



'ALL MY LOVE, ELLIOT': ACTOR PAGE COMES OUT AS TRANSGENDER
pg 08

ON ZOOM, MEN DON'T LIKE FEELING WATCHED AND JUDGED — BUT WOMEN ARE USED TO IT
pg 04

18 INDICTED, INCLUDING RAPPER, IN GANG-RELATED ACTIVITY
pg 08



SummitTIMES

Vol 05 | Issue 314 | Gangtok | Thursday | 03 December 2020

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5

Sikkim reports one more fatality and 40 new cases of COVID-19

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 02 DEC:

More COVID-19 related in the passing away of a 76-year-old male from above Manbir Colony here on Wednesday taking the COVID-19 death toll to 111.

The patient is reported to have passed away at 6:05 AM Wednesday morning due to severe COVID -pneumonitis at Sikkim's COVID-dedicated hospital - STNM Hospital.

In the daily health bulletin on Wednesday, Health Department State IEC Officer, Sonam Gyaltzen Bhutia, informed that the patient was admitted to STNM Hospital at around 1:25 AM Wednesday with symptoms of pneumonia.

He passed away a few hours later. The patient was a patient of hypertension as well.

The death is being recorded as COVID-death with co-morbidities, the Department informs.

In the meantime, Sikkim reported 40 fresh cases of novel coronavirus in the last 24 hours taking the state's tally of the confirmed cases of COVID-19 to 5,072 on Wednesday.

On the other hand, the number of discharged COVID-19 patients improved to 4,572 with the release of 33 more patients from the facility and home isolation. The number of active cases now stands at 300 in Sikkim, of whom three are currently in the ICU facility at STNM Hospital.

The 40 new cases were detected from the testing of 338 samples on Monday, of which 28 were reported from East District, two from West District, seven from South District and three from North District.

Sikkim has so far carried out 63,014,7 tests.

While providing the details of the new cases, Mr Bhutia informed that among these is a person from Kurseong, West Bengal, who was brought directly to Central Referral Hospital for treatment where he tested positive for COVID and was then shifted to STNM Hospital.

Tadong in Gangtok continues to report cases in double-digits and 11 new cases were reported

from there today, of whom five persons are from 5th Mile, another five from 6th Mile and one from Tadong Bazaar.

The new cases reported elsewhere in the capital include a person from Sichey, one from Upper Sichey, one from Burtuk near Helipad, one from Lower Arithang near Bye-pass road, one from near STNM hospital Socheygang and one from Shyari.

Meanwhile, a person from Pakyong, one from Rumtek and one from Kumrek in East District have also tested positive for COVID-19.

In North Sikkim, one person from Upper Dzongu, one from Chungthang and three from Pentok-Mangan

tested positive.

Likewise, five persons from Namchi, one from Kamrang and one from Jorethang in South District and one person from Legship and one from Gyalshing in West District were also found positive for COVID-19.

Mr Bhutia informed that a 45-year-old female from Manbir Colony, a 54-year-old female and one 61-year-old male from Namnang, a 35-year-old female from District Court area [Gangtok] and one 51-year-old female from Decheling Road in Chandmari have also tested positive but could not be contacted over phone by the authorities. He has urged them to immediately contact the concerned authorities.

CM releases Sikkim Akademi book on State's departed journalists and litterateurs



GANGTOK, 02 DEC [IPR]: Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang presided over a book launch event as the Chief Guest at Samman Bhawan, Mintokgang today.

Organized by Sikkim Akademi, the event saw the Chief Minister launching two books, "Sikkim ma Janmiyeka tatha Sikkim lai karmashetra banayera baseka divangat Sahityakar ra Patrakhar haru" by Sikkim Akademi and "Sambhavna ko Pratibimbh" by Amar Baniya 'Lohoro'.

Joining the Chief Minister on the stage were Padmashree GS "Sanu" Lama, Guruji Rohit Raj Maharaj, Press Advisor to the Chief Minister C.P

Sharma, Advisor Culture Department Bhim Kumari Sharma, Chairman of Sikkim Culture, Heritage and CH Board Sonam Sherpa. Luminaries of the literary and art fraternity of the state, officials from various associated departments, members of concerned associations were also present at the Book launch event.

The Chief Minister of Sikkim, P.S Tamang, while addressing the event congratulated Sikkim Akademi and poet Amar Baniya for successfully launching their books. He stated that today marks the launch of two significant

turn to pg 02

WHO fine-tunes advice on COVID masks for public, health workers

STEPHANIE NEBEHAY
GENEVA, 02 DEC (REUTERS):

The World Health Organization on Wednesday tightened guidelines on wearing face masks, recommending that, where COVID-19 is spreading, they be worn by everyone in health care facilities and for all interactions in poorly-ventilated indoor spaces.

In June, the WHO urged governments to ask everyone to wear fabric masks in indoor and outdoor public areas where there was a risk of transmission of the virus.

Since then, a second global wave of the epidemic has gathered pace. In all, more than 63 million people globally have caught COVID-19 and 1.475 million died of it, according to a Reuters tally.

In more detailed advice published on Wednesday, the WHO said that, where the epidemic was spreading, people - including children and students aged 12 or over - should always wear masks in shops, workplaces and schools that lack adequate ventilation, and when receiving visitors at home in poorly ventilated rooms.

Masks should also be worn outdoors and in well ventilated indoor spaces where physical distancing of at least one meter (3 ft) could not be maintained.

In all scenarios, masks - which protect against transmission of the virus rather than infection - needed to be accompanied by other precautions such as hand-washing, the WHO said.

In areas of COVID-19 spread, it also advised "universal" wearing of medical masks in health care facilities, including when caring for other patients.

turn to pg 02

Armed Forces Flag Day fund raising online this year

SAGAR CHHETRI
GANGTOK, 02 DEC:

Secretary, Rajya Sainik Board, Col DN Bhutia, has appealed to people to contribute generously towards Armed Forces Flag Day fund. The fund has traditionally been used for various welfare activities of serving soldiers and ex-servicemen and their families.

He said that the contribution will make all the difference in ensuring better welfare measures for our war widows, disabled soldiers, serving and retired soldiers and their families. Due to COVID-19 all contributions will have to be made through net banking, debit card, credit card, UPI and other digital modes rather than donating cash through donation boxes.

Addressing a press conference here today, the Secretary mentioned that Armed Forces Flag Day is observed on 07 December every year to



pay homage to martyrs who laid down their lives while protecting the borders to ensure safety and security of the citizens of the country. He said that the contribution is a mark of respect and solidarity to serving and retired soldiers and their families.

"Due to the COVID pandemic we will not be able to commemorate the day the way we used to do. The distribution of donation boxes to various institutions is thus not feasible and hence we request all citizens to contribute through net banking, debit card, credit card and UPI. This is much easier for everyone rather than donating

cash through donation boxes," said Col Bhutia.

He appealed to all citizens of Sikkim and the country to visit the website, www.deswsikkim.nic.in and contribute generously towards the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund. One has to click on the QR code scanner or pay online through various payment gateways.

He informed that a team of Rajya Sainik Board will call on the Chief Minister PS Tamang on 07 December, who will start the contribution of Armed Forces Flag Day. He added that a team from Ex-Servicemen Association of Sikkim will also felicitate the CM on the occasion.

turn to pg 02

Farmers sit-in at Noida-Delhi border, key route to Delhi closed for vehicles

NOIDA (UP), DEC 2 (PTI): Farmers protesting against the new farm laws continued their sit-in at the Noida-Delhi border for the second day on Wednesday, leading to closure of a key route that connects Uttar Pradesh with the national capital.

The Noida Traffic Police has advised commuters travelling to Delhi to avoid using the Chilla route and instead take the DND or Kalindi Kunj route.

The farmers at the Delhi-Noida border belong to various districts of western Uttar Pradesh and want to reach the national capital to join the bigger stir launched by

turn to pg 02

Minister directs Sikkim Milk to take over SDPPL



GYALSHING, 02 DEC [IPR]: Minister for Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Lok Nath Sharma, chaired a meeting to revive and strengthen Sikkim Dairy Production Private Limited (SDPPL), Dentam, at the office of the Directorate of Fisheries at Kyongsa here today.

During the meeting, Minister Sharma shared the vision of the Chief Minister for strengthening of SDPPL to benefit farmers and milk producers.

After discussing the current status of SDPPL at length, Minister Sharma advised that existing issues be resolved amicably and directed Sikkim Milk Union to take over

SDPPL for onward action.

It may be noted that the initiative will certainly preserve and maintain existing assets of SDPPL and farmers will also be benefited with enhanced milk price, he added.

The participants also came up with their inputs and suggestions to arrive at a concrete conclusion.

The meeting was also attended by the Vice Chairman, Sikkim Milk Union, MJ Rai, Managing Director, Sikkim Milk Union, Dr AB Karki, Director Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Dr BM Chhetri, Additional Director AH&VS (W), Dr NM Cintury, Registrar, Cooperation Deptt, Jabi Thapa, representatives from SDPPL and others.

COVID-19 caseload in India climbs to 94.99 lakh

NEW DELHI, DEC 2 (PTI): India's COVID-19 caseload rose to 94.99 lakh, while the total number of people who have recuperated from the disease crossed 89 lakh pushing the national recovery rate to over 94 per cent, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Wednesday.

The total coronavirus cases mounted to 94,99,413, with 36,604 new infections being reported in a day, while the death toll climbed to 1,38,122 with 501 new fatalities, the data updated at 8 am showed.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 89,32,647 pushing the national recovery rate to 94.03 per cent, while the COVID-19 case fatality rate stands at 1.45 per cent.

The active COVID-19 caseload remained below 5 lakh for the 22nd consecutive day. There are 4,28,644 active coronavirus infections in the country which comprises 4.51 per cent of the total caseload, the data stated.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23 and 40 lakh on September 5. It went past 50 lakh on September 16, 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, and surpassed 90 lakh on November 20.

According to the ICMR, 14,24,45,949 samples have been tested up to December 1 with 10,96,651 samples being tested on Tuesday.

Governor inaugurates Molecular Lab at SMIMS



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 02 DEC:

Sikkim's second COVID testing lab was inaugurated by Governor, Ganga Prasad, on Wednesday. The Governor who is also Chancellor, Sikkim Manipal University

virtually inaugurated the Molecular Laboratory at Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences (SMIMS), under Sikkim Manipal University (SMU) at 5th Mile, Tadong, on Wednesday.

The inauguration was attend-

ed by Chief Minister, PS Tamang as the chief guest and Minister of Health, Dr MK Sharma, as the guest of honour.

The Molecular Laboratory at SMIMS in the Department of Microbiology meets the criteria of Biosafety level II laboratory confirming to ISO 15189:2012 standards. The Molecular laboratory has the facility for molecular diagnosis by RT-PCR open system and CBNAAT. This Molecular Laboratory will contribute to the anti-efforts of the State & the region.

The Molecular Laboratory has been accredited by National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) for molecular testing for RNA viruses. The Indian Council of Medical

turn to pg 02

RISHIRAJ COLLEGE OF DENTAL SCIENCES AND RESEARCH CENTRE, BHOPAL

RECOGNIZED BY DCI

For Online Admission visit
www.LNCTRISHIRAJ.ac.in

COURSE OFFERED

BDS Fee **2.20 Lakh**

BACHELOR OF DENTAL SURGERY

Eligibility: NEET - 2020 Qualified **ADMISSION OPEN**

SALIENT FEATURES

- Part of India's leading educational group: LNCT.
- One of the top-rated dental college in India, professionals over a decade.
- Highly experience faculties.
- Offers hostel and transport facilities.
- Attached with 1100 bedded J K Super Speciality Hospital for internship training.

7440777333, 8269304518

Near International Airport, Gandhi Nagar, Bhopal (M.P.)

Citizens Foundation organizes AIDS awareness camp



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 02 DEC:

Citizens Foundation organized an AIDS awareness camp cum special health camp at Amba Gram Panchayat of Pakyong sub-division, East Sikkim under HDFC Bank Parivartan on the occasion of World AIDS Day on 01 Dec.

As per a press release, the main focus of the event was to spread awareness on HIV AIDS among the villagers. The event was organized in collaboration with NRHM.

Medical Officer, Nursing Staff, Mental Health Counsellor from Machong PHC and Project Manager, Sangita Dahal attended the event along with project staff of Citizens Foundation.

