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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Govt opens up fuel retailing to non-oil companies

NEW DELHI, OCT 23 (PTI): The government on Wednesday opened up fuel retailing norms, allowing non-oil companies to set up petrol pumps to increase competition. Briefing reporters about the decisions taken by the Cabinet, I&B Minister Prakash Javadekar said the opening up the fuel retailing will increase investment and competition.

At present, to obtain a fuel retailing licence in India, a company needs to invest Rs 2,000 crore in either hydrocarbon exploration and production, refining, pipelines or liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals.

"The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved review of guidelines for giving authorisation for marketing of transportation fuel," he said.

Companies with Rs 250 crore turnover can enter fuel retailing, subject to condition that 5 per cent of the outlets will be in rural areas.

State-owned oil marketing companies - Indian Oil Corp (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) - currently own most of 65,000 petrol pumps in the country.

Reliance Industries, Nayara Energy - formerly Essar Oil and Royal Dutch Shell are the private players in the market but with limited presence. Reliance, which operates the world's largest oil refining complex, has less than 1,400 outlets.

Tejpal rape case: Victim to be cross-examined on Nov 11

PANAJI, OCT 23 (PTI): A Goa court on Wednesday adjourned till November 11 the cross-examination of the woman who lodged a case of sexual assault against Tehelka magazine founder Tarun Tejpal. The case is being tried before District Judge Shama Joshi at Mapusa town in North Goa.

Tejpal's lawyer Rajiv Gomes said the cross-examination of the woman could not be taken up on Wednesday as defence counsel Shrikant Shivde sought an adjournment.

The woman's cross-examination will now be held from November 11 to November 14, he said. Tejpal was present in the court on Wednesday. Gomes said during the trial, the defence lawyer raised a legal point on the validity of a document produced by the prosecution.

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Governor's Gold Cup to play out from 01 to 12 Nov

RESERVE TEAMS OF ATK KOLKATA AND JAMSHEDPUR FC CONFIRM PARTICIPATION

SAGAR CHHETRI

GANGTOK, 23 OCT:

The 39th edition of All India Governor's Gold Cup Football Tournament will be held from 01 to 12 November here at Paljor Stadium.

Twelve teams have confirmed participation, Sikkim Football Association informed today.

The participating teams from outside are: ISL clubs ATK Kolkata [Reserve] and Jamshedpur Football Club [Reserve], Punjab Police XI, Army [Red], Eastern Railways, Md Sporting Club, BSS Sporting Club, Kidderpore Sporting Club and East Bengal Academy from Kolkata.

The local teams in the fray are Independence Day Cup champions Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club and premier division clubs Sikkim Police and State Sport Academy.

This is the first time



that three local teams have been accommodated in the tournament.

Addressing a press conference here today, SFA president Menla Ethenpa shared that a highlight of the Governor's Gold Cup this year will be the reserve teams of two ISL clubs and contended that other teams were also popular clubs

from different parts of the country.

He informed that SFA had contacted All Nepal Football Association and other top clubs of Nepal for the tournament as well but due to their prior commitments in local tournaments there, no team from Nepal was coming for the tournament this year.

Teams from Nepal, it

may be recalled, have always been popular at the tournament.

Meanwhile, Mr Ethenpa has urged all football lovers and sports enthusiasts of the State to come and support their clubs in the tournament.

SFA general secretary, Nanga T Bhutia, in turn mentioned that the tour-

DC chairs Chenrezig project review meeting



GYALSHING, 23 OCT (IPR):

The first review meeting regarding progress of work and other miscellaneous issues regarding Chenrezig Singkham Riwo Potala was convened at the Chenrezig complex conference hall today presided over by DC West, Karma R Bonpo, who also chairs the project's executive committee.

Also in attendance today were Additional Secretary, Culture Department, Dhushant Pariyar, ADC-West, KL Lepcha, SE (Buildings & Housing), Sonam Bhutia, SE (Power), Sonam Dorjee Bhutia and other Heads of the concerned Departments in the district.

At the outset, project administrator, Amber

Gurung, highlighted all the pressing issues pertaining to the Chenrezig statue project. The issues highlighted were salary of employees, need to increase the number of Safaikarmacharis and Gardeners, road maintenance and drainage management, protective walls, installation of blower

turn to pg02

SRP accuses BJP of double-standards in Sikkim, condemns TMC leaders comments on Indian Gorkhas



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 23 OCT:

Sikkim Republican Party president, KB Rai, today accused Bharatiya Janata Party of double-standards in Sikkim. The saffron party could not keep up the façade even for a after the by-elections, he pointed out while referring to the PIL filed in the Supreme Court by a BJP leader from Delhi challenging the Election Commission's decision to reduce the disqualification period imposed on SKM

president, Chief Minister PS Tamang [Golay]. Mr Rai scoffed at the quick turnaround by the BJP which had entered into a seat-sharing alliance with the SKM only to have one of its leaders file the PIL within a day of the bypoll getting over.

Addressing a press conference here today, Mr Rai mentioned that BJP had obviously made several assurances to SKM to formalize the seat-sharing arrangement and commented that the Congress in-charge for Sikkim, Gaurav Gogoi, was right when he had branded SKM the Trojan Horse for BJP in Sikkim.

"We feel sorry for

SKM party workers and supporters who worked hard to bring parivartan to Sikkim," he said and added that it appears that BJP's state-unit was also unaware about the tactics and strategies of its own party.

He also highlighted that SKM had justified its alliance with BJP as a partnership for development but BJP clearly has other ambitions here.

SRP also criticised and condemned remarks of a TMC worker, Tanvi Das, against the Indian Nepalese in a panel discussion of a TV News channel. SRP workers burnt an effigy of Tanvi Das at Namchi to register their protest against the derogatory remarks, he informs.

Mr Rai said that Tanvi Das' reference to Indian Gorkhas as infiltrators was highly condemnable and that not only Indian Gorkhas, but every person of the country should condemn and protest such unconstitutional and anti-national remarks.

Mr Rai demanded that the Central government and the Prime Minister, BJP and even Sikkim Government should speak up against such remarks.

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Captain takes charge: Ganguly becomes BCCI President

NIKHIL BAPAT

MUMBAI, OCT 23 (PTI):

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly on Wednesday took charge as the BCCI president, easily the most high-profile name to head the world's richest cricket board that has been mired in administrative turmoil for the past three years.

The 47-year-old Ganguly was officially entrusted with the task of heading Indian cricket for the next nine months at the BCCI's General Body meeting here, ending a controversial 33-month reign of the Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators (CoA).

Ganguly's appointment as the BCCI's 39th President was finalised last week. He succeeds C K Khanna, who was the inter-



im head of the Board since 2017.

"It's an honour that I have been asked to take this role. It's a new start for the BCCI," said Ganguly, clad in his India blazer which was given to him during the time he served as India captain.

"I find myself in a position where I can make a change and

it's a challenge," he added.

In the meeting that was also a reunion of sorts for some of the familiar faces associated with the board before the CoA's institution, Union Home Minister Amit Shah's son Jay Shah was made the secretary.

During his tenure, Ganguly

will look to coordinate with old guard such as former President N Srinivasan and ex-Secretary Niranjan Shah, whose children are now part of the BCCI.

Mahim Verma of Uttarakhnad became the new vice-president.

Former BCCI president and current junior finance minister Anurag Thakur's younger brother Arun Dhimal became the treasurer while Kerala's Jayesh George took the joint secretary's position.

"It's a very young group. We will have to do a lot of hard work to understand what's been going on. There have been no AGMs, no working committees in the last three years, so we have no idea how it has been done. We will take note of everything," Ganguly said.

turn to pg02

Tejpal rape case: ...

The court has fixed October 31 for a hearing on it. A Supreme Court bench in August asked the Goa court to complete the trial in the case, preferably within six months, and refused Tejpal's plea to quash the First Information Report (FIR) filed against him.

Tejpal allegedly sexually assaulted the complainant inside an elevator of a five-star hotel in Goa in 2013. He has denied the allegations levelled against him.

He was arrested on November 30, 2013 by the crime branch after his anticipatory bail plea was rejected by the court. He has been out on bail since May 2014.

In September last year, the district court framed charges against Tejpal.

He was booked under various Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections, including 341 (wrongful restraint), 342 (wrongful confinement), 350 (criminal force), 376 (rape) and 354(A) and (B) (sexually coloured remarks and use of criminal force on woman).

He had earlier also moved the Bombay High Court, seeking a stay on framing of charges against him, but his petition was dismissed.

Captain takes...

Congratulatory messages poured in for Ganguly after the formalities were completed at the Board headquarters.

"I'm confident that as BCCI President he will take cricket to greater heights. I am hopeful that Jay Shah and Sourav Ganguly and their team will deliver. This is start of a new era for Indian cricket," said Delhi and Districts Cricket Association chief Rajat Sharma.

Former IPL Chairman Rajiv Shukla echoed the sentiment.

"Sourav will be an asset because he has been the most successful captain, and he has been most successful CAB President as well" he said.

Ganguly, who took over as India captain during one of its darkest hours following the 2000 match-fixing scandal, will need to demit office by the end of July next year as per the provisions of new constitution, which makes 'Cooling Off' period mandatory after six years in office.

One of the most elegant left-handers to have represented India, Ganguly is expected to make use of his experience gained as the secretary and later president of Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB).

He has set a few goals and the primary ones are restructuring of first-class cricket as well as getting the administration back in shape along with getting India's position of reverence back in the corridors of International Cricket Council (ICC).

With the conflict of interest rules in place, Ganguly will face the challenge of having quality cricketers on board as far as the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) and national selection committees are concerned.

His take on veteran Mahendra Singh Dhoni's international future, Day/Night Test cricket, permanent Test centres will also be dissected.

His tenure begins at a time when the International Cricket Council has left India out of its newly-formed working group, which might affect the country's share in the ICC revenue.

The group has been formed to figure out a new governance structure for the world body.

DC chairs...

to reduce water seepage on painted walls, installation of view mirrors on sharp bends, additional pipeline near the statue and the office premises, beautification, relaxation on electricity bill, boundary fencing, construction of washroom near statue premises and early completion of the pending works.

The DC directed all the concerned departments and the contractors to complete the remaining works and give finishing touches to the remaining works and hand it over to the Culture Department officially.

With regard to drainage management, he said that a separate proposal will be made to the Irrigation Department.

As for cracks detected on the sky walk the Buildings DE explained the cause and informed that the contractor has been directed to replace the glass.

The District Collector also stressed that completion, survey for an alternative road to the complex, streamlining of staff and salary, necessary repairs and proposal for construction of new toilets will be initiated and put up to the government at the earliest.

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For more details: 9083826462 /9832556698

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Flat Land no cutting required. Price 30 Lakhs (negotiable).

