view of the weather forecast, the state government asked the district administrations to closely monitor the situation and remain alert.

Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) PK Jena asked them to remain in a state of readiness to deal with any eventuality and take appropriate action.

A low-pressure area

is likely to develop over northeast Bay of Bengal and surrounding areas around September 20, said H R Biswas, the director of the Meteorological Centre here.

Under its influence, there will be widespread rainfall over Odisha from September 20 to 23, he said.

Squally weather will be experienced, and surface wind with speed reaching up to 45-55 kmph is likely to prevail over the northeast and the east-central Bay of Bengal, Biswas said.

Fishermen are advised not to venture into the deep sea and those already there have been advised to return to the

coast by September 20, he said.

This will be the seventh low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal since the first week of August.

Five back-to-back low-pressure systems developed on August 4, 9, 13, 19 and 24 had triggered heavy to very heavy rainfall in many parts of the state and created flood situations in several areas.

Similarly, a low-pressure area had formed over the west-central Bay of Bengal off north Andhra Pradesh coast on September 13, triggering widespread rainfall in several areas in south Odisha.

Ladakh reports 80 new COVID-19 cases, 3 more deaths

LEH, SEP 16 (PTI): The Union Territory of Ladakh reported 80 new coronavirus cases and three more deaths, taking the cumulative figures to 3,499 infections and 44 fatalities, officials said Wednesday.

There are 938 active coronavirus cases in the union territory now, out of which 502 are in Leh and 436 in Kargil, they said, adding 2,517 patients have recovered till date.

Three patients two in Kargil and one in Leh -- succumbed to the disease during a 24-hour period, taking the overall toll to 44, the officials



said this morning.

The death toll in Kargil now stands at 26, while the rest of 18 patients have died in Leh district.

Out of the 80 new cases, the officials said, 57 were in Leh and 23

in Kargil.

The officials said 40 patients in Leh and two in Kargil were discharged on Tuesday after they recovered from the infection, bringing down the number of active cases to 938.

28.32 lakh domestic air passengers in Aug, 76% lower than in Aug 2019: DGCA

NEW DELHI, AUG 13 (PTI): A total of 28.32 lakh domestic passengers travelled by air in August this year, 76 per cent lower than the corresponding period last year, aviation regulator DGCA said on Wednesday.

While IndiGo carried 16.82 lakh passengers, a 59.4 per cent share of the total domestic market, SpiceJet flew 3.91 lakh passengers, which is 13.8 per cent share of the total market, the DGCA data noted.

These two airlines were followed by Air India, AirAsia India, Vistara and GoAir at 2.78 lakh, 1.92 lakh, 1.42 lakh and 1.33 lakh passengers respectively in August, the data showed.

As many as 21.07 lakh people travelled by air domestically this July, the regulator had said last month.

The occupancy rate or load factor for five out of six major Indian airlines was between 58 and 69 per cent in August, it said Wednesday.

"The passenger load factor in the month of August 2020 has shown some recovery due to increased demand after the opening of lockdown,"



said the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). The occupancy rate in SpiceJet was 76 per cent in August, the regulator noted.

However, the occupancy rate for other major airlines Vistara, IndiGo, AirAsia India, GoAir and Air India stood at 68.3 per cent, 65.6 per cent, 64.4 per cent, 61 per cent and 58.6 per cent, respectively, according to the DGCA.

India resumed domestic passenger flights on May 25 after a gap of two months due to the coronavirus pandemic. Indian airlines are allowed to operate a maximum of 60 per cent of their pre-COVID domestic flights.

A total of 19.84 lakh passengers travelled domestically in June this year. Between May 25 and May 31, 2.81 lakh air passengers had travelled

domestically, the DGCA noted. The DGCA data mentioned that in August, IndiGo had the best on-time performance of 98.5 per cent at four metro airports - Bengaluru, Delhi, Hyderabad and Mumbai.

AirAsia India and Vistara were at number two and three at these four airports with 97.6 per cent and 95.9 per cent on-time performance, respectively, the regulator said.

Vistara and Air India cancelled 14.99 per cent and 12.05 per cent of their flights in August, the DGCA mentioned. The aviation sector has been significantly impacted due to the travel restrictions imposed in India and other countries in view of the coronavirus pandemic.

All airlines in India have taken cost-cutting measures such as pay cuts, leave without pay and firings of employees in order to conserve the cash flow.

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

VIDEO NEWS SECTION

Sikkim SCAN | CapitalTIMES | Neighbourhood WATCH | Sports & Specials | ElseWhere | EICETERA

To book ad-space, contact SummitTIMES at

GANGETOK:
For circulation details Contact: +91-9749876195, +91-944702692
& for Advertisement booking at +91-933427505 or at office no 03592
208496. Mail us at advertiser@summittimes.com

KOLKATA OFFICE:
Irshad Ali/Intervyst/ Synapse, 4, Madan Street, Madine - 2, 2nd floor, Kolkata - 700072. Ph: 033-22124348/ fax: 033-22124337/ mob: +91-9830547774/ +91-Mr. Mani Rai, M/s. Space Ads, B.R. Ambedkar Building, Room No.7, 1st floor, 18108397. E-mail: contact.synapse@gmail.com or irshad_ali23@rediffmail.com

Phone
03592-208498
+91-9832556698
+91-9832080753

www.summittimes.com
news@summittimes.com
summittimes18@gmail.com
advertiser@summittimes.com

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

*Motorcycling:
First female
champion
Carrasco
to miss rest
of season
after crash*

NEW YORK, 16 SEPT (REUTERS): Spanish rider Ana Carrasco, who in 2018 became the first woman to win a motorcycling world title, will miss the rest of the Supersport 300 season after a crash in Portugal last week.

