



'DEADPOOL 3' RELEASE DATE, CAST, AND ROLE IN MARVEL'S PG-13-RATED MCU
pg 08

RIVER DELTAS ARE 'DROWNING', THREATENING HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE
pg 04

LADY GAGA AND OPRAH WINFREY JUST SET ALL THOSE BRADLEY COOPER ROMANCE RUMORS STRAIGHT
pg 08



SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Mountain Legislators meet in Shillong, discuss livelihood challenges under the shadow of climate change

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 07 NOV:

Mountain Legislators' Meet was held in NEC, Shillong, Meghalaya, on 06 Nov bringing together legislators from different mountain states to deliberate on and examine key policy measures, and highlight issues from the vantage point of the mountain states, a press release informs.

The meet was organized by Integrated Mountain Initiative and hosted by Meghalaya Integrated Mountain Development Initiative (MIMDI) and Martin Luther Christian University (MLCU).

The conference was convened by Member of Parliament from Tura, Agatha Sangma, chaired by MP of Shillong, Vincent Pala, and co-chaired by former MP of Sikkim (LS), PD Rai. It was attended by MPs, MLAs and representatives of Autonomous District Councils from Meghalaya, Uttarakhand, Ladakh, Sikkim, Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram, Tripura and members of IMI, MIMDI, Swiss Development Corporation, SELCO Foundation and ICIMOD.

The members raised several critical areas of concern with regard to the future of livelihoods and entrepreneurship factoring in climate change.

Member of Parliament from Tura, Agatha Sangma highlighted the importance of knowledge sharing and scaling up of best practices for effectively tackling common issues of the Indian

Himalayan Region.

MP of Shillong, Vincent Pala also added that legislators can make a huge difference if they empower themselves by upgrading knowledge and finding sustainable solutions through collaborative efforts.

The discussion highlighted the need for sensitization of general public, bureaucracy and politicians on the issues of climate change and the ways in which legislators can use policy instruments to minimize the impact of climate change.

Acknowledging the need for a sustained, integrated effort to addressing key issues of the region, it was also highlighted that the youth and entrepreneurs will have an active role to play. The topic of Jhum cultivation and balancing traditional livelihoods with ecology was discussed extensively.

The legislators also discussed in depth the importance of alternative sustainable livelihoods. The importance of adding environmental education in the school and college curriculums was also added. The legislators also acknowledged the importance of data and micro-data in guiding policy and concluded that more needs to be done in this aspect in the Indian Himalayan Region.

The legislators and representatives thanked Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI) for bringing together this platform to these issues, the release mentions.

Global Investors Meet gets underway at Dharamshala



Dharamshala, 07 Nov (IPR): Chief Minister, PS Tamang, attended the Global Investors Meet 2019 at Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh today.

The two-day investors meet was inaugurated by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, which saw the presence of diplomats leaders from corporate sector, senior

policy makers, development agencies, entrepreneurs and investors from across the globe.

The meet will showcase the policy and regulatory environment, investment opportunities in eight focus sectors to boost manufacturing and employment generation in the State.

The eight focus sec-

tors are agri-business and post-harvest technology, manufacturing and pharmaceuticals, tourism and hospitality, civil aviation, hydro and renewable energy, wellness, healthcare and AYUSH, housing and urban development, IT-ITeS and electronics, education and skill development.

The event will also provide a platform to bring together heads of the state, leaders from corporate world, senior policy makers, development agencies, heads from institutions of international repute and academia from across the world to further cause of socio-economic development in the State.

CM meets industry heads, discusses opportunities in Sikkim

DHARAMSHALA, 07 NOV

(IPR): Chief Minister, PS Tamang held a meeting with Chairman, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd, RC Bhargava, Vice Chairman, Dr Rajiv Kumar, Niti Aayog, Director General, Chandrajit Banerjee, Vice Chairman, Rakesh Bharti Mittal, Bharti Enterprises and Head, Amit Agarwal, Amazon India during the Global Investors Meet 2019 in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh



this evening.

During the meeting the Chief Minister discussed various investment opportunities in

Sikkim and also asked them to consider Sikkim as a possible destination for their manufacturing units.

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Sikkim Himalayan SC downs Gokulam to reach Gold Cup semis



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 07 NOV:

Another home team, Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club, has also secured a berth in the semi-final round of the ongoing 39th All India Governor's Gold Cup Football Tournament. In the closely fought quarter-final match on Thursday, Sikkim Himalayan SC edged past Gokulam Football Club, Kerala, 3-2 to enter the semi-final round of the tournament.

Both teams started attacking and launched a series of frenetic attacks and counter-attacks. The breathless first half appeared headed to a goalless draw despite the entertaining game, when, in the 41st minute, Lalrinzuala Hauhmar earned the lead for Gokulam FC.

SHSC was not, however, to be held back and within minutes, Uttam Rai scored the equaliser for the home team in the 43rd minute to finish the first half level at 1-1.

In the early minutes of the second half, Laliansanga won a lead for Gokulam FC in the 49th minute but even this lead could not be maintained for long when, in the 57th minute, Eugene Nimako scored the equaliser for the home team in the 57th minute.

When players of both teams were playing hard

to take the lead and seal the match, Uttam Rai completed his brace in the 64th minute to score the final goal of the match and winning the game 3-2 for Sikkim Himalayan SC.

The match was not without its share of drama and when the referee blew the final whistle, a section of spectators in the stadium and Gokulam team members showed their dissatisfaction because the game timing maintained by the referees and time on the electronic scoreboard in the stadium did not match.

Speaking on the same to media after the match, the match commissioner explained that the electronic scoreboard was running late by more than seven minutes and that the time maintained by all four officials of the match was accurate.

He added that the electronic scoreboard was for spectators and that the match was run according to the watches of the referees. He informed that two minutes extra time given in the first half and another five minutes was added after 90 minutes of the game.

The last quarter-final match will be played between Army Red and Mohammedan Sporting Club under floodlights on Friday evening.

Sikkim Newar Guthi preps for silver jubilee weekend

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 07 NOV:

Sikkim Newar Guthi [SNG] is celebrating its silver jubilee in grand manner on 09 and 10 November here at Manan Kendra.

Building up to the event, SNG organised a series of events throughout the year which will culminate over the weekend.

SNG has also decided to felicitate its founding members and other individuals who have contributed towards bringing the organisation to its present level.

Addressing a press conference here today, SNG president Dilu Kumar Pradhan informed that the organisation

was established in the year 1994 with the idea to preserve and promote the culture, traditions, language and practices of the community and to protect the interests of the Newars of Sikkim.

About its silver jubilee engagements, Mr Pradhan informed that cleanliness drives, Indarjatra processions in Gangtok and Dentam, Newar folk dance and Newari music competitions, open talent hunt and Bhaju & Maeju Sikkim competitions have been organised.

He added that grand finale of these competitions will be held on 09 November at Manan Kendra.

turn to pg 02

CORRIGENDUM:

The Employment Notice of the Sikkim State Legal Services Authority published in Summit Times edition dated 07 November, 2019 mistakenly mentions the Number of Junior Accountant Posts in the High Court Legal Services Committee and District Legal Services Authorities (East, West, South & North) as "01." The same may be read as "05" (Five).

The error is regretted.

-Editor

THEME : "TAKE THE LEAD, KNOW YOUR HIV STATUS"

FOR REGISTRATION CONTACT :
9832034252 / 9593781887
7797896515 / 9733166099

RED FEST

CASH PRIZE:
1st PRIZE- Rs 70,000
2nd PRIZE-Rs 50,000
3rd PRIZE- Rs 30,000

REGISTRATION CLOSES ON 12TH NOVEMBER 2019

RULES AND GUIDANCE

- The competition is only for local bands of Sikkim and the language should be English.
- All Genres of music, except Death Metal.
- Bands should prepare two songs. One original on the theme "Take the Lead, Know your HIV status" and the second can be a cover song.
- Participating bands should mail the bio-data, original lyrics and contact details of the band to iecsikkimsacs@gmail.com
- The bands will be provided Travel Allowance (TA) for the District level audition & the Grand Finale.
- The winner will represent the State in the 2nd North East Multi Media Competition scheduled on 18th December 2019 at Imphal, Manipur.

TO KNOW MORE ABOUT HIV DIAL 1097

You can also follow us on:

[sikkimsacs](https://www.facebook.com/sikkimsacs) iecsikkimsacs@gmail.com [sikkimsacs](https://www.instagram.com/sikkimsacs)

Logos: NACO, CBONGO PARTNERS, TUN, FREEDOM FACILITY, serenity home

NSCN(IM) urges different Naga groups to be on board for Framework Agreement, part of final solution to Naga issue

KOHIMA, Nov 7 (PTI): The NSCN(IM) on Thursday urged different Naga groups to be on board for the Framework Agreement and be part of the final solution to the Naga political issue.

This assumes significance in the aftermath of the October 31 decision by the Centre to continue dialogues with all stakeholders including the states of Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh before bringing the seven-decades-old Naga political issue to its final conclusion.

The statement said that NSCN(IM) appeals to and invites all "Naga brothers and sisters in different groups with open heart to get on board the bus of Framework Agreement and be a part of the final solution in the greater interests of the people and peace and progress in the land".