Contact: 9800201335

SICUN holds awareness program for Cooperators of West District



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 23 OCT:

Sikkim State Cooperative Union in collaboration with West District Zilla Panchayat organised a one-day Sub Division level awareness programme for co-operators of West district today at Hotel Orange Tree, Dentam, West Sikkim, a press release informs.

The programme was attended by Vice Chairman of SISCO Bank, P.P. Sharma. The programme also had in attendance L.P. Kafley, Chairman, SICUN, Bishnu Rai, Director, SICUN, Bimal Rai, Spokesperson, Ajit Gurung, Auditor, Cooperation Department, Phadung Bhutia and Zilla Panchayats.

Delivering his keynote address, SICUN Chairman, L.P. Kafley

spoke about the importance of cooperative and the need for cooperative movement in the state and about the vision of SICUN towards it.

The technical session was addressed by Auditor from Cooperation Department who stressed on importance of maintenance of proper accounts. He maintained that the progress of any cooperative society can only be assessed from its accounts.

The resource person Jitman Rai spoke about history of cooperative movement, its principles and briefly informed the gathering about SICUN.

Bimal Rai, addressing as a resource person, gave a powerpoint presentation about the importance of leadership development which he

said is needed in taking cooperative movement forward in the state.

During interaction session, the participants interacted with the resource persons and the SICUN representatives.

Chief guest, P.P. Sharma appreciated SICUN and West District Zilla Panchayat for organising the awareness programme. He informed the gathering about SISCO bank and underlined that the bank belongs to the Sikkimese people and cooperatives must make maximum use of the bank.

The programme felicitated five Panchayats under Dentam Sub Division for their special contribution in the awareness programme. The programme concluded with vote of thanks by SICUN's faculty Jitman Rai.

Ward level training in organic farming held in East



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 23 OCT:

One-day training and demonstration program was organized by International Panacea Limited and Sikkim Organic Mission under FS&AD Department, Government of Sikkim for the farmer community of Dugalakha, Kaputhang Wards under Taza GPU, Khani ward of West Pendang and Karmithang under Central Pendang GPU on 22 Oct, 2019, a press release informs.

The program was attended by Mission Officer, BTM, Organic Field

Inspectors and Field Assistants of the concerned area.

Field Executive of Taza GPU, Mon Prashad Luitel presented the demonstration on Off Farm Input on Trichoderma Viride effective control of seed and soil burn diseases.

Field Executive, Mon Prashad Luitel explained about its preparation and uses for vegetables, tomato, potato and fruit crops.

At Karmithang ward of Central Pendang, Field Executive, Anupa Sharma showed the process of preparing Bijamrit which

is a strong and beneficial formulation for seed treatment.

Field Executive of West Pendang, Liladhar Dahal also held demonstration and training program at Khani ward of West Pendang and briefed about the benefits of locally prepared formulation like Bijamrit, Panchagavya and jeevamrit.

Till now more than 30 such trainings and demonstration programmes have been conducted by Field Functionaries of IPL in East Sikkim, the release mentions.

Counting dry run in East Sikkim



GANGTOK, 23 OCT (IPR):

The final round of training for Counting Team and Micro Observers along with a Dry Run (Mock Counting) procedure for Counting of votes to make the counting team ready for the Counting Day (i.e. 24 Oct, 2019) was conducted today at DAC, Sichey.

Returning Officer, Raj Yadav detailed the training through PPT on the counting procedures. RO briefed the Counting team on the Counting Process and norms to be kept in mind. He further explained in depth the entire procedures involved from the counting of votes to the declara-

tion of results.

He informed about the counting of Postal Ballots, Counting of Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballots, Counting of Votes recorded in EVMs, Counting of VVPAT slips and Compilation of data. Further, he starched on the filling of different forms, compilation of data and other necessary procedures to be followed.

He also mentioned about the various instructions of Election Commission of India including timely completion and other important guidelines which the attendees need to follow during the pro-

cess of counting.

He added that the Strong room will be opened at 7 am in presence of Observer, candidates and their election agents followed by counting at 8 AM sharp.

While speaking further, the RO stated that mobile phones and electronic items will be prohibited inside the counting halls.

The RO informed that the election agents will not be allowed to enter the counting halls without valid identity cards issued by the authority. He also appealed the attendees for peaceful and smooth conduct of counting.

|| Shradhanjali ||

Beloved Smt. Sandhya Biswakarma

"With profound grief and sorrow we inform that the "Anthyesthi Kriya" of beloved Smt. Sandhya Biswakarma who left for her heavenly abode on 12/10/2019 falls on 24/10/2019 at Diesel Power House compound, D.P.H Road, Gangtok, East Sikkim. All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us for offering prayers for the departed soul.. Our sincere thanks and gratitude to all who stood by us during our time of bereavement.

**Kailash Biswakarma - husband
Avyash and Awesh Biswakarma -sons**

**Contact- 9474841550
7908896626
9547619089**

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OBITUARY NOTICE

LATE KAMAL PRASAD GURUNG

**Born: 31 - 08 - 1937
&
Died: 18 - 10 - 2019**



You have left us for heavenly abode, but you will always be in our hearts and minds. Your kindness and generosity, your jovial and amiable nature endeared you with one and all who knew you. Your absence will always be felt deeply. We miss you now and we will miss you forever. Your love and affection will always be cherished. May your soul rest in eternal peace.

The family expresses gratitude to all the relatives, friends and well wishers who offered their condolences, support and sympathy at our time of grief. We would like to inform that the 7th (seventh) day "Kriya" will be performed at at our residence near St. Francis School, Jorethang on 25th October 2019 and the "Shergu" will be held on 6th December 2019.

From:

**Surja Gurung (Wife), Hiren, Saral, Subarna (sons),
Tshering Yangchen and Elena (daughters-in-law),
Grand Children, Brothers, Sisters, Cousins, In laws and host of Nieces and Nephews.**

Anthyesti Kriya

The Anthyesti Kriya of Late Punam Pradhan (sanu) wife of Shri H.B. Pradhan, resident of Ranipool, Marchal near Keshang residency falls on 26th October 2019. All well wishers, relatives and friends are requested to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul at our residence at Marchak, Ranipool.



FAMILY MEMBERS:-

1. H. B. Pradhan (husband) 9733237157
2. Bikash Pradhan (son) 8370999122
3. Vasker Pradhan (son) 9593979628
4. Biswash Pradhan (Son) 9614829929
5. Manju Pradhan (daughter) 7407848003

Nitish pitches for Delhi's full statehood, prohibition

NEW DELHI, OCT 23 (PTI): Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Wednesday battled for full statehood for Delhi and prohibition in the city as his party Janata Dal (United) geared up for contesting the assembly polls here due early next year.

Addressing workers of the BJP ally JD(U), Kumar also reiterated his demand for special status for Bihar, which the Modi government had earlier rejected. "We have always been in favour of full statehood for Delhi. Like we want special status for Bihar, we have always wanted statehood for Delhi," the JD(U) president said.

He also demanded that prohibition be implemented in Delhi as his government had done so in Bihar.

"Prohibition is a very important thing and it should be implemented in the entire country. Why should it not be implemented in Delhi? Alcohol is such a bad thing that we banned it (sale and consumption) in 2016. We implemented prohibition on

the request of women. There has been a decline in domestic fight and law and order has also improved," he said.

Kumar took a swipe at Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal over his comments that people from Bihar buy Rs 500 tickets to reach Delhi and avail medical treatment here worth Rs 5 lakh for free.

"Delhi's hospitals are for everyone. Why was Bihar's name taken? If anyone comes from anywhere, be it UP, Haryana, or Bihar for treatment to Delhi, they belong to Delhi only," Kumar said.

Kejriwal had later clarified that he only highlighted health facilities offered by his government and did not mean to target anybody. Kumar also spoke how his government does not believe in publicising about its achievements. "There are many people who work less but seek publicity. We are not those who do that. Bihar sees the least number of advertisements of government.

"We do not publicise our

achievements. We believe in serving people and that is what we follow in Bihar," he added.

He left it to the Delhi unit of the party to decide as to how many seats the JD(U) will contest in the assembly polls.

The JD(U)'s alliance with the BJP has remained confined to Bihar and it has been fighting polls on its own outside the state.

The party is eyeing migrant voters from Poorvanchal and Bihar to make an impact in the city where the ruling Aam Aadmi Party, BJP and the Congress are key contenders.

If people from Bihar stop working even for a day, Delhi will come to a standstill, Kumar said.

"Delhi is the national capital and it belongs to the entire country. People from various other cities reside here. People from Bihar reside here in large numbers and they have a huge role to play here. Earlier, they were made fun of but now they say with pride that they are from Bihar," he said.

Kumar urged his party workers to talk to people about how development work has been undertaken in Bihar and how the state has progressed under his government.

"We have improved law and order situation in Bihar and brought peace and harmony in the state. We have worked for women's empowerment in Bihar," he told party workers.

On a day when the Union cabinet approved a proposal to grant ownership rights to people living in unauthorised colonies in Delhi, Kumar urged party workers to start a campaign for regularisation of unauthorised colonies.

He also talked about launching a campaign for clean drinking water for Delhiites, just like his government is running a campaign 'Har Ghar Nal Ka Jal in Bihar.

"Delhi Jal Board comes under the CM here. It should be ensured that everyone gets water. We have to start a campaign for it," he said.

Judicial Academy workshop on transfer of property



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 23 OCT:

Sikkim Judicial Academy organized a workshop on The Transfer of Property Act, 1882 namely "Chapter V – Leases of Immovable Property (Section 105–117) Transfer of Property Act, 1882, Chapter VI – Exchanges (Section 118–121) Transfer of Property Act, 1882 and

Chapter VII – Gifts (Section 122–129) on 18 and 19 Oct, 2019.

The Resource Person for both the programmes was Former District & Sessions Judge, Mahadev Ghosh, from the West Bengal Superior Judicial Service.

On 18 Oct, Senior Civil Judges and Civil Judges of all the districts attended the workshop and on

19 Oct, District Judges were in attendance.

The resource person discussed the significance and purpose of the Transfer of Property Act, 1882 and went through relevant provisions of the Act in detail.

The principles laid down in the landmark judgments on the important provisions were discussed at great length.

Three-day violin workshop concludes at SU

GANGTOK, 23 OCT (PIB): Three-day workshop with Violin Artist, Amalan Halder organized by the Department of Music, Sikkim University, concluded on 22 Oct, 2019.

The closing session of the workshop was attended by the officers, faculty members, staff and students of the Uni-

versity. The workshop was co-ordinated by Assistant Professor, Dr Surendra Kumar, Department of Music.

Mr Halder is working as a Violin teacher of BBA, Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Narendrapur, Kolkata and is an empanelled teacher on Gyan Vani FM channel.