The 23-year-old Kawasaki rider fractured two vertebrae in the fall during testing at Estoril and will take at least three months to recover from surgery.

"Falls and injuries are part of my job as a rider. For my part, the 2020 season is over and tomorrow I start my "2021 pre-season", she told the World Superbike website www.worldsbk.com.

Carrasco was fifth in the World Supersport 300 standings with three rounds remaining.

*Teen Musetti
upsets Wawrinka
to become
local hero*

ROME, 16 SEPT (REUTERS): Three-times Grand Slam champion Stan Wawrinka was soundly beaten 6-0 7-6(2) by teenager Lorenzo Musetti, who won for the first time on the professional circuit in the first round of the Italian Open on Tuesday.

It was only a second game on the ATP Tour for the 18-year-old Italian, who came through three rounds of qualifying, before aggressively upending the 35-year-old Swiss to set up a second-round meeting with Japan's Kei Nishikori.

Wawrinka made a string of errors as he lost the first eight games before working his way back into the game.

Musetti, however, held his nerve to take the second set tiebreak and the match. Earlier, Denis Shapovalov and Andrey Rublev had cruised into the second round with emphatic straight-sets victories.

Canadian 12th seed Shapovalov, who reached the U.S. Open quarter-finals last week, shook off jet lag to beat Guido Pella 6-2 6-3, firing seven aces and 23 winners past the Argentine.

Ninth seed Rublev, making his debut at the Foro Italico, beat qualifier Facundo Bagnis 6-4 6-4 to book a spot in the second round where he will face Hubert Hurkacz.

Alex de Minaur, another quarter-finalist at the U.S. Open, was knocked out by Dominik Koepfer with the German fighting back from a set down to win 3-6 6-3 7-6(5).

In the women's draw, Angelique Kerber was knocked out in a 6-3 6-1 defeat to Czech Katerina Siniakova while Coco Gauff won her first ever match on clay.

Kerber, who reached the last-16 at the U.S. Open, lasted only 69 minutes on the claycourt as Siniakova advanced in straight sets with five breaks of serve.

Kerber was almost bageled in the second set before she saved three match points to break for the first time in the contest but Siniakova broke back in the next game to seal victory.

'I belong here': Aubameyang signs new three-year Arsenal contract

NICK AMES

LONDON, 16 SEPT [THEGUARDIAN]: Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang has signed a new three-year contract at Arsenal, ending any lingering doubts about his future and ensuring Mikel Arteta retains the most important player in his squad.

The club captain's commitment to a new deal had been an open secret for several weeks but the announcement on Tuesday means any potential saga is put to bed. Last week Arteta said supporters could feel "pretty relaxed" about the outcome of negotiations, which intensified after Arsenal's FA Cup win on 1 August.

Aubameyang, who rejected interest from elsewhere in order to remain with Arsenal, will receive a significant pay rise on top of his previous £200,000-a-week deal and could become the club's highest earner.

The forward turned 31 in June but a player characterised by speed and dynamism has shown no signs of slowing up. He has arguably been the best striker in the Premier League since arriving from Borussia Dortmund in January 2018, scoring 72 times in 111 appearances across all competitions. Two of those came in the FA Cup final against Chelsea and Aubameyang had also scored both goals in the semi-final victory against Manchester City. In an often torrid two years for Arsenal his blistering form has been a constant and Arteta will now aim to build a side around his talisman.

"Signing for this special club was never in doubt," Aubameyang said. "It's thanks to our fans, my teammates, my family and everybody at



this club that I feel like I belong here. We can achieve big things together. We have something exciting here and I believe the best is to come for Arsenal."

Arteta's predecessor, Unai Emery, gave Aubameyang the Arsenal captaincy last November after Granit Xhaka was stripped of the armband. However, doubts persisted over the Gabon international's appetite for a longer-term stay. He would have been out of contract in 2021 and Arsenal's continued absence from the Champions League

was feared to be a major factor in the thinking of a player admired throughout Europe's top clubs. But he has looked noticeably more at ease since Arteta's arrival and the securing of his future goes down as another triumph for the manager, who has already been instrumental in persuading Bukayo Saka to sign a new contract and in securing Willian.

"He's a superb player with an incredible mentality," Arteta said. "He's an important leader for the team and a big part of what we're

building. He wants to be up there with the best players in the world and leave his mark. He can achieve that here."

Arteta will look to use this as a springboard to strengthen further but Arsenal need money to come in before major signings, such as Atlético Madrid's Thomas Partey or Houssem Aouar of Lyon, can be made. They expect to sell the goalkeeper Emiliano Martínez to Aston Villa for £20m, with the player agreeing terms and completing a medical on Sunday. That transfer

has been held up by minor issues at the Arsenal end but is expected to go through this week.

The midfielder Lucas Torreira could join Torino or Fiorentina on loan and Sead Kolasinac, also out of favour, would be allowed to leave if the right offer came in. Kolasinac held talks with Arteta recently, in which he was told he will have to displace Kieran Tierney to regain his position in the team, but intends to fight for his place unless things change before the closure of the transfer window.

England and Australia prepare for decider as Steve Smith eyes return

ALI MARTIN

LONDON, 16 SEPT [THEGUARDIAN]: At the start of the pandemic few could have said with any confidence that England's men would play all 18 of their scheduled internationals. But here they are, about to complete the set. And it's the small matter of a series decider against Australia.

Justin Langer revealed during the buildup that when the tourists looked to be cruising to an unsailable 2-0 lead during the second one-day international on Sunday night, thoughts turned to which of his reserve players might come in for the expected dead rubber.