The NSCN(IM) said that it has forgiven the past mistakes of "the Naga brothers and sisters in different camps" and that they (other groups) should also forgive its (NSCN(IM)) past mistakes and be reconciled. Let this message of peace and unity among the Nagas be acceptable to all the Nagas, far and near, the statement said.

The NSCN(IM) 'ministry of publicity' claimed that political leaders of the country and army officials have agreed that the Naga problem is political and not a military one, which opened the door for negotiations for solution to the decades-long issue.

Consequently the Centre and NSCN(IM) embarked on political negotiations from 1997 and after series of intensive negotiations signed the historic Framework Agreement on August 3, 2015 based on the "recognized unique history" of the Nagas, it said.

Taking account of the commitment and assurance of the GoI on the issues of Naga national flag and Constitution to resolving them at the earliest time, the two parties have mutually agreed upon to go for final touch on the agreed competencies for conclusion, the NSCN(IM) statement said. "Now therefore, when the Government of India is prepared to make the final agreement with the NSCN(IM) on the basis of the Framework Agreement all Nagas should also be equally prepared," it said.

Stating that Unity for the historic tasks ahead is indispensable, the NSCN(IM), a major insurgent group of the North East, said Now is the time for the Nagas to unite so that together we move forward to the new era; together we build a land of milk and honey.

The Framework Agreement came after over 80 rounds of negotiations spanning 18 years, with the first breakthrough in 1997 when the ceasefire agreement was sealed after decades of insurgency in Nagaland which started soon after India's Independence in 1947.

Governor on two-day visit of Rhenock

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 07 Nov:

Governor of Sikkim, Ganga Prasad today visited Rhenock and adjoining areas. He is on a two-day visit of Rhenock constituency, a Raj Bhavan release informs.

On arrival at Rhenock Bazaar, he was given a grand reception by the Area MLA, B K Khataiwada, Sub-divisional Officials, residents of Rhenock, business community and local folks.

The Governor visited Rhenock CHC and took stock of the facilities available. He also visited the wards and interacted with the patients. In order to cater to the growing population in the area, the Governor stressed on the up-gra-



dation of Hospital and manpower for better health services.

The Governor then proceeded to Rhenock Sr. Sec. School where he had an interactive session with students. He invoked the students to aim higher in life and re-

main consistent in their pursuit and hard work.

Later in the day, the Governor had an interactive session with Gram Panchayats, Business Communities, Officials and representatives of NHIDCL, centered around the concerns, local issues

and public grievances at forest guest house.

On his way to Aritar, the Governor also visited Gauri Narayan Pradhan's village farm at Kingston and had one on one meeting with farmers and local residents. He also got first-hand information on

vertical farming, terraced cultivation and other innovative techniques of organic farming.

The first day's tour concluded at Aritar where he was again accorded a ceremonial welcome and guard of honour by the local police.

Lingmoo Paiyong moves towards eliminating Tuberculosis



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 07 Nov:

A preparedness meeting on elimination of Tuberculosis from Lingmoo-Paiyong Gram Panchayat Unit under the leadership of Panchayat President, Yogesh Bhandari was held today, a press release informs.

The meeting was organized in close collaboration with JEET (Joint Effort to End TB), an initiative of Stars Of Hope supported by State TB

Cell Sikkim along with School Heads and representative of All Six School of the GPU, GPU staff and Panchayats, State TB Cell Sikkim APO, Dr Nirmal Gurung who was also a resource person.

Founder and chairperson of Stars of Hope, Bikash Thapa was the main facilitator.

The meeting decided to create awareness and promote the initiative at the grass-root level by various means by 31

Dec 2019. Training to at least 50 volunteers on TB, Mental Health and Personal Hygiene will be provided.

Risk assessment and active case finding will be done by 15 Jan 2020 while symptomatic test to every active case and in-house treatment will be done by 30 Jan 2020.

It was decided that follow ups will be held fortnightly and the program will conclude by June 2020.

Program on climate change at ICFAI



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 07 Nov:

Brad Redderson, an American entrepreneur and expert in fields of computer graphics, climate crisis science and the former division head of Silicon Graphics systems supercomputer business, visited ICFAI University Sikkim today, a press release informs.

He delivered a pre-

sentation on climate change in a program attended by the students and faculties of the University. He gave a talk on Climate Crisis impacting Sikkim and the consequences of Climate change.

Mr Redderson has a team dedicated to navigate the climate crisis and also shared ideas about what we can do to control the ill effects

of such changes. Moving to renewable energy sources, building houses under the earth, developing advanced water management systems, advanced agricultural ideas and innovative transportation were the ideas shared by him.

He mentioned that he along with his team is building a new eco village using the most advanced innovations.

MHA issues notice to IAS officer who quit over JK curbs

NEW DELHI, Nov 7 (PTI):

The Ministry of Home Affairs has initiated disciplinary proceedings against IAS officer Kanan Gopinathan who had submitted his resignation in August protesting what he alleged was the "denial of freedom of expression" to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Gopinathan, an IAS officer of the 2012 batch of the Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram and Union Territory (AGMUT) cadre, had put in his papers in protest against the central government's decision to impose restrictions in Jammu and Kashmir in the wake of the abrogation of the special status given to the erstwhile state under Article 370.

Posting the home ministry notice to him in his Twitter handle, Gopinathan said the charges against him include of potentially "embarrassing the relations of central government with

other organisations including foreign state" by "unauthorisedly communicating with the print, electronic and social media on the issues of government policies".

The home ministry said in its notice that the disciplinary enquiry was being initiated against Gopinathan under Rule 8 of the All India Services (Disciplinary & Appeal) Rules, 1969. The ministry said the officer's letter of resignation was "under examination pending decision of the competent authority" and asked him to reply to the charges within 15 days.

Gopinathan, who was the secretary, power department, the Union Territories of Daman and Diu, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli, submitted resignation to the Home Ministry on August 21.

A week later, he was asked by the authorities to resume duty and continue to work till his resignation is accepted.

NSOIM deliberates on taking technology to masses

KOLKATA, Nov 7 (PTI): Director of CSIR-CGCRI, Dr K Muraliedharan on Thursday stressed the need for capacity building, institutional collaborations and knowledge-sharing by organisations for taking technologies to masses.

Inaugurating the National Social Organization and Institution Meet (NSOIM) as part of the India International India Science festival, he elaborated on the role of CSIR - Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute (CSIR-CGCRI) in taking technologies to masses which he said is essential for the development of our country. He said it is more imperative as a huge population still resides in villages.

Special Advisor of Vinjana Bharathi, A Jayakumar said the objective of NSOIM Meet is to engage the science-oriented organisations and institutions, especially grassroots level voluntary organisations to connect with the masses by simple use of science and technology.

The objective of the NSOIM Meet is to engage the science-oriented organisations and institutions, especially grassroots voluntary development organizations, in nation building through the intervention of science and technology. This three-day meet aims to deliberate on innovative ideas and technolo-

gies, methodologies and products developed by R&D institutions that are beneficial for the masses.

Scientist at DST, Dr Sunil K Agarwal elaborated about the support provided by the Society for Equity, Empowerment & Development (SEED) division to the organizations and institutions who intend to work on grassroots levels for the betterment of rural population by using technological means.

Dr Sunil Chaturvedi, Working Chairman of Vibha Vani, talked about the work done by Vibha Vani and the need for capacity building, institutional collaborations and knowledge-sharing by social organizations and institutions for the welfare of larger masses. Dr Anil Rajvanashi from the Nimbkar Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) Maharashtra said that poor access to electricity, no clean drinking water, lack of toilets and few avenues of employment are major issues in rural India.

Elaborating on NARI's efforts to overcome these challenges, he mentioned about the technologies such as an environment-friendly cooking stove, solar water purifiers, motor-assisted cycle rickshaw and battery-powered small farm machines and so on developed by NARI.

Meghalaya CM meets Hasina, discusses business avenues

SHILLONG, Nov 7 (PTI): Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma, who is on a four-day visit to Bangladesh, on Thursday called on Premier Sheikh Hasina and discussed trade opportunities between the state and that country, a government official said here.

Sangma is in Bangladesh to pursue expansion of trade and tourism to improve the economy of Meghalaya as it shares a 443 km-long border with that country but has a meagre .7 per cent share of the USD 10 billion trade that India has with it.

Sangma and Hasina during the hour-long meeting discussed at length business avenues between the state and the neighbouring country and on developing the trade ties with the North East region, the official said. He invited Bangladesh to participate in the North East Food Show scheduled to be held here between December 4 to 6.

The chief minister said that different countries and more than 300

companies will participate in the food show. "We will have the biggest names in the industry, policymakers, farmers, traders and suppliers. There will be up to 3000 farmers who will participate and it will be a great opportunity. I invite participants from Bangladesh to also take part in the food show".

He said, "We felt there is some gap in the system, in our communication and our initiative and that we need to work on them ... We want to give the entire industry, the sectors, the movement and trade that are already taking place a better and formal structure and facilitate wherever necessary".

Earlier in the day the delegation led by Sangma met Pran Agro Ltd chairman Ahsan Khan Chowdhury and sought the Bangladesh company's investment in Meghalaya.

"I was really glad to learn about their food products and I was really impressed to see the kind of enterprise and the vision he (Khan Chowdhury) has.

