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# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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*Educational institutions shut again after report of Covid cases*

## SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 11 SEPT:

The Education Department has announced the shutting down of all state government, government-aided, and private educational institutions, universities, colleges, tutorials, coaching institutes, and hostels till 31 Oct, 2021.

As per a circular issued today, the Department has taken this decision after some cases of Covid-19 infection among students and staff were reported in both government and private educational institutions in the state in the first week of the reopening of educational institutions.

It may be mentioned that educational institutions for classes IX and above had reopened on 06 Sept, 2021.

However, Central Government institutions will have to follow directions issued by the Central Government.

All Heads of institutions have been instructed to continue the conduct of online classes, homeschooling, tests and examinations.

*AFSPA extended in Assam for another six months*

**GUWAHATI, SEPT 11 (PTI):** The Assam government extended the 'Disturbed Area' status of the state for another six months from August 28 under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA), according to an official statement issued on Saturday.

The AFSPA was imposed in Assam in November 1990 and is extended every six months since then after a review by the state government.

"The Government of Assam in exercise of powers conferred by Section 3 of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 has declared the entire State of Assam as "Disturbed Area" up to six months with effect from August 28, 2021 unless withdrawn earlier," the single-paragraph statement said.

The statement did not mention any reason for the extension of the AFSPA in the state

In the Northeast, the AFSPA is in force in Assam, Nagaland, Manipur (excluding Imphal Municipal Council Area), Changlang, Longding and Tirap districts of Arunachal Pradesh, and areas falling within the jurisdiction of the eight police stations in Arunachal Pradesh, bordering Assam.

# Chaos at DAC as new group of ad-hoc teachers launches counter-protest

NEW PROTESTORS HECKLE MEDIA PERSONS, APOLOGISE

## SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 11 SEPT:

The protest by ad-hoc teachers took a new turn today as the Health Minister, Dr MK Sharma, while coming out of a legislators meeting chaired by the Chief Minister, informed that the meeting has decided to withdraw the proposed ad-hoc teacher recruitment policy. This policy, announced recently by the Chief Minister, had announced that following the "walk-in interviews" scheduled for now for October, services of teachers appointed on adhoc basis will be regularised after eight years of service and that these teachers will be employed on continuous basis.

Following this, nearly a year since a group of taxi drivers arrived at the DAC complex to launch a counter-protest against Sikkim Progressive Youth Forum members on dharna there demanding rationalising of taxi fares, another group of ad-hoc teachers launched a counter-protest against ad-hoc teachers



who are demanding extension of service till interviews are conducted.

This new group is convinced that the government's decision to roll-back the policy decision on regularisation because of the protest underway at the DAC. This, despite the group on dharna clarifying

often that they were neither against the interview process nor the new proposed policy and that their demand was for extension of their services till the interview results were announced. The ad hoc tenure of over 800 teachers ended in June and government schools in the State are without their

services at present.

Meanwhile, on Saturday evening, this new group of ad-hoc teachers comprising of senior teachers and some aligned with All Sikkim Ad-hoc Teachers & Temporary Teachers Association, arrived at the protest site in front of DAC East.

The new group slogan-eered against those demanding extension of service, blaming them for the state government's decision to roll back the proposed ad-hoc teacher recruitment policy.

The new group has set up their protest opposite the ad-hoc teachers already on

a dharna. There was some tension when the new group arrived at the scene but no untoward incident has been reported so far.

In the evening, a media person interviewing the group who have been on dharna for 9 days now was heckled by the new group of ad-hoc teachers and a fracas broke out between media personnel and the new group of ad-hoc teachers.

The chaos ended with senior ad-hoc teachers tendering a written as well as on-video apology to media persons of the state.

Late in the evening, the health of one of the ad-hoc teachers on hunger strike deteriorated and she was rushed to the hospital, it is informed.

It may be recalled that on Friday evening, the teachers on protest got into an argument with a journalist accusing him of misrepresenting facts about their protest and their position on issues. Even they today apologised to the journalist today.

## Rudra Poudyal delivers keynote address at latest edition of Padamsingh Subba 'Apatan' lecture series

### SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 11 SEPT:

Rudra Poudyal, president, Nepali Sahitya Parishad, delivered the keynote address today for the latest instalment of the Padamsingh Subba 'Apatan' lecture series organized by Sikkim Akademi here at the Sir Tashi Namgyal Senior Secondary School auditorium, a press release informs.

The programme was presided over by Padma Shree Sanu Lama and had Professor Kavita Lama of Sikkim University as the chief guest and SR Subba, president of Sikkim Akademi, and Professor Balram Pandey from Sikkim University as special guests.

'Nepali Bhaasa ma Moulik Sabd ra Vyakrankan ko kinarikaran' was the theme of today's edi-



tion of the lecture series.

Addressing the program, Mr Lama remarked that Sikkim Akademi was an autonomous body to which the government can send a representative but cannot nominate members.

About language, he said that the officers of the Nepali Textbook Cell under the Education Department of the Sikkim Government

should be linguists and literary scientists.

He added that textbook-makers should understand the attitude of students in each category and prepare textbooks accordingly. The Padma Shri also suggested that it would be better if the state government paid special attention to this issue and formed a textbook preparation committee.

Prof Kavita Lama, in turn said that Nepali-speakers should use their language in as pure a form as possible. She said that even though Nepali was a rich language, words were disappearing, replaced by loan words from other languages.

Mr Poudyal presented a detailed discussion on the subject.

## SPYF condemns SKM Govt's "whimsical" position on adhoc teacher appointments

**"DHARNA NOT JUST FOR 800 AFFECTED TEACHERS BUT THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS LEFT WITHOUT TEACHERS"**

**SUMMIT REPORT**

GANGTOK, 11 SEPT:

The State Government's "whimsical" approach to policy-making, in the present case affecting education, was unhealthy for a democracy, Sikkim Progressive Youth Forum conveyed in press communiqué today while alleging that instead of addressing the demands, the government was misrepresenting facts and pitting teachers against teachers.

An SPYF press statement issued today, holds

up more than weeklong protest by a section of adhoc teachers demanding extension of their services till the interview process was completed as "very rational."

Apart from pointing out that disrupting the income of the affected adhoc teachers in these times of economic ennui, the decision of the State Government to leave schools without the services of at least 850 teachers was disrupting the education of thousands of students, SPYF underlines.

Most of the affected teachers, whose services ended in June, were teaching in classes X to XII which are to have their first term exams in Nov-Dec. The release adds that most of these

teachers take classes in vital subjects like mathematics, the sciences, geography, economics, which stand-in teachers cannot provide with any reliably efficacy.

"In this backdrop the dharna being organised by the ad-hoc teachers with the demand of extension is genuine and is not just for those few hundred teachers but for the thousands of students of Sikkim whose fundamental right to education has been denied from past four months now," the SPYF release states.

SPYF goes on to regret that instead of addressing the demands or looking out for the interest of students, the government was "trying

turn to pg02

## 64 new cases, 47 recoveries and no new Covid deaths in Sikkim

### SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 11 SEPT:

Sikkim recorded 64 new cases of Covid-19 and 47 recoveries and no new deaths due to the virus in the last 24 hours.

As per the Daily Report of COVID-19 in Sikkim released by the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme of Health Department, the 64 new cases were reported from the testing of 788 samples on Friday, giving Sikkim a daily test positivity rate of 8%.

While 46 persons tested posi-

tive in rapid antigen testing of 450 samples, 18 new cases were found in RT-PCR testing of 338 samples.

Of the 64 new cases reported in the State, 24 were registered in East District, 20 in West District, 18 in South District and 02 in North District.

On the other hand, Sikkim's count of recovered cases crossed the 29,000-mark today and now stands at 29,027 with the discharge of 47 persons from home and facility isolation yesterday.

There are currently 863 active Covid cases in the state, of whom 10 were currently admitted in ICU facilities at STNM hospital and Central Referral Hospital. Nine new COVID patients were hospitalized in the past 24 hours in the State.

On the vaccination front, on Friday, 2,709 more people received their Covishield jabs in the State, of whom 114 received their first dose while 2,595 completed their vaccine schedule with the second dose.

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## MOS EDUCATION FELICITATES TEACHERS, INTERACTS WITH STUDENTS:

Union Minister of State for Education & External Affairs, Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, interacting with school students during a felicitation ceremony of winners of National Teachers Award 2021 at Raj Bhavan in Gangtok on Saturday. The Minister also inter-

acted with Mingma Sherpa, one of the recipients of the National Teachers Award 2021. The Minister met several national award winning teachers from Sikkim and felicitated them at a function held at Raj Bhavan in Gangtok, Sikkim today. (pib)

## Farmers call off protest in Haryana after IAS official sent on leave

**KARNALA, 11 SEPT [PTI]:** A week-long stalemate between farmers and the BJP government in Haryana was finally resolved today as demonstrators called off their protest over IAS officer Ayush Sinha's controversial "crack their (farmers) heads" remark that he made last month.

Both the sides agreed on a month-long probe by a former judge against the IAS officer and that he will remain on a leave during this period.

High drama unfolded in Karnal over the last week as large gatherings were banned and mobile internet services were suspended to contain the farmers' protest. Demands were raised to dismiss Mr Sinha after he was caught on camera, making the comments that sparked massive outrage.

Ayush Sinha, who was the Sub-Divisional Magistrate of Karnal, was removed from his post as the controversy blew up.

Ten people were injured on August 28 Haryana police lathi-charged farmers who blocked a highway while on way to Karnal to protest against a BJP meeting attended by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar. Soon after, Mr Sinha's video had surfaced.

Later, at a press conference, the Chief Minister said, "Although the officer's (Ayush Sinha) choice of words was not correct, strictness had to be maintained to ensure law and order situation there was kept under check."

"We will probe entire Karnal episode... not just Ayush Sinha. We can't punish officers without a probe," he said, adding, "If farmer leaders are found guilty we will also take action against them," the state's Home Minister Anil Vij said earlier this week.

When several rounds of talks had remained inconclusive earlier, farmers had threatened long haul protest, saying they might have to keep a permanent protest site in Karnal. "We may have a permanent protest like Singhu and Tikri border here," said farmer leader Rakesh Tikait.

## Sikkim felicitates national awardee teachers

**GANGTOK, 11 SEPT [IPR]:** Education Department, Government of Sikkim, organised a felicitation ceremony of national awardee teachers of Sikkim at Ashirvad Hall, Raj Bhawan, today.

The function was graced by Governor of Sikkim Ganga Prasad as the chief guest and Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs and Education, Government of India, Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh as the Guest of Honour.

The programme was also attended by Minister for Education, Government of Sikkim, Kunga Nima Lepcha, Cabinet Ministers, MP Lok Sabha, Additional Chief Secretary Education Department G.P. Upadhyay, Senior Officials of Education Department, two National Awardee Teachers, Mingma Sherpa and Prem Das Chettri and six previous years awardee teachers as special invitees and teachers and students of Deorali Government Girls Senior Secondary School.

A total of eight teachers who were presented with National Teachers Award by the Government of India from 2018 were felicitated by the Chief Guest, Guest of Honour and Minister.

It may be mentioned that this year, two teachers of the State, namely Mingma Sherpa, Primary Teacher, Government Primary School Lum, North Sikkim and Prem Das Chhetri, PGT Physics, Sir TNSSS, Gangtok, have been conferred with National Teacher's Award in a virtual programme organised by the Government of India on the occasion of Teachers' Day.

Along with these two awardees, six teachers who were conferred with National Teachers' Award from 2018 onwards who were also felicitated on the occasion are as follows:

1. Archana Gurung, Principal Jorethang SSS, South
2. Lomas Dhungel, GT maths Makha SSS, East Sikkim.



3. Smt Hannah Yonzon, Principal Rangpo SSS, East Sikkim.
4. Shri. M.L. Koirala Principal Samdong SSS East Sikkim
5. Smt Karma Chomu Bhutia, HM Manul, SS North Sikkim.
6. Smt Mamata Awasthy, HM Dongeythang PS, East Sikkim.