Instead, having seen his side crumble in their pursuit of 232 thanks to the excellence of Chris Woakes and Jofra Archer, Australia's head coach has been forced to stick the plan for mass rotation in his much-kicked bin and now the main decision is whether to bring back Steve Smith.

Smith missed the first match after being struck on the head in the nets last Thursday, and was again absent for the second despite passing two concussion tests. Langer said the 31-year-old was "tracking in the right direction" but no risks will be taken.

This possible return for arguably the world's premier batsman adds a further layer of intrigue to the finale and England, who have now gone five years at home without losing a bilateral ODI series, are planning as if he will play.

"We are wary of the impact Steve Smith could have," said Woakes, giving his captain, Eoin Morgan, a break from media duties. "We know he's a world-class player and we've been on the receiving end in the past.

"But at the same time it can be tricky coming in with not much cricket under your belt and having to perform from ball one in a decider. We'll prepare for him to play and if he does, we have our plans for him. Australia would love to see him back."

After the electric duel at Lord's last summer, and the sickening blow that has doubtless informed



Australia's caution on this tour, all eyes will be on the latest rematch between him and Archer before they once again become teammates at Rajasthan Royals.

Archer's pace has certainly troubled the Australians throughout the two white-ball series – David Warner has fallen to him four times in four innings – but it is worth remembering England's spearhead has yet to claim Smith's wicket during eight encounters in international cricket.

A fresh pitch at Old Trafford – or relatively fresh, given the ground has hosted three Tests and five white-ball matches – awaits the teams and so the bar for a decent total should rise from the previous low-scoring affair.

This will be welcomed by England, who are likely to remain unchanged but are yet to fire with the bat. Sam Billings made a century during Friday's lost cause, and Jonny Bairstow a scratchy 84, but otherwise it has been a series of struggle against the wiles of Josh Hazlewood and Adam Zampa.

The fact the series is still on the line is down to the tail sufficiently wagging on Sunday and Morgan's bowlers then seizing the moment during the chase. This, plus the demise of Australia in the first T20, tells Woakes the never-day-die attitude associated with England's batting of late has now bled into the attack.

Woakes said: "We have earned respect across a four- or five-year period. I think teams do realise we

can reel them in from any position and the game's not done until they get over the line. "We have that character and belief in the dressing room that we can win from any position. A few years ago we probably felt we could only win from that position with the bat whereas now we can do it with the ball as well."

Langer insisted mental fragility was not to blame for Australia's latest meltdown and instead his chief regret from the tour has come off the field, following recent criticism by Michael Holding for not taking a knee in support of Black Lives Matter.

"To be completely honest, we could have talked more about it leading up to that first game," said Langer. "There was so much going on leading up to us getting here, maybe we should have thought and talked a bit more about it.

"Michael Holding is one of the great people of world sport, certainly of our game, and I have got great admiration and love for him. We all watched his heartfelt thoughts at the start of the summer and when he says things it's important we all listen."

It appears unlikely the gesture will reappear before the decider on Wednesday, despite this slight sense of embarrassment. But given the summer witnessed so far, one that has defied all predictions, already delivered a powerful anti-racism message and produced some memorable cricket, you would not rule it out entirely.

Women's soccer in England shows resilience with new sponsor

LONDON, SEP 16 (AP):

After a slew of high-profile signings in its top league, women's soccer in England further underscored its growing resilience during the pandemic by securing a new three-year sponsor for the FA Cup.

Vitality, a health and insurance company, will begin its deal from the quarterfinals of the pandemic-delayed 2019-20 competition that resumes this month.

Brushing aside concerns over its long-term future because of the coronavirus outbreak, the women's game in England is on an upward trajectory fueled by a domestic sponsorship deal of its Super League starting this year reportedly worth more than 10 million pounds

(13.2 million) over the next three seasons.

Overseas TV deals have also been sealed in Scandinavia and Central America, helping give clubs the revenue to enable them to afford top players including Americans Alex Morgan, Rose Lavelle and Tobin Heath and Denmark's Pernille Harder, all of whom have moved to England in recent weeks.

I was confident that with the fantastic momentum that had been built in the women's game, we would come back strongly and keep building on that, Kelly Simmons, the FA's director of Women's Professional Game, said as Vitality's sponsorship deal was announced.

You'd think at the moment sports sponsorship

would be a difficult space to get new partners in, because nobody knows the true impact yet of COVID in any industry or walk of life. Just as we don't in football, because we don't know when fans will come back.

The six-month suspension of the women's league play because of the pandemic ended this month with the start of the new Super League season, with matches being played without fans.

More than 3 million people watched, either live or through highlights, the Community Shield season curtain-raiser between Chelsea and Manchester City on Aug. 29, Simmons said.

They are fantastic markers that we have come back strongly, she said.

Watching Dhoni back would be a delight: Sehwaag on IPL

MUMBAI, SEP 16 (PTI):

Virender Sehwaag expects this year's IPL to be "extra special" and a major reason for that is Mahendra Singh Dhoni getting back on the pitch after announcing his international retirement following a year-long sabbatical from the game.

The IPL will get underway from September 19 in the UAE, moved out of India due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I think this tournament will be extra special for everyone the players as well as the audience...watching Dhoni back on the pitch is sure to be a delight. There's so much in store, need I say more?" Sehwaag, who will be co-hosting a show 'Power Play with Cham-



pions' on Flipkart Video, said. Dhoni, who surprised everyone with his decision to call it quits from international cricket in mid-August, will be back in action when he leads the Chennai Super Kings in the IPL.

CSK will take on defending champions Mumbai Indians in the lung-opener of the league in Abu Dhabi on September 19.

Sehwaag said cricket is an integral part of an Indian's life and the fans have waited long for the sport to return.