Vice-Chancellor, Prof Avinash Khare mentioned that such workshops give an opportunity to students to learn outside the classroom. He encouraged the faculty members to organize more such workshops on a regular basis to enrich the learning experience of the students.

ICFAI Univ intra-college Futsal tournament



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 23 OCT:

A three-day Intra-College Futsal Tournament of ICFAI University, Sikkim, began here at Infinity Futsal at Tadong today.

A total of 10 teams

are participating in the tournament which was declared open by Vice Chancellor, Dr Jagannath Patnaik, and Asst Registrar, Rohit Rath along with other faculty members of the University.

Leezum Boys through to semis of 78th Foundation Year football at Dikchu School



SUMMIT REPORT DIKCHU, 23 OCT:

The second quarter-final match of the 78th Foundation Year Celebration Open Men's football tournament at Dikchu

Senior Secondary School was played between Diljale Lingee and Leezum Boys of Gor which the latter team won by 0-2. The day had Food Inspector, Dikchu, PS Lepcha, as the chief guest.

Rashtriya Avishkar Saptah at Lingi Payong School

SUMMIT REPORT LINGI PAYONG, 23 OCT:

Rashtriya Avishkar Saptah [National Discovery Week] was observed by the Science Club of Lingi Payong School from 14 to 21 Oct, 2019.

During the weeklong celebration, various activities were held like quiz, elocution, essay writing etc.

Water quality assessment and water conservation was the theme for this year's celebration and Class IX and X students were involved in testing

the quality of the nearest source at Kabrabotey.

BFE Hari Prasad Adhikari and Asst BFE Lakpa Lepcha from Lingmoo Payong GPU helped students conduct these tests. Teachers Lila Dhar Adhikari, Goma Sharma and Binod Bhattarai co-ordinated the whole programme.

The main objective behind observing the programme was to generate enthusiasm and encourage experimentation and explanation among students.

Centre clears Kalasa Banduri project in Karnataka

BENGALURU, OCT 23 (PTI):

The Centre has accorded environmental clearance to the Karnataka government's long standing demand for the Kalasa Banduri project, aimed at providing drinking water to three north Karnataka districts by diverting water from the Mahadayi river in Goa.

"On the follow up of my cabinet colleague (Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs) Pralhad Joshi, Kalasa Banduri drinking water project in Karnataka has been granted Environmental Approval, tweeted Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar.

Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa thanked the Union Government for granting the environmental clearance.

"The Environment Ministry has given its nod to the Kalasa Banduri project, almost paving the way for its completion," he said.

The Chief Minister said his government had promised that it would



set at rest the controversy related to the project, which was evident in the centre clearing the decks for its completion.

"We will initiate steps to start the project, Yediyurappa said.

The project is aimed at providing drinking water to the three important districts of north Karnataka Belagavi, Gadag and Dharwad, which go parched in summer due to acute water scarcity.

The project involves diverting water from Mahadayi river, the lifeline of Goa, into the Malaprabha river.

The scheme, pending for decades, was re-

vived when S M Krishna was the Chief Minister in 2002, but soon ran into trouble when the then chief minister of Goa Manohar Parrikar raised objections, stating that it would affect the flora and fauna of the state.

Hence, it was dropped.

However, there was growing demand for the approval of the project and many demonstrations and protests took place in North Karnataka for its approval.

The issue was the main poll plank of both Congress and the BJP during the Assembly election last year.

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EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Online Applications are invited from the eligible local candidates for filing up of the 03 (three) posts of Panchakarma Technicians in the Sikkim State Ayush Service on temporary regular basis in the level 10 of the Pay Matrix under Health & Family welfare Department, Government of Sikkim through Direct Recruitment.

The candidates are advised to visit the Sikkim Public Service Commission website for detail Advertisement, eligibility conditions, and Scheme of Examination etc. from official Website i.e. www.spscsm.gov.in.

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Dated: 17.10.2019.

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SOCIAL JUSTICE AN WELFARE DEPARTMENT

CHILD PROTECTION SCHEME

GANGTOK

No: 801/SJ&WD/CPS/2019 Date: 21/10/2019

NOTICE

Reference Notice No: 673/SJ&WD/ICPS/2019, dt:19/07/2019 this is to inform all the eligible candidates who have been selected for viva-voce for the post of Programme Manager/ Programme Officer, State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA) under Child Protection Scheme, Social Justice and Welfare Department that the date for viva-voce has been fixed on 25/10/2019, Friday at 11:00 AM in the chamber of the undersigned.

All the above mentioned candidates are requested to appear for viva-voce and should bring original documents, degree certificate, employment card, COI, experience certificate and other testimonials, without fail at the time of Interview.

Sd/-
Additional Secretary-Cum-Director,
Child Protection Scheme,
Social Justice and Welfare Department.

R.O. No. 217/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20
Date: 22.10.19

SIKKIM UNIVERSITY

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CONVOCATION NOTICE

Sikkim University is holding its 5th Convocation on Sunday, 3rd November 2019 at Manan Kendra, Gangtok at 10.00 am. Honourable President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind will be present as the Chief Guest during the Convocation. Honourable Governor of Sikkim and Chief Rector of Sikkim University Shri Ganga Prasad and the Honourable Chief Minister Shri Prem Singh Tamang will be the Guests of Honour in the Convocation. Lt. Gen. (Retd.) D.B. Shekatar, Chancellor of the University will preside over the Convocation proceedings.

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Disaster Management in Times of Climate Change

The two realities are best prepared for in tandem

Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management are relatively recent responsibilities shouldered on two departments in Sikkim – Climate Change to the Department of Science & Technology and Disaster Management to Land Revenue Department. The recognition of the two challenges as issues requiring round the year and official attention is welcome and maybe it is even time that the two developments were placed under the charge of a single authority. This would be worthwhile because it is now clear that a majority of the natural disasters in the future will be Climate Change triggered. It would thus make sense to make Climate Change Mitigation a part of disaster management. This, more so in the case of hill states like Sikkim which already flirt too often with natural disasters, the intensity of which will grow as climate begins to change more dramatically.

The impact of climate change is becoming increasingly evident in the polar caps and in the Himalayas. High mountain communities have noted that glaciers are retreating at unprecedented rates. The planet's extremities are canaries in the coal mines - alerting the rest of the world to the extent of the changes that are coming and we, because Sikkim holds that canary, should start getting more involved in the initiatives being undertaken to save the environment because that really is the only cushion to minimise climate change risk.

At the policy level, Sikkim has launched several measures aimed at preserving its environment and understanding where it stands on the climate change risk graph. These, however, remain typically [for Sikkim] top-down affairs and have come as government initiatives thus far. One doesn't see any private participation in drawing focus to the larger picture. Most NGOs and social organisations are involved in almost exclusively local issues like garbage disposal and plantation works. While these are also necessary, Sikkim needs more who communicate in specifics and undertake studies on climate change impact in the State. There has unfortunately not been any concerted effort in Sikkim on this front thus far. While most people are familiar with climate change, very few are aware of how it is manifesting in Sikkim. The closest that the State has come to studying this is aspect is in the committee (or was it as commission?) set up to study the glaciers of Sikkim. It is not clear what came of this study although some glaciers on high melt have been kept under high watch now. Events like an occasional workshop-cum-orientation which announces that it will discuss climate change and disaster management do not really ever get into the specifics of climate change impact on Sikkim. Without making this change directly relevant to the people, efforts towards mitigation or management will remain funds-driven undertakings which, even if they are earnest, will remain superficial.

Climate Change manifests in both, subtle and overt ways, its slower encroachment not being noticed until it is too late and its more dramatic displays like GLOFs coming so suddenly and destructively that rescue and repairs distract from the causative factors. The dots are not connected and hence lessons are never learnt and preparation always compromised. Some years ago, an ambitious workshop-cum-orientation programme was held in Sikkim on "Climate Risk Management through Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation". Followed up in earnest, it could have marked a change in attitudes if it had only succeeded in acquainting stakeholders and line department officials to how climate change has already impacted Sikkim. Then, perhaps management and mitigation plans could have been more than the copy-paste speculative drafts that remain in circulation. The main problem in Sikkim's handling of climate change and even disaster management plans is that most people engaged for it work on generalised blueprints prepared elsewhere. Such blueprints should be seen as suggested frameworks to be filled out with Sikkim-specific data, traditional knowledge base and local know-how to deliver management and mitigation plans which actually deliver.

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Iraq's discontent – its roots and how to begin fixing it

BAMO NOURI
theconversation.com

Iraq's recent wave of protests against poverty, a lack of basic services, unemployment, and the interference of Iran in the country's domestic affairs showed a country at the end of its tether. Official figures put the number killed in the violent crackdown of protesters at 157.

Since 2011, protests and popular movements that challenged elite dominance or questioned the government have been violently repressed. The presence of Iran has increased as the Shiite-dominated government in Iraq has become dependent on the Iranian Popular Mobilisation Forces (PMF) to maintain order in Iraq. Indeed, there have been reports that snipers were deployed by Iranian-backed militias in the latest round of protests in October.

The problems for Iraq are deep-rooted and institutional, and if not addressed may yet escalate into a full scale revolution. What's needed is reform of the country's 2005 constitution, which was written during a period of political instability after a war and occupation ridden by conflict. The only way for Iraq to have a chance at prosperity and peace is by addressing its flawed foundations which were heavily influenced by the occupiers.

Iraq's 2005 constitution, which was influenced by the US, failed to create a unified, representative government. Ambiguities within the document have been abused by those in power and it has exacerbated sectarian divisions within Iraq's politics. The constitution created a system in which public sector and government roles are allocated based on sect and ethnicity.

UNREPRESENTATIVE ELITES

Iraq has become a nation that is for the few

and not the many, as unrepresentative Iraqi political elites bid to share out its resources. Millions of Iraqis are left unrepresented and without prospects.

While the majority of citizens are discontented and struggling, Iraq's elites remain fortified and continue to govern through a system known as "wasta", which involves serving those you favour and hold close, such as friends and family. Divides along ethnic and sectarian lines remain a key theme when identifying the causes of disagreement between competing sects who unite to form political blocs in Iraq's government.

The lengthy government formation process that takes place after elections is dependent on the division of key state institutions based on ethnic and sectarian identities. To achieve this, political parties form blocs with and against each other to achieve their goals, with the biggest becoming the governing bloc. Although Iraqi elites are divided based on ethnicity, sect and religion, this race for power – and with it the ability to distribute and share the country's resources – creates a unity between elites.

For example, in three separate parliamentary elections since 2003, the winning candidate has not become prime minister. In the 2014 elections, Nouri al-Maliki, as the head of the State of Law coalition, won the largest number of seats in parliament, yet due to disagreements over government formation and the fight against Islamic State, he was replaced by Haider al-Abadi. In the 2018 elections, Muqtada al-Sadr's Saairun coalition won a majority, but it was eventually Adil Abdul-Mahdi, an independent, who was chosen as prime minister.