The Governor, Ganga Prasad in his address mentioned that Sikkim being one of the small states has performed well in various sectors. He also expressed gratitude and respect to the teachers who are the guiding light of society. Awards and accolades not only recognize their efforts but also encourage them to perform better in the days ahead, he added. He further expressed that other teachers should also follow in their footsteps and contribute to the nation building process.

The Governor also mentioned that since India is observing Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, one must not forget the selfless contributions made by the freedom fighters, who have laid down their lives safeguarding the country.

In his address, MoS Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh said that since the National Award is being held virtually, he was appraised by the senior Minister to personally meet and felicitate all the National awardee teachers of the North Eastern States starting from Sikkim.

He said that the teachers are

the role model who has calibre with different techniques and can productively impact students.

He stated that the purpose of visiting the Awardee States in the North East is to make this National teacher award popular so that it can further inspire other teachers to motivate themselves for the noble cause and greater good of the Nation.

While, re-emphasizing the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the goal of New Education Policy, 2020, the Minister also stressed the need to strengthen the education sector through teachers.

In his address, Minister Kunga Nima Lepcha said that the programme was organised to felicitate the efforts, dedication and hard work put in by the teachers. He also expressed hope that they continue to inspire and guide young minds to further contribute towards enhancing the education sector in the State. He further mentioned that it is through the hard work and outstanding performance of the teachers that the State of Sikkim can perform better in the education sector.

Earlier, ACS Education Department G.P. Upadhyay presented the welcome address, while vote of thanks was proposed by Special Secretary, Education Department, Bhim Thatal.

## Courts operate from "dilapidated structures" without proper facilities: Chief Justice

**ALLAHABAD, 11 SEPT [PTI]:** Courts in India still operate from "dilapidated structures, without proper facilities" as good infrastructure for judiciary has been neglected after the British left, ruled Chief Justice of India (CJI) NV Ramana on Saturday.

To address this issue, he championed the cause for setting up of National Judicial Infrastructure Corporation (NJIC).

The Chief Justice, who along with President Ram Nath Kovind took part in programmes including the foundation stone-laying ceremony of the Uttar Pradesh National Law Uni-

versity in Allahabad and a new building complex of the Allahabad High Court in Allahabad, stressed the importance of strengthening judicial infrastructure in the country.

"Courts in India still operate from dilapidated structures, without proper facilities. Such a situation is severely detrimental to the experience of litigants and lawyers. It is an unpleasant work environment for court staff and judges, making it difficult to effectively perform their functions. We neglected and failed to focus on providing good infrastructure for courts in India after the British left,"

Justice Ramana said.

The head of the judiciary, who spoke few lines in Hindi at the start of his speech, said the importance of strengthening judicial infrastructure cannot be overstated.

"That is the reason why I am championing the National Judicial Infrastructure Corporation (NJIC), which will develop concepts of the National Court Development Project and its implementation. The NJIC shall be along the lines of different infrastructure development statutory bodies that work towards creating National Assets across the country. One of

the design principles that the NJIC will follow, is socially responsible and inclusive architecture," he said.

Sufficient judicial infrastructure can help improve access to justice, by catering to the ever-rising number of cases and litigants, and their changing needs, he said.

Hinting towards the "very worrying numbers" of pending criminal cases in Allahabad High Court, the CJI referred to the proposed construction of the new multi-level parking and advocates chambers complex and said this would re-energise bar and bench in tackling the huge pendency.

## MoS External Affairs and Education arrives in Sikkim

**GANGTOK, 11 SEPT (IPR):** Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs and Education, Government of India, Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh arrived at the State capital, today.

The Minister is on a three-day visit to the State of Sikkim. He is accompanied by his spouse, and two officials from the Office of Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India.

Upon his arrival at Raj Bhawan, Gangtok, the Minister was accorded



a warm welcome by MP Lok Sabha, Indra Hang Subba, ACS, Education Department, Govern-

ment of Sikkim, GP Upadhyay, and Secretary Protocol, Home Department, S.K. Pradhan.

## "Was told can't speak to lawyer": NewsClick co-founder on tax "survey"



**NEW DELHI, 11 SEPT [NDTV]:** A day after Income Tax officers spent over 12 hours at the offices of news websites NewsClick and NewsLaundry - over tax evasion allegations - NewsLaundry co-founder Abhinandan Sekhri told NDTV he was not allowed to call his lawyer or accountant during the "survey".

Mr Sekhri told NDTV the officials took everyone's phones and ordered them not to leave. He said his personal laptop and phone were also taken and data from those devices copied, despite his objections over a possible violation of his fundamental right to privacy.

"They took the phones of everyone... said no one can go out. I asked if I could speak with my lawyer or accountant, and they said you cannot do this... so I could not call out," Mr Sekhri told NDTV.

"They also took my phone and laptop... I told them it is a violation of my fundamental right to privacy, but they said 'no,... we can do this'," he said, adding that the "courteous and professional" officials then asked him questions about the founding of NewsLaundry and its in-

vestors.

He told NDTV this information had already been submitted earlier - when the IT department raided NewsLaundry offices in June - and that he simply submitted it again, stressing, "We have nothing to hide... we conduct our business honestly and with integrity".

Mr Sekhri did, however, highlight his discomfort over personal data being taken (he was not given a signed digital copy), pointing out that his devices contained medical information and family photos.

"My understanding is that they can only take information related to tax matters... my phone and laptop have medical data, family photos... don't see how the law allows this," he said.

"... not comfortable with my right to privacy being breached."

He also pointed out that as a journalist his phone and laptop could have privileged information.

Earlier today Mr Sekhri posted a formal statement on Twitter, in which he said he had been told "... the law requires me to comply without seeking legal advice".

NewsClick has yet to release a statement on the IT officials' visit.

Officials have said yesterday's "survey" operation was to verify certain tax payment details and remittances made by the organisations.

According to the Income Tax Act, a "survey" is restricted to the business premises and office hours. Account books and inventories can be examined but cannot be seized.

NewsLaundry offices were raided in June and it is unclear what prompted a second visit from the 'taxman' within a few months.

This is also the second time NewsClick have been visited.

They were raided by the Enforcement Directorate in February in connection with a money laundering case linked to allegedly dubious foreign funding received by the registered company that runs the site.

The Delhi High Court has granted interim protection from arrest to NewsClick's founder/editor-in-chief Prabir Purkayastha in connection with the probe. The court has also granted him protection from coercive action in the Enforcement Directorate case.

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### SPYF condemns SKM...

to create a hostile group of ad-hoc teachers to clash with the teachers who are in Dharna now by propagating a false narrative."

The organisation points out that a similar tactic was "used by the ruling party by sponsoring a mob to disrupt a peaceful dharna against the fare hike by SPYF in October 2020."

"Rather than engaging time, energy, power and Government mechanism to create violence and clash to end their peaceful dharna without addressing their demands we request the Government to engage in a dialogue with them and solve it amicably. Their de-

mand is extremely reasonable and the Govt must hear them," SPYF has reiterated.

On news that the state government was rolling back its decision to regularise services of adhoc teachers after eight years of service, something which the Education Minister had suggested could be taken as a probation period, SPYF has demanded that the government should end the culture of ad-hoc appointments for good and replace it with a system of "conducting transparent open exam to fill up whatever vacancies that are there in the department" on permanent basis.



# Bkey Agarwal in Sikkim to appeal for votes

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 11 SEPT:**

A standup comedian from Sikkim, BkeyAgarwal, has appealed to the people of Sikkim to vote for him in the Comedy Champion Season 2. He is a finalist in Nepal's popular comedy reality show, Comedy Champion Season 2 and is currently in his home state to appeal for votes. The voting line is open till 18 September.

Addressing a press conference here today, Bkey said, "I have already given my best performance and now it all depends upon the votes of the people. The result of the finale now fully depends on the votes of the people so I need huge votes of the people to win the show."

Mentioning that not much time is left for voting, he appealed to the people to vote for him

as much as possible. He also thanked the people for supporting him in his journey so far.

"I really want to bring the title of the show to my home state, Sikkim. So, I want to appeal to the people to continue with their support," he expressed.

Co-founder of the comedy-based show, Ha-saisKatie, Nirmal Sharma urged people to download Prabhu Pay App and

register with an email-id to vote digitally for Bkey-Agarwal by going to the voting section of Comedy Champion.

He further added that if anyone faces problems in international transactions then they can also pay through Phone Pay or Google Pay in the name of BkeyAgarwal's father, Kalu Ram Agarwal. He also urged people to give maximum votes to Bkey.

## SSLSA holds National Lok Adalat

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 11 SEPT:**

The Sikkim State Legal Services Authority under the aegis and directions of NALSA, duly supervised at the State level by Mrs. Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, Acting Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim & Executive Chairperson, Sikkim SLA, held a National Lok Adalat on 11 Sept in all the District Legal Services Authorities and Taluk Legal Services Committees in the State and in the High Court Lok Adalat, a press release informs.

A total of 41 cases were taken up by the various Lok Adalat Benches, out of which 26 cases were disposed as settled and 15 cases were disposed as unsettled a total sum of Rs.14,46,961 was awarded to the aggrieved parties by settlement during the said National Lok Adalat, the release informs.

Bank Recovery case, Civil Matters, NI Act cases, Criminal Compoundable cases, Money Suit and Matrimonial matters were taken up in the National Lok Adalat.

The general public is informed that the next National Lok Adalat is scheduled to be held on 11 Dec, 2021, the release adds.

## 'Jungle Cruise' to release in Indian theatres on September 24

**NEW DELHI, SEP 11 (PTI):** "Disney's Jungle Cruise", starring Dwayne Johnson, Emily Blunt, is all set to release in Indian theatres on September 24 in English, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu.

The film has already released internationally in July and a sequel is already in the works as per reports in the international media.

Inspired by the famous Disneyland theme park ride, "Disney's Jungle Cruise" is an adventure-filled, rollicking thrill-ride down the Amazon with wisecracking skipper Frank Wolff and intrepid researcher Dr. Lily Houghton.

Directed by Jaume Collet-Serra, Jungle Cruise also stars Edgar Ram rez and Jack Whitehall, with Jesse Plemons and Paul Giamatti.

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# Dr Atul Gaikwad appointed SICA director for cricket development

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 11 SEPT:**

Dr Atul Gaikwad has been appointed as Director for Cricket Development and Coaching at Sikkim Cricket Association [SICA] in an honorary capacity today, a press release informs.

Dr Gaikwad, is a former faculty at National Cricket Academy, a certified level 4 England Cricket Board master coach, level 3 Cricket Australia coach and BCCI high-performance coach. Having already worked with SICA during the season 2020-21, he extended his interest in working for Sikkim Cricket Association again.



for the development of

"His offer has been accepted for the domestic season of 2021-22, and we look forward to having a highly qualified expert like him working

the sport in Sikkim. His contribution would be pivotal in steering the operations of cricket on the right path. At present under his guid-

ance SICA is conducting the conditioning camp for the under 19 Men's and Women's teams at Sikkim Cricket Ground, Rangpo," the release states.

## Israel arrests 4 Palestinian fugitives who escaped prison

**JERUSALEM (AP):** Israeli

police on Saturday said they have arrested four of the six Palestinians who broke out of a maximum-security prison this week — including a famed militant leader whose exploits over the years have made him a well-known figure in Israel. The arrests moved Israel closer to closing an embarrassing episode that exposed deep flaws in its prison system and turned the fugitive prisoners into Palestinian heroes. Late on Friday, Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip fired a rocket into Israel in an apparent sign of solidarity, drawing Israeli airstrikes in reprisal.

The four wanted men were caught in a pair of arrests in northern Israel.