"I've spent a lot of my time during the lockdown watching old matches, analyzing them, including my own innings. Cricket forms an important part of our DNA as Indians and we've waited with bated breath for it to return" he said.

Israel strikes Gaza after rocket fire during US ceremony

JERUSALEM, SEP 16 (AP): The Israeli military struck Hamas militant sites in the Gaza Strip early Wednesday in response to rocket fire toward Israel the previous night that coincided with the signing of normalization agreements between Israel and two Arab countries at the White House.

The barrage against Israel began Tuesday night just as the ceremony in Washington was getting underway to formalize the new agreements with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. Two Israelis were lightly wounded.

The rocket fire continued overnight, with sirens sounding across southern Israel.

The military said five projectiles landed in open areas with the rest intercepted by Israel's rocket defense system. In response, the military said it struck about 10 sites belonging to Gaza's militant Hamas rulers, including a weapons and explosives manufacturing factory, underground infrastructure and a military training compound.

The renewed exchange offered a stark reminder that the festive events in Washington



would likely do little to change Israel's conflict with the Palestinians. In addition to the bilateral agreements signed by Israel, the UAE and Bahrain, all three signed a document dubbed the Abraham Accords after the patriarch of the world's three major monotheistic religions.

The Palestinians are opposed to the agreements with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, viewing them as a betrayal of their cause by the Arab countries, which agreed to recognize Israel without securing territorial concessions. They vow that the agreements, and any others that may follow, will not undermine their

cause. Neither President Donald Trump nor Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu mentioned the Palestinians in their remarks at the signing ceremony, but both the UAE and Bahraini foreign ministers spoke of the importance of creating a Palestinian state.

Upon his departure back from Washington, Netanyahu said he was not surprised by the rocket attack or the timing of the militants.

They want to take peace backwards but they won't succeed, he said. We will strike hard against all those who seek to harm us and reach out a hand in peace to all those whose hand is reached out to peace

with us. The Islamic militant group Hamas has ruled Gaza since 2007, when it seized power from the internationally-backed Palestinian Authority. Israel and Egypt have imposed a crippling blockade on the coastal territory since then.

A number of Palestinian militant groups operate in Gaza, but Israel holds Hamas responsible for all attacks and typically responds to rocket fire with airstrikes on militant targets. There were no immediate reports of any injuries in Gaza.

Israel and Hamas have fought three wars and several smaller skirmishes since 2007. Egypt and Qatar have brokered

an informal cease-fire in recent years in which Hamas has reined in rocket attacks in exchange for economic aid and a loosening of the blockade, but the arrangement has broken down on a number of occasions.

Israelis have warmly embraced the agreements with the UAE and Bahrain, which are only the third and fourth Arab countries after Egypt and Jordan to recognize Israel. City Hall in Tel Aviv was lit up with the word peace in English, Hebrew and Arabic.

In Jerusalem, authorities projected the flags of the U.S., Israel, the UAE and Bahrain on the walls of the Old City.

Vietnam to resume international flights

HANOI, SEP 16 (AP): Vietnam will resume international commercial flights connecting the country to several Asian destinations starting Friday, after a months long shutdown to curb the coronavirus outbreak.

The flights, however, are reserved for Vietnamese nationals, diplomats, experts, managers, skilled workers, investors and their families. They are not yet available for tourists.

According to a report posted on the government website, flights connecting Vietnam's two largest cities Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City to destinations in South Korea, Japan, China and Taiwan will operate on a weekly basis. Flights connecting the cities with Cambodia and Laos will resume next week.

To board a flight, passengers must hold a certificate showing they have tested negative for the coronavirus no more than five days before the departure date. Upon arrival, they will be tested and placed under quarantine, the report said.

Vietnam shut down international flights on April 1. National carrier Vietnam Airlines estimated last month that it would lose 650 million in 2020.

Vietnam has reported 1,059 cases of the coronavirus. It managed to avoid any deaths until July, when the virus crept into the city of Da Nang, killing 35 people.

But no new cases have been reported for two weeks. Last week, Da Nang lifted a travel restriction after two months.

Hurricane Sally blasts ashore in Alabama with punishing rain

PENSACOLA, FLA. (AP) — Hurricane Sally blasted ashore Wednesday near Gulf Shores, Alabama, as a Category 2 storm, shoving a surge of ocean water onto the coast and hurling torrential rain that forecasters said would cause dangerous flooding from the Florida Panhandle to Mississippi and well inland in the days ahead.

Moving at an agonizingly slow 3 mph, the center of the hurricane made landfall at 4:45 a.m. local time with top winds of 105 mph (165 kmh), the National Hurricane Center said. Sally's northern eyewall had raked the Gulf Coast with hurricane-force winds and rain from Pensacola Beach, Florida, westward to Dauphin Island, Alabama, for hours before its center finally hit land.

Trees were bending over and flailing around as the rain blew sideways in the howling winds. In downtown Pensacola, car alarms were triggered, setting off honking horns and flashing lights that illuminated floodwaters up to the bumpers of parked cars. Street lights were snuffed out in downtown Mobile, Alabama, where a stoplight snapped, swinging wildly on its cable.

Nearly 500,000 homes and businesses had lost electricity by early Wednesday, according to the poweroutage.us site. A curfew had been called in Gulf Shores due to life-threatening conditions hours before landfall. In the Panhandle's Escambia County, Chief Sheriff's Deputy Chip Simmons vowed to keep deputies out helping residents as long as physically possible. The county includes Pensacola, one of the largest cities on the Gulf Coast.

"The sheriff's office will be there until we can no longer safely be out there, and then and only then will we pull our deputies in," Simmons said at a storm briefing late Tuesday.