Ministerial fiefdoms where political parties are given ministries in exchange for support to

form governing blocs have created a dysfunctional government. It means there is no clear governmental strategy, which in turn severely impedes development.

The mechanics of this power-sharing system are illustrated by coalitions of oligarchs who use public institutions to distribute favours to clients. Political parties control government procurement and reconstruction contracts, who either auction them off, or set up shell companies to award contracts to themselves. These contracts are then sub-contracted, or simply never fulfilled, with funds ending up being drained in the process, ultimately benefiting a narrow Iraqi elite. Iraq was ranked 168 out of 180 countries in Transparency International's 2018 corruption perception index.

DEMOCRACY IN THEORY ONLY

Freedom of speech is non-existent and those who speak out against the government are targeted and often killed, as are protesters. On the whole, democracy in Iraq only exists in theory.

In order for Iraq to ever be able to meet the growing demands of its people and the challenges of prospering on the global stage, immediate political reform is needed. The reform process must directly address the rushed and divisive constitution. This needs to be followed by the democratisation of Iraq's institutions and the re-creation of Iraq's national identity so the country can escape the worst of its sectarianism and become more unified as a nation.

Without all of these issues addressed with equal importance, the cycle of adversity will continue as Iraq will remain a reactive as opposed to proactive nation.

[the writer is Lecturer, City, University of London]

How memories are formed and retrieved by the brain revealed in a new study

BENJAMIN J. GRIFFITHS &
SIMON HANSLMAYR
theconversation.com

Try to remember that last dinner you went out for. Perhaps you can remember the taste of that delicious pasta, the sounds of the jazz pianist in the corner, or that boisterous laugh from the portly gentleman three tables over. What you probably can't remember is putting any effort into remembering any of these little details.

Somehow, your brain has rapidly processed the experience and turned it into a robust, long-term memory without any serious effort from yourself. And, as you reflect on that meal today, your brain has generated a high-definition movie of the meal from memory, for your mental viewing pleasure, in a matter of seconds.

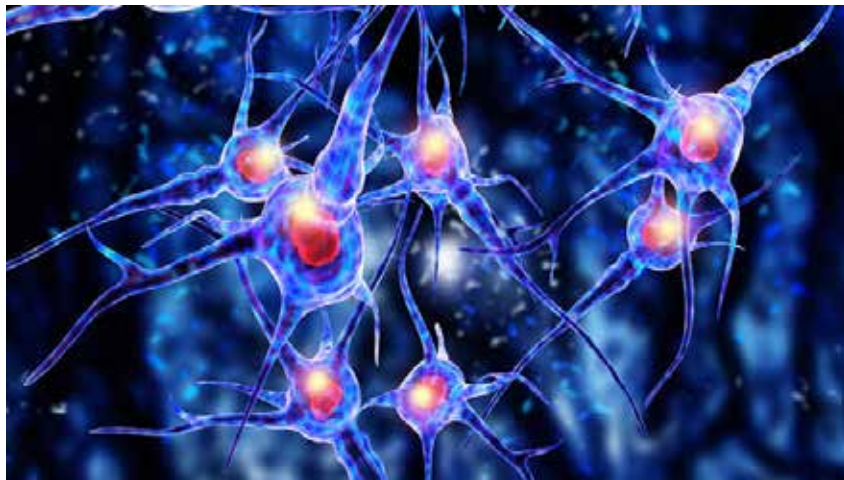
Undoubtedly, our ability to create and retrieve long-term memories is a fundamental part of the human experience – but we still have lots to learn about the process. For instance, we lack a clear understanding of how different brain regions interact in order to form and retrieve memories. But our recent study sheds new light on this phenomenon by showing how neural activity in two distinct brain regions interact during memory retrieval.

The hippocampus, a structure located deep within the brain, has long been seen as a hub for memory. The hippocampus helps "glue" parts of the memory together (the "where" with the "when") by ensuring that neurons fire together. This is often referred to as "neural synchronisation". When the neurons that code for the "where" synchronise with the neurons that code for the "when", these details become associated through a phenomenon known as "Hebbian learning".

But the hippocampus is simply

too small to store every little detail of a memory. This has lead researchers to theorise that the hippocampus calls upon the neocortex – a region which processes complex sensory details such as sound and sight – to help fill in the details of a memory.

The neocortex does this by doing



the exact opposite of what the hippocampus does – it ensures that neurons do not fire together. This is often referred to as "neural desynchronisation". Imagine asking an audience of 100 people for their names. If they synchronise their response (that is, they all scream out at the same time), you're probably not going to understand anything. But if they desynchronise their response (that is, they take turns speaking their names), you're probably going to gather a lot more information from them. The same is true for neocortical neurons – if they synchronise, they struggle to get their message across, but if they desynchronise, the information comes across easily.

Our research found that the hippocampus and neocortex do in fact work together when recalling a memory. This happens when the hippocampus synchronises its activity to glue parts of the memory together, and later help

to recall the memory. Meanwhile, the neocortex desynchronises its activity to help process information about the event and later help process information about the memory.

OF CATS AND BICYCLES

We tested 12 epilepsy patients between 24 and 53 years of age. All

had electrodes place directly within the brain tissue of their hippocampus and neocortex as part of the treatment for their epilepsy. During the experiment, patients learned associations between different stimuli (such as words, sounds and videos), and later recalled these associations. For example, a patient may be shown the word "cat" followed by a video of a bike cycling down a street.

The patient would then try and create a vivid link between the two (perhaps the cat riding the bike) to help them remember the association between the two items. Later, they would be presented with one of the items and asked to recall the other. The researchers then examined how the hippocampus interacted with the neocortex when the patients were learning and recalling these associations.

During learning, neural activity in the neocortex desynchronised and then, around 150 milliseconds later,

neural activity in the hippocampus synchronised. Seemingly, information about the sensory details of the stimuli was first being processed by the neocortex, before being passed to the hippocampus to be glued together.

Fascinatingly, this pattern reversed during retrieval – neural activity in the hippocampus first synchronised and then, around 250 milliseconds later, neural activity in the neocortex desynchronised. This time, it appeared that the hippocampus first recalled a gist of the memory and then began to ask the neocortex for the specifics.

Our findings support a recent theory which suggests that a desynchronised neocortex and synchronised hippocampus need to interact to form and recall memories.

While brain stimulation has become a promising method for boosting our cognitive facilities, it has proved difficult to stimulate the hippocampus to improve long-term memory. The key problem has been that the hippocampus is located deep within the brain and is difficult to reach with brain stimulation that is applied from the scalp. But the findings from this study present a new possibility. By stimulating the regions in the neocortex that communicate with the hippocampus, perhaps the hippocampus can be indirectly pushed to create new memories or recall old ones.

Understanding more about the way the hippocampus and neocortex work together when forming and recalling memories could be important for further developing new technologies that could help improve memory for those suffering from cognitive impairments such as dementia, as well as boosting memory in the population at large.

[Benjamin J. Griffiths is Doctoral Researcher, University of Birmingham; Simon Hanslmayr is University of Birmingham]

B'deshi, Indian stakeholders stress on port connectivity

GUWAHATI, OCT 23 (PTI): Water resources management and port connectivity are critical in boosting commercial relationship between India and Bangladesh, stakeholders of the two countries asserted on Wednesday.

India and Bangladesh share a total of 54 rivers and historically, the two countries have shared riverine routes for trade, commerce and movement of people, speakers said at a session over 'Port Use Agreements' held on the concluding day of the India Bangladesh Stakeholders' Meet here.

The session was jointly coordinated by Bangladesh Ministry of Shipping Secretary Md Abdus Samad and Inland Waterways Authority of India Chairperson Dr Amita Prasad.

In recent times, India and its neighbours have realised the immense potential of rivers as trade-transport-connectivity routes, both within



and across borders.

Recent developments and policy thrust of the countries in the region show emphasis on re-harnessing that connectivity and enhancing trade contacts, the speakers said.

Coordinators of both the countries pointed out the developments in terms of maritime, coastal and inland waterways connecting the

region, and said some of these relate to neighbouring Nepal and Bhutan as well.

Prasad said the Indian government has been putting increasing emphasis on better management and governance of water resources for trade, transport, tourism, domestic and industrial purposes.

As many as 106 new national waterways were

declared in 2016 in addition to the five that already existed, she added.

The recent forming of the Jal Shakti Ministry by merging the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation is also an attempt to better manage rivers and water resources in the country, Prasad added. Overall, there has

been a palpable shift in policy and political focus on waterways connectivity, Samad pointed out.

Notwithstanding this thrust to re-connect the region comprising of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal through the waterways, the pace of progress has been slow, he added.

A change in modal share of trade and transport cannot be expected to happen overnight but it is also important to understand and deliberate upon some challenges and hurdles to realise the ambitious idea, Prasad added. The session also deliberated among other issues on linkages to other modes of transport, on private-sector involvement and hard and soft capacity building measures.

Supported by Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the India Bangladesh Stakeholders' Meet is being organised by the Assam Government's Department of Act East Policy Affairs.

Farmers' training program at Khamdong



KHAMDONG 23 OCT: Ward level farmer's training programme was held at Upper Khamdong Ward of Khamdong GPU today. The training programme was attended by Ward panchayat Shri Thend-

up Bhutia, Panchayat vice president Phurba Tamang, East district in-charge Deepa Lepcha, ICS field staff of Simfed and progressive farmers of the ward.

The prime objective

of training program is to aware farmers about seed treatment management with organic pesticides and organic bio inputs and uses of trichoderma and organic pesticides.

JLF releases first list of speakers for 13th edition

NEW DELHI, OCT 23 (PTI): Pulitzer-winning author Stephen Greenblatt, Hindustani classical singer Shubha Mudgal, and filmmaker-writer Vishal Bhardwaj are among the 25 speakers on Jaipur Literature Festival's (JLF) first list for its 13th edition, announced organisers on Wednesday.

Touted as world's largest free literary event, the festival is expected to see participation by over 250 authors, thinkers, politicians and popular culture icons, with a special focus on world literature.

The upcoming edition will be held from January 23 - 27, 2020 at the Diggi Palace Hotel in Jaipur.

"A true champion of literary and artistic traditions and democratic discourse, the Festival brings together a diverse mix of the world's greatest writers, thinkers, humanitarians, politicians, business leaders, sports people and entertainers on one stage to champion the freedom to express and engage in thoughtful debate and dialogue, and promotes, above all, a love for literature," organisers said in a statement.

Also featuring on the first list are authors Anand Neelakantan, Anosh Irani, Ben Judah, Brian Aivars Catlos and British chef Asma Khan.