Early on Saturday, police said they had caught two men, including Zakaria Zubeidi, in the Arab town of Umm al-Ghanam. Zubeidi was a militant leader during the second Palestinian uprising in

the early 2000s. While he has been linked to attacks on Israelis, he also was well known for giving frequent media interviews and for a friendship he once had with an Israeli woman. Zubeidi over the years had received amnesty and taken college courses and was active in a West Bank theater movement before he was re-arrested in 2019 on suspicions of involvement in attacks.

Photos released by police showed Zubeidi, handcuffed and wearing a white blindfold, being led away by two police officers.

In a statement, police said that Israeli security forces, including the military, have been working "around the clock" to catch the fugitives.

"All of the forces were deployed at full strength, searched in open areas, collected every piece of information until they succeeded in solving the puzzle to locate these two fugitives," including Zubeidi, police said.

## Governor flags off Siliguri-Patna leg of CRPF cycle rally to Raj Ghat



**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 11 SEPT:**

Governor Ganga Prasad flagged-off a cycle rally to Patna from the CRPF Camp at Siliguri today, a press communiqué from Raj Bhawan informs. The cycle rally had started from Jorhat, Assam, as part of the "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" programme.

CRPF has organised four rallies from four corners of the country - Kashmir, Gujarat, Kerala and Assam, all of which will terminate at Rajghat, New Delhi, on Gandhi Jayanti.

The flag-off programme was attended by Member of Parliament, Jalpaiguri, Dr Jayanta Kumar Rai, as guest of honor, national boxing

coach, Sandhya Gurung as special guest along with other senior officers of CRPF, SSB, BSF, Police Officers of Siliguri other dignitaries and cycling lovers.

The Governor, in his address, the press release informs, said, "The central government has taken many initiatives to develop the Northeast like other parts of the country. The Northeastern region has huge potential and it will play a big role in the future. Now the Union government is also looking at the developmental works in the region on a regular basis."

The cycling team consists of 25 CRPF officers and other ranks along with support staff, it is informed.

## Boxing team to take part in Senior Elite Men National Boxing C'ship

**SAGARCHETTRI  
GANGTOK, 11 SEPT:**

A five-member team of Sikkim Amateur Boxing Association [SABA] is all set to represent Sikkim in the 5th edition of Senior Elite Men National Boxing Championship to be held from 15 to 21 September at Inspire Institute of Sports, Bellary in Karnataka.

The state team comprises of pugilists Sukraj Rai, Sajjan Lohar, Krishna Kailash Rai, Rudra Bahadur Chettri and Saurav Gurung. The team is scheduled to leave for the championship on Sunday.

The team will be accompanied by coach, Prabin Limboo and Pappu Pradhan as manager and Manoj Limboo and Pritam Shilal from Sikkim who will be participating in the championship as officials.

The team members have undergone a 10-day long residential coaching camp here at White Hall under coaches, Sandhya Gurung, Anuj Pradhan and Prabin Limboo. The coaching camp was

organized by SABA and sponsored by Sikkim Olympic Association [SOA].

Speaking to Summit Times here today, SABA president, Jasraj Pradhan mentioned that the team members have undergone rigorous training for over six hours every day in this coaching camp under experienced coaches.

The team members are in top form and expect to give their best to clinch medals for the State, he stated.

He expressed hope of a medal from Sukraj Rai, who won a bronze medal for the State in the last edition of this national championship. He said that the championship is also very important as the gold medalist of this national championship will get direct entry in the upcoming World Boxing Championship to be held in October at Belgrade, Serbia.

Mr Pradhan mentioned that except for Sukraj Rai, the remaining four members are participating for the first time in the senior national championship.

## 12 smart phones gifted to students of Lum Primary School

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 11 SEPT:**

Inner Wheel Club of Gangtok along with the Rotary Club of Gangtok provided 12 smart phones to the students of Lum Primary School Dzongu, North Sikkim, on the occasion of International Literacy Day on 08 Sept, 2021, a press release informs.

The day is marked to advance the literacy



agenda that enables human beings to march towards a more cultured, literate and sustainable society. The day raises

awareness about the importance of literacy as a matter of human rights and dignity across the world.

## STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD SIKKIM FOREST AND ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM  
DEORALI, GANGTOK – 737102

F.No. 351/SPCB/3181

Dated: 8.9.2021

## NOTICE

As per the provisions of Section 25 of water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Section 21 of Air (Prevention & Control of pollution) Act, 1981, no person/s can establish or operate any enterprise, industrial units without obtaining prior Consent to Establish or Operate which are liable for causing environment pollution. The units include any type of enterprises/establishments e.g. Health care Establishment (Hospital, Clinics, Clinical labs, blood bank etc), Pharmaceutical units, Fabrication units, factories, Vehicle cleaning facility (car spa), Automobile workshop/ Garages, Hydro-electric project and industrial units, Hotels, Resorts, restaurants, Hot mix plant, DG Sets, Mobile tower, petrol pumps, photo studios, Dairy, Bakery, Laundry and jewellery shops, poultry farms (5000 birds & above) etc.

Therefore, notice is hereby given to all units to apply for Consent to Establish/Operate online at [www.skocmms.nic.in](http://www.skocmms.nic.in) without fail. Failure to obtain Consent may result in legal action in exercise of power vested under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, Section 33 A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 & under section 31 A of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 by the State Pollution Control Board Sikkim for contravention of the relevant provisions of the Acts.

For further enquiry please contact the office of the State Pollution Control Board, Sikkim Deorali Gangtok, East Sikkim.

Email: [spcbsikkim@gmail.com](mailto:spcbsikkim@gmail.com)

Member Secretary  
State Pollution Control Board, Sikkim  
Department of Forest & Environment,  
Government of Sikkim  
Deorali, East Sikkim.

R.O. No. 192/IPR/Pub/Class./21-22  
Date: 10.9.2021



**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM  
HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT**

National Bamboo Mission  
KRISHI BHAWAN, TADONG

Memo No. 53/NBM/Hort.

Dated: 08/09/2021

### OPPORTUNITY FOR LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS

The Horticulture Department, Government of Sikkim with a view to provide entrepreneurship opportunities in bamboo sector invites Expression of Interest for Project Proposals with back ended 60% (50% plus additional 10% for NE states) subsidies through banks from individual entrepreneurs/ registered NGOs / SHGs / Private Organizations for the year 2021-22 for setting up following bamboo-based Micro/Medium/ Big enterprises under the Restructured National Bamboo Mission in the State of Sikkim.

Sl.No.	Activities	Subsidy	Phy.Target (Nos.)
1.	Establishment of Carbonization Plant	Rs.30 lac or 50% of project cost whichever is less	1 (Pvt Sector)
2.	Establishment of Livelihood Business Incubators	Rs.100 lac or 100% of project cost whichever is less	1 (Govt. Sector)
3.	Bamboo Furniture making	Rs.25 lac or 60% of project cost whichever is less	3 (Pvt Sector)
4.	Fabric / Jewellery making	Rs.15 lac or 60% of project cost whichever is less	1 (Pvt Sector)
5.	Incense Stick Making	Rs.25lac or 60% of project cost whichever is less	2 (Pvt Sector)
6.	Handicrafts & Cottage Industry	Rs.15 lac or 60% of project cost whichever is less	5 (Pvt Sector)
7.	Common Facility Centre	Rs.25 lac or 100% of project cost whichever is less	1 (Govt Sector)
8.	Rural Haat	Rs.20 lac or 100% of project cost whichever is less	1 (Govt Sector)

The proposals after scrutiny of all relevant documents and ascertaining feasibility by a committee headed by Mission Director, National Bamboo Mission will be forwarded to Banks for granting loans. Priority will be given to those individuals / organizations having past experience on bamboo handicrafts, marketing, and industrial production etc. Also the detail estimate submitted may include cost for construction of work shed / machinery certified by civil/ Mechanical Engineer with proper seal and signature alongwith the application and should the application and should reach the office of the Mission Director, NBM within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice.

After the final scrutiny of the submitted details Project Report by the committee, agreement copy to be signed between the department official (NBM) and party willing to undertake the project. For Govt Sector, minimum 10 years experience in Bamboo related activities like product designing, Value Addition of Bamboo and past experiences for setting up units or related activities in any other state to be submitted with details project report alongwith the application and should reach the office of the Mission Director, NBM within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice. For further enquiries, interested individuals/ organizations may contact Mission Director, NBM – 8145695154/ 7001411965 email: [nbmsikkim@gmail.com](mailto:nbmsikkim@gmail.com). The detailed guidelines are available at [www.nbm.nic.in](http://www.nbm.nic.in).

**R.O. No. 190/IPR/Pub/Class./21-22  
Date: 10.9.2021**

MISSION DIRECTOR, NBM]  
HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT  
File No: 142SBDA/HCCDD.



## The Next Lot Sans Prejudice

*Can we give the young confidence instead of paranoia*

It’s festive time. A time when people are lavish with gifts, blessings and best wishes. In this time of giving, can we expect the present generation to gift the next a grooming sans prejudice?

Just look around, the world as we know it is turning into a global village and WTO is blurring international boundaries as far as trade is concerned, but people in general are becoming more and more parochial and the virus has assisted their ploy by erecting fresh barriers. Almost every district wants to express itself as a State, every province wants to be a country and every community swears it has a unique identity independent of all others. While it would be improper to deny anyone their right to self-expression, it would be criminal to ignore the fact that self expression in the present-day politically charged times almost always comes at the cost of denying someone else the same right. The generation in control of things has abused with alacrity this fundamental right, and mindsets are already fixated on ideas which are prejudiced and even illogical. There is little that can be done on this front, but if we accept that things need to change and improve, we could try and do so with the generation still untrained in the biases which we have fomented.

Much as we would want to deny it, an obvious communal divide is getting sharper by the day in Sikkim as well. Enter homes, and opinions which could later inflame into searing conflagrations, are all there. Passing comments which never posed serious repercussions earlier are no longer as innocent as they used to be in times when violent expressions were rare. We need to be more careful and at the cost of sounding trite - more politically correct in the presence of younger adults. If we are to remain free of the communalism which has already swept most of the country and is trying to find its own interpretations in Sikkim, the State needs to address the issue more scientifically. The best places to start are the schools. It is perhaps time that classes were set aside to educate the younger generation on what makes their culture, their heritage and history interdependent and not hermetically independent. No attempts should be made to bring every community under one umbrella and students should be allowed the chance to celebrate each community’s individuality and then learn of how each relies on the other. Once they know of other cultures and are also aware of their own, they will not feel threatened. The paranoia which inflicts various communities in Sikkim is borne not from any obvious threat, but from their own lack of sound moorings in their culture and history. Half-baked notions of identity are the most susceptible to exploitation and they are being exploited at present. There is no need to keep the future generation in the dark about differences which exist between different communities here. Perhaps, if they are well informed about the points of attrition, they will also be able to work out the solutions that have failed others so far. They might even discard the whole concept of notional contradictions.

Can we equip the next generation well enough to do that?

### 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](mailto:news@summittimes.com)

# 9/11 Did Not Change the World – it was already on the path to decades of conflict

PAUL ROGERS  
*theconversation.com*

The September 11 attacks in New York and Washington were visceral in their impact. In less than three hours, the twin towers of the World Trade Center were reduced to a mountain of twisted metal and rubble, killing more than 2,700 people, while hundreds more were killed at the Pentagon. All three were destroyed by men armed with nothing more than parcel knives hijacking fuel-laden passenger aircraft.

America was under attack. It came not long after George W. Bush had formed his new administration with highly influential neoconservatives and assertive realists at the Pentagon and State Department, as well as in the White House itself. All were determined to see the vision of a “new American century” fulfilled – a neoliberal free market world rooted in US experience and guided by its post-cold war progress as the world’s sole economic and military superpower.

At the time, commentators compared the attack to Pearl Harbor, but the effect of 9/11 was much greater. Pearl Harbor had been an attack by the naval forces of a state already in great tension with the United States. It was against a military base in the pre-television age and away from the continental United States. The 9/11 attack was a much greater shock, and if war with Japan was a consequence of Pearl Harbor, then there would be war after 9/11 even if the perpetrators and those behind them were scarcely known to the American public.