This for a storm that, during the weekend, appeared to be headed for New Orleans. "Obviously this shows what we've known for a long time with storms – they are unpredictable," Pensacola Mayor Grover Robinson IV said.

Stacy Stewart, a senior special-

ist with the hurricane center, told The Associated Press said the rainfall will be "catastrophic and life threatening" over portions of the Gulf Coast, Florida panhandle and southeastern Alabama.

The storm's top sustained winds had dropped to 81 mph (130 kph) just over an hour after it struck land. Forecasters warned that heavy rainfall would continue into Thursday as the storm moved inland over Alabama and into central Georgia, likely causing serious flash flooding and minor to moderate river flooding far from the coast. Sally was a rare storm that could make history, said Ed Rappaport, deputy director of the hurricane center.

"Sally has a characteristic that isn't often seen and that's a slow forward speed and that's going to exacerbate the flooding," Rappaport told the AP.

He likened the storm's slow progression to that of Hurricane Harvey, which swamped Houston in 2017. Up to 30 inches (76 centimeters) of rain could fall in some spots, and "that would be record-setting in some locations," Rappaport said in an interview Tuesday night.

Sally's impact was felt all along the northern Gulf Coast. Low lying properties in southeast Louisiana were swamped by the surge. Water covered Mississippi beaches and parts of the highway that runs parallel to them. Two large casino boats broke loose from a dock where they were undergoing construction work in Alabama.

In Orange Beach, Alabama, Chris Parks, a tourist from Nashua, New Hampshire, spent the night monitoring the storm and taking care of his infant child as strong winds battered his family's hotel room. Their return flight home was canceled, so they were stuck in Alabama until Friday.

"I'm just glad we are together," Parks said. "The wind is crazy. You can hear solid heavy objects blowing through the air and hitting the building." Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves urged people in the southern part of his state to prepare for flash flooding.

As Sally's outer bands reached

the Gulf Coast, the manager of an alligator ranch in Moss Point, Mississippi, was hoping he wouldn't see a repeat of what happened at the gator farm in 2005, when about 250 alligators escaped their enclosures during Hurricane Katrina's storm surge.

Gulf Coast Gator Ranch & Tours Manager Tim Parker says Sally has been a stressful storm because forecasters were predicting a storm surge of as much as 9 feet in his area. He felt some relief after surge predictions shifted.

Sally was forecast to bring heavy downpours to parts of Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and the Carolinas later in the week. Some inland residents weren't waiting, driving to the coast to experience Sally's power before it hit land.

With heavy rains pelting Navarre Beach, Fla., and the wind-whipped surf pounding, a steady stream of people walked down the wooden boardwalk at a park for a look at the scene Tuesday afternoon. Rebecca Studstill, who lives inland, was wary of staying too long, noting that police close bridges once the wind and water get too high. With Hurricane Sally expected to dump rain for days, the problem could be worse than normal, she said.

"Just hunkering down would probably be the best thing for folks out here," she said.

President Donald Trump issued emergency declarations for parts of Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana.

Sally hit just shy of three weeks after Hurricane Laura pummeled southwestern Louisiana on Aug. 27. Lingering damage from that storm accounted for many of the 60,000 power outages in that state.

Meanwhile, Tropical Storm Teddy has now become a hurricane with maximum sustained winds of 100 mph (160 kph) the National Hurricane Center said early Wednesday.

Teddy is located about 820 miles (1,335 km) east of the Lesser Antilles. Hurricane-force winds extend outward up to 25 miles (40 km) from the center and tropical-storm-force winds extend outward up to 175 miles (281 km).

Singapore reports 27 new COVID-19 cases

SINGAPORE, SEP 16 (PTI): Singapore's COVID-19 cases reached 57,515 on Wednesday after 27 new coronavirus infections, including six who arrived from India, were recorded, according to the health ministry.

Among the new cases, two are imported infections and the other two are from the community involving foreigners holding work passes.

Both imported cases were placed on stay-home notices upon arrival in Singapore. The rest are migrant workers living in dormitories for foreigners employed in labour-intensive industries, said the Ministry

of Health (MOH). Singapore has a total of 57,515 coronavirus infection since it began testing in January 2020, it said.

The six imported cases reported on Tuesday came from India on August 30 and September 3.

Two of the six are Singapore Permanent Residents who returned to Singapore from India on September 3 while another two are Work Pass/Work Permit holders currently employed here who returned from India on September 3. The other two cases are Dependant's Pass holders who arrived from India on August 30 and September 3, said the

MOH on Tuesday. All of them were placed on a 14-day Stay-Home Notice (SHN) upon arrival in Singapore, and were tested while serving their SHN at dedicated facilities.

With 82 more COVID-19 patients discharged from hospitals or community isolation facilities on Tuesday, a total of 56,884 have fully recovered from the infection.

Currently, 51 confirmed cases are still in hospital, while 526 are isolated and cared for at community facilities for mild symptoms, or are clinically well but still test positive for COVID-19, said the MOH.

Celebs join Instagram 'freeze' to protest Facebook inaction

LONDON (AP): Kim Kardashian West, Katy Perry, Leonardo DiCaprio and other celebrities are taking part in a 24-hour Instagram "freeze" on Wednesday to protest against what they say is parent company Facebook's failure to tackle violent and hateful content and election misinformation.

Hollywood stars and influencers are lending their backing to the "#StopHateforProfit" movement's latest campaign. The movement asks people to put up a message highlighting what they called the damage Facebook does but otherwise refrain from posting on Instagram for a day.

"I can't sit by and stay silent while these platforms continue to allow the spreading of hate, propaganda and misinformation – created by groups to sow division and split America apart – only to take steps after people are killed," Kardashian West posted on her Instagram account on Tuesday.