About 40 villagers were present in the camp which saw the Medical Officer and other health staff shedding light on HIV AIDS.

Health check-up, mental-health counselling and Covid-19 responsive activities were also held during the camp.

CCTVs, Audio Recording At All Interrogation Rooms, Lock-Ups: Supreme Court

NEW DELHI, 02 DEC

[NDTV]: All police stations in the country and investigation agencies including the CBI, National Investigation Agency and Enforcement Directorate, must install CCTV cameras with night vision and audio recording, the Supreme Court said today in a landmark order meant to prevent excesses in custody. States have to install cameras with audio at all police stations.

Security cameras should cover interrogation rooms, lock-ups, entries and exits, said the Supreme Court.

"Most of these agencies carry out interrogation in their office(s), so CCTVs

shall be compulsorily installed in all offices where such interrogation and holding of accused takes place in the same manner as it would in a police station," the judges said.

"These cameras must be installed at entry and exit points of the police station, lock ups, corridors, lobbies, reception area, rooms of the sub-Inspector and Inspector, reception and outside washrooms."

CCTV cameras with recording facilities are also to be installed at the offices of the Narcotics Control Bureau, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and the Serious Fraud Investigation Office.

Farmers sit-in...

farmers of Punjab and Haryana against the Centre's agriculture reform laws.

"The Chilla route is obstructed due to the farmers' sit-in demonstration at the Noida-Delhi border. Kindly use alternative routes (DND or Kalindi Kunj) to reach your destination," the Noida Traffic Police tweeted.

Hundreds of farmers affiliated to the Bharatiya Kisan Union and other groups had gathered at the border Tuesday evening where heavy security has been deployed on both Noida and Delhi sides which has prevented them from proceeding further.

WHO fine-tunes...

The advice applied to visitors, outpatients and to common areas such as cafeterias and staff rooms.

Health care workers could wear N95 respirator masks if available when caring for COVID-19 patients, but their only proven protection is when they are doing aerosol-generating procedures which carry higher risks, the WHO said.

It recommended that people doing vigorous physical activity not wear masks, citing some associated risks, particularly for people with asthma.

Adequate ventilation, physical distancing and disinfection of "high-touch surfaces" in the gym must be maintained, or their temporarily closure should be considered, it added.

Governor inaugurates...

Research (ICMR) on 25 Nov, 2020 accorded permission to the Molecular Laboratory to initiate COVID-19 testing using RT-PCR for COVID-19 testing. The Molecular Laboratory is also competent for HIV and HCV testing, besides SARS-CoV-2.

The Governor, in his address congratulated SMIMS, SMU for this achievement. "I am happy that the Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences took up the responsibility of setting up a molecular laboratory to meet the current demands for robust testing facilities," he said.

Chief Minister, Prem Singh Tamang in his address, called the Molecular Laboratory as the "need of the hour". He stated that augmented testing will enable the state government to obtain a realistic perspective of the disease in the community. He acknowledged

the efforts of SMU, SMIMS, and CRH to establish the Laboratory for testing of RTPCR and CBNAT samples during this Covid-19 pandemic.

The CM said that government and private sector should work together towards improving health care in the state and added that the establishment of the Molecular Lab at SMIMS is another shining example of the excellent harmony of the unique public private partnership between the Sikkim Government with SMU and all its constituent units.

Health Minister, Dr MK Sharma in his address highlighted the various initiatives taken by the State government in the health sector. Dr Sharma said that the State Government rose to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the efforts to provide qual-

Voluntary Blood Donation Camp held at Tashiding

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 02 DEC:

As part of activities held to mark World AIDS Day, a Voluntary Blood Donation Camp was held at Yatri Niwas, Tashiding, West Sikkim, today.

A press release informs that the program was organized by Help Others Organization and Tashiding GPU in collaboration with Voluntary Blood Donors Association of Sikkim with support from District Blood Bank Namchi.

During the Voluntary Blood Donation Camp, 82 units of blood were collected. After the blood donation camp there was a thanks giving programme which was attended by Chairman, Ecclesiastical Department, RS Bhutia, as chief guest along with SDM Yuksom, Tshering T Bhutia, other dignitaries,



donors and locals.

Dr Baroon Subba from Health Department, highlighted the importance of blood donation, its advantages and also talked about scarcity of blood during the ongoing pandemic.

Chief guest, Chairman Ecclesiastical Department, R.S Bhutia thanked the teams of District Blood Bank Namchi and VBDAS for conducting the programme. During

his address, he said that he has donated blood twice in his life.

SDM Yuksom Sub Division, Tshering T Bhutia also addressed the gathering during the programme. Donors from RRC Eklayva EMRS Gangyap, Kumba Club Pewthang, Rising Soul Tashiding, Gerethang Sr Sec School, Kongri Youth Association, Mayal Club Hingdam, NHPC Pha-hooring Club Nessa, Jyoti

Youth Club and Help Others members donated blood during the event. The programme was also supported by SBS Tashiding branch.

During the last session, on behalf of VBDAS, State president, Kishore Baniya, thanked all the donors and presented certificates of appreciation along with tokens of love to all the associations connected with the program.

Minister inspects Gyalshing Bazaar



GALSHING, 02 DEC

(IPR): The Minister

Minister cum-Area MLA of Gyalshing Bermiok Constituency, Lok Nath Sharma along with the officials of Urban Development and Housing Department, Gyalshing Municipal Council, visited

Gyalshing Bazar, today.

Minister Sharma interacted with various stakeholders of the market and asked about their grievances and complaints. While the Business Community expressed happiness and informed smooth run-

ning of their business without any hurdles and inconvenience.

Minister also discussed with the public and concerned officials regarding various works pertaining to maintenance of drainage system, cobbler house etc.

CONTACT

SUMMIT TIMES REPORTERS

SINGTAM

8170070813

MANGAN/ DIKCHU

9832612485/

9434011213

GANGTOK

9800571148

8116388176

9832424750

8016270440

World AIDS Day observed at Namthang Sr Sec School

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 02 DEC:

World AIDS Day was observed at Namthang Senior Secondary School on 01 Dec, 2020. The program was organized by Red Ribbon Club (RRC) Namthang Senior Secondary School and The Riders of Namthang (TRON) which was supported by Sikkim State AIDS Control Society (SSACS) Gangtok, a press release informs.

The program was attended by Chairperson SPCR Government of Sikkim, Roma Tamang as the chief guest along with Zilla Panchayat, Yadunath Mishra, member of Maneydara Nagi Zilla Territory Constituency as special guest who was also accompanied by Panchayat President Namthang Maneydara GPU, Birendra Pradhan.

The program started after the welcome speech by Principal of Namthang



Senior Secondary School, DL Zimba which was followed by brief introductory speech given by Nodal Officer, RRC Namthang Senior Secondary School, Sudeep Sharma.

President of TRON, Sagar Tamang highlighted the activities and objectives done by TRON. Medical Officer Namthang PHC, Dr Mingyur D Lassopa talked about HIV and AIDS as a resource person while another resource person, program coordinator RRC South West, Kishore

Baniya talked about the responsibility of the individual to stop the spread of HIV and AIDS.

There was an inter school quiz competition which was participated by Bikmat Senior Secondary School, Namthang Senior Secondary School and Phong Secondary School.

Namthang Senior Secondary School won the quiz competition while Bikmat Senior Secondary School stood second, Kabrey Secondary School

and Phong Secondary School stood third and fourth respectively.

While speaking as chief guest of the day, Chairperson SPCR, Roma Tamang congratulated the organizers and thanked them for the awareness programme. She assured support for such programs in the future as well.

The program was conducted by NSS Programme Officer, Namthang Senior Secondary School, Gopal Dhungel.

CM releases Sikkim...

books which will further add value and merit to the literary wealth of the State of Sikkim. He expressed his gratification for being a part of a momentous occasion and sharing the day with notable and inspirational members of the literary and artistic community of the state.

The Chief Minister went on to speak about the COVID pandemic and how it has hampered the rate of progress and growth for the entire world. He expressed positivity that this uncertain time would end soon and all be victorious in the fight against the virus. The Chief Minister also called on the people to not let their guards down as we inch closer to the reality of having a COVID-19 vaccine and requested everyone to follow COVID protocol diligently like the way it has been done for the past 9 months.

The Chief Minister gave voice to the fact that Sikkim is a state with a unique and diverse history and heritage that needs to be preserved and sustained for future generations. He expressed concern that the younger generation is drifting away from the core traditions of the state and hence it should be upon every Sikkimese to make the younger generation aware and appreciative of the richness and unity of our legacy.

The Chief Minister reiterated the commitment of the State Government towards fulfilling all the aspirations of the literary sector of the state and verbalized his repeated support towards fortifying the literary and artistic wealth of the state. He put forth his assurances that their "work of art" will be preserved by the state government so that it lives on as a heritage for the whole of the state.

He called for further strengthening of the peace, harmony and mutual respect that exists amongst all communities as it is the true essence of Sikkim and the Sikkimese people, stated the Chief Minister.

The Chief Minister encouraged the literary and artistic community to continue working towards promoting arts, literature & culture in the state and asserted that all efforts would be met with support and encouragement from the state government.

In conclusion, the Chief Minister wished everyone for the coming new year and stated that 2021 would usher a new dawn for all of us and we can restart on our path to progress and prosperity again.

Earlier, the Book Launch ceremony also saw PL Sharma from Sikkim Akademi and poet Amar Baniya Lohoro giving a brief introduction to their respective books - "Sikkim ma Janmiyeka tatha Sikkim lai karma hetra banayera baseka divangat sahtyakar ra Patrakar haru" and "Sambhavna ko Pratibimbh".

Armed Forces Flag...

After the CM makes his contribution, it would be open for citizens and will continue for next two months, he informed.

"Your contributions will be highly appreciated and I assure you that every penny will be utilized for the welfare and benefit of war veterans, battle casualties, widows and orphaned children in the areas of education, health, house upgradation and capacity building so that they can stand on their feet confidently and reassuringly," Col Bhutia said.

He mentioned that the Armed Forces Flag Day fund is not like other funds as soldiers do not need money since the Centre has been paying them well but it is an occasion for people to realize their responsibility towards soldiers.

While responding to media queries, the Secretary mentioned that the best contribution recorded was around Rs 10 lakhs four years back and last year's collection was Rs 4.72 lakhs.

~ 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 Road-side 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 Baazar (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 land sale at Lower Sichey, suitable for construction, good locality, near the road, Total size: 90x55ft, (30x55ft each plot). genuine person may contact@9734122366.

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.

Jan Andolan Campaign begins in schools

GANGTOK, 02 DEC (IPR): With an aim to take the Jan Andolan Campaign on Covid-19 Appropriate Behaviour to educational institutions in the State, the IPR Department, Government of Sikkim, launched its first school intervention today. Sichey Senior Secondary School was chosen as the first school for the campaign. The team of IPR Department was led by Assistant Director, Research & Documentation Cell, Simon Subba.

The programme had the presence and participation of Principal, Yangchuk Donka, Sichey Senior Secondary School, and faculty members of the school. It was attended by around fifty students from classes 6 to 10.

The Principal in her opening remarks expressed her happiness that Sichey SSS had been chosen for the campaign. She emphasized on the need to sensitize the



students about the appropriate behaviour to be adopted to stay safe from Covid-19. The Principal thanked the team from IPR Department for the intervention and stated that the school would take the key messages from the Campaign and educate the students through innovative methods.

A comprehensive presentation on Jan Andolan: Appropriate Behaviour was made by the officials of the Depart-

ment covering the three key messages of wearing masks, hand hygiene and social distancing. Other aspects covered were the types of masks and their usage, myths and misconceptions about Covid-19, issues about stigma and types of food to improve immunity. A hands-on demonstration was also made to explain how the Covid-19 virus spreads from one person to another.

Later, Covid-19 kits comprising of masks, san-

itizers, gloves, notebook and a pen, was presented by Social Worker, Sushma Gurung of the Sushma Organization to the principal of the school for distribution to the students.

It may be recalled that the Jan Andolan Campaign on Covid-19 Appropriate Behaviour was launched by Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi on the 08 Oct, 2020. The country-wide campaign aims to educate people from

all walks of life to adopt ways to stay safe from the virus. It was launched keeping in mind the festivals and the ensuing winter season. IPR Department, Government of Sikkim, is the nodal department to coordinate and collaborate with all other Departments to effectively implement the campaign in the State. The Department aims to take the Campaign to other schools and even colleges in near future.