The vision of the new American century had to be secured and force of arms was the way to do it, initially against al-Qaida and the Taliban in Afghanistan.

A few people argued against war at the time, seeing it as a trap to suck the US into an Afghanistan occupation instead of treating 9/11 as an act of appalling mass criminality, but their voices did not count.

The first “war on terror” – against al-Qaida and the Taliban – started within a month, lasted barely two months and seemed an immediate success. It was followed by Bush’s State of the Union address in January 2002 declaring an extended war against what Bush referred to as an “axis of evil” of rogue states intent on supporting terror and developing weapons of mass destruction.

Iraq was the priority, with Iran and North Korea in the frame. The Iraq War started in March 2003 and was apparently over by May 1, when Bush gave his “mission accomplished” speech from the flight deck of the USS Abraham Lincoln.

That was the high point of the entire US-led “war on terror”. Afghanistan was the first disaster, with the Taliban moving back into rural areas within two to three years and going on to fight the US and its allies for 20 years before taking back control last month.

In Iraq, even though the insurgents appeared defeated by 2009 and the US could withdraw its forces two years later, Islamic State (IS) rose phoenix-like from the ashes. That led to the third conflict, the intense 2014-18 air war across northern

Iraq and Syria, fought by the US, the UK, France and others, killing tens of thousands of IS supporters and several thousand civilians.

Even after the collapse of its caliphate in Iraq and Syria, IS arose once again like the proverbial phoenix, spreading its influence as far afield as the Saharan Sahel, Mozambique, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Bangladesh, southern Thailand, the Philippines, back in Iraq and Syria once more and even Afghanistan. The spread across the Sahel was aided by the collapse of security in Libya, the 2011 NATO-led intervention being the fourth of the west’s failed wars in barely 20 years.

In the face of these bitter failures, we have two linked questions: was 9/11 the beginning of decades of a new world disorder? And where do we go from here?

### 9/11 IN CONTEXT

It is natural to see the single event of 9/11 as turning traditional military postures on their heads, but that is misleading. There were already changes afoot, as two very different events in February 1993, eight years before the attacks, had shown all too well.

First, incoming US president, Bill Clinton, had appointed James Woolsey as the new director of the CIA. Asked at his Senate confirmation hearing how he would characterise the end of the cold war, he replied that the US had slain the dragon (the Soviet Union) but now faced a jungle full of poisonous snakes.

During the 1990s, and very much in line with Woolsey’s phrase, the US military moved from a cold war posture to preparing for small wars in far-off places. There was more emphasis on long-range air strike systems, amphibious forces, carrier battle groups and special forces. By the time Bush was elected in November 2000, the US was far more prepared to tame the jungle.

Second, the US military and most analysts around the world missed the significance of a new phenomenon, the rapidly improving ability of the weak to take up arms against the strong. Yet the signs were already there. On February 26 1993, not long after Woolsey had talked of a jungle full of snakes, an Islamist paramilitary group attempted to destroy the World Trade Center with a massive truck bomb placed in the underground car park of the North Tower. The plan was to collapse it over the adjoining Vista Hotel and the South Tower, destroying the entire complex and killing upwards of 30,000 people.

The attack failed – though six people died – and the significance of the attack was largely missed even though there were many other indicators of weakness in the 1990s. In December 1994, an Algerian paramilitary group tried to crash an Airbus passenger jet on Paris, an attack foiled by French special forces during a refuelling stop at Marseilles. A month later a bombing by the LTTE of the Central Bank in Colombo, Sri Lanka devastated much of the central business district of Colombo, killing over 80 and injuring more than 1,400 people.

A decade before the first World Trade Center attacks, 241 Marines had been killed in a single bombing in Beirut (another 58 French paratroopers were killed by a second bomb in their barracks)

and between 1993 and 2001 there were attacks in the Middle East and East Africa including the Khobar Towers bombing in Saudi Arabia, an attack on the USS Cole in Aden Harbour and the bombing of US diplomatic missions in Tanzania and Kenya.

The 9/11 attacks did not change the world. They were further steps along a well-signed path leading to two decades of conflict, four failed wars and no clear end in sight.

### WHAT NOW?

That long path, though, has from the start had within it one fundamental flaw. If we are to make sense of wider global trends in insecurity, we have to recognise that in all the analysis around the 9/11 anniversary there lies the belief that the main security concern must be with an extreme version of Islam. It may seem a reasonable mistake, given the impact of the wars, but it still misses the point. The war on terror is better seen as one part of a global trend which goes well beyond a single religious tradition – a slow but steady move towards revolts from the margins.

In writing my book, Losing Control, in the late 1990s – a couple of years before 9/11 – I put it this way:

“What should be expected is that new social movements will develop that are essentially anti-elite in nature and will draw their support from people, especially men, on the margins. In different contexts and circumstances, they may have their roots in political ideologies, religious beliefs, ethnic, nationalist or cultural identities, or a complex combination of several of these.

They may be focused on individuals or groups, but the most common feature is an opposition to existing centres of power ... What can be said is that, on present trends, anti-elite action will be a core feature of the next 30 years – not so much a clash of civilisations, more an age of insurgencies.”

This stemmed from the view that the primary factors in global insecurity were a combination of increasing socioeconomic divisions and environmental limits to growth coupled with a security strategy rooted in preserving the status quo. Woolsey’s “jungle full of snakes” could be seen as a consequence of this, but there would be military responses available to keep the lid on problems – “liddism” in short.

More than two decades down the road, socioeconomic divisions have worsened, the concentration of wealth has reached levels best described as obscene and has even increased dramatically during the COVID-19 pandemic, itself leading to food shortages and increased poverty.

Meanwhile climate change is now with us, is accelerating towards climate breakdown with, once again, the greatest impact on marginalised societies. It therefore makes sense to see 9/11 primarily as an early and grievous manifestation of the weak taking up arms against the strong, and that military response in the current global security environment woefully misses the point.

At the very least there is an urgent need to re-think what we mean by security, and time is getting short to do that.

*[the writer is Professor of Peace Studies, University of Bradford]*

# The Ronaldo Effect: What Big Players Mean for the Business Goals of Clubs Like Manchester United

DAN PLUMLEY & ROB WILSON  
*theconversation.com*

The prodigal son returns. In the last few days of a frenzied football transfer window, Manchester United pulled off a dream signing, welcoming Cristiano Ronaldo back to his former club.

Excitement over his return to the Premier League is high – and with good reason. There are only a handful of sports stars on the planet who can generate this kind of global interest.

But how does a player of Ronaldo’s professional stature affect the business side of a major football club? Where are the key financial wins generated by sporting superstars?

In football transfer fee terms, Ronaldo returns to United with a relatively cheap price tag. He has signed a two-year contract (with the option to extend) for an initial fee of £12.86 million and the potential for an additional £6.85 million in performance related bonuses.

This is primarily down to his age. At 36, he is approaching the end of his playing career, and the fee reflects this, even though his performance level remains high. That performance factor is reflected in his salary, which is set to be around £385,000 per week

Adding these numbers together crudely shows a total cost to Manchester United in the region of £60 million. The club have also shown

shrewd business tactics by managing to spread the payment over five years.

In return, United hope Ronaldo’s skill will enhance the club’s chances on the pitch. But the bigger picture is the commercial edge he can bring.

Certainly the power of his personal brand (he is widely known as “CR7” after his initials and preferred player number) – not withstanding the ongoing civil lawsuit against him for allegations of rape, which he denies (criminal charges were ruled out) – instantly extends the club’s international reach and appeal.

Ronaldo currently boasts half a billion followers across social media, compared to Manchester United’s 140 million, and the announcement of his signing sparked 12.5 million likes on Instagram. Converting this reach into cash is critical.

### A NUMBERS GAME

Ronaldo has already increased United’s shirt sales to a record breaking amount. But it is Adidas which will see the initial benefit, with the German kit manufacturer paying a license fee to reproduce the famous red shirts. That said, United’s current deal with Adidas is already football’s biggest, and the Ronaldo effect should allow the club’s executives to push up the price when it comes to renewal.

United’s broader business operations should also see a significant boost. Sponsors will be falling over

themselves to partner with United, and it is possible the club could make an additional £30m in commercial arrangements in the next couple of years.

And while exact numbers are difficult to predict, we can look to Ronaldo’s last club, Juventus, for a guide. The Portuguese moved there from Real Madrid in 2018, and the next two years show considerable commercial growth for the Italian club.

Of course, that’s not all down to Ronaldo, but he certainly helped. While he was in the squad, Juventus renegotiated deals with Adidas and Jeep, and signed a new one with Konami in Japan who cited the “Ronaldo effect” as a major reason behind the partnership.

Manchester United meanwhile already generate significant value from commercial deals and Ronaldo will help boost those numbers. The team and the player have been described as “match made in heaven”, with the share price of the club jumping before Ronaldo had even kicked a ball back in Manchester.

Longer-term gains can be expected in the next couple of years, and if he helps the club to win trophies, the numbers could be mind boggling. Those numbers will no doubt be studied by the top European clubs as they desperately look for the next Ronaldo and Messi, encapsulated by Real Madrid’s recent failed attempt to land Kylian Mbappe from Paris

Saint-Germain. (Expect him to be the next big move in January 2022.)

The football industry in general is concerned about a changing market where the relationship between the game and young people appears to be deteriorating. Recent research found that 40% of respondents in seven countries (including England, Poland and Brazil) aged 16-24 had no interest in football, sparking fears of a “missing generation” of fans.

As a result, clubs are searching for new ways to engage. Anything that extends the reach in younger age groups is of huge interest to club owners, so Ronaldo’s social media presence is yet another box ticked.

The attachment between fans and a favourite player is also of increasing importance, particularly in emerging markets. In India for example, nearly a third of fans say that allegiance to a player influences their support for a club.

For Manchester United, there is clearly money to be made from the return of CR7. The club will gain new fans and new deals – and if he scores goals and wins matches, maybe even a shiny new trophy.

*[Dan Plumley is Senior Lecturer in Sport Finance, Sheffield Hallam University; Rob Wilson is Head of Department; Finance, Accounting & Business Systems, Sheffield Hallam University]*





GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM  
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
NAMCHI, SOUTH SIKKIM

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT NO:- 01 /EDN/NAMCHI/SD /2021-2022 DATED:- 06/09/2021

Sealed tenders in percentage basis are invited on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim for the works mentioned below from the Appropriate classes of registered Contractors enlisted under Sikkim Public Works Department, Vide Notification No. 515/R&B/PWD/Secy; Dated 12/06/2018, through competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction of respective Gram Panchayat /Urban local bodies where the work is to be executed to reach the office of the Assistant Engineer, Education Department, Namchi. The work details are tabulated below;