Sikkim Newar...

Seven teams in Newar Dance competition and four artists in Newar musical instruments will perform in the grand finale along with 18 participants in open talent hunt and 10 men and 15 women in Bha-ju & Maeju Sikkim competitions. The first day of the celebration will also include a performance by EMRS Gangayap Choir group.

The main function of the silver jubilee celebration is scheduled to have the Chief Minister PS Tamang [Golay] as the chief guest on 10 November. The organisation has also decided to felicitate the CM.

On the occasion, pioneers, founding members, advisory council members and special guest Ganesh Ram Lacchy would be felicitated for their contribution towards the community, it is informed.

It is informed that the entire event will be hosted in an eco-friendly manner without the use of plastics or other non-biodegradable substances.

ANYESTHI KRIYA

The 13th day Anyesthi Kriya of late K.B. Chettri (Orient Studio) falls on 9th November, 2019.

All relatives, well wishers and friends are requested to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul on 09.11.2019 at our residence at Upper Shyari, Opposite New Bishal Hotel.

We would like to express our gratitude to all those who stood by us at the time of bereavement.

Mrs. Bal Kumari Chettri (Wife)

Mr. Binod K. Chettri and Mr.

Hemant Chettri (Sons)

Mrs. Matilda Isaacs and Mrs. Rebecca

Pradhan (Daughter-in-Laws)

Mrs. Bhakti Pradhan and Mr. Om

Pradhan (Daughter and Son-in-Law)

Mr. Arun K. Chettri and Mrs. Mani Kumari

Chettri (Brother and Sister-in-Law)

Mrs. Tina, Mr. Avinash, Dr. Mona

Chettri and all Grand Children.

Contact: 9933462560, 9434103792



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Roadside plots for sale at Adampool, Ranipool-Rumtek highway.

For details contact: 9083826462

FLAT FOR RENT/LEASE

Fully furnished 3BHK flat available for rent/lease at Church Road near DPH. Roadside and five minutes walking distance from MG Marg.

For more details: 9083826462 /9832556698

GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

General land 30X40 (3 Plots) available for sale at Tadong 6th Mile next to Harka Maya College.

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

Contact: 9800201335

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

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Nursing students spread health awareness

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 07 Nov:

The Final Year BSc Nursing students of Sikkim Manipal College of Nursing organized a health awareness programme on Social and Health Issues among adolescents at Bahai Senior Secondary School, Saramsa, today, a press release informs.

The nursing students performed an educative role play on Social and Health Issues among adolescents followed by health education on the same. The program ended with an interactive session with the school students and a motivational song.

Fake IPS officer, mother held for duping banks in Kerala

THRISSUR(KER), Nov 7 (PTI): A 29-year-old man who impersonated as IPS officer and swindling various banks of over Rs 1.5 crore was arrested by police early on Thursday, police said.

The accused, Vipin Karthick, was picked up from a bus stand at Chittoor in Palakkad district this morning after a massive man-hunt was launched for him.

His partner in crime, his 58-year-old mother, Shyamala, who posed as a Public Information Officer, had been arrested a few days ago from Kozhikode.

The duo is believed to have duped banks of over Rs 1.5 crore, Thirissur District Police chief Yatish Chandra, told PTI.

There were already 15 cases against them while three more have been added now, he said adding more cases are expected to be filed in the coming days.

The accused used to go to various places in his uniform, he said.

In 2014, the man had availed loan from a bank in Kozhikode posing as a software professional from Kochi.

He never repaid the loan, was arrested and later jumped bail and started posing as to “IPS officer” of Jammu and Kashmir cadre to cheat banks.

Posing as an IPS officer, Karthick along with his mother created fake salary certificates and availed loans from various banks to purchase luxury cars.

It was found that the duo had availed Rs 30 lakh loan from Indian Overseas Bank at Guruvayur to purchase 2 luxury cars.

They had also swindled a bank manager from Kollam of about 97 sovereigns of gold ornaments and Rs 25 lakh.

Karthick was engaged to an engineer from Adoor a few months ago and the marriage was scheduled later this month.



Temi Tea Mr Sikkim 2019 Manhunt finalist Tseteej Shiwakoty

NITESH R PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 07 Nov:

This year's Temi Tea Mr Sikkim, 2019 Manhunt has an eclectic mix of finalists. One of them is Tseteej Shiwakoty, a resident of Gangtok, Sikkim.

He completed BSc Health and Fitness from Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, in 2019. He was recognized as the youngest black-belt of the state in 2008 with many national titles under his belt.

Why Mr Sikkim Manhunt?

Mr Sikkim Manhunt because it's the biggest pageant in the state which gives us an opportunity to put ourselves in front of such a huge audience. What could be better than winning a state title and then representing your own state further?

What are the qualities that make you stand out in a crowd?

The realization and acceptance of the fact that I am different and unique in my own way from everybody else. Everyone is unique until they accept it and live with it. Secondly, it is my mindset, as I'm a person who has a goal oriented vision. I work, and work and work till I get what I want and deserve, and the most important is always wanting to feel a new experience.

How would you take winning or losing the competition?

Obviously I am here to win the title but for now I haven't yet thought of what I will do if I lose. Every single day all my focus, my confidence directs me to think of myself as the winner. If I do win I would like to pursue my career in this particular field and work even harder.

Define yourself.

I would like to describe myself as a very open yet complicated, emotional yet strong person at the same time. I'm a hardworking person, and always up for new ideas and new experiences.

What is that one thing that can unite humanity?



The one thing that can unite humanity is “acceptance”, accepting who we are, being ourselves and not trying to be someone else. This way if we are comfortable being who we are, it will make it a 100 times easier for us to understand ourselves and others too. Further, it would lead us to help each other out and to grow together.

Any appeal/message?

I would really like everyone to help and support us for our upcoming event. Give us the opportunity now so that we can bring in more opportunities for the future.

CONTRIBUTIONS INVITED FOR AMBA SCHOOL LIBRARY UPGRADATION

Wandering Souls of Sikkim is excited to announce our plan to upgrade the school library of Govt. Secondary School, Amba, East Sikkim. This will be fourth such upgradation of school libraries by WSOS.

We have successfully upgraded 3 school libraries so far with the support and contributions of our generous patrons and are looking forward to receive more such contributions.

We request all to kindly contribute books either old or new or cash for the upgradation of school library at Amba.

Our Library Initiative is aimed at upgrading School libraries specially in rural areas of the state and for laying a foundation for better future of our young minds studying in these schools.

To Contribute Contact WSOS at 7384639193.

Geeta Sharma enters finals of The Voice of Nepal Season-2

ARPAN PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 07 Nov:

Sikkim's Geeta Sharma has reached the finals of the popular TV Reality Show, The Voice of Nepal, Season-2 being held in Nepal.

Ms Geeta has crossed all the tough rounds like Blind Audition, Battle Rounds and has finally crossed the Knockout Round too to reach the Finale of the competition.

Geeta Sharma is from Singtam in East Sikkim

and has been singing since her childhood. She has been mesmerizing music lovers and has been successful in winning the hearts of the judges by her beautiful musical performance in the various rounds of the competition.

It may be mentioned here that Geeta Sharma is also the recipient of prestigious Sikkim State Award in Music which is given by the Government of Sikkim.

She has now become the only contestant from Sikkim in Voice of Nepal-Season-2 and we can see her in the finals now.

Ms Geeta has reached the voting round now and people can vote for her to help her win the competition. Voting lines will be open from Friday (08 Nov, 2019) till Saturday (09 Nov, 2019).

To vote for Geeta Sharma, one has to type 05 (which is her voting code) and send

it to 53010.

Geeta Sharma has also appealed to the people of Sikkim to vote for her and has expressed gratitude to all the people for their love and support.

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

email us: news@summittimes.com

SIKKIM STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

GANGTOK

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Applications are invited from eligible local candidates for filling up the following posts on temporary basis in the establishment of Sikkim State Legal Services Authority, High Court Legal Services Committee and Districts Legal Services Authorities (East, west, South and North).

Details are as under:-
Sikkim State Legal Services Authority

Sl. No.	Name of Post	No of Posts	Pay in the Pay Matrix	Eligibility Criteria	Syllabus
1	Date Entry Operator	01	Rs. 21,700/- Cell 1 Level 7	Class XII passed from a recognized Board along with Diploma in Computer Application.	A. Written Examination (150 marks) Paper – I (100 marks Duration: 2 hrs) English Language: Essay Writing, Letter writing, idioms & Phrases, common errors, prepositions, synonyms, antonyms one work substitution. (40% will be the qualifying percentage) Paper – II (50 marks Duration: 1 hrs) General Knowledge: Current affairs, objective question. (40% will be the qualifying percentage) B. Viva Voce (50 marks) 40% will be the qualifying percentage)
2.	Peon	01	Rs.18,000/- Cell 1 level 4	Class VIII passed from a recognized school/ Board	Vive Voce only.

High Court Legal Services Committee and District Legal Services Authorities (East, West, South & North).