Bengal Minister, 62, becomes first volunteer to take Covaxin in phase-III trial in Kolkata

KOLKATA, 02 DEC (PTI): West Bengal Urban development minister Firhad Hakim became the first volunteer to take a shot of the COVID-19 vaccine, Covaxin, in the Phase III trial in Kolkata on Wednesday.

The Phase-III regulatory trial of Covaxin started at the city-based ICMR-National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases (NICED).

"I feel I am quite lucky to be part of the trial. I am absolutely okay after taking the shot. I do not care even if I die while undertaking this trial," the 62-year-old minister

told reporters. Mr Hakim said that he will be very happy if his contribution helps in the research for the vaccine.

Mr Hakim went through necessary check-ups to find out whether he was having any comorbidity.

Earlier in the day, Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated the Phase III regulatory trial of Covaxin at the institute.

Promoted Listen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com

At least 1,000 volunteers will be administered the Covaxin vaccine in the Phase III trial in Kolkata.

New Zealand symbolically declares climate emergency

WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND (AP): Joining more than 30 countries, New Zealand on Wednesday took the symbolic step of declaring a climate emergency. Lawmakers voted 76-43 in favor of the motion, in a split that followed party lines.

The government also launched a new initiative requiring many public agencies to become carbon neutral by 2025, in part by getting rid of coal boilers and buying electric cars.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said the government usually declares emergencies only for things like natural disasters, but that if it doesn't address climate change, such disasters will continue to happen.

She said the declaration was an acknowledgment of the burden the next generation faces.

"For them, it is instinctual, it is tangible, it is real," Ardern said. "It is about the country they will inherit. And it's about the burden of debt they will inherit unless we make sure that we demonstrate leadership on this issue." The declaration comes without any newly assigned statutory powers or money, making it purely symbolic. But Ardern and other lawmakers promised to back up the declaration with ongoing action.

The declaration states that climate change is

one of the greatest challenges facing humanity and promises a commitment to minimize global warming. It says climate change will have a devastating impact on New Zealand through flooding, wildfires, sea-level rise and water availability.

Ardern said climate change was an important consideration in rebuilding the economy from the downturn caused by the coronavirus, and it was important to "build it back in a sustainable way, with a focus on carbon neutrality."

Opposition climate change spokesperson Stuart Smith said the declaration was hollow and lacked substance.

"Today's performance from the government was a triumph of politics over practical solutions, and of slogans over substance," said another opposing lawmaker, David Seymour.

Ardern has previously announced plans for the nation to plant 1 billion trees, phase out offshore oil and gas exploration, and to make the electricity grid run from 100% renewable energy by 2030.

The government last year passed a bill for the country to become carbon neutral by 2050, although it carved out some exemptions for farmers, who bring in much of the country's foreign income.

SAATHI Life skills training for 6th batch of students



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 02 DEC:

SAATHI, an NGO supported by TITAN Company Ltd, organised Training on Life Skills for its 6th batch of students from 30 Nov to 02 Dec via ZOOM, an online video conferencing platform.

As per a press release, this online training on life skills was organized for the students to help them to develop self-confidence and successfully deal with significant life changes and challenges.

Students from 14 different Government Schools of Sikkim attended the training in which around 140 students participated.

Schools that participated were Zoom Govt Sec School, Kyongsa Govt Sr Sec School, Modern

Govt Sr Sec School, Rhe-nock Govt Sr Sec School, Lower Syari Govt Sec School, KB Limboo Govt Sr Sec School, Sirwani Govt Sec School, Tashiding Govt Sr Sec School, Ahopul Kisan Govt Sec School, Sir Tashi Namgyal Govt Sr Sec School, Sombaria Govt Sr Sec School, Sumbuk Govt Sr Sec School, Tikalal Niroula Govt Sr Sec School (Central Pendam) & Hee Gyathang Govt Sr Sec School.

The training covered session on Coping with emotion and stress by Pragyan Deep Dewan (Counseling Psychologist). Interpersonal skills & Team Management by Roshni Chhetri (Counseling Psychologist), Experience Sharing by Amon Borris Lepcha of Serenity Homes, hobbies and interest was covered by Kalden Gyatso (Writer & Painter) who explained why it is important to have hobbies and how it affects our mental health.

An advocate & co-founder Accelerator & Eastern Himalayan News Service, Pragya Parameta took a session on Awareness and Usage of Social Media and CEO - The Accelerator & Editor in chief - Eastern Himalayan News Service, Bhupendra Gurung took session on Effective Communication Skills & Time Management.

The training camp concluded with thank you note to the students and teachers. Feedback was sent through Google form and e-Certificates have been emailed.

SJA organizes two training programs

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 02 DEC:

Sikkim Judicial Academy [SJA] organized two programmes on 28 Nov through video conferencing facility.

A press release informs that the first programme was a Demonstration training on use of online research platform namely Manupatra for Readers, Law Clerks and Librarians of High Court of Sikkim and District Courts.

The Resource Persons for the said programme were, Satendra Kumar and Saumya Snehal from Manupatra Information Solutions Pvt Ltd. These resource persons explained all the features along with the contents of Manupatra with demonstration.

The second programme was a Sensitization programme on "Minor victims of Sexual Offences, Role of Special Public Prosecutors under the Scheme of The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO Act) and other related issues".

The Resource Person for the said programme was Consultant at Freedom Fund, Michelle Medonca, Mumbai and Advocate on Anti Trafficking

Law and POCSO Act. The participants were Special Public Prosecutors (POCSO Act), Public Prosecutors and Additional Public Prosecutors.

The Resource Person informed that children have a special place in life and law should also consider that. Accordingly, the POCSO Act imbibes this. It was informed that prior to the POCSO Act, many offences against children went unpunished.

The Resource Person discussed case laws of the Supreme Court wherein the offender was acquitted due to want of law. The Supreme Court had asked the Legislature in a leading judgment to address the lacuna.

The Resource Person discussed the challenges faced in implementation of the Act. She discussed the provision on Mandatory Reporting. She mentioned that in the country there is delayed reporting of such offences. Some of the reasons mentioned were social stigma and grooming. She explained that usually the perpetrator of such offence is known to the child and the perpetrator grooms the child in such a way that she may feel that the act being

done upon him or her is not wrong or that he or she is threatened by the perpetrator. There is also the case of secondary victimization that is where the child is made to narrate the entire incident again and again once the matter is reported in the Criminal Justice System.

The Resource Person stated that "Rape is a crime of Power" which is why children get sexually assaulted. She also emphasized that the best interest of the child must be borne in mind and that the criminal Justice system for the children must be based on compassion.

It was informed that the Judge must appreciate the evidence of victim empathetically. The Resource Person discussed all the provisions which provide safeguards for the child. It was informed that anticipatory bail should not be granted in POCSO matters. The factors to be considered during sentencing were also discussed. It was informed that the Act provides for granting of compensation to the victim. The Resource Person discussed all landmark judgments on the subject matter.

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




**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
GANGTOK**


Ref. No: 26/DIR (HE)/EDN Date: 26/11/2020

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

The Education Department, Government of Sikkim invites applications in a prescribed form from local eligible candidates for filling up of post of Assistant Professor Ad-hoc in various subjects in Sikkim Government Colleges. Last date of submission of application is **08.12.2020**. For further details please visit www.sikkimhrdd.org.



Krushna
DEPUTY SECRETARY,
DIRECTORATE OF HIGHER EDUCATION,
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.



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**

Waste Does Not Understand Urban-Rural Boundaries

...so why should the two zones have different garbage management plans?

Readers would have noticed the occasional surfacing of news-reports on awareness sessions being held at the GPU and ward levels around Sikkim in pursuit of zero-waste status.

This is welcome and urgently required.

It was after all not fair that lavish budgets were expended on waste management limited to the urban sprawls at the cost of 75% of the population which resides in rural Sikkim. 4.55 lakh of Sikkim’s population of 6.07 lakh resides in rural areas. This, as per the ‘Provisional Population Totals’ [paper 2, volume 2 of 2011] Rural-Urban Distribution of Population Sikkim [series 12] released by the Directorate of Census Operations, Sikkim. And this is after the urban spread was significantly expanded in Sikkim some years back. The point being made here is that the 75% population which resides in rural Sikkim lives more or less the same lifestyle as families in urban areas, following similar patterns of consumption, and hence generating similar waste. They should thus be provided matching organizational and infrastructural arrangements to manage their waste. The traditional modes of disposal will not deliver for the non-biodegradable and excessive nature of contemporary waste. Most village homes have a pit to dispose their waste. When this waste was organic in nature, the ‘pit’ approach worked well, but kids no longer buy loose balls of ‘Anda’ mithai wrapped in paper anymore and their sweets come in plastic wrappers and guests at social gatherings are no longer served in plates stitched from ‘malatho’ or banana leaves and even drink water from Styrofoam cups (sorry, scratch that since Styrofoam is now thankfully banned in the State, but it is still poor plastic cups) now.

The traditional waste management system, which focused only on household level disposal and had no need for segregation, collection and organized disposal, just won’t do anymore. The rural areas generate the same waste as urban zones, hence it is necessary that they are extended matching systems of collection and disposal. This requirement becomes even more urgent as more areas start hosting tourists and village tourism becomes the new mantra for development here. Look around, most tourist spots even in the outskirts of Sikkim do not have any semblance of waste disposal or collection. Sure, they have their rabbit and panda bins, but those are but fig leaves when it comes to waste management. Look into the backyards, and a study on consumption patterns is laid out strewn along the slopes. Sikkim is now an organic state, inorganic waste encroaching into its fields and jhoras does not sit well with this status. It is no longer even about appearances. Proper waste disposal systems, and the once a week garbage truck runs to ship away waste is not even close to proper, are an urgent requirement in the bastis and at all tourists spots. The sooner the planners start working out sustainable plans and projects to deliver this, the better it will be for Sikkim and its environment.

WRITE US:

Readers are invited to comment on, criticise, run down, even appreciate if they like something in this paper. Letters carrying abusive/ indecorous language and personal attacks, except when against people responsible in this newspaper (who are fair game), will have to be ignored. Letters which carry forward a conversation or initiate a dialogue will command immediate attention and receive prominence. Mail us at: news@summittimes.com



On Zoom, Men Don’t Like Feeling Watched and Judged — But Women Are Used to it

TREENA ORCHARD & SHAUNA BURKE
theconversation.com

In Lewis Carroll’s Victorian classic *Through the Looking-Glass*, Alice steps through a mirror into a world that is a reflection of the one she already exists in. This fictional account of a familiar yet topsy-turvy reality resonates with our lived experiences during the pandemic, where we must navigate work, school and leisure through a screen.

Using our combined observations of hundreds of Zoom meetings and scholarly insights from the fields of anthropology and psychology, we explore these questions to consider the transformative impact of digital platforms on our work environments and identities.

As the legendary Aretha Franklin asks, “who’s zoomin’ who,” and why? And what does this tell us about our pandemic selves?

MEN PREFER CUSTOM BACKGROUNDS

Based on our experiences in the new virtual world, men appear to far outnumber women in their preference for using specialty Zoom backgrounds. Popular choices include dungeons, outer space, landscapes and branded University images, the latter of which is common among men in positions of significant power. They sometimes switch designs during meetings, which can be humorous and reflect individual creativity.

In practical terms, the backgrounds may also be used to disguise cluttered or untidy workspaces. The lack of research on Zoom backgrounds makes determining the reasons behind this behaviour challenging to ascertain, but studies about gender and workspace culture may offer some clues.

The idea of men customizing their backgrounds to assert themselves in new spaces aligns with insights from gaming literature. Journalist Gabri-

el Winslow-Yost argues that gaming can be very grounding among male players given the collective nature of the virtual landscape and the definitive roles each player has.

Unlike video games, Zoom meetings are not usually perceived as leisurely activities or an escape from the “real” world. However, it could be that tech-savvy men are drawn to or comforted in some way by the opportunity to curate their digital environments using unique Zoom backgrounds, or as Winslow-Yost points out with regard to the on-line gaming world: “... they let us spend a little time in a different room.”

DESIGNS BY MEN

Women have been players in the corporate world for decades, but the style and appearance of many work environments remains quite masculine. This is reflected in the predominance of neutral tones like steely grey, along with Modernist décor and room temperatures two to three degrees lower than what women prefer.