S.No.	Name of Work	Contitu-ency	Gram Pan-chayat Unit	Value put to tender(in Rupees)	Earnest-mone-y @ 2.5% for issue of tender form(in Rupees)	Bank Receipt for cost of tender docu-ments (in Rupees.)	Comple-tion time
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Construction of Four roomed School building at Sorok-Manpur Primary School.	Poklok Kamrang	Sorok -Shyam-pani	5704467.00	142612.00	5000.00	12 months
2	Construction of Four roomed School building at Dhargaon Primary School	Poklok Kamrang	Salghari	5691667.00	142292.00	5000.00	12 months
3	Construction of Four roomed School building at Chiyadara Primary School	Poklok Kamrang	Damthang	5731933.00	143298.00	5000.00	12 months
4	Construction of Four roomed School build-ing at Barbotey Primary School	Poklok Kamrang	Tinik -Chiso-pani	5704639.00	142616.00	5000.00	12 months
5	Construction of Four roomed School building at Nandugaon-Suntaley Primary School	Poklok Kamrang	Poklok- Denc-hung	5709583.00	142740.00	5000.00	12 months
6	Construction of Four roomed Primary School building at Sal-ghari .	Poklok Kamrang	Salghari	5752408.00	143810.00	5000.00	12 months
7	Construction of Four roomed Primary School building at Nam-chi New Sec-ondary School Council.	Namchi Singithang	Ward Council Lower Ghur-pisey	5731328.00	143283.00	5000.00	12 months
8	Construction of Four roomed primary School building at Namchi Girls Senior Second-ary School.	Namchi Singithang	Ward coun-cil Purano Namchi	5704748.00	142619.00	5000.00	12 months
9	Construction of Four roomed Primary School building at Kabrey Second-ary School.	Namthang Rateypani	Nagi- Karek	5801562.00	145039.00	5000.00	12 months
10	Construction of Four roomed School building at Kaizaley Ju-nior High School.	Namthang Rateypani	Nagi Karek	7201499.00	180037.00	5000.00	12 months
11	Construction of Four roomed School building at Kateng-Mag-erjung Primary School Pam-phok.	Namthang Rateypani	Kateng- Pam-phok	7166947.00	179174.00	5000.00	12 months
12	Construction of Four roomed School Building at Turung Sec-ondary School.	Namthang Rateypani	Mamring	7066504.00	176663.00	5000.00	12 months
13	Construction of Four roomed School building at Rolu-Manpur Primary School.	Melli	Sumbuk- Kar-tikey	6700265.00	167507.00	5000.00	12 months
14	Construction of Four roomed School building at Rokdara Pri-mary School.	Melli	Sadam- Sun-taley	5428359.00	135709.00	5000.00	12 months
15	Construction of Four roomed School building at Suntaley Ju-nior High School.	Melli	Sadam- Sun-taley	5436302.00	135908.00	5000.00	12 months
16	Construction of Four roomed School building at Maypong Ju-nior High School.	Ralang Barfung	Borong-Phamtham	5704624.00	142616.00	5000.00	12 months
17	Construction of Four roomed School building at Paksom Ju-nior High School.	Ralang Barfung	Borong-Phamtham	5705083.00	142627.00	5000.00	12 months

18	Construction of Four roomed School building at Lingding Sec-ondary School.	Ralang Barfung	Ralang- Nam-lung	5704165.00	142604.00	5000.00	12 months
19	Construction of Four roomed School building at Lamaten Pri-mary School.	Ralang Barfung	Kewzing-Bakhim	5704165.00	142604.00	5000.00	12 months
20	Construction of Four roomed School building at Bbanday Pri-mary School.	Rangyang Yangang	Niya -Mangz-ing	5700524.00	142513.00	5000.00	12 months
21	Construction of Four roomed School building at Gangla Pri-mary School.	Rangyang Yangang	Rabong Sang-moo	5692322.00	142308.00	5000.00	12 months
22	Construction of Four roomed School building at Upper Togdey Primary School.	Rangyang Yangang	Kolthang- Tok-dey	5704624.00	142616.00	5000.00	12 months
23	Construction of Four roomed School Building at Rikyap Pri-mary School.	Temi Nam-phing	Namphing	5704624.00	142616.00	5000.00	12 months
24	Construction of Four roomed School building at Ben Senior Secondary School.	Temi Nam-phing	Ben -Namprick	5704624.00	142616.00	5000.00	12 months
25	Construction of Four roomed Primary School building at Lower Chalamthang Ju-nior High School Namphing.	Temi Nam-phing	Namphing	5404128.00	135103.00	5000.00	12 months
26	Construction of Four roomed Primary School building at Nam-phing Secondary School.	Temi Nam-phing	Namphing	5432128.00	135803.00	5000.00	12 months
27	Construction of Four roomed Primary School building at Sok-pay Junior High School.	Tumin Lingee	Lingee- Sok-pay	5188879.00	129722.00	5000.00	12 months

TIME SCHEDULE		
i)	Date for submission of application with bank receipt, for issue of Tender docu-ments	13/09/2021 (for works enlisted from s.no 1 to 09) 14/09/2021 (for works enlisted from s.no10 to 19) 15/09/2021 (for works enlisted from s.no.20 to 27) (Timing 10:30hrs to 15:00 hrs)
ii)	Date of issue of Tender form/ Tender documents	16/09/2021 (for works enlisted from s.no 1 to 09) 17/09/2021 (for works enlisted from s.no10 to 19) 21/09/2021 (for works enlisted from s.no.20 to 27) (Timing 10:30hrs to 15:00 hrs)
iii)	Date and time for submission of Tender	22/09/2021 (for works enlisted from s.no 1 to 09) 23/09/2021 (for works enlisted from s.no10 to 19) 24/09/2021 (for works enlisted from s.no.20 to 27) (Timing 10:30hrs to 13:30 hrs)
iv)	Date and time of opening of Tender	22/09/2021 (for works enlisted from s.no 1 to 09) 23/09/2021 (for works enlisted from s.no10 to 19) 24/09/2021 (for works enlisted from s.no.20 to 27) (Timing 14:30 hrs to 16:30 hrs)

- CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT:-**
- Tender is open only to the eligible contractors of appropriate class/Area.
  - The intending tenderer/contractor should apply in writing for issue of tender form for/tender documents. The application should invariably be signed by the contractor himself/herself. Tender documents will not be issued to any person other than the intending tenderer. The application shall be submitted for the work listed above with all the required documents.
  - The applicants should enclose attested copies of the (a) GST Registration certificate (b) Income tax clearance certificate (c) Professional tax certificate (d) Validated/Updated Contractor Enlistment Certificate along with the application during sale/issue of Tender Documents for verification.
  - Earnest Money (EM) 2.5% duly deposited in the State Bank of Sikkim shall be in the form of T.D.R. in favor of Sr. Accounts Officer, Education Department, Government of Sikkim Gangtok. Tender Form shall be issued only on production of the T.D.R., as prescribed to those contractors or firms who have obtained the Tender Documents.
  - The prescribed Non- Transferable Tender Documents (Excluding the Tender Form) can be obtained during the period specified in as above from the **office of the Assistant Engineer, Education Department, Namchi Sub-Division**, on the production of requisite Bank receipt/challan of the State Bank of Sikkim towards the tender document (Non- refundable) under the receipt head 0202-01-101-03 other receipts .
  - The Tender Documents, including the tender form with quoted offer should be placed in a sealed cover with the name of tenderer and the name of work superscripted on it. Supporting documents listed at Sl. No. :- 3(a) (b) (c) and (d) should be enclosed with the offer.
  - Sealed Tenders may be deposited in the Tender Box in the **office of the Assistant Engineer (Education) Namchi** in his/ her presence, on the date and within the time indicated above.
  - Tenders will be opened by a tender opening committee as prescribed by the Government in the presence of the tenderers on the date and time indicated above.
  - The Tenderer should sign on every page of the tender documents as Acceptance of the General Direction and condition of Contract and other laid down norms. The rate quoted should be both in figures and words and should be inclusive of GST and all other levied taxes. Incomplete/Conditional tender shall be rejected forth with.
  - In case of any discrepancy in rate(s) printed in the Schedule of Rates and Quantities issued with the tender documents, rates as per approved schedule of rate will be taken as correct. For items outside of SOR, the rate shall be as per the technically checked estimate/analysis.
  - The work value, scope and quantum of work are subject to change, the contractor shall execute the work as per the directive of the Department.
  - The Department reserves the right to hold payments to the contractor unless material/quality test certificates are not produced by the contractor when called upon to do so.
  - Avoidable damages due to the negligence of the contractor shall be at his own risk and cost. The Department shall not be liable for payment of such damages (if any) i/c accidents to laborer at site, damage to any structural components due to negligence of workmanship.
  - The work should commence within 15 days from the date of issue of work order. If the contractor fails to take up the work within a period of 3 months the contract will be rescinded and the TDR shall be forfeited by the Department.
  - All the conditions as mentioned in the NIT shall be deemed to be a part of the Agreement to be entered with the contractor.
  - The Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
  - The recoveries of Goods and Service Tax and Royalties on the forest product shall be as per the rates notified by Government from time to time and applicable on the date of payment.
  - Subletting of contractor work is against the norms and if it comes to the notice the original contract shall be cancelled and appropriate action shall be initiated as per the rules.
  - In case the man powers employed by the contractor are from outside the State or neighboring countries, it shall be the responsibility of the contractor to get them registered with the Labour Department, Government of Sikkim as per the relevant labour laws.

R.O No. 185/IPR/Pub/Classi./21-22  
Dated: 08.09.21

Sd/-  
Assistant Engineer (South)  
Education Department  
Government of Sikkim



## Belarus hockey leader resigns over ban for political threats

**MINSK, BELARUS (AP):** The top ice hockey official in Belarus has stepped down after he was banned for five years for threatening players over their political beliefs.

The Belarus hockey federation had initially signaled Dmitri Baskov could stay on as president in defiance of Wednesday's ban, but he told state TV on Friday he was stepping aside to avoid possible further sanctions against the federation if he stayed.

The International Ice Hockey Federation ruled Baskov "abused his position" by trying to influence others to back authoritarian Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko. Its investigation found evidence he "threatened and discriminated Belarusian athletes because of their political opinion."

The IIHF previously removed Belarus as host of this year's men's world championships after a backlash from sponsors.

Belarus has been in turmoil for more than a year since longtime president Lukashenko, who is a passionate hockey fan, was re-elected in a vote widely seen as rigged and which led to a violent crackdown on democracy protests.

## Lakers trade Marc Gasol's rights back to Memphis Grizzlies

**LOS ANGELES (AP):** The Los Angeles Lakers have traded the rights to Marc Gasol back to the Memphis Grizzlies, where the 36-year-old center spent his first 11 NBA seasons.

The Lakers also sent a second-round pick in 2024 and cash to Memphis on Friday in exchange for the draft rights to Chinese big man Wang Zhelin.

ESPN then reported the Grizzlies intend to waive Gasol, who plans to begin the new NBA season at home in Spain. The move saves the Lakers about \$10 million against the salary cap and the league's luxury tax.

The 36-year-old Gasol averaged a career-low 5.0 points and 4.1 rebounds per game last season with the Lakers, who signed him to a two-year deal last November. The 7-foot-1 center never found a regular role in the injury-plagued Lakers' rotation while they lost in the first round of the postseason.

Gasol's role for the upcoming season looked increasingly tenuous this summer after the Lakers signed centers Dwight Howard and DeAndre Jordan, who officially returned to Los Angeles on Thursday. The Lakers also weren't even certain Gasol wanted to return for another NBA season, prompting them to stock up on big men.

Gasol made three All-Star teams during his career with the Grizzlies, who first acquired his rights from the Lakers in the trade sending his older brother, Pau, to the Lakers in November 2008.

# 1 to go: Djokovic into US Open final, nears year Grand Slam

**NEW YORK (AP):** If Novak Djokovic does complete the first calendar-year Grand Slam for a man since 1969 — and he is headed to the U.S. Open final, just one victory away — he, and everyone else, will remember one particularly pivotal, and epic, game along the way.

It came at the conclusion of the third set of what eventually became a 4-6, 6-2, 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 victory over Tokyo Olympics gold medalist Alexander Zverev in the semifinals at Flushing Meadows on Friday night, making Djokovic 27-0 in major championships this season.

Beating No. 2 Daniil Medvedev on Sunday for the title will allow Djokovic to secure two significant milestones. He would add the 2021 U.S. Open trophy to those he won at the Australian Open in February, French Open in June and Wimbledon in July. And the 34-year-old from Serbia would collect his 21st Slam title in all, breaking the men's career mark he currently shares with Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

"There's only one match left. ... All in. Let's do it," Djokovic said, spreading his arms wide, in an on-court interview. "I'm going to put my heart and my soul and my body and my head into that one. I'm going to treat the next match like it is the last match of my career."