Sl. No.	Name of Post	No of Posts	Pay Band+ Grade Pay	Eligibility Criteria	Syllabus
1	Junior Accountant	05	Rs. 25,400/- Cell 1 Level 9	Graduate from a recognized university & having knowledge in Computers.	A. Written Examination (150 marks) Paper – I (100 marks Duration: 2 hrs) English Language: Essay Writing, Letter writing, idioms & Phrases, common errors, prepositions, synonyms, antonyms one work substitution and arithmetic. (40% will be the qualifying percentage) Paper – II (50 marks Duration: 1 hrs) General Knowledge: Current affairs, objective question. (40% will be the qualifying percentage) B. Viva Voce (50 marks) 40% will be the qualifying percentage)

District Legal Services Authorities (East) & (North)

Sl. No.	Name of Post	No of Posts	Pay Band+ Grade Pay	Eligibility Criteria	Syllabus
1	Accountant	01	Rs. 30,200/- Cell 1 Level 10	Bachelors Degree from a recognized university & having knowledge in Computers.	A. Written Examination (150 marks) Paper – I (100 marks Duration: 2 hrs) English Language: Essay Writing, Letter writing, idioms & Phrases, common errors, prepositions, synonyms, antonyms one work substitution and arithmetic. (40% will be the qualifying percentage) Paper – II (50 marks Duration: 1 hrs) General Knowledge: Current affairs, objective question. (40% will be the qualifying percentage) B. Viva Voce (50 marks) 40% will be the qualifying percentage)
2	Lower Division Assistant	01	Rs.21,700/- Cell 1 Level 7	Class 12 passed from a recognized Board along with Diploma in Computer Applications.	A. Written Examination (150 marks) Paper – I (100 marks Duration: 2 hrs) English Language: Essay Writing, Letter writing, idioms & Phrases, common errors, prepositions, synonyms, antonyms one work substitution. (40% will be the qualifying percentage) Paper – II (50 marks Duration: 1 hrs) General Knowledge: Current affairs, objective question. (40% will be the qualifying percentage) B. Viva Voce (50 marks) 40% will be the qualifying percentage)
3	Peon	01	Rs.18,000/- Cell 1 level 4	Class VIII passed from a recognized school/ Board	Vive Voce only.

Conditions of eligibility

- Should have attained age of 18 years & should nor have exceed 40 years in terms of Notification No. M(3)/(55)/GEN/DOP/Pt-III DT: 03/07/2017.
- Candidates fulfilling the above criteria may apply for the post along with the self attested supporting documents and address proof and 3(three) recent passport size photographs. Application received without supporting documents will be summarily rejected. Candidates are also required to mention their proper address and mobile / Contact numbers in their applications.
- Other Requisites:-
 - Candidates must be in possession either Sikkim Subject Certificate or Certificate of Identification issued by the Competent Authority.
 - Candidates already in Government Service or in Public Sector Undertaking or similar Organizations, whether in permanent to temporary capacity or as Work-Charge employee shall submit their application along with “No Objection Certificate” from their present employer.
 - Candidate must possess valid employment card issued by DOPART.
 - SC/ST/OBC/MBC Certificate as the case may be.
- The application along with self attested copies of the documents mentioned above should reach the Office of the Member Secretary, Sikkim State Legal Services Authority, Development Area, Gangtok on or before 30.11.2019 (Saturday) between 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.
- Application received after the date i.e. 30.11.2019 shall not be entertained on any ground.
- The list of names of candidates found eligible to appear for written examination for the post of Accountant, Junior Accountant, Data Entry Operator and Lower Division Assistant and viva-voce for the posts of Peon will be displayed on the Notice Board of the Sikkim State legal Services Authority of 7th December, 2019 (Saturday).
- Candidates found eligible on preliminary scrutiny of the applications shall be issued admit cards on 09/12/2019 (Monday) to 10/12/2019 (Tuesday).
- Candidates issued with admit card for the post of Accountant shall have written examinations on 14th December, 2019 (Saturday).
- Candidates issued with admit card for the post of Junior Accountant shall have written examinations on 17th December, 2019 (Tuesday).
- Candidates issued with admit cards for the post of Data Entry Operator shall have written examination 18th December, 2019 (Wednesday).
- Candidates issued with admit card for the post of Lower Division Assistant shall have written examinations on 19th December, 2019(Thursday).
- Viva-Voce for the post of Peon shall be held on 20th December, 2019 (Friday).
- Candidates found eligible after written examination for the posts of Accountant, Junior Accountant , Data Entry Operator and Lower Division Assistant shall be intimated through sms in their mobile numbers mentioned in their applications for the viva-voce.
- The State Legal Services Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any application with or without any reason.
- Eligible candidates should appear with their original documents at the time of interview.
- No TA/DA shall be paid for appearing in the interview.

R.O. No. 225/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20
Date. 31.10.19

Sd/-
MEMBER SECRETARY
Sikkim State Legal Services Authority
Development Area, Gangtok.

Embrace Plurality of Opinions

...even if mass media would have you shun them

Prime-Time on Indian TV news channels makes for stressful viewing with the shallow-jingoism and mock-conscientiousness of frowning celebrity anchors who have become caricatures of themselves or poor imitations of the bigger stars and the finger-pointing self-righteousness of party spokespersons who fulminate only to earn brownie points with their respective masters. While very little is achieved by way of informing the audience, the hypnotic spell of real-time quarrels entering homes gets the TRPs soaring, urgently dramatic music completing the experience and convincing people that something important was playing on TV. Since the suggestion of sensationalism can fool only for so long, occasionally, newsrooms manufacture sensational situations as well and almost always, they pander to the lowest common denominator of the ideology in power because they command the most brainwashed of lumpen elements to unleash and sustain another news cycle. The superficial nationalism of TV news crews was earlier focused on Syed Ali Shah Geelani and Arundhati Roy, and then moved to the likes of Kanhaiya and other left-leaning youth and now just rails against anyone who calls out the dangerous pontification that has come to define national discourse.

Most times, the media instigation plays circles around its own hyperbole, and occasionally they muddy the waters enough for pressing concerns to swim out of the public domain. Unfortunately, we have also become a nation where agenda is set by the belligerence of 24x7 TV news channels and the slew of soundbytes and studio fulmination often lead to ill-advised action and almost always succeed in distracting people from the core issues facing the nation. Every time that happens is a sad day for democracy, because the only attitudes being increasingly reinforced are intolerance, insensitivity and the impassivity of the mainstream which instigates so many mutinies in our country.

The idea of India was always to embrace plurality, not only of people and communities, but also views and opinions, increasingly however, the focus has been more on homogenising everything, starting from defining what is Indian to heckling multiplicity out of public discourse. For a long while it was the government which engaged in this exercise of compartmentalisation, but of late, mass media has joined the bandwagon as well, allowing vocabulary like “splittist, extremist, hardline, controversial, inflammatory” to infiltrate their reportage without adequate attention paid to how such identifiers can bias audiences towards a particular opinion. Has anyone noticed how the brainwashing efficacy of noise on TV has made even “liberal” a character flaw?

Responsible professionalism has fallen victim to the demands for sensationalism which is why the basic tenets of freedom and democracy need to be reiterated often. No one should have an issue with the fact that free citizens have a right to hold independent opinions and broadcast them. Even if one were to ignore the principles of democracy, it follows for civil people to realise that while everyone has the right to hold opinions and share them, none has the right to foist or force these opinions on anyone or instigate violence.

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



River deltas are ‘drowning’, threatening hundreds of millions of people

FRANCES ELEANOR DUNN & STEPHEN DARBY
theconversation.com

The world’s river deltas take up less than 0.5% of the global land area, but they are home to hundreds of millions of people. Many live in major fast-growing cities such as Kolkata in the Ganges delta, Bangkok in the Chao Phraya delta, or Shanghai, one of dozens of large cities in the Yangtze delta region.

With fertile soils and easy access to the coast, deltas are critical hotspots of food production. Vietnam’s Mekong delta alone supplies almost 20% of the world’s rice. They also host unique ecosystems such as the Sundarbans in Bangladesh and India, the largest mangrove forest in the world.

But many of the world’s deltas are now facing an existential crisis. Sea levels are rising as a result of climate change, while deltas are themselves sinking, and together this means the relative sea level is rising extra fast.

Deltas are built from sediments that are carried downstream by rivers and eventually deposited where the river meets the sea. As these sediments compact under their own weight, deltas naturally sink. Where left undisturbed, the supply of new river sediment can compensate for the subsidence and help to maintain the delta surface above sea level.

But deltas are now subsiding much faster than they would do naturally. That’s thanks to groundwater being pumped (or “mined”) from aquifers underneath them and used to irrigate crops and provide water for rapidly growing cities.

In these circumstances, only the continued

deposition of sediment on deltas can keep them from “drowning”. We therefore wanted to find out whether supplies of river sediments would be affected by future environmental changes.

To address this question, we used a computer model to project changes in the flows of sediment to almost 50 major deltas worldwide. We used the model to explore the impact of various environmental changes, including climate change, population growth, increases in wealth and the construction of dams. Our results are published in the journal Environmental Research Letters.

We found that most of the world’s major deltas will receive less river sediment by the end of the century, regardless of the environmental change scenario. On average, we projected a 38% decrease. Our results suggest that many deltas – already significantly stressed – will become sediment starved, further compounding the risks of rising relative sea levels.

Some of the most severe reductions will be found in major Asian deltas such as the Ganges (81% less sediment) and the Mekong (77%). This is particularly concerning because these deltas are among the largest and most densely populated in the world.