During the pandemic, the spatial distinctions between office and home are eroding because many of us now work in the places where we live. This transition may be especially challenging for men, who mostly prefer clear definitions between office and domestic spaces. In light of this, one suggestion is that men may use specialty Zoom backgrounds as a creative way to exact a sense of control over their new work environments that no longer reflect the masculine design they are used to.

ON-SCREEN APPEARANCES

We are also regularly observing and being observed by people on the other side of our looking-glass screens, which can increase our focus on the appearance of others and generate discomfort about how we look. There’s a reason cosmetic surgery for facial procedures has skyrocketed since

the uptick in Zoom use or “Zoom boom.”

Women are regularly objectified and sexualized for male pleasure or gain, which researchers refer to as the male gaze. This could help explain why women are less likely than men to turn their videos on during Zoom calls. Their decisions to do so stem from appearance-related concerns and, for some, a desire to multi-task, says Portland-based psychologist and tech expert Doreen Dodgen-Magee.

When using Zoom, many of our male colleagues report feeling uncomfortable with being continuously observed. Given this, it is conceivable that some men employ custom backgrounds as protective camouflage to reduce their vulnerability in a glaringly objectified space.

Being visually assessed in such overt ways is not something most men are familiar with, especially in their professional lives. This is demonstrated in a recent study that found that although female workers often perceive themselves to be observed in certain working environments males do not.

SCREEN REFLECTIONS

Like Alice’s looking-glass, Zoom is transforming how we observe one another and construct or reconstruct our identities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The insights shared here suggest some of the ways that gender shapes the uptake of this platform among women and men.

Further research would be fascinating to conduct, particularly alongside our male and gender variant colleagues who can shed additional light on how creativity and resilience are used to fashion and secure Zoom-hood in our digital world.

[Treena Orchard is Associate Professor, School of Health Studies, Western University; Shauna Burke is Associate professor, School of Health Studies, Western University]

What’s behind China’s bullying of Australia? It sees a soft target — and an essential one

CHONGYI FENG
theconversation.com

As the diplomatic fallout continues over the digitally altered war crimes tweet sent by China’s Foreign Ministry spokesman, Zhao Lijian, earlier this week, it’s important to note this inflammatory and offensive post is not an isolated case.

Zhao and other Chinese officials and diplomats have made many outrageous attacks on Australia and the US in recent years. Zhao himself was probably best known before this week’s tweet for his official promotion of a conspiracy theory that the US military was responsible for bringing the coronavirus to China.

Hu Xijin, the editor in chief of the *Global Times*, an official newspaper of the Chinese Communist Party, is another vocal critic of Australia.

Four years ago, the newspaper published a scathing editorial directed at Australia after Canberra said China must abide by an international tribunal ruling on the South China Sea. It called Australia a “paper cat” with an “inglorious” history, and said, “If Australia steps into the South China Sea waters, it will be an ideal target for China to warn and strike.”

WHY NATIONALISM IS SUCH A POWERFUL FORCE IN CHINA

These unrestrained attacks and repeated humiliations of Australia look bizarre, but they are engineered to suit a couple of specific purposes for the totalitarian regime in China: one domestic, the other global.

Domestically, this more aggressive posturing toward the world, known as “wolf warrior diplomacy”, is a key function of President Xi Jinping’s dictatorship, which is based almost exclusively on Chinese nation-

alism cultivated by the Communist Party.

Just like former leader Mao Zedong, Xi has consolidated his power, in part, due to the cult of personality that has developed around his rule. Xi’s image is everywhere in China and he’s even promoted his own ideology called “Xi Jinping Thought” in a similar vein to “Mao Zedong Thought” (and his famous Little Red Book).

Mao’s power was built on the twin ideologies of communism and Chinese nationalism. Today, however, communism is a waning force in China.

And though Xi and his followers still use the ideals of Marxism and “Xi Jinping Thought” for political purposes — such as purging rivals and dissidents — they rely heavily on Chinese nationalism to maintain the legitimacy of their rule in the eyes of the public.

Nationalism is a powerful force in today’s China. It’s seen in everything from Xi’s persistent calls for the “great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation” to Beijing’s increasingly strident anti-American and anti-foreign sentiments.

Xi rose to the top with a mediocre career, but has been dressed up magically as a strongman with great talent and unyielding will — an image that has become indispensable for the stability and cohesion of the regime.

In order to develop Xi’s strongman image and impose submission on the entire nation, the Communist Party propaganda machine has even resumed the titles used by Mao and other great dictators, such as “helmsman” and “people’s leader”. Loyalty to the country, the party and the leader has been made identical once again.

Still, there is rising resentment

among some Chinese to Xi’s rule and the country faces enormous political, economic and social challenges. As such, Xi lives with a profound sense of insecurity. And his arbitrary rule and desire for absolute control make everyone else feel insecure.

It’s against this backdrop that “wolf warrior diplomacy” has taken rise. Those who are seen as being tough against any real or potential enemies designated by the great leader are rewarded for their loyalty.

This is why Zhao Lijian isn’t punished for his inflammatory rhetoric against Australia, the US and other adversaries; rather, he’s become a star because of it.

BEIJING SEES AN ESSENTIAL AND SOFT TARGET

And on the global stage, China has long promoted its economic and political system as a legitimate alternative to the US-led, rules-based international order.

As such, it has increasingly expanded its influence diplomatically and militarily in recent years and set up the Belt and Road Initiative to create a new global economic and infrastructure network with China at the centre.

As part of this grand strategy, China has taken aim at countries like Australia that dare to challenge it to force their submission.

Australia is perceived by the Communist Party as both an essential target for its close alliance with the US and a soft target for its economic dependence on China. In short, Beijing can attack Canberra without facing many repercussions — and set an example for the rest of the world.

The “wolf warriors” in the party have made frequent references to Australia being nothing but a pawn

or lapdog of the US — an obvious attempt to drive a wedge between the two countries.

With nearly half of all Australian goods exports now going to China, Beijing has also tried to use this economic reliance to its advantage to force Canberra to modify its tone and behaviour.

Showing the determination of the Communist Party regime to rein Australia in, the Chinese embassy in Canberra last month handed over a dossier of “14 grievances” to several Australian news outlets and demanded the Morrison government reverse Australia’s position on key policies.

These included criticising human rights abuses in Hong Kong and Xinjiang, calling for an independent investigation into the origins of COVID-19 and banning Huawei from the country’s 5G network.

The Communist Party state will not recognise how its quest for regional domination and expansionist policies threaten its neighbours, nor will it understand how its oppressive policies against its own citizens are a cause of legitimate concern for the world.

It will also not accept the reality of a strong Australia fighting back against Chinese bullying and interference to safeguard its sovereignty, core values and institutional integrity.

Beijing is flexing its muscles to ensure the submission of Australia and break up an Australia-US alliance based on national interests and shared values. But this is a gross miscalculation that will likely bring about the opposite result.

[the writer is Associate Professor in China Studies, University of Technology Sydney]

Odisha caps price of Covid RT-PCR test by private labs at ₹ 400

BHUBANESWAR, 02 DEC:

The Odisha government on Wednesday further reduced the maximum price for the RT-PCR COVID-19 tests by private laboratories to ₹ 400 from ₹ 1,200.

Earlier in August, the price of RT-PCR test was slashed to ₹ 1,200 from ₹ 2,200 in Odisha.

The Odisha government's decision comes a day after the Delhi government ordered to reduce the rate of RT-PCR tests in Delhi to ₹ 800 from the existing ₹ 2,400.

As per the notification issued by the Odisha government's Health and Family Welfare Department: "In supersession of this department notification dated November 25, 2020. Government after careful consideration have been pleased to



refix the maximum price of RT-PCR Test by Private Laboratories at ₹ 400 (inclusive of GST) within the state of Odisha."

"The tests will be conducted by private

laboratories under the supervision of Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC), Bhubaneswar following the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)

guidelines regarding the testing protocols for RT-PCR COVID-19 tests," it added. PromotedListen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com Odisha's COVID-19

tally mounted to 3,19,583 on Wednesday as 480 more people tested positive for the disease, a health department official said. The active count in Odisha stood at 5,046.

Arunachal logs 14 new COVID-19 cases, 45 more recoveries

ITANAGAR, DEC 2 (PTI): At least 14 more people including five Army personnel, tested positive for COVID-19 in Arunachal Pradesh, pushing the tally to 16,296, a senior official said on Wednesday.

Single-day recoveries continued to outnumber fresh cases as 45 more people recuperated from the disease, taking the total number of recoveries so far to 15,456, State Surveillance Officer (SSO) Dr Lobsang Jampa said.

The recovery rate of COVID-19 patients stands at 94.84 per cent,

the SSO said. Of the 14 fresh cases, six were reported from West Kameng, three from the Capital Complex region, two each from Papumpare and Lepa Rada and one from Tawang.

Thirteen cases were detected through rapid antigen test and one through TrueNat method, Dr Jampa stated.

Barring two, all new patients are asymptomatic and have been shifted to COVID care centres.

Arunachal Pradesh currently has 786 active coronavirus cases, while

54 people have succumbed to the infection so far, Dr Jampa stated.

The positivity rate stands at 5.16 per cent and the fatality rate at 0.33 per cent, he said.

The Capital Complex region, comprising Itanagar, Naharlagun, Nirjuli and Banderdewa areas, has the highest number of active cases at 572, followed by West Kameng at 58 and Lepa Rada at 25.

As many as 3,60,088 samples have been examined in the north-eastern state, including 965 on Tuesday.

Trinamool angry after Oxford Union postpones Mamata's event: report

KOLKATA, 02 DEC [PTI]: The Oxford Union Debating Society, citing unforeseen "circumstances", sought to postpone a scheduled virtual address by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at the last moment today, drawing criticism from the ruling Trinamool Congress, which claimed "political pressure from the highest level" in the matter.

Ms Banerjee was set to become the first Indian woman chief minister to address the "The Oxford Union Debate" around 2:30 PM, but the organisers around 1:50 PM requested that the programme be rescheduled, stating that "nothing prevails over circumstances sometimes."

The state home department on Twitter said: "Today afternoon, the organisers have suddenly sought postponement and rescheduling of the programme at the last moment!"

"The request has been made telephonically from the organisers' end, citing some unforeseen problems, a brief while ago. The programme with Oxford Union today stands cancelled."

The TMC leadership claimed that "political pressure" might have forced the organisers to take such a call.

"This is unprecedented... A programme planned months ahead was cancelled a few minutes before the event



was scheduled to start. This is not the first time that such a thing has happened. Earlier, too, her programmes at international fora and foreign visits have been cancelled at the eleventh hour. All sorts of pressure were applied from the highest level to stop Mamata Banerjee's address. We condemn such politics," a senior TMC parliamentarian told news agency PTI.

In 2018, Ms Banerjee's programme at Chicago to mark Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary, scheduled visit to China and her address at St Stephen's college in New Delhi were cancelled, one after another.

Offering its "sincerest apologies", the Oxford Union Debating Society said in an e-mail to the government: "Our audience sent a great many questions, and we were all working hard to pull a number of elements together. However, nothing prevails over circumstances sometimes; it seems."

"I sincerely hope that the Hon'ble Chief Minister will understand and might honour us with her esteemed presence at the earliest possible convenience to you. With your permission, I will pass your details onto my successor, to whom I hand over this Friday," the mail said.

According to state secretariat sources, Ms Banerjee was expected to talk about the welfare schemes launched by her government, such as

"Kanyashree", "Rupasree", "Krishak Bandhu" and "Duare Bangla" during the address. She had received the invitation in July, the sources said.

Founded in 1823, the Oxford Union has featured several world leaders and luminaries as speakers, including US presidents Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan, British prime ministers Winston Churchill and Margaret Thatcher, physicist Albert Einstein and spiritual leader the Dalai Lama.

Morning after patch-up with TMC, former Minister upset again

KOLKATA, 02 DEC [PTI]: Bengal's ruling Triamool Congress's patch-up with its rebelling senior leader Suvendu Adhikari -- who recently stepped down from the state minister's post -- has developed a hitch again. This morning, the 49-year-old texted party leader Sougata Roy, who led yesterday's negotiations, expressing his dismay that the details of the meeting were leaked.

"I communicated to you truthfully whatever happened at a meeting last evening and what was decided in the presence of five people," Saugata Roy, an MP of the party, said this afternoon. "If there is any change of mind on part of Suvendu, it is for him to decide and communicate to you," he added.