That key game against Zverev featured one extended exchange after another, including a 53-shot, minute-plus point that was the longest of the tournament and actually was lost by Djokovic. Zverev delivered a forehand winner, then hunched over with his hands on his knees. Djokovic went to grab a towel. Both men were breathing heavily as most of Arthur Ashe Stadium's 21,139 spectators



rose in unison on a cool, crisp evening.

But that one, tiny outcome didn't matter. Never seems to with Djokovic, especially in best-of-five-set matches on his sport's most prestigious stages. As usual, he used his superb returning and never-take-a-rest defense to wear down Zverev.

"I'm proud of the fight that I delivered," Djokovic said.

So, yes, Djokovic lost that point — which was preceded by others lasting 13, 19, 22 and 31 shots, and followed by one that went 16 — but he won that game, and that set with it. Just as he had lost the first set about 1 1/2 hours earlier but turned things around, with the help of a dip in level from the fourth-seeded Zverev. And just as, later, Djokovic lost the fourth set but immediately rebounded and was nearly untouchable while going ahead 5-0 in the fifth then held on.

Djokovic, who has spent more weeks at No. 1 in the ATP rankings than anyone, figures out what is required to emerge on top and does it. In

each of his past four matches — and 10 in all at the Slams this year — he trailed by a set and won.

He equaled Federer by getting to a 31st career Slam final; Djokovic's total now includes a record nine in New York, where he has won three championships.

It will be Slam final No. 3 for Medvedev, a 25-year-old from Russia, who eliminated 12th-seeded Felix Auger-Aliassime of Canada 6-4, 7-5, 6-2 in the afternoon. Medvedev was defeated by Djokovic in this year's Australian Open final and by Nadal in the 2019 U.S. Open final.

"The more you lose something, the more you want to win it. The more you want to gain it and take it," said Medvedev, who has lost only one set over the past two weeks. "I lost two finals. I want to win the third one."

Djokovic is trying to go 4 for 4 at the majors over the course of one season, something last done in men's tennis by Rod Laver 52 years ago. It was also done by Laver in 1962 and Don Budge

in 1938. Three women have completed what's known as a true Grand Slam, most recently Steffi Graf in 1988. Serena Williams' attempt in 2015 ended at the U.S. Open with a semifinal loss to Roberta Vinci.

"I'll be giving it all I possibly got in the tank to win this match. I'm focusing on recovery, recalibrating all the systems, basically, for Sunday," Djokovic said. "I'm not going to waste time or energy on anything that can just be a distraction and deplete me from the vital energy that I need."

As Friday night's semifinal began, the 81-year-old Laver was seated front and center behind a baseline in the President's Box at Ashe.

A year ago in New York, when fans were banned because of the coronavirus pandemic, Zverev came oh-so-close to collecting his first major, taking a two-set lead and getting within two points of a championship before frittering it all away and losing to Dominic Thiem in a fifth-set tiebreaker.

Zverev came into Friday on a 16-match winning streak, a run that includes beating Djokovic in the Summer Games semifinals on July 30. That was in a best-of-three-sets format, though, which changes everything when it comes to Djokovic. He is now 36-10 in matches that go five sets.

Here's the thing about Djokovic, who occasionally rubbed his lower back with his left hand or hit his legs with his racket: Whatever the outward signs seem to say, he never stresses and he waits for the other guy to slip.

"It's kind of a hurricane, a tornado, of emotions that you're going through in a sequence of one set or even one point. You are by yourself on the court, so there is no escape," Djokovic said. "You've got to find a way."

He usually does. "Mentally, in the most important moments," Zverev said after his 3 1/2-hour loss, "I would rather play against anybody but him."

Against Zverev, things really came alive six games and

20 minutes in, thanks to a terrific 24-stroke point in which Djokovic tried a drop shot. Zverev got to it, replied at a seemingly impossible angle and — after Djokovic sprinted wide of the doubles alley and stretched to retrieve that, sneakers squeaking all the way — came up with a winner.

The crowd went wild. Zverev raised his right hand and wagged his fingers: "Louder!" Soon enough, Djokovic was shaking a ball off his frame and into the seats, and the set was Zverev's.

Zverev went from six unforced errors in that set to 13 in the second, and the match was even.

In the third, some loose play by Djokovic, and a backhand passing winner by Zverev, created a pair of break points. But Djokovic saved them and held to 3-2 with a forehand that clipped the baseline.

Zverev put a hand on his hip, disagreeing that the ball was in, but there is no recourse at the U.S. Open this year: All rulings come via electronic line-calling and can't be disputed. There are no line judges to doubt or to argue with.

Last year, there were, and Djokovic was disqualified from Flushing Meadows in the fourth round when a ball he hit after losing a game inadvertently struck a line judge in the throat. At the following major tournament, the pandemic-delayed French Open, Djokovic lost in the final to Nadal.

Since then, there have been deficits in Grand Slam matches for Djokovic, but no defeats.

"It's great for the sport," Zverev said about Djokovic's pursuit. "Nobody thought that anybody would do it again. ... I do believe that he will do it."

## Hamilton fastest in practice ahead of sprint at Italian GP



**MONZA, ITALY (AP):** Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton was fastest in the second practice for the Italian Grand Prix ahead of the return of the sprint later Saturday.

Hamilton was .222 seconds ahead of Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas and .416 quicker than championship leader Max Verstappen.

The session was red-flagged for just over 10 minutes after Carlos Sainz Jr. crashed into the wall at Ascari. The Ferrari driver was able to climb out and has been preliminarily cleared by medical staff but the team faces a race against time to get his car ready for the sprint later. Sainz is due to start in seventh at the Italian team's home circuit.

There were problems for Ferrari teammate Charles Leclerc, who won at Monza in 2019. He pulled into the garage early with an issue which he didn't want to explain over the radio.

Hamilton will start the 18-lap dash at the Temple of Speed in second place, just behind Bottas, but ahead of Red Bull's Verstappen after Friday's quali-

fying session. This is the second sprint qualifying after its debut at Silverstone.

Rather than the standard format of two practices on Friday and a third practice and qualifying on Saturday, there was one practice on Friday followed by a qualifying session that determined the grid for Saturday's sprint.

The sprints will be over 100 kilometers and the top three finishers will also receive points toward the championship. First place will receive three points, second place two points, and third place one point.

Hamilton was fastest in qualifying at Silverstone but Verstappen topped him in the sprint to take pole.

Verstappen won the Netherlands GP on Sunday to move three points ahead of seven-time world champion Hamilton.

Hamilton is a five-time winner at the Temple of Speed and also has three additional podiums at the track.

In contrast, Verstappen has never set foot on the iconic Monza podium, with a best finish of fifth in 2018.

## No reprieve for Hooper's Wallabies ahead of Springboks test

**GOLD COAST, AUSTRALIA (AP):** Three thumping losses to the All Blacks have captain Michael Hooper and his Australia lineup in a position where they simply have to start winning to regain any confidence.

The Rugby Championship isn't going to get easier any time soon for the Wallabies. Next up are the World Cup champions.

Hooper's lineup faces South Africa on Sunday night in the second match of a doubleheader on the Gold Coast. New Zealand and Argentina will kick off the four-week run of doubleheaders in Australia's Queensland state earlier in the day.

"We wouldn't want it any other way ... we want to be playing these type of games," Hooper said after the Australian team's captain's run on Saturday. "That's going to really help our trajectory."

Hooper is set to equal George Gregan's record of 59 tests as Wallabies captain when he leads Australia onto the field against South Africa. A text message from Gregan earlier this week brought a smile to his face, he said, but the milestone doesn't change anything in Hooper's approach to the job at hand.

"We've got to keep our mind-set strong and (our) belief in what we're trying to do," Hooper said. "Sometimes when you play a really slick outfit like New Zealand, and what we're about to face, you've got to be strong in what we're trying to achieve. Not reactive."

Springboks coach Jacques Nienaber picked his strongest tight

five and also included six forwards among the reserves — three of them loose forwards — in a 6-2 split. No. 8 Duane Vermeulen will return from injury to start for the Springboks for the first time since the 2019 Rugby World Cup final.

Springboks captain Siya Kolisi said the backup guaranteed there'd be full intensity from the start, with speed at the breakdown and nullifying Hooper's influence as the keys.

"We've got nothing to hold back because there's somebody who can come on at any time," Kolisi said. "Anyone can start in this squad — you know if you have an off day, somebody else will take the opportunity."

Nienaber made seven changes to the starting XV and 13 changes in all to the 23-man squad that beat Argentina in South Africa's previous game. The Springboks opened the Rugby Championship with two wins over Argentina while also resting some frontline players following the series win over the British and Irish Lions.

Scrumhalf Faf de Klerk is returning to partner flyhalf Handre Pollard, but Cheslin Kolbe was injured in training this week and will be replaced by Sbu Nkosi on the right wing.

The Wallabies have a good idea of what to expect from South Africa, which relies on a pinpoint kicking game to maintain field position and keep the scoreboard moving, and a giant forward pack to physically dominate. Australia coach Dave Rennie is throw-

ing something a little bit different back, calling up 33-year-old Quade Cooper to flyhalf for his first test start since 2017.

Cooper, who has been playing club rugby in Japan, will replace Noah Lolesio in the playmaker role. Among other areas of concern, the Australians struggled for backline cohesion as they were swept 3-0 by New Zealand in the Bledisloe Cup series — the second and third matches doubled as Rugby Championship contests.

"It's very exciting. He's got such a unique story (and) such a quality player when he's on," Hooper said. "He's been a really positive influence on the group, really assisting some of the younger players and working on his own craft."

"He's the right selection for the game this week. Everyone is pretty pumped to see him out there."

Australia and South Africa haven't met since 2019, with the Springboks missing the Rugby Championship in 2020 because of restrictions in place during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The South Africans have lost only one of their last six tests against Australia, but assistant coach Mzwandile Stick said it was the Springboks away record in head-to-heads — particularly Australia's 11-1 record in Queensland state since 1993 — that would be the focus of attention on Sunday. "If we want to see growth in our side, we need to be able to travel and win away from home," Stick said. "It's the first game on tour. It's important for us to start well."