Facebook declined to comment but pointed to recent announcements about what it's doing to limit the reach on its platform of groups that support violence and its efforts to protect the U.S. election in November.

With 188 million fol-

lowers, Kardashian West is one of the most influential people on Instagram and support from her and other big names for the boycott saw Facebook shares slide in aftermarket trading late Tuesday. They were down 1.7% ahead of the market open on Wednesday.

The organizers behind "#StopHateforProfit" including civil rights groups such as the Anti-Defamation League, the NAACP and Color Of Change, had previously led a campaign that got hundreds of brands and nonprofits to join a Facebook advertising boycott in July.

Ashton Kutcher, Mark Ruffalo, Kerry Washington, Rosario Dawson, Jamie Foxx and Sacha Baron Cohen were among about two dozen Hollywood stars and celebrity influencers supporting the campaign, the organizers said.

DiCaprio said he was standing with the civil rights groups to call "on all users of Instagram and Facebook to protest the amplification of hate, racism, and the undermining of democracy on those platforms."

Facebook, which earned nearly \$70 billion in advertising revenue last year, is facing a reckoning over what critics call indefensible excuses

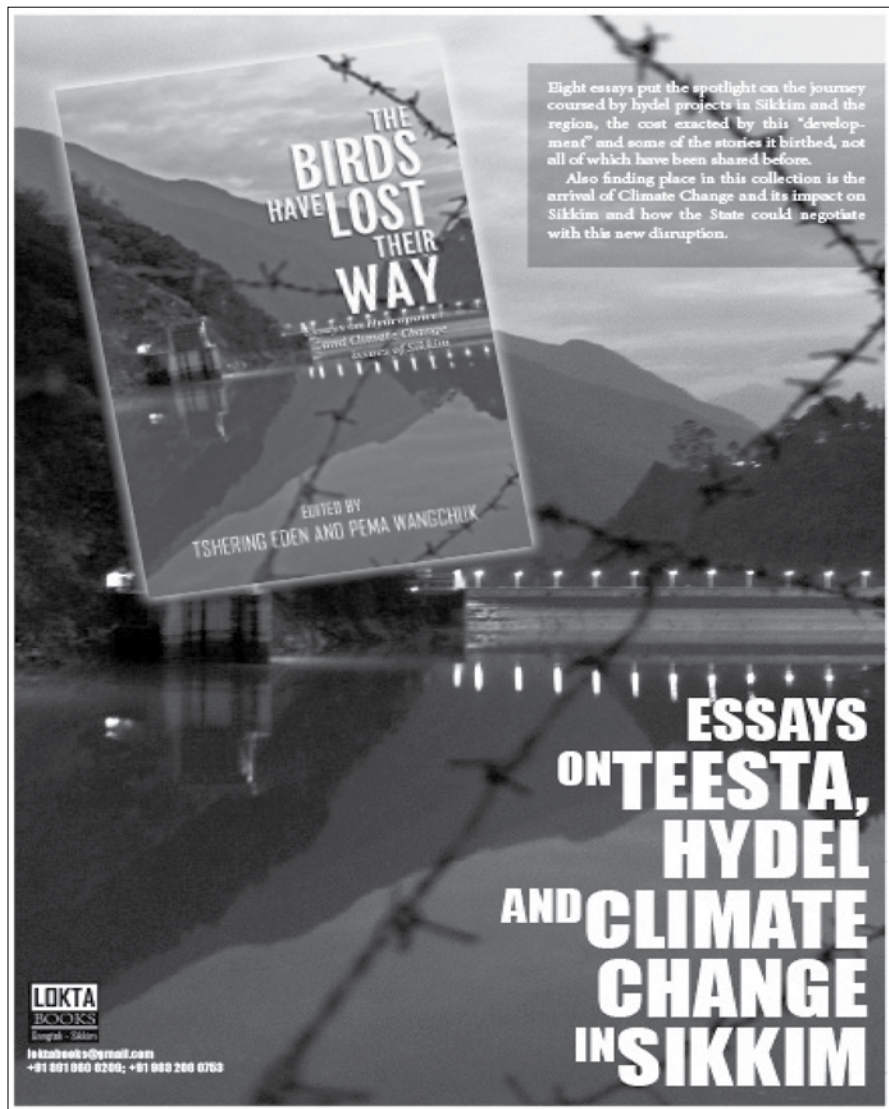
for amplifying divisions, hate and misinformation on their platforms.

"We are quickly approaching one of the most consequential elections in American history," organizers said. "Facebook's unchecked and vague 'changes' are falling dangerously short of what is necessary to protect our democracy."

The movement also singled out for criticism Facebook's handling of online material ahead of the shootings in Kenosha, Wisconsin last month. CEO Mark Zuckerberg has said the company made a mistake in not removing sooner a page belonging to a militia group that called for armed civilians to enter the town. It only took the page down after an armed teenager killed two people after violent protests sparked by the police shooting of Jacob Blake, who is Black.

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

email us: news@summittimes.com



Multiplex association appeals to govt to reopen cinemas, says jobs are at stake

NEW DELHI, SEP 16 (PTI): Appealing to the government to allow theatres to reopen on an urgent basis, the Multiplex Association of India on Tuesday said the movie exhibition sector that provides employment to lakhs of people had lost an estimated Rs 9,000 crore in the last six months.

The cinema body, which represents all the multiplex chains, including, PVR, INOX and Cinepolis, said the sector directly employs more than two lakh people and provides employment to lakhs indirectly.

Describing movies as the soft power of India and cinemas the main form of entertainment for millions of Indians, the association said close to 10,000 cinema screens across the country had been shut for close to six months. The movie exhibition sector has suffered financially and is now staring at job losses unless the government allows theatres to reopen, it said.