Mr Adhikari, who left for his home at Kanthi in East Midnapore district last night, did not respond to phone calls or texts. An aide said his press meet on Sunday will be held as sched-

uled, though the time and venue for it is still not known.

An upset Mr Adhikari can develop into a headache for the ruling party, especially in view of next year's assembly election, where it is facing a stiff challenge from the BJP.

The MLA from Nandigram, whose father and a brother are also party MPs, is said to have some influence over 30 to 50 of the state's 294 assembly seats.

Even if he doesn't change camp, his exit from the party can lead to low morale among local leaders of Malda, Murshidabad, Purulia, Bankura and West Midnapore, where Mr Adhikari was the party in-charge till the post of observers was dissolved in July. Many of these leaders are already upset over the fighting words of Abhishek Banerjee, party MP and the nephew of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

It was the rise of Mr Banerjee in the party hierarchy that had started

the rift between the Chief Minister and her close aides, several of whom have now defected to the BJP and have been responsible for its spectacular show in last year's Lok Sabha elections. The BJP, which held only two seats in Bengal, won 18 of the state's 40 Lok Sabha seats.

On Sunday, Mr Banerjee -- without naming Mr Adhikari, who accused him of taking a short cut to the party's top rungs -- had hit out at him.

"If I had used a parachute or a ladder, I would not have to fight from tough constituency like Diamond Harbour to become MP. I would have stood from south Kolkata, which is my home constituency," Mr Banerjee had said. "My family and I would also have been holding many posts," he had added in a clear attack on Mr Adhikari.

At last evening's meeting in North Kolkata, Mr Banerjee was present along with poll strategist Prashant Kishor.

ATK Mohun Bagan eye another win as they face Odisha FC

MARGAO, DEC 2 (PTI): Fresh from their Kolkata derby win, ATK Mohun Bagan will aim to continue their red-hot form in the Indian Super League when they take on bottom-placed Odisha FC at the Fatorda Stadium here on Thursday.

The two sides have witnessed contrasting fortunes so far this season.

Odisha are winless and find themselves in the bottom half of the table, having accumulated just one point after their opening two games.

For ATKMB, a third-straight win on Thursday could put them on top of the table. They had beaten rivals SC East Bengal 2-0 in the first ISL derby on November 27.

Odisha FC came from behind to secure their first point of the campaign against Jamshedpur FC but there will be concerns over their backline that has appeared shaky. Stuart Baxter's side has conceded 29 shots so far, joint-most by a team this season.

ATKMB striker Roy Krishna, with two goals in as many games, will look to continue his fine form. Antonio Habas'



side, having scored all their goals from open play, will once again aim to hit their opponents on counter-attacks.

Baxter is, however, well aware of this and wants his side to keep things tight at the back.

"You respect them because they have good and experienced players," Baxter said.

"While throwing players forward, we're aware of the fact that, in transition, they get into the game quickly when we're spread out. It's up to the players on the day to make sure we take away the spaces they want and we defend well one-versus-one."

Odisha FC will also have to be effective at the front as they face a side who are yet to concede a goal this season.

Apart from ATKMB, Hyderabad FC are the only side who haven't conceded a goal this season. And once again, Habas will expect his side to be effective at both ends of the pitch.

"The idea is to attack and defend," Habas had said after their derby win against SC East Bengal.

"This is football and we attack and defend during transitions. This is the idea for us. I don't understand football as only attack or only defense."

After netting a brace coming off the bench against Jamshedpur, Odisha striker Diego Mauricio could be in line for a start. Baxter will also hope forward Marcelinho regains his form, with the Brazilian having struggled so far.

22 new cases take Mizoram's COVID-19 tally to 3,869

AIZAWL, DEC 2 (PTI): Twenty-two more people, including three security personnel, have tested positive for COVID-19 in Mizoram, taking the state's tally to 3,869, an official said on Wednesday. One more fatality due to the infection pushed the death toll to six, he said.

Of the fresh cases, 13 were reported from Aizawl district, three each from Lawngtlai and Saitual, two from Lunglei and one from Serchhip. Eleven new patients have travel history, the official said, adding that barring three, 19 are asymptomatic.

Mizoram now has 291 active cases, while 3,572 people have recovered from the disease.

The recovery rate among coronavirus patients in the state currently stands at 92.33 per cent. The state has so far conducted 59,766 rapid antigen tests, while 81,161 samples were tested through RT-PCR and 11,152 through TrueNat method, the official said.

A total of 58 samples were tested outside the state, he added.

"Outsiders" played bigger role than Bengalis in state's development: BJP's Dilip Ghosh

KOLKATA, 02 DEC [PTI]: BJP Bengal chief Dilip Ghosh today has claimed that people from other states played a bigger role than Bengalis in bringing about development in the state.

His remarks, amid a raging "outsider versus insider" debate in the state, have drawn sharp reactions from the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC), who accused Dilip Ghosh of playing "divisive" politics without knowing anything about the state's history and culture.

"Since the pre-Independence era, people who had come from other states played a crucial role in Bengal's development. Most of those who worked at mills and factories here were from other states. So those from outside played a bigger role than the Bengalis in developing the state," Mr Ghosh said at a programme in Kolkata.

The ruling party is now tagging people who worked for the welfare of Bengal as "outsiders", the BJP leader alleged.

"Shah Rukh Khan (state's ambassador) and Prashant Kishor (TMC's poll strategist) have become insiders now. This is the irony," he said.

Reacting to his comments, TMC secretary-general Partha Chatterjee said the BJP's intent to "humiliate and undermine" Bengalis now stands exposed. "I think Dilip Ghosh is not aware of the role Bengalis have played in the nation's overall development and freedom struggle," he said.

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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

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

To book ad-space, contact SummitTIMES at

GANGETOK:
For circulation details Contact: +91-974987695, +91-944702692
& for Advertisement booking at +91-9933427505 or at office no 03592

KOLKATA OFFICE:
Irshad Ali/Inteyass, Synapse, 4, Madan Street, Madine - 2, 2nd floor, Kolkata - 700072. Ph. 033-22124348/ fax: 033-22143337/ mob. +91-9830547774/+91-Mr. Mani Rai, M/s. Space Ads, B.R. Ambedkar Building, Room No.7, 1st, 18108397, E-mail: contact.synapse@gmail.com/irshad_ali23@rediffmail.com

Phone
03592-208498
+91-9832556678
+91-9832080753

www.summittimes.com
news@summittimes.com
summittimes1@gmail.com
advertise@summittimes.com

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

VIDEO NEWS SECTION
facebook.com/SummitTIMES

Athletes to be tested 'every 96-120 hours' during Games - organisers' report

TOKYO (REUTERS) - Athletes will need to provide a negative COVID-19 test taken less than 72 hours before arriving in Japan for the Olympics and will be tested "every 96-120 hours" during the Games, according to a report published by organisers on Wednesday.

During talks between the Tokyo 2020 organising committee, the Japanese government and Tokyo Metropolitan Government, further guidelines for how the Japanese capital plans to host the rearranged Games next year were discussed.

Current visitors to Japan need to quarantine for 14 days upon arrival but athletes and other key stakeholders arriving for the Games will be exempt from those restrictions.

More than 15,000 athletes are expected in Tokyo for the Olympics, which begin on July 23, with the majority staying at the purpose-built Athletes' Village.

The report detailed that a testing centre would be set up in the village for in-competition testing.

Organisers will also be encouraging athletes to spend less time in Tokyo than they usually would.

"We want to be considerate to the athletes, so the village doesn't get too dense," Tokyo 2020 CEO Toshiro Muto told reporters after the talks.

"After the Games are finished, we want the athletes to go back home as early as possible."

Reports in the Japanese media earlier on Wednesday claimed that "large-scale" numbers of overseas visitors will be allowed into Tokyo for the Games.

However, the interim report stated that a final decision on the number of foreign spectators and other personnel from abroad wouldn't be decided until the spring.

The prospect of the Games going ahead safely next year have been boosted by the development of vaccines against COVID-19, including the Pfizer shot approved by Britain on Wednesday.

A successful vaccine could make many of the COVID-19 countermeasures being discussed by Games' organisers obsolete but Muto stressed they were going ahead with or without the vaccine. "Regarding the vaccine, just recently we have started to see positive news but at the moment it is not available yet," he said.

"What might happen, what could happen, it is unclear... so we are working under the assumption that the vaccine isn't available."

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?
email us: news@summittimes.com

Boxing history tells a nuanced tale when it comes to quitting fights

KEVIN MITCHELL

LONDON, 02 DEC [THEGUARDIAN]: When Daniel Dubois quit in the 10th round against Joe Joyce, the young heavy-weight with the kind face and a good heart was hurled into a pit of shame alongside some of the hardest men in the history of boxing, Roberto Duran and Mike Tyson among them.

The public court of social media – the modern equivalent of Robespierre's revolutionary tribunal – pronounced that Dubois had committed the fight game's unforgivable sin. The panel, surprisingly to some, included members of his own tribe: Dillian Whyte, David Haye, Johnny Nelson, Carl Frampton and others familiar with the reality of the ring. He had broken The Code.

Perhaps it made them feel better about themselves to point out his failing. Maybe they were carried away with the collective shock of seeing a sculpted, 17st-plus heavy-weight giving up on one knee, rather than flat on his back. Clearly he had quit – but he knew more than they did.

For the accused, abandonment by his peers will leave a psychological bruise at least as deep as the physical pain of a broken orbital bone around his eye, with damaged nerves compounding the injury. It might have left him blind; the Sun found a doctor to say his eyeball might have dropped into his sinus.



Dubois could hardly know this in the moment – or be aware of the onslaught that was to follow – but certainly self-preservation led him to the reasonable conclusion that it was not worth the risk to let Joyce keep banging his heavy jab into the purpled swelling that had restricted his vision since at least the third round. In a crowded arena, he might have come to a different conclusion.

For those watching remotely, judgment was instant, and with little room for com-

passion, because of The Code. Appearances had to be upheld. History had to be observed.

Yet, if the critics had proper regard for the past, they might not have rushed so quickly to judgment, because history tells a tale more nuanced than that revealed by the noise of the mob. Dubois probably was unaware of it but three minutes walk from Church House, where he lost on Saturday night, Jack Broughton is buried in Westminster Abbey. On his gravestone is inscribed: "Champion

Prizefighter of England, Died Jan 8th 1789, Aged 86 years."

How Broughton lived to such an age is a mystery lost in time, because in 1750 he engaged in a fight of such ferocity with Jack Slack at his amphitheatre near Oxford Street that it echoes down the centuries. It took the smaller, younger Slack 14 minutes to beat his eyes to a grotesque pulp, at which point Broughton's patron, the Duke of Cumberland, called out: "What are you about Broughton? You can't fight. You are beat." Broughton

replied: "I can't see my man, your Highness. I am blind but not beat; only let me be placed before my antagonist and he shall not gain the day yet!"

Cumberland, the son of George II and a soldier who gained infamy as the Butcher of Culloden, had lost heavily gambling on his man. He walked away in disgust. Broughton never fought again but was rehabilitated in public opinion for his courage in defeat. He'd shown "bottom", a phrase that endures to this day.

There are more recent

examples of the fighter's ultimate dilemma. Roberto Duran had a hard time of it after his "No mas" surrender to Sugar Ray Leonard in 1980, but is wheeled out for after-dinner engagements as a monument to glorious times; similarly, many choose to forget Mike Tyson's last proper fight 15 years ago, when he slumped like a rag doll against the bottom ropes and was rescued from further embarrassment the night Kevin McBride was good enough to drain the last drop of antagonism from Iron Mike's fading fists.

On the night Dubois made his own tough call, Tyson was put on show again and went through the motions with some old fire in an exhibition against the 51-year-old Roy Jones Jr in Los Angeles. The odds of 54-year-old Tyson having another real fight, though, are slim. As Muhammad Ali once said of Joe Frazier's prospects against him: "He's got two chances, slim and none – and Slim just left town."

What is often forgotten is it was Ali who wanted to quit on his stool at the end of the 14th round of their shared nightmare, the 1975 Thrilla in Manila, seconds before Eddie Futch called it over for Frazier, who could barely see out of his one good eye. The other, as few knew, was already impaired.

Dubois is in decent company.