# At least 1 dead, 10 missing in landslide near Mexico City

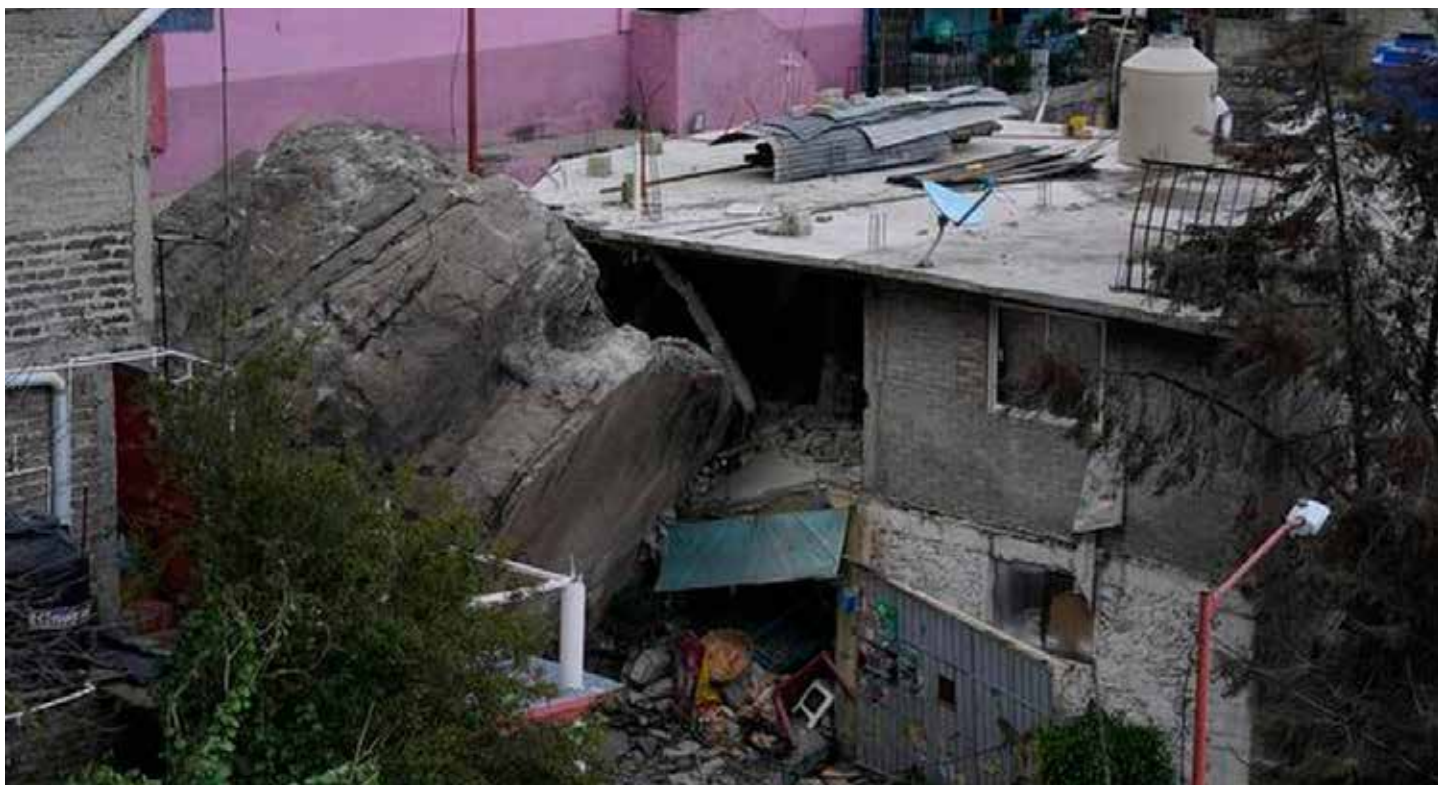
**TLALNEPANTLA, MEXICO (AP):** Rescuers planned to resume the search Saturday for victims of a landslide that brought tons of massive boulders down on a steep hillside neighborhood outside Mexico City, killing at least one person and leaving 10 missing.

The operation is complicated by the sheer size of the rocks that cleaved from the peak known as Chiquihuite Friday afternoon, the narrow paths of the neighborhood largely inaccessible to heavy machinery and the worrisome instability of the exposed mountain face looming above.

The landslide in Tlalnepantla in Mexico state followed days of heavy rain in central Mexico and a 7.0-magnitude earthquake Tuesday in Acapulco that swayed buildings 200 miles away in the capital. Mexico state Gov. Alfredo del Mazo said Friday night that both factors likely contributed to the slide.

Neighborhood residents immediately started to dig for their neighbors Friday. They formed lines across the towering debris pile, passing 5-gallon buckets of debris and individual rocks down.

Francisca Trejo, 57, rested near the pile wearing a pair of dirt-stained gardening gloves. "It sounded like when a truck dumps rocks, but for a long,



long time," she said.

Marcelo Israel Sánchez, 39, waited in his home for authorities to tell him what his wife and three children should do. He did not want to leave the house until the area was secure, but also feared the potential for additional slides. More than 80 surrounding homes were evacuated in case more of the mountain came down.

"The earthquake felt strong and probably because of that came the rock slide," Sánchez said.

Authorities pulled rescuers off the pile after dark due to the risk of more falling rock. "We don't want to anyone to take additional risk," said Ricardo De La Cruz, Mexico state's deputy interior secretary. "The geologists have told us that the landslide is complicated. We have made flights with drones and we don't want to put anyone in danger."

The priority Saturday was to stabilize the slope and continue the search, he said.

The likelihood of finding

survivors was falling because rescuers had been over the site with dogs and sensitive equipment "and we haven't detected anything," De La Cruz said.

"The image was terrifying," said Alan Hernández, a member of the Topos Mexico K-9, or "Mexico Moles K-9," rescue brigade. He searched with his dog Oreó, a rescue expert that had participated in the search at the Surfside, Florida condo collapse. In Tlalnepantla Friday, Oreó had not found anyone.

On Friday afternoon, res-

cuers had carried a body on a stretcher covered with a sheet past AP journalists. The Mexico state Civil Defense agency said in a statement that at least 10 people were reported missing.

Isaac Carmona, 18, a neighborhood resident who lived a few houses away from the slide came to help Friday. He saw a woman carried away from the pile alive on a stretcher with a bloody face.

A Mexico state spokesman confirmed there had been one rescue.

## Building plans to house Arizona Public Media advance

**TUCSON, Ariz. (AP):** An Arizona Board of Regents panel has endorsed plans to build a new home for Arizona Public Media, a Tucson-based public broadcasting outlet hosted by the University of Arizona.

A regents committee on Thursday approved a motion to construct a facility in a mixed development located about 3.5 miles (6.7 kilometers) south of the university main campus.

The \$45 million project now awaits a final vote by the full Board of Regents during a meeting later this month, the Arizona Daily Star reported.

Lisa Rulney, senior vice president for business affairs and chief financial officer for the university, said preliminary plans currently include a large television production performance studio with theater-style seating and a high-tech conference space.

Rulney said both spaces potentially could provide rental income to help support Arizona Public Media's future operations.

She said the university has already raised three-quarters of the cost of the project from private donors through a fundraising campaign that isn't yet public.

## Merkel making last visit to Warsaw as Germany's chancellor

**WARSAW, POLAND (AP):** German Chancellor Angela Merkel is visiting the Polish capital on Saturday for talks with Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki at a time when Poland faces migration pressure on its eastern border with Belarus.

The Polish government said it would be Merkel's last visit to Warsaw as the chancellor of Germany, and that the talks would include discussions on protecting the EU's external borders and the coronavirus pandemic.

"The meeting in Warsaw will be an opportunity to summarize current bilateral issues and note problematic issues in mutual relations," the Polish government said.

A meeting between Merkel and President Andrzej Duda, which was originally announced by the German government, is not taking place after all.

Merkel's spokesman said Friday that Polish officials told them there were "scheduling problems." Duda's office said

Duda would instead be in the southern Polish city of Katowice for celebrations marking the anniversary of Solidarity, the anti-communist trade union.

German news agency dpa noted that Duda's office made the announcement that there would be no meeting shortly after Russia said that Nord Stream 2, a pipeline that will carry natural gas from Russia to Germany, had been completed.

Poland, along with Ukraine and other countries in the region, have long opposed Nord Stream 2, viewing it as a political project that will allow Russia to use energy to gain greater political leverage over Europe.

Germany has gone ahead with the project, however, because of the huge needs German industry has for the source of energy.

One area where Poland and Germany have found common cause is their view of the migration pressure that they believe Belarus is putting on the European Union.

## Saudi Arabia, 20 years after 9/11: 'A country in the making'

**DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (AP):** The Saudi Arabia of today is far different from the Saudi Arabia of Sept. 11, 2001. All but four of the 19 hijackers on 9/11 were Saudi citizens, and the Saudi kingdom was the birthplace of Osama bin Laden, the head of al-Qaida and mastermind of the attack 20 years ago. In the two decades since then, Saudi Arabia has confronted al-Qaida on its own soil, revamped its textbooks, worked to curb terror financing and partnered with the United States to counter terrorism.

It wasn't until the last five years, though, that the kingdom began backing away from the religious ideology upon which it was founded and which it espoused within and outside its borders — Wahhabism, a strict interpretation of Islam that helped spawn generations of mujahedeen.

For countless numbers of people in the United States, Saudi Arabia will forever be associated with 9/11, the collapse of the World Trade Towers and the deaths of nearly 3,000 people.

To this day, victims' families are trying to hold the Saudi government accountable in New York and have pushed President Joe Biden to declassify certain documents related to the attacks, despite Saudi government insistence that any allegation of complicity is "categorically false." Victims of a 2019 shooting at a Florida military base and their families are also suing Saudi Arabia for monetary damages, claiming the kingdom knew the Saudi Air Force officer had been radicalized and could have prevented the killings.

Saudi Arabia's close partnership with the United States, including the presence of American troops in the kingdom after the first Gulf War, made its leadership a target of extremist groups.

"It is important to realize that the terrorists who struck the U.S. on September 11 have also targeted Saudi Arabia's people, leadership, military personnel and even our holiest religious sites in Mecca and Medina on multiple occasions," Fahad Nazer, the Saudi Embassy spokesperson in Washington, told The Associated Press. He said Saudi-U.S. counterterrorism work has saved thousands of lives.

Yet even as Saudi Arabia battled al-Qaida and later attacks by the IS group, the Al Saud rulers continued to give ultraconservative clerics monopoly over preaching and influence over society in exchange for their staunch backing of the monarchy.



That decades-old pact unraveled before a roomful of foreign investors in 2017 when Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman declared a return to "moderate Islam." A year earlier, with backing from his father the king, the prince had clipped the powers of the country's religious police — the ones who would chase young Saudi men and women out of parks for mingling, go after cars playing music and force stores to close during the five daily prayers.

"It's a new country. It is a country in the making," says Raghida Dergham, founder of the Beirut Institute think tank and a longtime columnist in Saudi papers. What has happened over the past 20 years in Saudi Arabia, Dergham says, has amounted to "a major clean-up of extremism ... and it has not been easy."

The crown prince doubled down in April of this year in remarks to Saudi TV. He said Saudi identity is built on its Islamic and Arab heritage. His words appeared to equate the two, and pointed to the broader effort the state has embarked on to affirm a national Saudi identity that is no longer tied to pan-Islamic causes nor the religious ideologies of Sheikh Mohammed Ibn Abdul-Wahhab, whose ultraconservative teachings of Islam in the 18th century are widely referred to by his name.

"If Sheikh Mohammed Abdel-Wahhab came out of his grave and found us adhering to his text and closing our eyes to independent reasoning (ijtihad) or deifying him, he would be the first to oppose such a thing," Prince Mohammed said.

Ali Shihabi, who has ties to the royal court, says the kingdom's new tone signals to "any fence-sitting clerics" that moderation is the only path to take going forward.

Moderation, though, goes only so far. As Saudi Arabia works to alter perceptions and control the narrative of its past for new generations of Saudis two decades after 9/11, it remains politically repressive.

Prince Mohammed's rapid changes are part of a hurried effort that have coincided with him amassing power by sidelining rivals, like the country's former counterterrorism czar, and clamping down hard on critics, including the killing of Saudi writer Jamal Khashoggi in Turkey by agents who worked for the prince.

Bruce Riedel, a Brookings Institution scholar who served at the CIA for 30 years, says the U.S.-Saudi relationship has gone through fundamental changes over the years, but that even in the best of times "it's a tough sell to portray Saudi Arabia as America's best friend."

While Saudi Arabia remains far from an open society, the cloud of social restrictions that loomed over generations in the kingdom is dissipating. No longer are eye-popping concerts, movie theaters and women driving impossible or illegal.

"My own perspective is that there's envy of the younger generation that get to have these opportunities," says Hisham Fageeh, a 33-year-old Saudi filmmaker, actor and writer working in Los Angeles who grew up in the shad-

ow of 9/11.

But there are questions about where this new path will lead.

"There's multiple doors that people can walk through," Fageeh says. "The challenge is going to be, how do we integrate all our parts — our past, our present and our future?"

In the two decades since 9/11, Saudi Arabia and the world have been reshaped by social media, the internet and global connectivity. In Saudi Arabia, though, there is also a massive generational shift taking hold. Well over a third of the population of Saudi Arabia is under 14, born years after 9/11. More than 60% are under 35.

All came of age in the aftermath of the Sept. 11th attacks. They, like the 36-year-old crown prince, were not even born when the Shah of Iran was toppled in 1979 and replaced by an anti-U.S. and anti-Saudi Shiite regime. That same year, Sunni Muslim extremists laid siege to Mecca, Islam's holiest site.