The appeal, with the hashtag #UnlockCinemaSaveJobs, was published as full page advertisements



in some newspapers and also posted on Twitter. Due to countrywide lockdown, the cinema exhibition industry has run into an extremely adverse and hostile situation; it was the first sector to be shut down and the last sector to reopen.

Given the dire economic impact of the epidemic on our sector and livelihoods of people we sincerely

urge the government of India to allow reopening of cinemas on an urgent basis, the statement said, estimating that the sector had suffered a monthly loss of Rs 1,500 crore in the last six months, amounting to Rs 9,000 crore.

More than 84 countries, including China, Korea, UK, France, Italy, Spain, UAE, and the US, have already

opened cinemas to the public while maintaining the highest degree of safety protocols and have seen encouraging response, it said.

The film body said malls, airlines, railways, retail, restaurants, gyms and many such services have already restarted as part of 'Unlock India'. In the fourth phase of unlocking, bars and metro ser-

vices also opened up.

The association, which in July introduced several SoPs such as paperless tickets, seat distancing, staggered intervals, regulated entry and exit and regular sanitisation to make cinemas a safe place to visit, reiterated that it is equipped with better abilities to ensure crowd management in "stringent hygienic environments while maintaining applicable social distancing norms".

PVR Pictures, the biggest cinema chain in India, tweeted the appeal with a message on the joy of watching movies in theatres.

The joy of watching stories unfold on the big screen: the clapping, laughing and tears. We miss it. Can't wait to have you back at the movies! #UnlockCinemaSaveJobs, the chain captioned the appeal.

Millions work behind the scenes, to make dreams come to life on the big screen. Their jobs are at stake. Please reopen cinemas immediately, INOX Leisure Ltd said while sharing the appeal.

Filmmaker Anurag Kashyap also backed the MAI's appeal on Twitter:

Sarah Snook to headline 'Persuasion' adaptation

LOS ANGELES, SEP 16 (PTI): Sarah Snook, the breakout star of HBO's "Succession", will lead the upcoming adaptation of Jane Austen's "Persuasion" for Searchlight Pictures.

The novel, which was published in 1817, six months after the celebrated author's death, has been described as a "romance of second chances", according to The Hollywood Reporter.

Snook will play Anne Elliot who, many years after refusing the proposal of young naval officer Frederick Wentworth, finds herself navigating the waters of English society when Wentworth returns from war a wealthy and decorated captain.

As Anne ponders missed opportunities, she must consider her own regrets and unwavering, possibly unrequited love.

The adaptation, to be directed by Mahalia Belo, is being written by Jessica Swale, best known for her work on Gemma Arterton-starrer war drama "Summerland".

The project will be produced by Alison Owen and Debra Hayward through their Monumental Pictures banner.

Snook currently stars as Siobhan "Shiv" Roy in HBO's comedy-drama series "Succession". The Australian actor has also featured in films such as "Predestination", "Steve Jobs" and "An American Pickle".

Sumeet Vyas to star in series on Indo-China war

MUMBAI, SEP 16 (PTI): Actor Sumeet Vyas says his next project is a series on Indo-China war. The show has been directed by Mahesh Manjrekar, Vyas told PTI.

The actor said the work on the series was impacted due to the coronavirus-led lockdown.

"I was shooting for this war-series and only patch work was left... The post production also took a hit, it was supposed to happen in LA and then they (makers) were trying to figure it out here.

"Last, I heard they managed to put together everything. The primary shoot is over, now they are doing post production," he said.

According to Vyas, the series should stream by the next year.

Abhay Deol is also a part of the series. He had posted a picture with Manjrekar from the set last year on his Instagram page.

Madonna to direct, co-write biopic about herself

NEW YORK (AP): A biopic about Madonna has found a uniquely qualified director: Madonna, herself. Universal Pictures announced Tuesday that the studio is developing an untitled film about the pop star that Madonna will direct and co-write with "Juno" scribe Diablo Cody. Madonna said she wants the film to convey "the incredible journey that life has taken me on as an artist, a musician, a dancer – a human being, trying to make her way in this world."

"The focus of this film will always be music," said Madonna in a statement. "Music has kept me going and art has kept me alive. There are so many untold and inspiring stories and who better to tell it than me. It's essential to share the roller coaster ride of my life with my voice and vision."

The film will be produced by Amy Pas-

cal, the former Sony Pictures chief who produced "A League of Their Own," the 1992 film co-starring Madonna.

"This movie is an absolute labor of love for me," said Pascal. "I have known Madonna since we made 'A League of Their Own' together, and I can't imagine anything more thrilling than collaborating with her and Diablo on bringing her true-life story to the big screen with Donna (Langley) and our partners at Universal."

Madonna, 62, previously directed the 2008 British drama "Filth and Wisdom" and the 2011 period drama "W.E.," with Abbie Corning and Andrea Riseborough. Madonna, whose last album was 2019's "Madame X," has sold 335 million records worldwide in her career.

Mahesh Manjrekar to star in thriller 'Taxi no 24'

Mumbai, Sep 16 (PTI): Actor Mahesh Manjrekar is set to star in director Saumitra Singh's film "Taxi No 24".

The large-short format movie is a psychological thriller and also features Jagjeet Sandhu of "Pataal Lok" fame and actor Anangsha Biswas.

It is expected to go on floors later this month, the makers said in a press release.

Backed by Saviraj Shetty, "Taxi No 24" narrates the story of a young man, who boards the cab of a driver paranoid with the news that a serial killer

is set loose in Mumbai. Singh, who unveiled the first look of the film, said he couldn't wait to bring to life the "fast paced" story, written by Abhiraj Sharma for the screen.