We found that climate change will generally drive a small increase in the flows of sediments as, among other factors, warmer temperatures lead to increased precipitation and more soil is washed into rivers. But in many deltas this modest uptick will be more than offset by dams (which trap river sediments) and improved soil conservation practices as societies become wealthier. The Aswan Dam on the River Nile in Egypt or the Hoover

Dam on the Colorado River in the US are among the dams that have already starved their downstream deltas of sediment.

Better management of river sediment is vital to improve the outlook for the world’s deltas. International cooperation will be essential in deltas such as the Mekong and Ganges which are supplied by large rivers that drain many countries. For dams specifically, comprehensive environmental risk assessments that fully cost the consequences for downstream regions are required so that plans can be changed or scrapped. For those dams that are to be built in the coming decades, their design must accommodate transport of sediment downstream.

For authorities within deltas, faced with managing a dwindling supply of river sediment, new approaches are needed to better manage this precious declining resource. Flood embankments prevent sediment reaching delta plains and may need to be breached, as is being explored in the Ganges delta. Additionally, the removal of sand from rivers for construction materials, which is pervasive in many deltas around the world, must be better managed.

Ultimately, difficult decisions need to be made about development priorities between countries upstream of deltas and those including the deltas themselves, and there will be trade-offs to be made between hydropower, agricultural practices and delta sustainability.

[Frances Eleanor Dunn is Researcher in Earth Sciences, Utrecht University; Stephen Darby is Professor of Physical Geography, University of Southampton]

Why there is no Kurdish nation

JOHN BROICH
theconversation.com

Since U.S. troops left their region, roughly 180,000 Kurds of north-eastern Syria have been displaced, and over 200 have been killed.

Those Kurds, soldiers who’d battled the Islamic State and families, had hoped to secure a future Kurdistan state in areas now targeted by Turkish warplanes and patrolled by Russian mercenaries.

This is only the latest reversal for the Kurds, a group of around 40 million who identify with a regional homeland and common historical background, but are now divided between four countries. Despite their many attempts, there’ve never won and kept a Kurdish nation.

DRAWING BORDERS AFTER WWI

The most decisive reversal came at the end of the first World War. That’s when the Allies, victors over Germany and the Ottoman Empire, divided their geographical spoils of war.

In a series of conferences in a succession of European palaces, Prime Minister David Lloyd George, Georges Clemenceau of France, Woodrow Wilson and dozens of other leaders conspired, harangued and horse-traded from 1919 to 1921. Under clouds of cigar smoke, between servings of foie gras and champagne, they redrew a large swath of the globe’s map.

Besides doling out spoils to themselves, such as far-flung German imperial holdings, their aims were to replace the Austro-Hungarian Empire, punish Germany in Europe and – the biggest task – fill the vacuum left by the demise of the sprawling Ottoman Empire, which before the war covered territory from the edge of Bulgaria to Yemen.

Their guiding principle for redrawing the map, at least in most cases, was the reigning concept of

race nationalism, what’s often called today ethno-nationalism.

Simply put, the Allies’ delegates assumed that nation states should be composed as much as possible by single “races,” single ethnic and linguistic populations. So, they defined, in some ways created, new races – like, for example, Hungarians or Austrians – and drew borders around them.

WHO SHOULD RECEIVE AN ETHNO-STATE?

What to do in the big, central zone of the defeated Ottoman Empire, stretching between the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf?

Should there be one big, Greater Arabia or Arab federation, as some British officials promised their Arab allies who revolted against the Ottomans? Should there be many little nations, with borders around Christian Arabs, Muslim Arabs, Armenians, Assyrians, Kurds? (Following their race-nation instinct, the British did support what they called a new “National Home for the Jewish people” in former Ottoman Palestine.)

That, too, is what President Woodrow Wilson’s call for self-determination dictated. Wilson himself was explicit in calling for a new, broadly encompassing Kurdistan.

They took for granted that Kurds were a race and that Kurdistan was a place. In fact, it was already depicted in pre-WWI atlases. The problem of drawing its borders fell, British Parliamentarians told themselves, to them in immediate postwar years. And it’s what some powerful people in British officialdom assumed would happen.

Not only did it fit British race thinking to create Kurdistan – to be heavily staffed by British “advisers” like the other new states, of course – but they believed the Kurds truculent and independent, unlikely to accede to domination by a neighbor.

They would “never accept an Arab

ruler,” in the words of one British Colonial Office official, if they were embedded in an Arab nation.

A MISSED OPPORTUNITY

But the Allies and the League of Nations never created Kurdistan. Why not?

British imperial self-interest in this case overruled ethnonational thinking. By the terms of the Sykes-Picot agreement, the secret French and British understanding of roughly who would get what after the war, the French claimed dominance of the northern Levant, what’s today Lebanon and Syria.

The British wanted a big geographical bloc in the region to match that of the French, to act as a counterweight. They formalized this by inventing a large country soon dubbed “Iraq.”

The line dividing Sykes-Picot’s French sphere and British sphere already cut straight through Kurdish areas. That partition was part of the reason why the British could not simply carve out a new, large Kurdistan (that they’d dominate like Iraq).

For another, British colonial officials, like the famous writer-turned-colonial administrator Gertrude Bell, wanted a Kurdish population retained in the new Iraq as a counterbalance to its large Shiite population, which was deemed seditious.

This represented classic British imperial thinking long employed in places like India: divide and conquer. The Kurds might not be particularly docile or loyal to the British, but they could be counted on not to unite with the Arabs or Assyrians, either, and throw off British meddling.

The British, too, suspected there were large oilfields under the important Kurdish capital of Mosul. Better to keep the Mosul region securely within Iraq, some leaders judged.

That colonial-era behavior had a

recent analog, when President Donald Trump said that the Kurds could be allowed to remain near oilfields in far eastern Syria to protect them against the Islamic State. They’re still useful, it seems, for maintaining order above oil.

THE ROOTS OF THE TROUBLE WITH TURKEY

The Allies’ last, half-hearted attempt to create at least a small Kurdistan took place during yet another conference of the Allies in the Paris suburb of Sèvres in 1920.

Planned for eastern Anatolia, or Asia Minor, squeezed into borders to which the Kurds objected as too little, this Kurdistan came to naught. The new, revolutionary nationalists in Turkey wanted their own race-nation of Turks. And they did not want Anatolia chopped up for the sake of Kurds or Armenians. They’d simply have to become Turks, too, or face the consequences.

From 1920, the new Turkish Army occupied what was to become the little Kurdistan, and the Allies had no will to challenge them. The last hope that WWI’s victors would create even a fractional Kurdistan disappeared without fanfare.

But the Kurds didn’t stop – have never stopped – resisting. When the British lumped them into their invented country of Iraq, the Kurds naturally revolted in 1919. When a delegation of British colonial authorities arrived to parley with the Kurdish leader, Sheikh Mahmoud Barzinji, the man calmly quoted Woodrow Wilson’s Fourteen Points, with its call for the “autonomous development” of the peoples formerly dominated by the Ottoman Empire. The British responded with two brigades.

Now, as then, it seems world powers support Kurd’s self-determination only until it’s no longer expedient.

[the writer is Associate Professor, Case Western Reserve University]

Assam minister moots strong partnership with Malaysia



GUWAHATI, NOV 7 (PTI): Mooting a strong partnership with Malaysia, Assam Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary has urged a business delegation of the Southeast Asian country to invest in sectors such as tea, hydrocarbons and infrastructure.

Highlighting the strengths and opportunities of the state, he also asked the delegation to invest in transportation, food processing, bam-

boo, agar and skill development.

The Assam Industries and Commerce Minister, Chandra Mohan Patowary, said this while interacting with a delegation of the Malaysia India Business Council (MIBC) here on Wednesday.

"It is a win-win opportunity for both the countries.

If we work together, we can grow together.

"Apart from business to business meets, it

the heart to heart connection that we share which will go a long way in building a strong partnership with Malaysia," said Patowary.

He also underlined the need to promote tourism, hotel industry and education sectors which will be mutually beneficial.

Assuring full support to the team, the minister said, "You will not face red tapism but red-carpet welcome in all your

dealings with state agencies." The Centre, he said, plans to have direct flights from Guwahati to Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Yangon, Hanoi and Kathmandu.

Under the UDAN International scheme, direct flights have already been established between Guwahati and Bangkok, Patowary said.

The minister also explained to the MIBC team the steps taken to restore the road links with

expressways to ASEAN countries with the Asian Trilateral Highway establishing direct linkage upto Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia and Singapore.

The agreement between India and Bangladesh allowing the use of the neighbouring country's Chittagong and Mongla ports for the vessels of the northeastern region will open up vistas of closer trade with ASEAN, Patowary said.

MIBC president Tan Sri Ir Kuna Sittampalams said that Malaysia is very keen to explore the "immense" potential of Assam.

"Malaysia is a leader in infrastructure, health care and transportation and the Centres Act East Policy will support our endeavours to invest in Assam," Sittampalams said.

Ramesh Kodammal, co-chairman, Asean India Business Council (AIBC) said, Malaysia is reworking on the Malaysia-India Free Trade to accelerate trade and investment with India.