Pandya heroics help India avoid clean sweep against Australia



CANBERRA, 02 DEC (REUTERS): India all-rounder Hardik Pandya scored his highest one-day international score of 92 to set up a thrilling 13-run win for his team against Australia in the third match at the Manuka Oval on Wednesday and avoid a clean sweep in the series.

Pandya's unbeaten knock in 76 deliveries featured seven fours and one six and he added 150 in an entertaining unbroken stand for the sixth-wicket with Ravindra Jadeja to help India post 302 for five.

The hosts seemed cruising in their chase but India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah dismissed Glenn Maxwell with Australia 35 runs away from a win to turn the game in his team's favour.

Bumrah returned in the last over to take the final Australian wicket to bundle them out for 289 with three deliveries remaining. Maxwell fell for

59 off 38 balls and one of his four sixes landed on the top of the roof of the stadium in Australia's capital city.

Australia captain Aaron Finch top-scored with 75 to set up the chase after a charmed life during which he was dropped twice early in his innings and also survived a run out chance.

Shardul Thakur was one of the four changes in the Indian side and was the most successful bowler with 3-51 while Bumrah and debutant T Natarajan picked up two wickets each.

Hosts Australia had already bagged the series with two victories in as many matches in Sydney and the hosts also made three changes to their team.

India won the toss for the first time in the series and opted to bat, having failed to chase Australia's score in the previous two matches.

The hosts bowlers,

however, kept the batsmen under check and reduced them to 152 for five in the 32nd over when India captain Virat Kohli was out for 63 to fast bowler Josh Hazlewood for the third time in the series.

During his knock, Kohli became the fastest batsmen to reach 12,000 runs in the 50-over format, reaching the milestone in his 242nd innings.

The 32-year-old Kohli broke the record of India batting great and all-time leading run-scorer Sachin Tendulkar, who reached the milestone in 300 innings.

Jadeja, who smashed five fours and three sixes in his unbeaten 66 off 50 balls, and Pandya added 76 from the last five overs to give India a late boost.

The two sides will next play three Twenty20 matches, starting with the first on Friday at the same venue.

Arteta wants temporary head injury substitutes after David Luiz incident

NICK AMES

LONDON, 02 DEC [THEGUARDIAN]: Mikel Arteta has backed the use of temporary concussion substitutes in football, following the horrific clash of heads between Raúl Jiménez and David Luiz during Arsenal's defeat by Wolves.

The pair collided when contesting a corner early in Sunday night's game and, while Jiménez was taken to hospital after a 10-minute delay having sustained a fractured skull, David Luiz played on with a bandaged head wound. He was substituted at half-time and Arsenal were criticised for allowing him to continue, although there is no suggestion they failed to follow concussion protocols.

Arteta added his voice to growing calls for a short-term replacement to be allowed for occasions when there is any remaining doubt about a player's condition. The law-making International Football Association Board is considering

whether to allow teams an extra change in the event of a head injury but these would be permanent, not temporary, substitutions. If a player from one team goes off in those circumstances, the other manager would also be allowed to make a change.

"We were very comfortable for him to carry on playing," Arteta said of David Luiz. "But really you have to make a decision in one minute, when someone is bleeding, when you have a massive concussion next to you with someone whose life is under threat, and maybe it is a moment where we can think to give [medical staff] a little more time and use a temporary substitution for example if we find ourselves in those positions."

"If you have any doubt, at any moment, and you need an extra two minutes or five minutes to check someone, maybe we can think about that. After five minutes you need to make a decision to find

a sub, the player is really pushing you, he was totally conscious about the situation, the player wants to carry on playing and the doctor has to tick all the necessary boxes to be certain that the player is OK to continue. If we have any extra doubt, OK, we give them a bit more time if necessary but as well you cannot play 10 or 15 minutes with 10 men."

Arteta said it was important to be "extra careful, extra cautious" in such situations and said conversations had previously taken place with his medical staff – led by the highly respected head of medical services Gary O'Driscoll – about the introduction of concussion substitutes. He expects David Luiz to be passed fit for Sunday's derby at Tottenham provided the player's wound has healed sufficiently for him to head the ball in comfort.

Arsenal host Rapid Vienna in the Europa League on Thursday night in what is essen-

tially a non-competitive fixture for Arteta's side given they have qualified from Group B and look certain to top it. The presence of 2,000 fans inside the Emirates for the first time since March provides a welcome lift, though, with Arteta under growing pressure following a run of three consecutive home defeats in the Premier League. He intends to battle through the increasing level of noises about his side's position.

"This is where we are and I'm ready to fight," he said. "We are going through difficult periods, we will see who responds, who doesn't and how we react as a club through different periods, and how we stick together when things aren't going well."

"When things are going well, it's easy. Everybody wants to be there on the front pages, on the TV celebrating, being part of something, but unfortunately at the moment we aren't that good and the lines are really thin."

Gladbach end up with 'final' against Real Madrid

BERLIN, 02 DEC (REUTERS): Borussia Mönchengladbach's missed opportunities to earn points early in the Champions League campaign may come back to haunt them after Tuesday's 3-2 home loss to Inter Milan left with a final group decider at Real Madrid.

The Foals, who have never qualified for the knockout stage of the modern Champions League, have played their most exciting European season in decades. However, late equalisers in draws against Real and Inter in October could now prove costly.

Inter needed a 90th minute equaliser by Romelu Lukaku in Italy on Oct. 21 to rescue a 2-2 draw. A week later Real were even more

desperate, forced to score twice in the dying minutes to salvage their own 2-2 against the Germans, who had thought they had won it with a superb performance over 87 minutes. "Now we have our final against Real Madrid," said Gladbach captain Christoph Kramer following their first group loss of the season.

"We are still in the mix and have the best starting position of all four teams. We just have to seal qualification in Madrid."

Gladbach are top of Group B on eight points, one ahead of both Shakhtar Donetsk and out-of-form Real Madrid, who were beaten 2-0 by the Ukrainians. Inter are on five points and need to beat Ukraine's Shakhtar to have any of advance,

as all four teams can still qualify on the final matchday.

The Germans need at least a point next week in Madrid to secure their knockout berth and given their form this season it is by no means impossible.

Real have been faltering in recent weeks, having also lost 2-1 to Alaves in La Liga last week to drop to fourth place, and Gladbach's attack with 16 goals in five games is the joint-best of the entire Champions League group stage.

The Germans thought for a moment they had earned a point against Inter when Alassane Plea, who had scored both earlier goals, put the ball in the net again in the 84th minute.

Australia bounces out of recession as economy grows 3.3%

WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND (AP): Australia's economy grew by 3.3% in the third quarter, rebounding from its first recession in nearly three decades as it recovered from pandemic-related shocks, according to figures released Wednesday.

Treasurer Josh Frydenberg told reporters the country still has a lot of ground to make up from the coronavirus downturn.

"Australia's recession may be over, but Australia's economic recovery is not," he said.

Despite the latest quarterly rise, the economy contracted at a 3.8% annual pace. That's after GDP fell by 0.3% in the first quarter and then by a record 7% in the second quarter.

"But the Australian economy has demonstrated its remarkable resilience and Australia is as well positioned as any other nation on Earth," Frydenberg said.



"Today's national accounts represent a major step forward in Australia's economic recovery."

Before this year, Australia had managed to avoid a recession for 28 years. The economy grew even during the global financial crisis thanks to strong demand for Australia's mineral exports and a robust

domestic sector. The better-than-expected figures were encouraging, economists said.

"The rebound in Q3 GDP reversed around 40% of the decline during the first half of the year and we expect output to return to pre-virus levels by mid-2021," Ben Udy of Capital Economics said in a commentary.

Now on top of the pandemic, Australia is enduring a spate of rocky relations with China, its biggest trading partner.

Frydenberg said the situation with China is "very serious" but his government is focusing on striking deals with other countries in Asia and beyond.

"We have great produce, and we have great

services, and we have great resource sectors, and I'm very optimistic about the opportunities for our exporters around the world," he said.

Australia's relationship with China worsened this week after a Chinese official tweeted a fake image of a grinning Australian soldier holding a bloodied knife to a child's throat.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison called the image "repugnant" and demanded an apology from the Chinese government. But China has not backed down.

The post took aim at alleged abuses by elite Australian soldiers during the conflict in Afghanistan.

Tensions have been growing this year since the Australian government called for an independent inquiry into the origins of the pandemic. China has imposed tariffs and other restrictions on a number of Australian exports.

Iran's president rejects bill that would boost enrichment

TEHRAN, IRAN (AP): Iran's President Hassan Rouhani on Wednesday rejected a bill approved by parliament that would have suspended U.N. inspections and boosted uranium enrichment, saying it was "harmful" to diplomatic efforts aimed at restoring the 2015 nuclear deal and easing U.S. sanctions.

The tug-of-war over the bill, which gained momentum after the killing of a prominent Iranian nuclear scientist last month, reflects the rivalry between Rouhani, a relative moderate, and hard-line lawmakers who dominate parliament and favor a more confrontational approach to the West.

The bill would have suspended U.N. inspections and required the government to resume enriching uranium to 20% if European nations fail to provide relief from crippling U.S. sanctions on the country's oil and banking sectors. That level falls short of the threshold needed for nuclear weapons but is higher than that required for civilian purposes.

Speaking at a Cabinet meeting, Rouhani said his administration, "does not agree with that and considers it harmful for the trend of diplomatic activities." He implied the lawmakers were positioning themselves ahead of elections planned for June.

He added that "today, we are more powerful in the nuclear field than at any other time."

The bill is expected to have little if any im-

pact, as Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has the final say on all major policies, including those related to the nuclear program. Rather, it appeared to be a show of defiance after Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, a key figure in Iran's nuclear program, was killed in an attack Iranian officials have blamed on Israel.

Fakhrizadeh headed a program that Israel and the West have alleged was a military operation looking at the feasibility of building a nuclear weapon. The International Atomic Energy Agency says that "structured program" ended in 2003. The U.S. government has concurred with those findings, while Israel says Iran is still aiming to develop nuclear weapons, pointing to its work on ballistic missiles and other technologies. Iran insists its nuclear program is entirely peaceful.

The U.S. imposed crippling sanctions on Iran after President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from the nuclear agreement in 2018. In response, Iran began publicly exceeding limits set by the agreement while saying it would quickly return to compliance if the United States did the same.

Rouhani, one of the architects of the 2015 nuclear agreement with world powers, favors a return to the deal and greater diplomatic engagement with the U.S. and other Western nations. President-elect Joe Biden has also said he is in favor of returning to the nuclear deal.

China spacecraft lands on moon to bring rocks back to Earth



BEIJING (AP): A Chinese spacecraft sent to return lunar rocks to Earth collected its first samples Wednesday after landing on the moon, the government announced, adding to a string of successes for Beijing's increasingly ambitious space program.

The Chang'e 5 probe touched down shortly after 11 p.m. (1500 GMT) on Tuesday after descending from an orbiter, the China National Space Administration said. It released images of the barren scene at the landing site showing the lander's shadow.

"Chang'e has collected moon samples," the agency said in a statement carried by the official Xinhua News Agency. It said the probe also had successfully unfolded solar panels that will power it.

The probe, launched Nov. 24 from the tropical southern island of Hainan, is the latest venture by a Chinese space program that sent its first astronaut into orbit in 2003, has a spacecraft en route to Mars and aims eventually to land a human on the moon.

Plans call for the lander to spend about two days drilling into the lunar surface and collecting 2 kilograms (4.4 pounds) of rocks and debris. The top stage of the probe will be launched back into lunar orbit to transfer the samples to a capsule for return to Earth, where it is to land in China's northern

grasslands in mid-December.

If it succeeds, it will be the first time scientists have obtained fresh samples of lunar rocks since a Soviet probe in the 1970s. Those samples are expected to be made available to scientists from other nations, although its unclear how much access NASA will have, given tight U.S. government restrictions on space cooperation with China.

From the rocks and debris, scientists hope to learn more about the moon, including its precise age, as well as increased knowledge about other bodies in our solar system. Collecting samples, including from asteroids, is an increasing focus of many space programs and China's mastery of the technology once again places it among the leading nations operating in space.

American and Russian space officials congratulated the Chinese program.

"Congratulations to China on the successful landing of Chang'e 5. This is no easy task," wrote NASA's science mission chief, Thomas Zurbuchen, on Twitter.

"When the samples collected on the Moon are returned to Earth, we hope everyone will benefit from being able to study this precious cargo that could advance the international science community."