The list continues with Vyas Samman awardee Chitra Mudgal, Samuel Johnson Prize



winner Frank Dik ter, Man Booker winner Howard Jacobson, Sahitya Akademi winner Keki N Daruwalla, Kendra and Kerala Sahitya Akademi winner K R Meera, and bestselling authors Halie Rubenhold, Kent Nerburn and Jung Chang.

"The upcoming edition of the Jaipur Literature Festival arrives with the same magical promise of books and authors, ideas and creativity, generating a collective intellectual energy unparalleled anywhere.

"Vision 2020 will be a new voyage of discovery to help us understand and reflect on the ever-changing world around us," said Namita Gokhale, writer, publisher and JLF co-director.

The list also features Kunal Basu, the author of "The Japanese Wife"; Maaza Mengiste, author of "Beneath the Lion's Gaze"; Marcus du Sautoy, author of six books, including the recent "The Creativity Code and a Professor of Mathematics at the University of Oxford"; Mishi Saran, author of "The Other Side of

Light"; Nilanjana S Roy, author of the award-winning fantasy novel "The Wildings"; and Om Swami, the brain behind the fastest-growing meditation and kindness movement in the world -- "Black Lotus".

It also includes award-winning journalist Raj Kamal Jha, Coburg Rckert Prize winner Sara Rai, and Hutch Crossword awardee Suketu Mehta.

"At Jaipur Literature Festival in 2020, we look forward to strengthening our core values - to create a platform that celebrate ideas, reaches out to young people and allows them free access to knowledge and education," said festival producer Sanjoy K Roy.

The seventh edition of the Jaipur BookMark (JBM), which will be running parallel to the festival, will bring together a wide range of publishers, literary agents, writers, translators, translation agencies and booksellers from across the world and give them an opportunity to meet, talk business and listen to major global industry players.

CBI books former Uttarakhand CM in horse-trading case

NEW DELHI, OCT 23 (PTI): The CBI has booked former Uttarakhand Chief Minister Harish Rawat for allegedly attempting to indulge in horse-trading, officials said on Wednesday.

The case is the outcome of a CBI probe into a purported video recorded in 2016 when the state was under President's rule.

The video purportedly showed the Congress

leader discussing money to win back the support of disgruntled MLAs who had crossed over to the BJP so that he could get back to power.

Recently, the Uttarakhand High Court gave the nod to the CBI to go ahead with its investigation in the case and lodge an FIR against Rawat after the agency submitted a report in a sealed cover on the preliminary inquiry.

Centre, states should do more: Mayawati on NCRB data

LUCKNOW, OCT 23 (PTI): BSP president Mayawati on Wednesday asked the government to make earnest efforts on the law and order front, especially on women security, saying the NCRB data do not bolster the image of the country.

Mayawati's reaction comes after National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) released the annual crime data for 2017 after a delay of more than a year. The data said that with 3.59 lakh FIRs, crimes against women rose for third year in a row and the maximum cases were registered in Uttar Pradesh (56,011).

"The National Crime Records Bureau has presented the statistics of crime in front of the country and world after a long delay. They natu-

rally have made big headlines in the media and they are definitely not improving the image of India, which is a matter of great sorrow and concern," Mayawati tweeted.

"These statistics make it clear that in all kinds of crime in the country, especially in the matter of women's safety, the central and state governments are in dire need to do a lot with full honesty. Uttar Pradesh is in the worst condition and this is when only one party BJP has its government at the centre and the state," the BSP leader added.

The NCRB, under the Ministry of Home Affairs, is responsible for collecting and analysing crime data as defined by the Indian Penal Code, as well as special and local laws in the country.

Bengal govt urges MHA to rethink on entrusting Guv's security with CRPF

KOLKATA, OCT 23 (PTI): The West Bengal government has urged the Union Home Ministry to reconsider its decision on entrusting the security of Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar with the CRPF, a senior official said on Wednesday.

The state government, in a letter to the MHA, has also sought to know the reasons why it was not consulted before the decision to hand over the governor's security to the CRPF was taken.

"It is the responsibility of the state government to look after the security of the governor since he is the constitutional head of the state.

"The state government has provided him with "Z" category security since the first day of his appointment.

Then, why did the MHA suddenly decide to entrust his security with the CRPF without consulting us," a senior official of the state Secretariat told PTI.

The official said, the state government's security arrangements are foolproof and the MHA has been urged to rethink on the issue.

Dhankhar took oath as the governor of West Bengal on July 30.

The MHA on October 15 had issued an order, directing the CRPF to take charge of Dhankhar's security that will be valid in all parts of the country.

Though it is more than a week since the MHA notification was issued, the CRPF personnel are yet to take over the security of the governor at the Raj Bhavan.

Meetings between senior officers of the state police and the paramilitary force on laying of the new security design had ended inconclusively, making it difficult for the CRPF to take charge of the governor's security.

Sources at the Governor's office said a communication was sent to the state government to upgrade the governor's security from Z to Z+ category after his vehicle was blocked inside the Jadavpur University campus allegedly by its students when he went there to 'rescue' Union Minister Babul Supriyo in September.

Only Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and her nephew Abhishek Banerjee get Z+ security in the state.

5,000 kg of banned fire crackers seized in West Bengal



KOLKATA, OCT 23 (PTI): Nearly 5,000 kg of banned fire crackers have been seized during joint raids conducted by the West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB) and Kolkata Police from the city and its adjoining areas, officials said on Wednesday.

WBPCB Chairman Kalyan Rudra said the seized crackers include a variety of sound-generating shells.

"The joint raids for the past one week were aimed at curbing the use of high-decibel and polluting fireworks during Kali Puja-Diwali on October 27 and October 28,

and ensure a more ambient air during the period," he said.

Rudra said the exercise will continue over the next few days.

The WBPCB official said bursting of crackers is allowed only for two hours on October 27.

Eight mobile teams, consisting of WBPCB officials and police personnel, will maintain strict vigil on Kali Puja-Diwali day in several areas of the city and its fringes, he said.

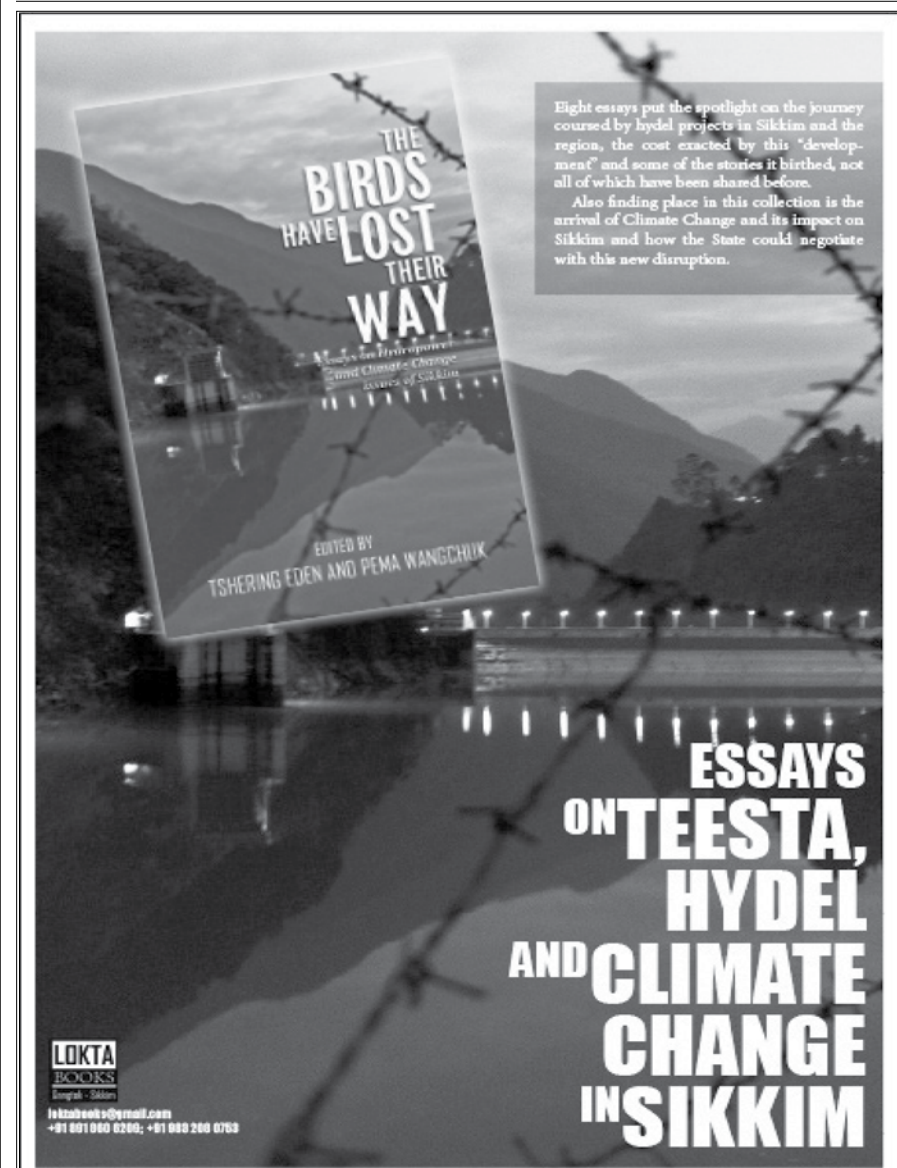
Rudra said people can lodge complaints related to bursting fire crackers through the West Bengal 'Poribesh App'.

To a question, Rudra said he does not find much logic behind the argument that air pollution turned worse in recent years during Kali Puja and Diwali.

"Only West Bengal has restricted the decibel limit to within 90, whereas all over the country, it is 125. We set the trend first," he said.

Rudra also expressed doubt over the efficacy of 'green fireworks'.

"I don't believe in this word. Any type of firework causes pollution, but in varying degrees. We don't yet know the composition of green fireworks," he added.



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‘Flat’ Zverev crashes out in Basel first round

BASEL, OCT 23 (AFP): World number six Alexander Zverev described his 7-6 (9/7), 6-4 loss to Taylor Fritz as ‘flat’ as he was knocked out of the ATP Swiss Indoors on Tuesday. The German’s loss to the 21-year-old American came barely a week after defeat in the Shanghai Masters final to Daniil Medvedev and puts his chance of defending his ATP Finals title at risk.

“I was completely flat for some reason,” he said.

“I was tired and not focused at all. It was a weird feeling,” he added.

Zverev won the season-ending tournament last November, beating Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic back-to-back.

The season points race will be determined next week at the Paris Masters as the last two of the eight spots are decided. “The way I played today, in my current mental stage, I’m not going to beat anybody,” Zverev, ranked seventh in the world, said.

“I’m very disappointed but it’s more about myself than the result.” Zverev, a semi-finalist last year in Basel, fought hard to take the opening set into a tiebreaker, but was overwhelmed in the second by his American opponent in 86 minutes.