"The simple motive of mine to tell this story is to showcase how life can offer unwellcoming surprises," the director said.

Shetty, who is producing the film through

his banner Whatever Productions, said he is looking forward to work with the "dynamic" team of "Taxi no 24". "I am super excited



to have on-boarded such a great cast which further makes the journey and experience of filmmaking enriching. I can't wait to get the project on floor," he added.

The film also stars Girish Sharma, Rajat Arora, Shalini Chauhan, Amisha Sinha, Anika Sahu and Tushar Rungta. Hasan Khan will serve as an executive producer.



CASUAL COOL! The actress, Shay Mitchell is seen on set prepping for a photoshoot in LA.

ARIES:

After a period of lull, you're ready to get back into action mode. Be present to the ideas that are coming through. They're helping you form a bridge between where you are and where you need to be. It's time to get in alignment, Aries! Some of you may be getting in touch with your sporty side like never before, or reconnecting with the games you enjoyed as a child. Finding the right guide/community will prove to be instrumental in your journey. Tip: Carpe diem.

TAURUS:

We all are born with a Destiny that plays out in the most unexpected ways, bringing people and circumstances into our lives. But you are not limited by this Destiny, Taurus. There's a lot of room for improvisation available to you within this pre-written play, which is something you're being asked to awaken to today. How will you exercise your free will over the next few days? Tip: Exercise the power of free will. You are being given the opportunity to redirect the course of your life.

GEMINI:

Learning to manage your expectations is a big theme for you today. Not everybody is going to live by your rules, and that's okay. Understanding that everybody has their own path will prove to be a game-changer for you, Gemini. Remember, we are under the influence of 'Amavasya' or the dark moon. It's but natural for things to get volatile around here. Word for the wise: lay low for as long as you can.

Tip: Things could get volatile around here.

CANCER:

You're in the mood to conquer the world and no force can come in your way, Cancer. A heady combination of focus and discipline

will help you hit the bull's eye. What you need to keep in mind, though, is that no man is an island. Consciously make your way back to that space of humility every time your ego takes you down the road of self-destruction. This will help you become one with the team, who will in turn provide you with the support you need to transcend.

Tip: A heady combination of focus and discipline will prove to be the secret to your success.

LEO:

It's true that we're all born with a certain Destiny—a map of our lives that's charted in the stars. But, don't let this Destiny limit you in any way, Leo. The Universe is reminding you that you have the space to negotiate and co-author this manuscript. In the words of Victor E Frankl, "Between stimulus and response, there is a space. And in that space is our power to choose our response. In our response lies our growth and freedom." PS: We hope that you will make your story a bestseller.

Tip: You have the power to co-author the script of your life.

VIRGO:

Wednesday sees you prepping for the new moon in your sign by being the most radiant version of yourself. This is going to be your personal renaissance—a truth you're aware of on a very deep level. Both spiritual and creative endeavours are blessed under the influence of this cosmic climate. So, follow your heart and trust that you are being led in the right direction. Some of you may be drawn towards the path of selfless service as well. What the cards want you to know:

Tip: Follow your heart and trust that you are being led in the right direction.

LIBRA:

Not everything is coming up roses, Libra, but it's the dance of shadow and light that makes the human experience rewarding. Some of you may find that your partner (or loved one) is experiencing turbulence. There's a fine line between holding space for them and getting caught up in their drama. Understanding this will help you be present to those around you in a more conscious manner. On the upside, partnerships of all kinds are blessed under this cosmic climate.

Tip: You're learning to hold space for others without getting caught up in their drama.

SCORPIO:

The dark moon brings with itself the reminder that change must not be feared, Scorpio. Consider this as an opportune time to delve into your shadows and have a chat with your demons. It's true that they provided you with a false sense of security in the past, but this security is not something you need right now. So, cut the cords. Rip the bandage. Break past a limiting pattern. Exercise faith in your own power and potential. You are getting ready to turn your life around for the better.

Tip: Work with the winds of change.

SAGITTARIUS:

This could be a time of upheaval, especially on the financial front. It's easy to blame your circumstances for the things that are not working out. Challenge yourself to stay in your centre and observe your circumstances from a higher perspective. This will help you gather your resources and take action in the right direction. For some of you, the sudden changes could lead to an ego death. Consider this as an opportunity to look beyond the illusion you have created for yourself and redirect the sails.

Tip: Observe your circumstances from a higher perspective.

CAPRICORN:

Today, you're being asked to reflect upon Maya Angelou's immortal words: "I have learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." Use the power of words with discretion, Capricorn. Why leave scars when you can leave stars behind? On the upside, you will find the perfect opportunity for conflict resolution. Act conscientiously and remember to leave your ego aside.

Tip: You will be given an opportunity to resolve the situation.

AQUARIUS:

It's a 'beauty on a budget' kind of day in the Aquarius HQ, and you're in the mood to experiment with age-old ingredients like aloe, turmeric and tulsi. Do we see an apothecary in the making here? As such, you are experiencing a major renaissance on the health and wellness front, which is bringing with it the awareness that food is medicine. Instead of planning your diet around 'losing weight', consider adding the right nutrients to your plate.

Tip: You're experiencing a major renaissance on the health and wellness front.

PISCES:

Joy and celebration promise to be a constant in the Pisces HQ. This is a time of connecting with both your partner and your soul tribe on a whole new level. If you haven't had the chance to introduce your SO to the circle, now is the time! Lay your worries to rest. Everybody will get along just fine. Connecting with your spiritual community could also be a significant theme for some of you. Consider hosting/joining a new moon circle centred around the idea of establishing a deeper connection with yourself and the divine.

Tip: Joy and celebration promise to be a constant.