The most recent return of lunar rocks to Earth was carried out in

1976 by Luna 24, a Soviet robot probe.

U.S. astronauts brought back 842 pounds (382 kilograms) of lunar samples from 1969 to 1972, some of which is still being analyzed and experimented on.

The Chang'e 5 flight is China's third successful lunar landing. Its predecessor, Chang'e 4, was the first probe to land on the moon's little-explored far side.

Chinese space program officials have said they envision future crewed missions along with robotic ones, including possibly a permanent research base. No timeline or other details have been announced.

The latest flight includes collaboration with the European Space Agency, which is helping to monitor the mission.

China's space program has proceeded more cautiously than the U.S.-Soviet space race of the 1960s, which was marked by fatalities and launch failures.

In 2003, China became the third country to send an astronaut into orbit on its own after the Soviet Union and the United States. It also launched a crewed space station.

China, along with neighbors Japan and India, also has joined the growing race to explore Mars. The Tianwen 1 probe launched in July is on its way to the red planet carrying a lander and a rover to search for water.

Rage and hope fuel women's revolt over abortion in Poland

WARSAW, POLAND (AP): Karolina Micula had used her bare chest in political protest once before.

When Poland's right-wing government first tried to restrict abortion rights, the actress and singer delivered an intense performance onstage in Wroclaw in 2017 that included her spreading paint in the national colors — white and red — onto her breasts and face, ending with a fist raised high.

When the authorities tried again to impose a near-total ban on abortion in October this year, Micula, along with a friend, again stripped to her waist and stood on top of a car at a busy Warsaw intersection during a protest, holding a flare high and giving the middle finger.

"A woman's body is a place of political battle," the 32-year-old said from her Warsaw apartment in an interview. "My gesture meant that I will do with my body whatever I want to do with it. If I want to stand naked in front of people, I will do it, because it's my choice."

Micula's friend had just come from physiotherapy following a double mastectomy and wanted to encourage other protesters by showing her tattooed chest. Theirs is among many taboo-breaking acts by furious women in Poland in the past weeks.

The upheaval began when Poland's constitutional court, packed with loyalists of the conservative ruling party, ruled Oct. 22 to ban abortions in cases of congenital fetal defects, even if the fetus has no chance of survival.

Poland already had one of Europe's most restrictive abortion laws, and the ruling would mean that the only legal reasons for abortion would be rape, incest or if the woman's life is in danger.

Jaroslav Kaczynski, the ruling party leader and Poland's most powerful politician, had said he wanted even nonviable fetuses to be carried to birth, so they can be given a baptism, a name and a burial.

The rage of Polish women, and many men as well, erupted onto the streets across the country, growing into the largest protest movement in the three decades since communism fell.

Protesters at first disrupted Masses, shouted obscenities at priests and spray-painted the number of an abortion hotline on church facades. Those early provocative tactics were largely dropped after they triggered a backlash in a society where many cherish Catholic traditions.

They continued their protests on the streets, however, refusing to be cowed by the authorities or by the pandemic. "My water has broken. I am delivering a revolution," said one sign at a protest in Warsaw on Nov. 18, expressing a view held by an increasing number of protesters.

The interior minister recently warned that the government would not tolerate "a revolution made by force against the constitutional organs of the Polish state." Police have been increasingly detaining and charging protesters, and in some cases using tear gas and other force.

Still, amid the massive social upheaval, the government has not formally implemented the court ruling and has spoken of coming up with a new law. But reproductive rights activists say that hospitals are already refusing

to carry out abortions of congenitally damaged fetuses. The governing party's attempt to ban abortion, with the use of a court packed with loyalists and during a pandemic, seemed excessively cruel to 21-year-old Nina Michnik, a student of Arabic studies and philosophy.

"They did it in this critical moment when everyone was scared of the pandemic," said Michnik. She described feeling extremely lonely and fragile when the court ruling came down.

"They caught us in this very sensitive moment," Michnik said. "That's why we were so angry."

While she was stuck at home by the country's coronavirus lockdown, Michnik had stopped the boxing workouts she loves. After the protests erupted, she began working out again and joined a group that scans protests for far-right troublemakers.

The recent protests have certainly become a political awakening for Polish youth, but older Poles also have taken part. They are led by the Women's Strike, a group of female activists, but many men have also joined in. What began as a revolt against an abortion ruling has become a larger struggle for democracy and human rights.

Before the court ruling, the people on the front lines of Poland's culture war had been LGBT rights activists who were frequently denounced by government and church leaders as a threat to Poland's culture and families.

Those grievances have now been woven together into one larger struggle against a government that the protesters hope to eventually bring down. Rainbow flags are held high at all the abortion protests.

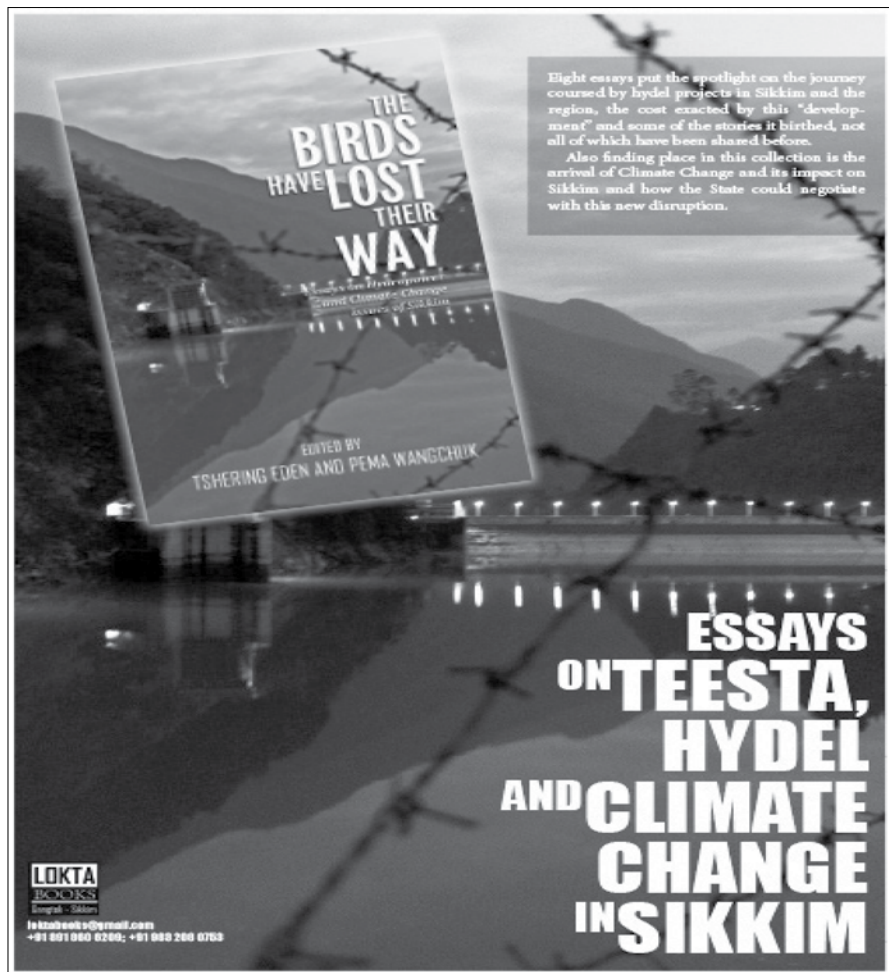
Gabe Wilczynska, 19, has so far this year joined rallies for LGBT rights, racial justice in the U.S., and against sexual violence. With political convictions shaped by having been raped by a boy in high school, Wilczynska, who identifies as a lesbian and as non-binary, has gotten five court citations for involvement in the recent protests.

Wilczynska's forms of protests have included dressing in a red handmaid costume to protest the government's "attempts to control our bodies," and joining a group that has pasted slogans at night on city walls with messages including: "My uterus is not a coffin," and "Abortion is a right not a favor."

In interviews, protesters often say they feel a connection with the women of neighboring Belarus, who have emerged as a driving force in an uprising against the regime of longtime authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko. The decision to have weekly, rather than daily, protests, for example, was inspired by what is happening in Belarus, the goal being to keep people from getting worn down by daily protests, Micula said.

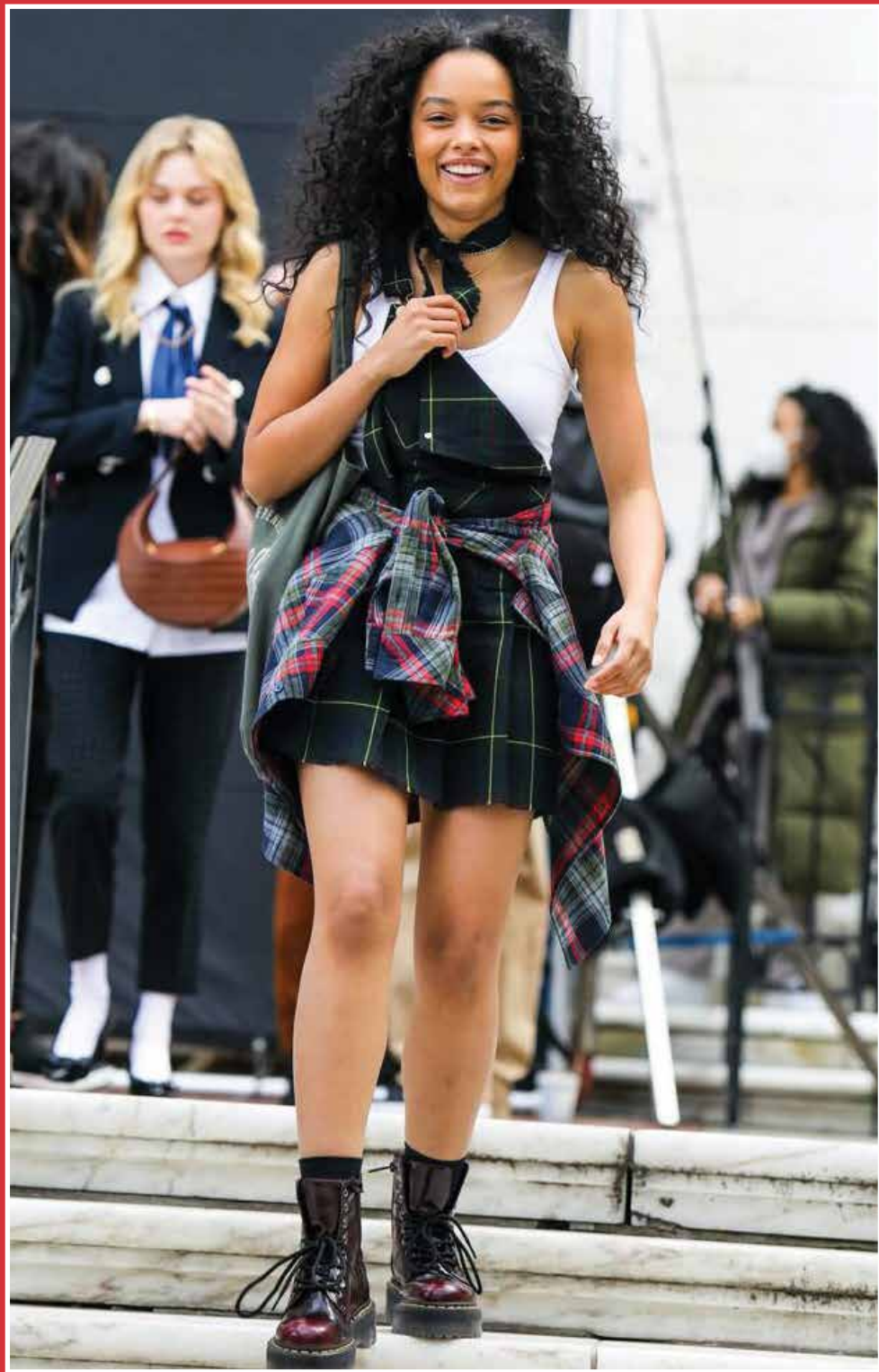
Conscious of the global battles between authoritarian and democratic forces, some Poles are also putting faith in U.S. President-elect Joe Biden, who is expected to encourage democracy and human rights.

Micula said she is hopeful that a new, better society is being born now, her hope bolstered by the sight of young people dancing on the streets during the protests and their solidarity with each other.