“Normally I really enjoy it on court, the tough moments, the fighting,” Zverev said.

“But today I was completely out of it. I may go home for a few days and clear my mind. I’ll try to do well in Paris and hopefully make it to London.” Fritz, ranked 31st in the world and a winner at Eastbourne in June, saved both break points against his serve.

London-bound third seed Stefanos Tsitsipas came through with a 6-3, 7-6 (8/6) win over Spaniard Albert Ramos-Vinolas. “I knew it was going to be a difficult battle out there. He fought hard and gave me a hard time, but I’m satisfied and happy that this match didn’t go longer or to three sets,” Tsitsipas said.

The Greek now boasts wins in eight of his last 10 matches including a final in Beijing to Dominic Thiem.

Fabio Fognini picked up his London qualifying pace with a 6-2, 6-4 victory over Australian Alexei Popyrin. The Italian winner reached the second round in 78 minutes to reinforce his year-end bid.

The Monte Carlo Masters’ champion stands 11th in the chase for one of the remaining eight ATP Finals spots. “If I qualify - fine. If not, then I can spend more time with the family, that’s the most important thing anyway,” he said.

Moldovan Radu Albot will line up in the second round against nine-time champion Roger Federer on Wednesday after a 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 comeback over Serb Dusan Lajovic.

The US’ Riley Opelka hammered 27 aces in his 7-6 (7/5), 7-6 (12/10) defeat of Chile’s Christian Garin and will face either sixth seed David Goffin or Marin Cilic.

ANDY BULL
TOKYO, 23 OCT [THEGUARDIAN]: The shrine in Marunouchi is a little different to the 1,500 or so others in Tokyo. It has the same trappings, an altar, a bell, paper lanterns and a coil of twisted rope, but it sits on a patch of bright green AstroTurf, and its torii, the distinctive red entry gate, is in the unmistakable shape of a set of goal posts. They even have a wrap of foam padding. There’s a bilingual sign outside inviting you to stop and “pray for the happiness of all people who love rugby”, and a little how-to guide for all of us who don’t know how to do it. Ring the bell. Bow twice. Clap twice. Bow again.

It was busy on the Monday morning after Japan were knocked out. I sat on the bench opposite and watched a stream of people, little kids, middle-aged men, elderly ladies, go through the ritual. It sounds solemn, but it wasn’t. Everyone was smiling, and posing for photos. Then an old man asked if he could join me and we sat there together in silence. Until finally he started to laugh, a happy, high-pitched giggle that swirled like birdsong. He stopped to snort fresh breath, slapped one hand on his slacks, used the other to dry his eye, then started up all over again. “But,” he said, “but,” barely



ly able to get the words out of his mouth, “but Japan lost!”

He didn’t mean it scornfully. There wasn’t a hint of admonishment in it. He was just delighted by everyone else’s newfound enthusiasm for a sport they had never really cared for before. They were almost as merry about it as he was. No one was crying, scowling, or scolding the players or calling for the coaches to be sacked, there weren’t any furious inquiries in the papers or on the radio or TV shows. Instead there was a quiet, jolly pride at what the team had achieved in the past few weeks.

Alec, though, is an

irredeemable cynic. But then he’s been working in sports politics for the past decade or so, on the Olympics beat, Beijing, London, Rio, and now Tokyo. We met at a match back in the first week of the World Cup. I liked him very much, which is why I’ve changed his name. He’d never covered rugby before, and he couldn’t have been any less impressed. The game, he complained, seemed slow and stodgy, the rules incomprehensible, and most of the players came across as so damn posh.

A month later I saw him again, in Yokohama this time. I’d come scur-

rying down to the press room right after Japan had beaten Scotland. “That,” he said, breathlessly, “was brilliant.”

He was grinning like a little kid. Grinning, in fact, like my six-year-old nephew in the photo taken on his first day back at school in Sapporo after the opening week of the tournament. He had never picked up a ball before, but he and his friends were so excited about the Rugby World Cup that they played a game in the break on Monday morning. He knocked out his two baby teeth making a tackle. He was pretty proud of his gap-toothed

smile, they were wobbly anyway, he explained, and it saved him the trouble of teasing them out.

There are serious discussions to be had about Japanese rugby. About whether the Japanese union has resources it needs to push through the necessary reform of their amateur league, and get the schools, universities, and corporations who run the game all working to the same end. About where they fit into the world game. The latest reports out of New Zealand are that, thank goodness, the southern unions have decided to keep Japan’s only fully

professional team, the Sunwolves, in Super Rugby, and they are looking to fast-track the national team into the Rugby Championship too.

And we could strain to explain the significance of it all, get at how sport has helped to bring everyone together, given people an outlet for all those pent-up emotions, maybe even reshaped their idea of what it means to be Japanese. And we could ask whether this World Cup is going to have any kind of legacy, as all big tournaments are now supposed to do, look at the regeneration of the stadi-

ums or the development of new infrastructure, ask whether it has led a new great wave of enthusiasm for sport and exercise and all those other things they promise in the brochures.

But really, it’s enough to say that this Japanese team spread a little happiness around, at a time when the country is still in mourning for the 80 people who died in Typhoon Hagibis. And what else is it all for, anyway, but entertainment? Japan were good at that, maybe the best of all the teams in this World Cup.

It was there in Kotaro Matsushima’s dash and swagger, his perfectly swept hair, each strand in place even after he had thrown himself up from one of those headlong dives for the tryline, and in Kenki Fukuoka’s ridiculous speed and skill, and the way he plucked that grubber from the air like he was pulling down one last apple as he was sprinting away from the farmer who had caught him scrumping, in Shota Horie’s wildman style, dreadlocks flying behind him as he threw himself into another collision, and Timothy Lafaele’s bottomless top-hat of magic tricks, flicks, kicks and passes. And in Michael Leitch, always indomitably charging on.

They played with style and courage, and, even in defeat, for the “happiness of all people who love rugby”.

Morata makes his point by scoring winner for Atletico

MADRID, OCT 23 (AFP): Alvaro Morata came off the bench and rescued Atletico Madrid when his late header gave Diego Simeone’s side a gritty 1-0 win over Bayer Leverkusen in the Champions League on Tuesday. Morata, dropped after missing chances in Atletico’s draw with Valencia in La Liga on Saturday, played as if he had a point to prove in a match-winning cameo at the Wanda Metropolitano.

“He started on the bench,” said Simeone. “But came on with the motivation of a little boy.” Victory leaves Atletico with seven points from their opening three games in Group D and on the brink of qualification, with only top spot seemingly to be settled, most likely with Juventus.

For Leverkusen, three defeats from three all but ends their hopes of progress and continues a disappointing start to the season that also has them sitting ninth in the Bundesliga.

Atletico have been on a poor run themselves, managing only two wins from their last eight games in all competitions and slipping to fifth in the league, behind both Barcelona and Real Madrid.

This was hardly a performance to alleviate concerns, particularly about their fluidity in attack, but Morata’s goal



at least gets them back to winning and ensures their task in the group stage is almost complete.

“Goals give you confidence and winning gives you enthusiasm,” Simeone said.

“The Morata goal brought everyone together.” Simeone will have been worried to see his central defender Jose Gimenez forced off injured in the 15th minute. He would appear unlikely to recover in time for Atletico’s game at home to Athletic Bilbao on Saturday.

When Mario Hermoso replaced Gimenez, it meant Atletico’s defence was made up entirely of summer signings. “We

hope the injury is as light as possible,” Simeone said.

When these sides last met in the last 16 in 2017, Leverkusen’s Kai Havertz was unable to play because of school exams. The promising 20-year-old started up front on Tuesday but was starved of service.

A frantic opening 10 minutes set the tone for a first half that was high on intensity but lacking either creativity or clear-cut chances.

Costa almost pounced after Leverkusen goalkeeper Lukas Hradecky scooped up Angel Correa’s shot but failed to keep hold of the ball.

- MORE AMBITIOUS -

Otherwise, frustration grew. Costa lambasted Koke for a missed pass and Simeone castigated Kieran Trippier for losing possession and ignoring a simple ball inside.

After half-time both sides were more ambitious. Costa could have scored, but failed to connect with a free header from Trippier’s cross.

Costa then felt he should have had a penalty when Sven Bender slipped and the striker stepped on the fallen defender’s hand and went down. Referee Artur Dias waved away the appeals.

Thomas Lemar and Morata came on for Correa and Koke, who was whistled as he departed, only for a furious Simeone to order the fans to clap, which most of them duly did.

Both substitutes were involved in the winner. Lemar drove through midfield and played the ball left to Renan Lodi, who curved a brilliant cross to the near post, where Morata powered in, his header too strong for Hradecky’s right hand.

Morata celebrated by running to the bench. He was feral in the remaining minutes, rampaging at Leverkusen’s backline and chasing down as many clearances as he could.

Kevin Volland had Leverkusen’s only sniff of an equaliser but his finish was blocked and Atletico held on.

Barcelona and Real Madrid agree 18 Dec date for rescheduled clásico

BARCELONA, 23 OCT [AP]: The first clásico of the season between Barcelona and Real Madrid has been rescheduled for 18 December. Barça were initially due to host their arch-rivals at the Nou Camp on Saturday, but the game was postponed by the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) last week because of security concerns in Catalonia.

Both clubs rejected a proposal that the game could be played at Real’s Bernabéu Stadium instead and offered 18 December as their preferred option.

A Spanish Football Federation statement read: “The decision of

the competition committee has come after analysing in recent days the proposals of both clubs, which were invited to agree on a date and which have agreed on December 18 for the celebration of the postponed match.”

The original fixture was postponed following mass protests in Barcelona after nine Catalan political leaders were given lengthy prison sentences for their roles in the 2017 Catalan independence referendum.

Barça had urged the federation to allow the game to go ahead, saying it had “the utmost confidence in the civilised and

pacifist attitude of its members and fans who always express themselves in exemplary fashion at Camp Nou”.

The Catalan club confirmed the rearranged date in a statement on their official website, saying: “We have a date for El Clásico. The Spanish Football Federation’s competition committee has officially announced on Wednesday that the first game between FC Barcelona and Real Madrid this season, originally scheduled for 26 October, will now be taking place on Wednesday 18 December at Camp Nou, the date that FC Barcelona originally proposed a week ago.

Graeme Smith elected MCC Honorary Life Member

LONDON, OCT 23 (PTI): Former South Africa skipper Graeme Smith has been elected an Honorary Life Member of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), custodians of the game’s law.

The MCC took to Twitter to announce the membership.

“MCC has today announced the election of @OfficialCSA legend @GraemeSmith49 as an Honorary Life Member of the Club,” the MCC tweeted on Tuesday.

Smith, who has an impressive record in One-Day International cricket for his country, scoring 6,989 runs including ten centuries, expressed his excitement on being bestowed upon the honour.