Debut writers dominate DSC Prize shortlist

NEW DELHI, NOV 7 (PTI): First-time authors dominated the shortlist of this year's DSC Prize for South Asian Literature that was announced on Thursday at the London School of Economics & Political Science.

The debut works that made the cut for the award carrying a cash prize of USD 25,000 are "The Far Field" by Madhuri Vijay, "The Empty Room" by Sadia Abbas and "99 Nights in Logar" by Jamil Jan Kochai.

While all three writers are currently based out of the US, Vijay was born and raised in Bangalore, Kochai is of Afghan origin, and Abbas grew up in Pakistan and Singapore.

"What is it about writing novels that one can get it so right the very first time of asking?" Harish Trivedi, chair of the jury, asked during the announcement.

The shortlist was selected from a 15-book longlist by a five-member international jury chaired by Trivedi, professor of English at the University of Delhi.

The list also includes Manoranjan Byapari's "There's Gunpowder in the Air", which has been translated from Bengali to English by Arunava Sinha, journalist-writer Raj Kamal Jha's "The City and the Sea", and Amitabha Bagchi's "Half the Night is Gone".

In case Byapari's translated work bags the award, the prize money will be shared equally between the author and Sinha, the translator.

"The shortlist that we have arrived at comprises six novels - for the

good reason that the five jurors, located in five different countries, could not agree on just five novels. Three of our writers live in South Asia and three live abroad - which in fact may not come as a complete surprise. There is now a South Asia beyond South Asia.

"Two of the six novels are set partly in New Delhi, and partly in the surrounding countryside in one case, and in the other case partly on the Baltic coast. One of the novels is set in Pakistan of the 1970s, one in Kashmir and one in Afghanistan. The sixth is actually set in a prison and was written originally in Bengali by an author who has actually served time and used that period to learn to read and write. That too is South Asia," Trivedi said.

Instituted in 2010, the award encourages and rewards fiction writing about the South Asian region comprising Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Sunita Narula, co-founder of DSC Prize, said each of the short-listed books was a must read and together they represented the very best of South Asian fiction writing.

"As the prize has always aimed to encourage fresh writing about the South Asian region, I am delighted to find women writers, debut novelists and a translated work on the shortlist, including voices from beyond the region," Narula said.

The winner will be announced on December 16 at the Nepal Literature Festival in Pokhara.

Jharkhand family claims starvation death, minister says official reports deny allegation

RANCHI/GIRIDIH, NOV 7 (PTI): A family in Jharkhand's Giridih district has alleged that one of its members died of starvation, but state's Food and Civil Supplies minister Saryu Roy Thursday said official reports on the incident deny the claim. The minister said a perfectly laid out protocol to prevent death due to starvation is in place in the state.

Ramesh Turi of Chirudih in Giridih district had told the media that his 48-year-old wife Savitri died of starvation on Tuesday last.

Not buying the claim, the minister said, "there is a perfect protocol to give ration under the Annapurna Yojana to the needy even if they don't have ration cards,

there are grain bank and Rs 10,000 is given to Mukhias who can be approached for assistance.

"The officials deny the report of starvation death," Roy told PTI, citing "ambiguity" in the media reports.

He, however, said "if the (starvation) report is true then certainly responsibility will be fixed."

Giridih Deputy Commissioner- Rahul Kumar Sinha-dismissed that Savitri Devi died because of lack of food.

"After an investigation into the report of starvation death, it was found that all the members of the family are healthy, food materials are at their home and it is not a case of starvation," Sinha told PTI in Giridih.

District Supply Offi-

cer- Pawan Mandal- said the investigating team found that four kg of rice, one kg pulse and potatoes were at their home.

"His eldest son is constructing a pucca house after taking loan while two other sons are healthy and a daughter is married and stays in the same locality," Mandal said. Civil Surgeon-Dr Awadhesh Kumar Sinha- said the family members did not allow for a post-mortem after they claimed that she died of starvation.

The family members are engaged in farming work, sources said.

"A two-member medical team today checked health of the family members and found that every member is healthy," the Civil Surgeon said.

Kolkata's air quality dips to 'very poor' category



KOLKATA, NOV 6 (PTI): The air quality in Kolkata turned 'very poor' on Wednesday night with the pollution levels in the city breaching the 300 mark for the first time in recent months, a WBPCB official said.

Measures are being taken to bring down the pollution levels, he said.

The Air Quality Index (AQI) in Kolkata was recorded at 343, which falls in the 'very poor' category, at the green zone Fort William automated air monitoring station at 11 pm, according to the

West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB) official. An AQI between 0-50 is considered 'good', 51-100 'satisfactory', 101-200 'moderate', 201-300 'poor', 301-400 'very poor' and 401-500 'severe'. An AQI above 500 falls in the 'severe plus' category.

The Ballygunge air monitoring station recorded an AQI of 330 at 11 pm, the official said.

The AQI at the Anand Bihar station was marginally better at 275, which falls under the 'poor' category, around

the same time. A 'poor' AQI means breathing discomfort for most people on prolonged exposure.

"We are taking several steps to contain air pollution in Kolkata like sprinkling water at construction sites, stopping movement of over 15-year-old commercial vehicles in the cities of Kolkata and Howrah and banning coal-based ovens in roadside food stalls," the official said.

"Let's hope the results will show in the coming days," he said.

Bull fury in Bihar town over honking



HAJIPUR (BIHAR), NOV 7 (PTI): Incessant honking is one peeve motorists in India have learned to live with but makes this beast a raging bull in a china shop.

A bull in Bihar's Hajipur town has taken national and international media by storm with its fierce response to honking as furiously over-turns cars and topples two-wheelers.

A two-day-old video footage of it lifting a car by the horns has gone viral and was flashed on a platform no less than the Fox News and some national and regional television channels, prompting the Vaishali district administration to sit up and take notice of the bovine menace.

Its apparent monstrosity notwithstanding, the raging bull seems to have drawn some inspiration in its own way from the non-violence preached by the Buddha and Mahavira, both of whom had deep links with Vaishali. Surprising-

ly, locals say, the beast has so far attacked only inanimate objects and never a living being, including humans. No amount of beating the ground with sticks and hurling stones scares it away, but the animal cools down when sprinkled with water and retreats.

"The bull is known to quietly roam around until it gets irritated by honking. Sometimes it flies into a rage because of constant troubling by local youths who try to feed it with hemp and enjoy the madness on display thereafter," a Hajipur resident said.

District Magistrate Udit Singh told journalists eager to now what steps were being taken to keep people out of the harm's way that orders were issued to the forest department on Tuesday to cow it into submission.

"We have taken serious note of the menace. Damage to property cannot be allowed and there is a risk of people also getting hit as mostly the

bull has been said to run amok on crowded streets adjacent to the railway station," she said.

The forest department, however, is reluctant to take the bull by the horns.

"We don't understand why the district administration expects us to get involved since the bull is not, strictly speaking, a wild animal. Bulls are left to roam freely on the streets after they serve their purpose of mating with cows," said district forest officer Bharat Bhushan Pal.

Pal said even if the bull is caught it will have to be dispatched to some other inhabited area where fresh trouble may arise.

The forest official said it would be better if the animal husbandry department takes care of the untamed beast as bulls are always in demand for keeping the bovine population ticking.

Until then anybody who messes with this bull will get the horns.

No change in Sena's stand on govt formation: Raut

MUMBAI, NOV 7 (PTI): Senior Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut on Thursday said there was no change in his party's stand on government formation in Maharashtra and reiterated the demand for sharing the chief minister's post.

He also asked that if the people's mandate was for the 'Mahayuti' (grand alliance), why the BJP was not staking claim to form government.

In a veiled attack on the BJP, he said those responsible for political instability were causing harm the state. "There

is no change in the Shiv Sena's stand on government formation; all our MLAs are supporting (party chief) Uddhav Thackeray," Raut said addressing a press conference here.

He asserted that the chief minister of the state will be from the "Sena only".

"If the mandate is for 'Mahayuti', why not stake claim to form the government? Why have you (BJP) returned empty-handed after meeting the governor?" the Rajya Sabha member sought to know. "When you say the