Saudi rulers responded to the events of that year by empowering the state's hardliners and allowing Wahhabism to further shape life in Saudi Arabia. A struggle for power between Saudi Arabia and Iran emerged, one that has continued to play out in sectarian proxy wars across the Middle East.

As recently as the still-current Syrian civil war, Saudi Arabia and other Arab Gulf states either encouraged or turned a blind eye to the arming, financing and recruitment of jihadi fighters who battled Shiite militias and Iran-backed fighters.





# Expecting the expected is boring: AshwinyIyerTiwari on 'AnkahiKahaniya'

**MUMBAI, SEP 11 (PTI):** Filmmaker AshwinyIyerTiwari says she is constantly trying to challenge herself as a storyteller and that's why she decided to look beyond formulaic romantic stories in her segment for Netflix's anthology film "AnkahiKahaniya".

The director's part offers a unique perspective on love and loneliness by showing a man's complicated relationship with a mannequin.

My idea with each story is to challenge myself. If you just say the expected, then I don't think I am evolving as a storyteller. Expecting the expected is boring, expecting the unexpected is surprising, and at the same time, curiosity, and happiness is there, the 41-year-old director, known for films such as Nil BatteySannata , Bareilly Ki Barfi and Panga , told PTI in a zoom interview.

The three-part anthology explores how some lonely souls are discovering surprise sources of connection and companionship in big cities.

IyerTiwari said when the producers Ronnie screwvala, AshiDua and the streamer offered her the anthology, centering around the theme of love, she wanted to explore a different take on the emotion.

The one-line thought came from writer Piyush Gupta, IyerTiwari said, adding that she enjoyed collaborating with casting director-turned-actor Abhishek Banerjee on his character, Paradeep, a garment salesman, who finds a companion in a mannequin at the shop where he works.

It did feel that it was important to

look inward and understand the idea of love... Like, the circumstances, environment he stays in, it just felt that it was right to tell a story like that.

concept is always evolving.

One can never get bored of love stories in any form: books, films, etc. Love stories from centuries will al-



Every person likes solitude to certain levels, but there is a difference between loneliness and solitude. No one likes to be lonely, and not spoken about or spoken to, she said.

The short film blurs the lines between reality and fantasy and the Panga director said that was intentional.

"I am taking the viewers into the real and unreal world. Filmmaking is three dimensional one is what the filmmaker makes, the other one is the character's point of view and the third one is what the audience is going to take away from the world, she said.

Talking about the treatment of love' in the field of performing arts, IyerTiwari, who recently wrote her debut novel 'Mapping Love', said the

ways exist but will change according to eras. Like, during a pre-colonial era, the meaning of love would be very different, like more of separation and coming together. Then as you move on, love has a very different meaning (today) love is in the form of technology or internet dating, etc, she said, adding her all-time favourite love story is Abhimaan , Silsila , Lamhe .

The other two parts in AnkahiKahaniya are helmed by filmmakers AbhishekChaubey and SaketChaudhary. It stars ZoyaHussain, KunalKapoor, Nikhil Dwivedi, Palomi, RinkuRajguru and Del-zadHiwale.

The anthology, produced by Ronnie Screwvala and AshiDua Sara, will release on September 17 on Netflix.

## Horror films have universal appeal, says Bhoot Police' director Pavan Kriplani

**MUMBAI, SEP 11 (PTI):** Director PavanKriplani, known for Ragini MMS and Saif Ali Khan-ArjunKapoor-starrer Bhoot Police, believes horror films have an appeal that goes beyond language and cultures.

The director, who has also worked on Jimmy Sheirgill-starrer horror film Darr @ the Mall and RadhikaApte's Phobia, said some of the best work is being done in the genre.

I believe it is a genre that crosses beyond boundaries and language. Horror is a universal genre. It is something that has come to the forefront in recent years. But horror movies have been made forever. We had a strong appetite for it, we had Ram GopalVarma movies, Mahal' and WohKaunThi' etc. "What happened in between is that the genre got associated with B-movies, which have no story and things are just there to scare you. Now, filmmakers are making it with depth and it is more than just a horror film, Kriplani told PTI in an interview.

The director said he has always been fascinated with horror films and Hollywood movies like Shaun of the Dead and Ghostbusters, are some of his all-time favou-

rites. "Bhoot Police", about two brothers -- Saif'sVibhooti and Kapoor'sChiraunji -- on a mission to catch ghosts, seems like Kriplani's nod to "Ghostbusters", the 1984 classic about a group of eccentric New York scientists who capture ghosts for a living.

The film was initially set to star Fatima Sana Shaikh, Ali Fazal and Saif but over the years, the producers and cast changed.

I had written this after my first film Ragini MMS'. Saif and I have been wanting to make this film. The other two actors were committed to other projects and hence things didn't materialize. I am privileged to have ArjunKapoor. He has added so much to the film. Even the actresses have complimented well. I am happy that I finally made it with the perfect cast and producers. The core story has always been about ideological conflict between two brothers, Kriplani said, adding, the film also throws light on the debate about afterlife, existence of ghosts.

We as society and people are torn about the entire idea of 'is there something after death? Is there afterlife? Are there ghosts or spirits? Is there more to life?'... These things have been debated for centuries.

## DIFF Virtual Viewing Room to screen three Maori films from New Zealand



**NEW DELHI, SEP 11 (PTI):** The organisers of the Dharamshala International Film Festival (DIFF) have announced that they will be screening three Maori films from New Zealand as part of the festival's DIFF Virtual Viewing Room.

The festival has collaborated with the New Zealand High Commission to India for a programme, called IN->NZ Indigenous Connections.

The programme, which will be held from September 13 to 19, is a curated line up of three Indian films in tandem with three Maori films.

Each film draws parallels between India and New Zealand's indigenous communities, cultural relationships

and family, as well as the fragility of our shared natural ecosystem, the organisers said in a statement.

Three Maori movies are "Cousins", "Loimata, The Sweetest Tears" and "Merata: How Mum Decolonized the Screen".

The Indian films to be screened are "Lady of the Lake", "My Name Is Salt" and "The Shepherdess of the Glaciers". The films will be available for streaming on online. diff.co.in.

The organisers will also host conversations with Marten Rabarts of the New Zealand International Film Festival and veteran Indian editor Bina Paul during the programme.



**WILD SIDE!** The actress, Hailee Steinfeld is spotted in a chic zebra printed dress during New York Fashion Week.

## Christopher Nolan working on movie about World War II scientist J Robert Oppenheimer



**LOS ANGELES, SEP 11 (PTI):** Filmmaker Christopher Nolan has a new movie on the anvil, focusing on American theoretical physicist J Robert Oppenheimer who helped develop the atomic bomb during World War II.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, major Hollywood studios are vying for Nolan's new movie, which isn't being automatically set up at Warner Bros.

The filmmaker and his representatives have been in talks with studios, which include Sony, Universal and Paramount.

Warner Bros, which backed Nolan's all of past work starting with 2002's "Insomnia", is also in discussions for the project.

Relations between Nolan and Warner Bros had soured last year after the filmmaker

expressed dissatisfaction with the studio for moving its 2021 slate to a day-and-date theatrical and HBO Max streaming release.

Plot details are sketchy but the story will focus on Oppenheimer, who is considered one of the fathers of the atom bomb.

He was a pivotal figure in the Manhattan Project -- the World War II undertaking that developed the first nuclear weapons.

Nolan most recently directed spy thriller movie "Tenet", starring John David Washington, Robert Pattinson, Elizabeth Debicki, Dimple Kapadia, Michael Caine, and Kenneth Branagh.

"Tenet" was the first Hollywood tentpole to open in theatres after the coronavirus pandemic-forced shutdown.

Aries:

The trouble is, we waste so much time trying to rationalise our feelings. But, the head has no business in matters of the heart. So, put yourself out there, Aries. Say what you want to say exactly how you want to say it, without editing a word. Don't let the fear of rejection keep you from vibrating at the frequency of love and making that bold move you've been contemplating for a while now. Tip: Some risks are worth taking, beautiful.

Taurus:

Like every other skill, meditation too requires patience and persistence. So, show up for your practice even when it's hard to. And then, one day, unexpectedly, the portal of divine wisdom will open, bringing forth the guidance that you need to move forward on the path of self-realisation. Those who have been working with the forces consistently will find that they're able to transcend to higher dimensions easily and stay connected to their spirit guides. Tip: Show up for your meditation practice consistently.

Gemini:

Our words can both heal and hurt, beloved. So, we must exercise the power of speech with caution.

Anything you say from a space of triggers could have long-term repercussions. The cards are also urging you to be mindful of how you communicate with yourself. Let go of the self-judgement, beautiful, as you bring a little more love and a little more kindness into the equation. Tip: Exercise the power of speech with caution.

Cancer:

The world would be a different place altogether if those around were as sensitive as you. But, the truth is, they haven't mastered the lesson of compassion. They don't know what it's like to look out for others. So, instead of hoping they'll catch your telepathic signals, communicate. Let them know how you would like to be cared for, and trust that they will reciprocate. Tip: How would you like to be cared for, Cancer?

Leo:

The world will always tell you how you should and shouldn't be. The world will always weigh you down with unrealistic expectations. But, you have a choice, Leo. You always have a choice. So, will you adhere to the script handed down to you or write one that helps you discover the true meaning of freedom? Something tells us you're feeling a little bit risky and a little bit frisky today.

Tip: It's time to discover the true meaning of freedom.

Virgo:

Denial is the easy way out, Virgo. But, it will only get you so far. This chapter of your life is about digging deeper and healing the unhealed trauma. The process of introspection is seldom easy, but it is what will help liberate you from the old cycles. Some of you may be fighting the urge to return to an ex too. They may be a good person, but are they good for "you"? Something to think about as you sip on your morning tea, beautiful. Tip: Liberate yourself from the old cycles.

Libra:

Libra, you're feeling a little bit risky and a little frisky - a mood that your partner is likely to appreciate very much. So, take a chance, baby! Try that one thing in bed that you've been wanting to try for a while now (with safety measures in place)! What the cards want you to know is that your body is a pleasure portal. Tip: You're feeling a little bit risky and a little frisky.

Scorpio:

Not every romance will lead to a happily-ever-after. Some people come into our life for merely a season - and you have a feeling that the person you're

connecting with right now is one of them. Instead of pretending like this relationship is any more than it is, have an open and honest conversation with them about where you stand and how you would like to take things forward in the days to come. Tip: Be honest about where you stand.

Sagittarius:

It's either all-in or all-out, Sagittarius. Lukewarm just doesn't cut it anymore. You're in the mood to take life by the horns and have a love affair with the unknown. What makes this chapter of your life truly special is that you're looking at each and every moment as a gift from the Divine, and actively writing the script for what can only be referred to as 'My Best Life'.

Tip: Each moment is a gift from the Universe.

Capricorn:

You can spend hours replaying what happened in your head and wondering how you can fix it. But, the truth is nobody can go back to the past—not even you. Besides, no matter how much you try, you will never be able to see the full picture here. So, come back to the present moment. Accept what took place as a wake up call that's helping you see your reality for what it is. Tip: It's better to accept what transpired rather than

letting your thoughts spiral, Capricorn.

Aquarius:

You've been going around in circles for a while now, Aquarius, and this runner-chaser dynamic isn't serving anyone. It's time to do the inner work. To understand the deep-rooted fears that are keeping you from opening the door to love. Working with a therapist or delving into your past lives/Akashic records (under guidance) could help you heal the trauma and liberate yourself from the old cycles. Tip: It's time to work through those deep-seated fears.

Pisces:

We all come here with a predetermined plan, Pisces. Karmic debt that determines the kind of life we will lead and the relationships we will attract. As a result, the people who are closest to us on a soul level (typically friends and family members) end up playing the role of 'the catalyst' in our lives. This requires them to say or do things that can be perceived as unpleasant or painful from where we are standing. Accept this as a part of the divine play, beautiful. This is the only way to rise above the murky situations that are bringing you down. Tip: It's all happening for a reason.