“Thank you @HomeOfCricket and the MCC for this incredible honour. I have so many amazing memories there and I’m excited to share more with you in the future,” Smith tweeted.

The former batsman became South Africa’s youngest ever captain at 22, and went on to enjoy a monumental Test Match career. He struck 27 centuries amongst his 9,265 career runs.

Named one of Wisden’s Cricketers of the Year in 2004, Smith secured a second place on the Honours Board in 2008, hitting a century at the Home of Cricket in the drawn Test with England. His first tour of England in 2003 became

memorable for his two double-centuries in the first two Tests of the series - the second of which came at Lord’s and broke the record for the highest individual score by an overseas player.

His 259 beat Sir Donald Bradman’s 73-year record and wrote himself into Lord’s folklore.

Former Australian off-spinner Tim May was also awarded Honorary Life Membership in recognition of his outstanding achievements in cricket.

The pair follow Paul Collingwood, AB de Villiers, Mitchell Johnson and Adrian Morgan in being awarded Honorary Life Membership of MCC this year.

China plans to replace Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam: FT

BEIJING, OCT 23 (AFP): Beijing is drawing up a plan to remove Hong Kong's beleaguered chief executive Carrie Lam, the Financial Times reported Wednesday, after nearly five months of pro-democracy unrest.

The pro-Beijing leader has faced sustained criticism from protesters in the semi-autonomous city.

So far the central government in Beijing has given its support to her and the Hong Kong police, calling the demonstrators "rioters" and condemning the violence.

But according to the FT report, which quoted unnamed figures briefed on the deliberations, the Chinese government is drawing up a plan to replace her with an interim chief executive.

However, sources told the newspaper that the plan would be dependent on the situation in the city first stabilising so that Beijing is



not seen as giving in to violence.

Lam's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the report.

Hong Kong has now been battered by 20 weeks of protests and with no political solution in sight, clashes have intensified each month.

Earlier this month, Lam -- who has refused to grant any major concessions to protesters -- invoked a colonial-era emergency law to ban face masks, setting off a new wave of protests and vandalism that shut down much of the city's transport network.

If President Xi Jinping

decided to go ahead with the plan to remove Lam, the report said her replacement would be installed by March.

Leading candidates being considered to replace Lam reportedly include Norman Chan, former head of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, and Henry Tang, who

has also served as the territory's financial secretary and chief secretary for administration.

A leaked audio recording emerged in September of Lam saying she would quit if she had a choice -- although she later said she had not contemplated standing down.

'Anonymous' Trump critic coming out with book

WASHINGTON, OCT 23 (AFP): A senior US official who penned a newspaper column anonymously last year warning of the dangers of President Donald Trump is coming out with a book.

The book, "A WARNING," by the author of the column published in The New York Times, is to be published on November 19, The Washington Post and CNN reported on Tuesday.

In the September 2018 column titled "I Am Part of the Resistance Inside the Trump Administration," the anonymous official described Trump as "impetuous, adversarial, petty and ineffective." "His impulsiveness results in half-baked, ill-informed and occasionally reckless decisions that have to be walked back," the official said.

Trump reacted furiously to the column, calling it "treasonous" and asking for the author to be identified. The Times refused to do so.



The Post and CNN said the author of the book will remain anonymous.

CNN said it had obtained a draft press release from the publisher, Twelve, a division of Hachette Book Group, which describes the book as a "shocking, first-hand account of President

Trump and his record." "This is serious stuff and this is a serious warning about our President," Sean Desmond, Twelve's publisher, told CNN.

Trump is currently facing an impeachment inquiry in the Democratic-majority House of Representatives for abuse of power.

'The girl you were warned about': Paris 2024 logo mocked online

The new 2024 Olympics logo is supposed to evoke French history but has instead earned ridicule online for its apparent resemblance to a stereotypical Parisian woman. Unveiled on Monday, the design incorporates the art deco style in vogue the last time Paris hosted the Games in 1924, depicting an Olympic flame within a gold medal.

It also incorporates the lips and outline of Marianne, the personification of liberty and the French Republic since the revolution of 1789 -- an addition that some mocked for adding an unnecessarily seductive character to the motif.

"The French Olympic logo tumbles out of bed on a Parisian morning," wrote Paris-based journalist Megan Clement on Twitter. "She tousles her messy bob, dons breton stripes and ballet flats and whisks down the stairs from her fifth-floor apartment to grab a baguette before enigmatically texting two men who are pursuing her romantically."

"(She) has an espresso and a cigarette for lunch. She hops on a vintage bicycle and pedals past the Eiffel Tower on her way to a cafe where she will sit and read Baudelaire with her fluffy white dog at her feet."

Others compared the flame motif to the logo of dating app Tinder and suggested the silhouette of Marianne brought to mind the retro hairstyle made popular by Jennifer Aniston in the American sitcom "Friends".

"The artist's muse, the poet's dream, and the girl your mother warned you about. She's fashionably late for everything. She'll make out with your husband at a party and then wonder why you're mad," said one Twitter user.

SoftBank confirms multi-billion-dollar WeWork bailout



SoftBank announced on Wednesday it will pump billions of dollars into struggling office-sharing start-up WeWork, in a deal that will see co-founder Adam Neumann taking a huge payout and exiting the board.

The package, which involves new financing, speeds up already pledged money and includes a new tender offer for existing shareholders, is worth a total of \$9.5 billion.

Neumann, who has already been forced to step down as chief executive, will exit the board for an "observer" role, but is said to be receiving more than \$1.5 billion as he departs.

SoftBank Group's Marcelo Claure will take over as executive chairman of the board.

The agreement caps a turbulent period for the once-vaunted start-up, which was valued by some at around \$47 billion at the start of the year, and represents a significant shot in the arm as the company haemorrhages money.

"SoftBank has decided to double down on the company by providing a significant capital infusion and operational support," SoftBank chairman Masayoshi Son said in a statement. "The new capital SoftBank is providing

will restore momentum to the company and I am committed to delivering profitability and positive free cash flow," added Claure in the statement. The package includes \$5 billion in new financing, as well as a commitment to speed up an existing pledge of \$1.5 billion.

SoftBank will also launch a tender offer of up to \$3 billion for existing shareholders, at \$19.19 a share, expected to start in the fourth quarter of 2019.

- 80 percent stake - SoftBank, which already held 29 percent of WeWork, will increase its stake to "approximately 80 percent", but said this did not constitute taking control.

It said it would not hold a majority of voting rights at any general stockholder meeting or board of directors meeting and "does not control the company".

"WeWork will not be a subsidiary of SoftBank. WeWork will be an associate of SoftBank," the statement said.

SoftBank Group shares closed down 2.51 percent at 4,190 yen in Tokyo, though they were off lows seen earlier in the day. The plan provides much-needed funds for WeWork, which sources have said must raise at least \$3

billion to cover its financing needs through the end of the year.

A source told AFP the deal will give Neumann \$1 billion for his SoftBank shares, \$500 million for reimbursements of personal debts and \$185 million in consulting fees.

He will also maintain a small stake in the company, the source added.

The deal follows months of tumult for WeWork, which has gone from star status as one of the world's most highly rated start-ups to a case study in overvaluation for some analysts.

- 'Hyped-up loss-making unicorns' -

Neumann stepped down as chief executive in September as he faced questions over perceived self-dealing between his personal assets and WeWork, and over unconventional personal conduct, including drug use.

And in late September, the firm cancelled a plan to go public amid worries about its long-term profitability prospects.

"Hopefully, this marks the beginning of the end of using IPOs on hyped-up loss-making unicorns as a profit-taking opportunity before the music stops," wrote Jeffrey Halley, senior market analyst for Asia-Pacific at OAN-

DA, in a note.

Richard Windsor, founder of Radio Free Mobile, said WeWork amounts to a "searing indictment of SoftBank's valuation and screening methodology which needs to shift towards being based on fundamentals rather than blue sky".

WeWork, which launched in 2010, has touted its model as revolutionising commercial real estate by offering shared, flexible workspace arrangements, and has operations in 111 cities in 29 countries.

In some cities, it is one of the major landlords, but its model of offering flexible, short-term leases is viewed by some as less of a selling point and more of a liability for investors.

The saga has been a cloud hanging over SoftBank's Son, but he has remained steadfastly committed to the firm, insisting its challenges are surmountable.

"It is not unusual for the world's leading technology disruptors to experience growth challenges as the one WeWork just faced," Son said in the SoftBank statement Wednesday.

"We remain committed to WeWork, its employees, its member customers and landlords."

Indonesia's Jokowi taps election archrival for defense minister

JAKARTA, OCT 23 (AFP): Indonesia's new cabinet were introduced at an informal presentation on the palace steps Wednesday, with President Joko Widodo tapping his election arch-rival -- a former general with a chequered rights record -- as defence minister.

More than three dozen new ministers -- the vast majority of them men -- sat casually in batik shirts in front of the imposing doric columns of the Merdeka Palace for the unveiling.

Widodo, popularly known as Jokowi, beat Prabowo Subianto in April elections to secure another term as president of the world's third-biggest democracy.

The victory followed a bitter campaign plagued by fake news online and claims from Subianto that the government staged a "massive, systematic and fraudulent" election, which sparked deadly post-poll riots. At least nine people died in the unrest.

But the pair have since appeared together in apparently friendly public meetings, includ-

ing on Monday when Subianto, 68, hinted that he and another member of his Gerindra party were tapped for top government posts.

Announcing Subianto's new role, Jokowi said: "I believe I don't have to tell him about his job -- he knows more than I do." Rights group Amnesty International Indonesia earlier warned against appointing the former general to a top job, saying it would mark "a dark day for human rights" Subianto, a former son-in-law of Indonesia's late dictator Suharto, was accused of abuses -- including the kidnapping and disappearance of several pro-democracy activists -- in the lead up to massive street demonstrations that brought down the regime in 1998.

Subianto has never been charged in relation to the allegations.

Among Jokowi's 38 ministers, former World Bank managing director Sri Mulyani Indrawati was picked to serve another term as finance minister, while foreign minister Retno Marsudi

kept her post.

Nadiem Makarim, 35, co-founder of ride-hailing startup Gojek, was chosen to be education and culture minister. This week, Makarim announced his resignation from running a firm valued at some 10 billion.

Media mogul Erick Thohir -- a former owner of Italian football club Inter Milan and the 2018 Asian Games organising committee chief -- was appointed minister of state-owned enterprises.

Wiranto, a 72-year-old former army chief, did not return to cabinet as chief security minister, according to an official list. Islamic State group-linked militants this month staged a failed assassination attempt on the powerful politician, who is recovering in hospital.

Jokowi and his Vice President Ma'ruf Amin were sworn-in at a heavily guarded inauguration ceremony at the weekend amid fears of another attack.