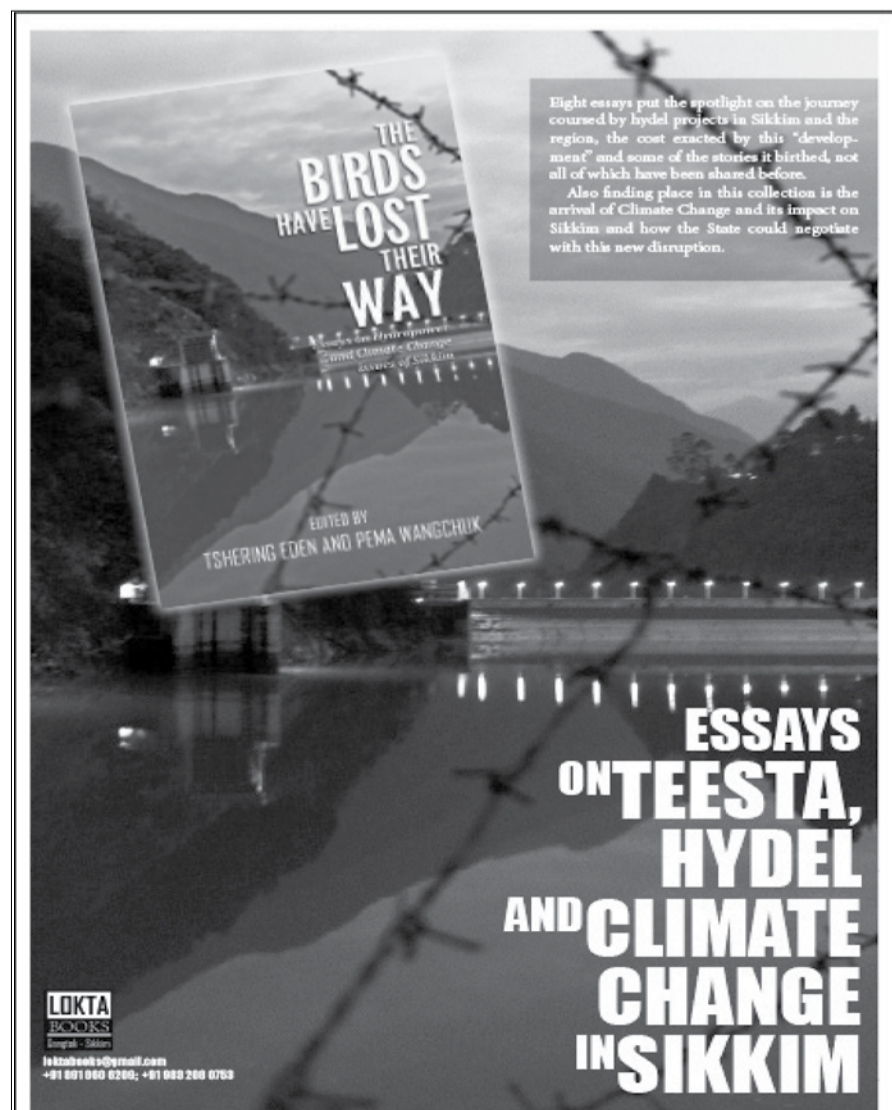
mandate is for 'Mahayuti', the mandate is also for what was agreed upon when the alliance was formalised (before the Lok Sabha polls)," Raut said.

The BJP and the Shiv Sena are engaged in a bitter tug-of-war over the latter's demand for equal distribution of portfolios and sharing the chief minister's post.

The BJP has rejected the Sena's demand for sharing the chief minister's post for two-and-a-half years each.

The tenure of the present Assembly ends on November 9.

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‘I will not change’: Liverpool’s Sadio Mané unrepentant about ‘diving’

ED AARON
theGuardian

Sadio Mané has acknowledged Pep Guardiola’s claim that he is a diver means the spotlight will be on him in Liverpool’s top-of-the-table showdown with Manchester City on Sunday but admitted he would “dive again” if it resulted in a penalty being awarded.

The Senegal forward was accused of “sometimes diving” by the City manager after Liverpool’s last-gasp victory against Aston Villa on Saturday – a suggestion that led Jürgen Klopp to accuse his opposite number of being “fixated” on his team. Guardiola has since retracted his claim, but with Liverpool holding a six-point advantage over the champions, Mané believes the City manager was attempting to raise the temperature before the biggest match of the season so far.

“I think it’s a bit clever from him to get the attention of the referee but I will just play my football like I’m always doing,” he said. “I don’t pay attention to what he’s saying because it’s part of football. It doesn’t make anything for me. Even though I saw him commenting about it, what he said, for me, I think it’s positive ...”

Asked if Guardiola was worried about facing a side



who have won 10 of their first 11 Premier League fixtures, he said: “Maybe. I don’t know. You guys know more than me. The only thing I can say I will be for sure ready for the team, to give everything possible, and to help my team. If it could be a penalty for sure I will ‘dive’ again. If the dive will give me a penalty then I will do it to get it back. Why not? But what Jürgen said is correct. I do not dive.”

Mané was booked for simulation against Villa on Sunday before scoring in stoppage time to maintain Liverpool’s lead at the top. That was the third time since the start of the 2015-16 season that the 27-year-old has been cautioned for

diving but he insisted the referee, Jonathan Moss, could easily have given the decision the other way.

“There was contact, for sure,” Mané said. “Maybe it was not a penalty and he didn’t give it, and he gave me a yellow card. To be honest I don’t have any problem about it. For sure, it can happen in football and we have seen many people, some diving and get penalties, some got a penalty and the referee didn’t give it. That’s football. You have to deal with it.

“[I will keep doing] like I’m always doing. It’s what I want to keep doing. If I get a penalty, yeah it’s a penalty. If no penalty, no penalty, but [it will never] change the

way I’m playing or the way I’m doing my things.”

Michael Oliver will take charge of the game on Sunday in an appointment that may please Liverpool supporters given they have never been beaten in the 18 previous matches he has officiated at Anfield. Klopp’s side have been awarded three penalties – one more than City – this season, including for the 94th-minute winner against Leicester, which was given by Chris Kavanagh for Marc Albrighton’s challenge on Mané.

Liverpool have not faced City since the 2-1 loss at the Etihad Stadium in January that was the last time they were defeated in the league – a run of 28 matches. They

have also gone 45 games unbeaten at Anfield since losing against Crystal Palace in April 2017, including the 0-0 draw with City last season in which Riyad Mahrez missed a late penalty.

“It will be very different because we learned a lot from our last games against City,” Mané said. “I think I can say we play every kind of game this last two years so I don’t think the game will have any effect on us to be nervous. But for sure it’s an extra motivation for us to play against them, especially at home, and to do everything possible to win the game. It will be really, really important for us to get a positive result and we will be ready, spot-on from the first second until the last.”

Solskjær urges Manchester United ‘to fill their boots’ against Partizan Belgrade

PAUL WILSON
theGuardian

Olle Gunnar Solskjær is hoping Manchester United can rediscover their appetite for goals when they take on Partizan Belgrade in the Europa League at Old Trafford on Thursday. Though his side opened their league campaign with an impressive 4-0 demolition of Chelsea, the six home matches since have featured a single goal in each and Solskjær believes United can do better.

“We’ve had a few results go against us through fine margins this season but now we know we are on the right track,” the United manager said. “The defeat at Bournemouth put an end to that mini-run we were on but we can start another one against Partizan if things go well.

“We have kept three cleansheets already in the competition, which is impressive, and now we would like to score a few more goals. If we get off to a good start in a game like this we could fill our boots, and we want to go for it.”

United beat Partizan in Belgrade a fortnight ago and would qualify for the knockout stages with two games to spare by winning again in the return fixture.

Mandhana, Rodrigues lead India to ODI series win in Caribbean

NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA), Nov 7 (PTI): Comeback-girl Smriti Mandhana and Jemimah Rodrigues hit contrasting half-centuries to lead the Indian women’s team to a 2-1 series victory over the West Indies with a comfortable six-wicket win in the deciding third ODI, here. Mandhana, who missed the first two matches of the series due to a toe injury, smashed a 63-ball 74 and raised a match-winning 141-run partnership with fellow opener Rodrigues (69 off 92) on Wednesday night.

A solid foundation in place, India cruised to the 195-run target in

42.1 overs after the Indian bowlers did a commendable job of bowling out the hosts for a sub-par 194 in exact 50 overs.

Seasoned pacer Jhulan Goswami (2/30) and leg-spinner Poonam Yadav (2/35) shared four wickets between them, troubling the rival middle order after the West Indies elected to bat.

It was pacer Shikha Pandey and leg-spinner Rajeshwari Gaekwad, who removed the top-order as five of the six Indian bowlers in action, were among wickets. Stefanie Taylor kept fighting

for the hosts with a combative 79-run knock but ran short of partners as other West Indies batters struggled to negotiate India’s attack.

Apart from Taylor only Atacy-Ann King showed some stomach for fight with a 45-ball 38. Left-handed Mandhana was her usual aggressive self, punishing the West Indies bowlers with nine shots to the fence and three over the ropes.

It was her first ODI since the home series against England in February and third half-century in a row, having scored 63

and 66 against the British team in Mumbai.

Rodrigues, who had scored 41 in India’s defeat in the opening ODI, took 92 balls for her 69-run knock which had six boundaries.

The two teams will now play a five-match Twenty20 series, beginning Sunday at Gros Islet.

Brief Scores: West Indies 194 all out in 50 overs (Stefanie Taylor 79, Stacy Ann King 38; Jhulan Goswami 2/30) lost to India 195 for 4 in 42.1 overs (Smriti Mandhana 77, Jemimah Rodrigues 69; Hayley Mathews 3/27) by six wickets.

Kerala Blasters on edge, desperate for survival

KOCHI, Nov 7 (PTI): Kerala Blasters FC will look to arrest their slide when they play hosts to Odisha FC in the Indian Super League here on Friday.

After the glorious victory against their arch rivals ATK on the opening night of the season, the Kochi-based team has lost its way and suffered back-to-back defeats against Mumbai City and Hyderabad FC.

The onus will be on coach Eelco Schattorie to come up with a robust plan to ensure the team returns to winning ways on home soil.

Memories from last season, where Kerala went on a 14-game winless run after their win over ATK in the opening match is still fresh in the minds. Schattorie’s team cannot afford a repeat and badly need a win.