To book ad-space, contact SummitTIMES at

GANGTOK:
For circulation details Contact: (Sandeep) 9734152451
& for Advertisement booking at 9833427505 or at office no 03592 208698.
Mail us at advertise@summittimes.com
SILIGURI:
Mr. Mani Rai, M/s. Space Ads, B.R. Ambekar 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



FIFTH AVENUE FILMING! The actress, Whitney Peak is spotted on set of Gossip Girl in New York City.

18 indicted, including rapper, in gang-related activity



NEW YORK, DEC 2 (AP): Authorities on Tuesday announced the indictment of 18 people, including New York City rapper Casanova, in connection to a litany of gang-related crimes including racketeering, murder, drugs, firearms, and fraud offenses.

Acting U.S. Attorney Audrey Strauss and other law enforcement officials issued a statement accusing those named in the indictment of being part of the Untouchable Gorilla Stone Nation gang, operating in New York City and part of New York state.

Authorities said 17 of the 18 named in the indictment were in custody. The FBI's New York office issued a tweet saying Casanova, whose legal name is Caswell Senior, was still being sought.

Members of Gorilla Stone committed terrible acts of violence, trafficked in narcotics,

and even engaged in brazen fraud by exploiting benefits programs meant to provide assistance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic," Strauss said in the statement.

One of those indicted was accused in connection with the Sept. 21 killing of a minor in Poughkeepsie, New York. The others were indicted in connection to charges including assault, drug distribution and weapons possession. Two people were charged with falsely using other people's identity information to file for COVID-19 unemployment benefits.

Casanova, currently signed to Roc Nation, was indicted on charges of conspiracy to commit racketeering; conspiracy to distribute controlled substances, and firearms possession.

Emails were sent to Roc Nation and the rapper's representative seeking comment.

'All my love, Elliot': Actor Page comes out as transgender

NEW YORK (AP): Oscar-nominated actor Elliot Page, the star of "Juno," "Inception" and "The Umbrella Academy," came out as transgender Tuesday in an announcement greeted as a watershed moment for the trans community in Hollywood.

"I love that I am trans. And I love that I am queer," Page said in a statement on social media.

Page, the 33-year-old actor from Nova Scotia, said his decision to come out as trans, which also involved changing his first name, came after a long journey and with much support from the LGBTQ community.

"I can't begin to express how remarkable it feels to finally love who I am enough to pursue my authentic self," Page wrote. "I've been endlessly inspired by so many in the trans community. Thank you for your courage, your generosity and ceaselessly working to make this world a more inclusive and compassionate place."

"The more I hold myself close and fully embrace who I am, the more I dream, the more my heart grows and the more I thrive," added Page, who said his pronouns are "he" and "they."

Page signed his statement with

the words, "All my love, Elliot." The announcement was celebrated widely on social media by LGBTQ rights advocates

celebrate the remarkable Elliot Page today." Page broke out in Jason Reitman's 2007 film "Juno" in a performance as a



and many in the film industry. Netflix, maker of the comic book series "The Umbrella Academy," said, "So proud of our superhero! We love you Elliot!"

"Elliot Page has given us fantastic characters on-screen, and has been an outspoken advocate for all LGBTQ people," said Nick Adams, GLAAD's Director of Transgender Media. "He will now be an inspiration to countless trans and non-binary people. All transgender people deserve the chance to be ourselves and to be accepted for who we are. We

pregnant teenager that earned him an Academy Award nomination.

Page has frequently worked to bring the lives of LGBTQ characters to screen, including the 2015 film "Freeheld," which he produced and starred in as the partner of a dying New Jersey police detective who had been denied pension benefits.

Last year, he made his directorial debut with the documentary "There's Something in the Water," about environmental damage on Black and First Nations communities in Nova Scotia.

'Juno' star Ellen Page comes out as transgender, changes name to Elliot Page

LOS ANGELES, DEC 2 (PTI): Ellen Page, the Oscar-nominated star of films such as "Juno" and "Inception", has come out as a transgender.

In a statement, posted on Twitter, the 33-year-old actor said that he has changed their name to Elliot Page and expressed "overwhelming gratitude" for those who have supported him.

"I can't begin to express how remarkable it feels to finally love who I am enough to pursue my authentic self. I've been endlessly inspired by so many in the trans community.

"Thank you for your courage, your generosity and ceaselessly working to make this world a more inclusive and compassionate place. I will offer whatever support I can and continue to strive for a more loving and equal society," Page wrote.

Page, who previously came out as gay in 2014, is one of the most vocal artists from Hollywood's LGBTQ community. He is married dancer Emma Portner, since 2018.

The actor said despite being "profoundly happy", he has a fear of invasiveness over their news as well as concern over discrimination and violence.

He criticised the politicians who "criminalize trans health care and deny our right to exist" as well as influential public figures who use "a massive platform who continue to spew hostility towards the trans community".

"You unleash a fury of vile and demeaning rage that lands on the shoulders of the trans community, a community in which 40 per cent of trans adults report attempting suicide. Enough is enough.

"You aren't being 'canceled,' you are hurting people. I am one of those peo-

ple and we won't be silent in the face of your attacks," Page added.

The actor, who hails from Nova Scotia, Canada, said he will continue to fight for LGBTQ rights and do everything to change the world for better.

"I love that I am trans. And I love that I am queer. And the more I hold myself close and fully embrace who I am, the more I dream, the more my heart grows and the more I thrive.

"To all trans people who deal with harassment, self-loathing, abuse and the threat of violence every day: I see you, I love you and I will do everything I can to change this world for the better," Page added.

Page's wife, dancer Emma Portner, shared support on her own Instagram account.

"I am so proud of @elliotpage. Trans, queer and non-binary people are a gift to this world. I also ask for patience and privacy but that you join me in the fervent support of trans life every single day. Elliot's existence is a gift in and of itself. Shine on sweet E. Love you so much," she said.

Page currently stars in Netflix's "The Umbrella Academy" that also hailed the actor's decision to come out as a transgender on social media.

"So proud of our superhero! WE LOVE YOU ELLIOT!!!" wrote the official Twitter handle of "The Umbrella Academy".

Sources told The Hollywood Reporter that the actor will continue to essay the role of Vanya Hargreeves in the series and the streamer is currently in the process to update Page's name on all titles on the service in which he is involved.

Jennifer Garner Marvels at Daughter Violet's Growth as She Celebrates Her 15th Birthday

Jennifer Garner dropped by the TODAY show on the day that daughter Violet turned 15. Here's hoping that Jennifer Garner's film 13 Going on 30 somehow provided her with insight on how to handle fast-growing teens.

The Love, Simon star appeared on NBC's TODAY show on Tuesday, Dec. 1, where she told hosts Hoda Kotb and Jenna Bush Hager that the day happens to be an exciting one for her daughter Violet.

"There's a lot of Zoom happening in my house, a lot of Zoom, but I don't have really little ones, so they're all pretty much in control of what they're doing," Jennifer said when discussing her day-to-day routine. This led her to point out the family milestone. "My daughter is 15 today," the 48-year-old Peppermint actress continued. "Can you believe little Violet Affleck, she is 15?"

At this, Hoda and Jenna shared their astonishment at the fact that Jennifer actually has a teenager already. And Hoda wanted to know how the star handles Violet's questions about dating.

"All I know is, she's on Zoom school, she goes to an all-girls school," Jennifer said with a laugh. "We haven't had to deal with that yet."

The Alias alum shares Violet and her two younger siblings, Seraphina, 11, and Samuel, 8, with ex-husband Ben Affleck.

In an Instagram Live video in July, Jennifer got emotional while reflecting on this unique moment in time for her children.

"What is this year full of transitions going to look like for kids, for my family, how can I keep joy in learning for them?" she expressed. "Or help them just continue to find their resilience? I think that's where I am today."

Aries:

Given that we're moving closer to the end of 2020, you may find yourself looking back at the trajectory of your evolution. There are many things you have lost over the past ten months or so—your false sense of self being one of them. The week ahead sees you giving these parts of you, along with dated belief systems, the burial they deserve. If there's one thing you can be sure of today, it's that you're taking a brand new version of yourself into the new year.

Tip: Give your false sense of self the burial it deserves.

Taurus:

Given that we haven't recovered fully from the effects of the eclipse, the energy around is likely to be rather unsettled. You have to remember that what people are saying (or not saying) has little to do with you, and a lot to do with their own fears and insecurities. The more silent you are, the better perspective you will have on these matters. Two words, Taurus: rise above.

Tip: You're so much better than this.

Gemini:

There are times in our lives when we feel the collective burden of everything that's going haywire in the world in addition to our own pain. You are likely to experience heightened sensitivity today, Gemini, with the slightest of triggers sending you down a spiral. Here's what you want to remember when you become a victim of your own emotions: while you cannot control the macrocosm, the microcosm is something you do have dominion over. So, take a happy pill and wear the world loosely. This too shall pass.

Tip: You are likely to experience heightened sensitivity today.

Cancer:

They say holding onto anger is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to die. Could this hold true for where you are, Cancer? Today, you're being asked to examine the root of your resentment without bringing judgements into the equation. Awareness is the first step to bringing about a change in the limitations. You're also being asked to examine how and where you are holding yourself back from living your true potential. The time to look past the veil of limitations has come.

Tip: Focus on bringing love and compassion into the relationship.

Leo:

Things are looking up for you on the work front, Leo. All kinds of new offers are likely to knock at your door. Here's what the Universe wants you to remember, now and for the rest of the month: not all of these opportunities will get you where you want to go. So be mindful when it comes to making choices, and don't feel too bad about saying no. On the upside, you are likely to receive financial rewards for the projects you have previously invested in.

Tip: Things on the work front are looking up.

Virgo:

This is an especially chaotic time for you, Virgo. It will be easy for you to see yourself as a victim, or repeat the 'terrible things happen to me' narrative. But, the truth is, the Universe is kind, loving, and benevolent, and it is looking out for you in every moment. So, acknowledge the destruction as a part of the procreation process as you welcome all the surprises that are in store for you.

Tip: You'll get through this.

Libra:

Our time away from the matrix has made us rethink a lot of things in our lives—our relationships with those around us being one of them. You may not be so close to those you shared a special rapport with prior to the lockdown. On the other hand, you may have developed an intimate bond with those who have been there for you through the turmoil. Today, take a moment to offer your gratitude to each one of them as you hold space for them in return.

Tip: Take a moment to notice those who've stood by you through the storm.

Scorpio:

We all like to experiment and push our creative boundaries once in a while. But, no good can come from taking the path less trodden at this point. So, stick to the tried-and-tested method. Do what you do best. Bottom line: you don't want to ruffle too many feathers in the process. Given the experience you've gathered over the past years, some of you may be thinking about stepping into a leadership role at this point. Trust yourself to share your light with those around you. Spirit has got your back!

Tip: Stick to the tried-and-tested, Scorpio.

Sagittarius:

Hello and welcome to Sagittarius season! Things are likely to get wild around here as you rediscover your sense of adventure. While long distance travel may not be an option, an experience closer to home can certainly be worked out. What's more, many serendipitous encounters are on the cards too—encounters that will reaffirm your faith in the mysterious above. Remember to keep an open mind and say yes to the opportunities knocking at your door. Something tells us

your life is about to turn around for the better.

Tip: Destiny is in the mood to intervene.

Capricorn:

A change in fortune is indicated, Capricorn. Things are about to take a turn for the better on the financial front. However, this shift requires you to honour and acknowledge the contribution of your team members and find a way to work in unison. For freelancers, an exciting project may be on the cards, one that challenges them creatively. When in doubt, remember Tina Fry's quote, "Say yes and figure it out later."

Tip: A change in fortune is indicated.

Aquarius:

The future is bright, Aquarius, and you're ready to start a new chapter in your life. Take a moment to offer a prayer of gratitude for all the new opportunities on the horizon. They're helping you align with your soul's purpose. Remember, acting when the time is right will make all the difference here. What's more, the cards are pointing towards a new love. If you've been feeling the feels for somebody, it's time to remember Cupid is with you.

Tip: This is a lucky time.

Pisces:

What people say (or don't say) has little to do with you, and a lot to do with them. Don't let the chaos and confusion get to you, Pisces. Put your phone "and" mind on flight mode as you turn your attention towards the things that awaken joy within you. Some of you may be rethinking your friendships too. If a certain somebody (or clique) isn't adding value to your life, it may be time to let them go.

Tip: It's time to rethink your friendships.