Indonesia, the world's biggest Muslim-majority nation, has long struggled with Islamist militancy.

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Drake Unveils His \$150,000 Custom Raptors Championship Ring

Drake has unveiled the Raptors' 2019 championship ring. And it was nothing short of insane.

The reigning NBA champs were presented with the rings Tuesday night, prior to their season-opener against the New Orleans Pelicans at the Scotiabank Arena. The Associated Press reports the pieces—described as the “biggest championship rings in NBA history”—included 650 diamonds and 16 rubies that represented “the number of playoff victories required to win the title.” The rings also featured a depiction of the Toronto Skyline, the Scotiabank Arena, and the team's Chevron logo.

But Drake wasn't going to be outdone. The Raptors ambassador also showed off his own custom ring created by Jason of Beverly Hills. A representative for the jeweler told Complex that the piece—designed by Drizzy—has over 30 carats of diamonds—more than more than any design in NBA cham-



pionship ring history. So, how much was Drake's custom bling? According to Jason of Beverly Hills founder Jason Arasheben, the ring is at valued at over \$150,000.

“This was a championship that was



dear to his heart,” Arasheben said. “[Drake] wanted to create an over the top ring that not only paid homage to his city but that made a statement above and beyond anything else in history.” Get a closer look at the rings.

Terminator: Dark Fate Reviews Are In, Here's What The Critics Are Saying

It's not secret among Terminator fans that the franchise has been navigating rough waters for a while. The last three movies ranged from not coming close to measuring up to the original two installments to just being outright bad, and even the well-received TV series Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles was cancelled after two seasons. So there's a lot riding on Terminator: Dark Fate, which serves as a sequel only to The Terminator and Terminator 2: Judgement Day, to reverse the Terminator franchise's fortunes.

The public is still a little over a week from getting to see Terminator: Dark Fate, but early reviews are now pouring in following the initial reactions. Judging by what critics have written, it looks like this movie finally places the franchise on firmer ground, although like the previous three installments, it doesn't hold a candle to The Terminator or Terminator 2.

Starting off, CinemaBlend's own Eric Eisenberg gave Terminator: Dark Fate 3.5 out of 5 stars in his review, acknowledging that while its plot is very reminiscent of what we saw in the first two Terminator movies, it still works because of the “outstanding collection of dynamic and fun characters, great performances from the whole ensemble, and some bold and thrilling action sequences.”

IGN's Jim Vejvoda heaped even more praise onto Terminator: Dark Fate, giving it an 8/10 score. In his eyes, what makes Dark Fate an improvement over the last three movies is because it knows that “less is more when it comes to the T-800/Arnold” and that the first two movies were about Sarah Connor, not the eponymous robot assassin. That makes it all the

more pleasing that Linda Hamilton came back to reprise Sarah after nearly three decades away from the role.

But not everyone thought Terminator: Dark Fate was a return to form. Darren Franich from Entertainment Weekly stamped the movie with a C grade, calling it another bad sequel in the Terminator canon. Franich believes Dark Fate is packed with cliches and lackluster story beats, though he noted that at least it's

Terminator: Dark Fate for its female protagonists, as Sarah Connor is joined by Mackenzie Davis' Grace and Natalia Reyes' Dani Ramos. Pantozzi mentioned that the CGI in Dark Fate is a “mixed bag” and the movie's biggest issue, but the story nonetheless has “dynamic action pieces and inventive fight sequences” that are “high octane” and “will leave you gripping your seat.” Finally, Empire's Helen O'Hara awarded Terminator: Dark Fate



“frequently bad in a funny way, without the dutiful dullness of the last couple sequels. The AV Club's Jesse Hassenger was similarly unimpressed with the R-rated Terminator: Dark Fate, giving it a C+. Although he admitted that the storyline of Arnold Schwarzenegger's T-800 is one of the “few genuine surprises” the movie has to offer, Hassenger found Dark Fate as whole to be unremarkable and serve as “a case study for the difficulty of crafting a satisfying follow-up to a pair of certified classics.”

Back in more positive territory, Jill Pantozzi from io9 commended Termi-

4 out of 5 stars, complimenting the movie for taking “true narrative risks.” She labeled Dark Fate as a “worthy descendant rather than a cheap cash-in” and felt we can now look to the future of the Terminator franchise with hope.

Overall, while Terminator: Dark Fate won't overthrow The Terminator or Terminator 2 as one of the franchise's best offerings, it sounds like it takes a step in the right direction. We'll have to see who Dark Fate performs commercially, but if it does well on that front, perhaps it will indeed launch a new trilogy, something Salvation and Genisys both failed to do.



SPARKLES AND SHINE! The actress, Tessa Thompson stuns the streets of New York City in a crocodile print jacket and skirt paired with a vibrant turtleneck and sparkly gold heels.

Paul Rudd's Recurring Gag With Conan O'Brien Hits 15 Years – Watch

Late night's longest-running troll reaches a decade and a half, but this time Rudd's “Mac and Me” prank came with a twist.

Decades from now, long after the oceans have risen and humanity has descended into chaos, Paul Rudd will still be trolling Conan O'Brien with the same “Mac and Me” clip.

Fifteen years after first faking out the then-“Late Night” host with a clip from the derided 1988 “E.T.” ripoff, the actor swung by “Conan” to prank O'Brien yet again. Rudd's latest Netflix series “Living with Yourself” joins the list of projects to get the vaunted “Mac and Me” bump on late night, joining a handful of MCU entries, “Anchorman 2,” and the “Friends” finale (which initiated the tradition way back in 2004).

Every appearance starts off innocently enough, with Rudd discussing the particulars of the latest film or TV show he's promoting, dropping in some pre-planned anecdote be-

fore throwing to a clip. Nearly without fail, that footage ends up being the same incredibly ridiculous scene from “Mac and Me,” featuring the movie's protagonist Eric barrel-ling down the side of a hill in a wheelchair before being hurled off the quarry into the water below. Mac the alien pops up his head in alarm, and the scene cuts to black and throws back to an exasperated O'Brien.

This time around, after a lengthy preamble about the state of TV watching and the relative ease of binge-watching “Living with Yourself,” it seemed like O'Brien was forestalling the inevitable. As the conversation turns from talking about the show in broad strokes, you can see him shaking his leg, gripped by the crushing anxiety of knowing what's about to happen.

Running this bit for a decade and a half means that Rudd has had to switch things up once in a while. Without spoiling it, this invocation of the clip comes with the tiniest twist. It's just enough to make this another worthy entry in this singular, decade-spanning institution.



ARIES: The intentions have been set. The goals have been revised. There's fire coursing through your veins, Aries, and it's telling you there's nothing you cannot achieve. Ready to get into action mode and manifest those larger-than-life dreams? Your creativity is also at an all-time high. Remember to journal the ideas that are coming through. An Ernest Hemingway quote to inspire you: “Write drunk, edit sober.”

Tip: It's time to get into action mode.

TAURUS: There are things you do not know about the situation at hand. Reach out to somebody who can guide you through the hoops. For instance, your current boss. A trusted mentor or guide could also help clear the clouds of confusion. Follow the rules and do things the conventional way until you understand how things work in this organisation. When in doubt, go back to the basics.

Tip: For now, follow the rules.

GEMINI: The message is repeating itself: if you're feeling a creative chemistry with somebody, take a step towards them. You don't have to jump into anything immediately. But you can share your ideas and test the waters. Even

better, go on ‘work dates’ to see how compatible you are. As such, this is a time of peace and harmony in the work sphere. Remember the more you appreciate the gifts of others, the more you will be appreciated in return.

Tip: This is a time of peace and harmony in the workplace.

CANCER: “Many people are alive but don't touch the miracle of being alive.” What are these words of wisdom by Thich Nhất Hạnh awakening within you? There's more to life than worrying about your next appraisal or bringing home that paycheck. The cards are reminding you of the importance of living in the present; of appreciating simple pleasures like basking in the glorious sunset or sipping on tea with your beloved.

Tip: Enjoy the simple pleasures.

LEO: What if your unprocessed emotions are blocking the stream of creative consciousness? It doesn't help that the current work situation is adding to the distress. It's time to take a step back and reassess where you are at, Leo. You know the cliché! Distance helps gain perspective. Soul-searching could be a theme for some

of you are this point. Making a shift from the material to the spiritual will help you find a sense of peace.

Tip: Distance yourself from the situation.

VIRGO: Starting something new can seem daunting at first, until you realise you are now better equipped to deal with things. Every move you are making now is in the right direction. This is your time to use your intellectual abilities to create what you have always wanted to. Remember, your only obstacle is self-doubt. On a side note, have you been exploring the social media tools at your disposal?

Tip: Use your intellectual abilities to move ahead in the game.

LIBRA: Let's talk about hoarding, Libra. Take a look at the material possessions around you. Are they a source of joy and inspiration or have they been kept here because of the pain associated with losing them? Could the stagnant energy be blocking the good chi from coming in. Something to think about as you resist cleaning out your closet today. You know what they say? Minimalism is not about having less, it's about making room for more of

what matters.

Tip: Declutter and minimise.

SCORPIO: This stability you have achieved on the work front is a result of the blood, sweat and tears you have put in. Now, it's time to shift the focus to long-term financial planning. The idea is not to hold on to everything you possess with all your might, but to find a balance between spending and saving.

Tip: Start that nest egg now.

SAGITTARIUS: How far you have come, Sagittarius. Today, you're being asked to acknowledge the journey. The highs and lows that made you who you are today. Remember, as a leader, you are responsible not just for your own trajectory but the growth of those around you. See how you can motivate them to rise to their power and embrace their true potential. Educating them on how to make their money work for them will be just as important.

Tip: Motivate others to rise to their power.

CAPRICORN: They call you a sass machine for a reason, Capricorn, and there is absolutely nothing wrong with that. Just know how much is too much and when to draw the line, lest you

end up hurting somebody in the bargain. On the professional front, you're going to have to try a little harder to stand up for your beliefs.

Tip: Stand up for yourself.

AQUARIUS: Let's bust the myth that meditating is about watching your breath, chanting mantras, or levitating above the ground. It is about ‘being’ instead of doing, becoming an observer, and connecting with your higher consciousness. This is the time to empty yourself, Aquarius. Let the path of spirituality help you reset on a deeper level. So what if you have never sat in silence before? Give yourself a realistic goal of 20 minutes.

Tip: Today, come home to yourself.

PISCES: You're never going to like everybody on the table, and that's okay. Just don't let them rub you the wrong way. Their ignorance will only trigger you, if you allow it. Survival tips: Channel your inner Zen Master, Pisces. To get the good chi flowing, spend a few extra minutes on the yoga mat before you start your day. A simple guided meditation could also assist you in drawing boundaries and rising above trivial situations.

Tip: Inner peace, how can we be friends?