Meanwhile, Odisha FC’s form graph has been in stark contrast to that of Kerala Blasters. After starting with two defeats, Odisha thumped Mumbai City 4-2 in their previous match and come into this game on a high.

They will look to build on that performance by trying to best an injury-riddled Kerala Blasters. The likes of Mario Arques and Gianni Zuiverloon are unlikely to be fit while Sandesh Jhingan was ruled out for the season earlier.

“We should have won our last game mentally. The other team (Hyderabad) had only three foreigners. We had good chances. I had a revision of our three games - we had 43 crosses but how many (were) effective is another question.

“Our wingers are not stable and in midfield, we miss a key player. We



lost Zuiverloon in defence in the last game. At this moment, it is all about surviving,” expressed Schattorie.

But what would concern Kerala is that they haven’t been able to create many goal-scoring opportunities for star striker Bartholomew Ogbeche, with the likes of Sahal Abdul Samad still adapting to coach Schattorie’s style of play.

“In a system which has passing football, it takes a bit of time. Sahal made a mistake last game also but we did not lose because of him. I discussed it with Sahal himself. I am very happy with the player,” insisted the Dutchman.

Odisha would have few issues in that department, however.

Xisco Hernandez has been brilliant as a playmaker for Josep Gombau’s side and his partnership with Ariedane Santana and Jerry

KPL fixing scandal: Two domestic cricketers arrested

Bengaluru, Nov 7 (PTI): Two more domestic cricketers were arrested on Thursday in connection with the Karnataka Premier League fixing scandal, taking the total number of those detained to six.

Bellary Tuskers captain C M Gautam, a former Karnataka wicket-keeper-batsman and his teammate Abrar Qazi were arrested by the city Central Crime Branch, which is investigating charges of fixing in the last two seasons of KPL.

“We have arrested two players with regard to KPL fixing,” Additional Commissioner of Police Sandeep Patil told PTI, adding some more arrests may be made as the investigation progressed.

Police said the two were involved in fixing in the KPL 2019 finals between Hubballi versus

Ballari. “They were paid Rs 20 lakh for slow batting, and for other things. Also, they fixed another match against Bengaluru team,” an investigation officer said.

The arrest comes close on the heels of the detention of Bengaluru team player Nishant Singh Shekhawat earlier this week. Three others including the owner of the Belagavi team, have been arrested in the past couple of months since the scandal came to light.

Gautam and Qazi have played in domestic cricket and the Indian Premier League also.

While Gautam is a seasoned Karnataka cricketer, who has shifted to Goa this season, Qazi now plays for Mizoram.

Apart from featuring in the Ranji Trophy for Karnataka and Goa, Gautam has played in the IPL

for RCB, Mumbai Indians and Delhi Daredevils, the officer added. Qazi had played Ranji for Karnataka and now turns out for Mizoram, the investigation officer added.

Both Gautham and Qazi had been named in their respective state squads for the upcoming Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy tournament, scheduled to begin on Friday.

On October 26, Bengaluru Blasters bowling coach Vinu Prasad and batsman Vishwanathan were arrested in connection with the fixing scandal.

The coach allegedly manipulated a game between Bengaluru Blasters and Belagavi Panthers last year.

The KPL fixing came to limelight with the arrest of Ali Ashfaq Thara, who owned the Belagavi team.

Kashyap knocked out of China Open

FUZHOU (CHINA), Nov 7 (PTI): Indian shuttler Parupalli Kashyap crashed out of the China Open badminton after suffering a straight-game defeat against Denmark’s Victor Axelsen here on Thursday.

Kashyap, ranked 25 in the world, ran out of steam after a decent start against seventh seed Axelsen and went down

13-21 19-21 in the men’s singles second-round, that lasted 43 minutes.

This is the second time Kashyap has lost to Axelsen this year. The former Commonwealth Games champion Kashyap, who reached the semifinals at India Open and Korea Open earlier this year, had lost to the world number six at the

India Open in March.

Later on Thursday, world number 11 Sai Praneeth will take on Anders Antonsen in the men’s singles while Thailand Open champions Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will clash with sixth seeds Japanese Hiroyuki Endo and Yuta Watanabe in the second round of the men’s doubles event.

Mexico probes narco group 'La Linea' in Mormon murders

Mexico alleged Wednesday that a drug cartel called "La Linea" massacred nine Mormon women and children in a case of mistaken identity, but devastated relatives insisted their loved ones were deliberately targeted.

The three women and six children, who had dual US-Mexican citizenship, were killed in a hail of bullets Monday as they drove on a rural road between Sonora and Chihuahua, which border the United States.

Eight other children managed to escape, six of them wounded. The case has caused shock on both sides of the border and prompted US President Donald Trump to call for a "war" on Mexican cartels.

The head of the Mexican military's joint chiefs of staff, Homero Mendoza, said authorities now believe the massacre was carried out by La Linea (The Line), a drug cartel based in Chihuahua.

He said investigations indicated the group had sent a squad to the lawless mountain region where the attack occurred to fend off potential incursions by a rival gang, Los Salazar, which is based in Sonora, after recent clashes between the two. But relatives of those killed rejected it being a case of mistaken identity, saying they believe their family was deliberately targeted.

"I have to emphasize there was no duelling cartels and there was no crossfire that our family were caught up in. They were murdered -- massacred -- solely by one acting cartel from Chihuahua," family member Lafe Langford Jr. told AFP. Adran LeBaron, the father and grandfather of some of the victims, said that according to two of the surviving children, their aunt exited her SUV, arms raised in surrender, only to be mowed down with gunfire.

"So where is the mistaken identity? There was no mistake here," he told Mexican TV network Televisa. The two families involved, the LeBarons and Langfords, have been targeted by criminal groups in the past.

Benjamin LeBaron, founder of a crime-fighting group called SOS Chihuahua, was assassinated in 2009 after he led protests over the kidnapping of his 16-year-old brother, who was released after the family refused to pay a ransom.

-Harrowing survival story-
The families are part of a large group of US Mormons who emigrated to Mexico in the late 19th century, fleeing persecution for their traditions, including polygamy.

Lafe Langford told CNN that after riddling the cars with bullets and setting one of them alight, the gunmen pulled survivors from one of the cars and told them to flee.

Realizing their shot and bleeding siblings would not make it far, two adolescent children helped the others to hide in the brush. One then went for help, he said.

China jails nine for selling fentanyl into US

China on Thursday jailed nine people for selling fentanyl to Americans, the result of a landmark joint probe, and pledged further co-operation following President Donald Trump's fury at Beijing's perceived inaction against Chinese suppliers fuelling the deadly US opioid crisis.

Despite Trump's criticism earlier this year that Beijing had reneged on its promise to crack down on the production of the drug, China said it was "willing to conduct sincere and concrete anti-drug cooperation" with the US to tackle fentanyl trafficking.

The sentencing also came as the global powers are seeking to finalise a trade deal following more than a year of bruising negotiations, with the flood of Chinese fentanyl one of the sticking points.

US authorities say the synthetic opioid -- which can be up to 50 times more potent than heroin -- causes more than 100 deaths a day in the United States. The court in northern Hebei province described the case as the first successful joint US-Chinese probe related to fentanyl smuggling, and US officials also hailed the verdict.

"As the success of the joint investigation demonstrates, Chinese and American investigators have the capacity to collaborate across international borders," Austin Moore, an attache for the US Homeland Security Department in



China, said at a press conference with Chinese officials following the sentencing.

An official Chinese statement issued after the sentencing hailed the case as an "excellent model for the joint tackling of fentanyl-related crimes by Chinese and US drug enforcement departments."

China's narcotics bureau discovered in 2017 a criminal ring based in Shanghai and eastern Jiangsu province and seized 11.9 kilogrammes of fentanyl, acting on a tip-off from US border authorities, according to the court.

Of the nine people jailed in Hebei, one was given a death sentence with a two-

year reprieve, which generally means a life term. Two others received life terms for trafficking fentanyl and alprazolam -- the hugely popular prescription anxiety drug branded as Xanax.

The nine defendants were brought in surrounded by guards and stood facing court officials to hear their sentences read.

The three defendants with the toughest sentences were "lured by high profit and huge demand" from US buyers, the Xingtai Intermediate People's Court said.

In November 2016, two of the defendants began advertising drugs through the internet using companies they

had registered for pharmaceutical sales operations, the court said in a statement.

In 2017 two other defendants -- including Liu Yong, who was given the suspended death sentence -- set up a processing lab where they illegally processed fentanyl and sold it to these companies to smuggle to the US.

Moore said officers in New Orleans obtained in August 2017 the contact details of a supplier in China known as "Diana". The Americans then shared the information with Chinese counterparts and the investigation led to the arrests at the end of 2017, Moore said.

- Trade war -

China in May began designating all variants of fentanyl as controlled substances, a move welcomed by Washington.

The drug had previously often slipped past law enforcement due in part to the ability of drug makers to tweak formulas and create fentanyl analogues not restricted by existing Chinese law.

Nevertheless, Trump announced new tariffs on China over the summer as a response to what he saw as China's continued failure to stem the flow of fentanyl into the US. The two countries have since pledged to work together to fight the

proliferation of the drug.

Yu Haibin, from China's National Narcotics Control Commission, said at the press conference that Beijing had maintained "close and good cooperation" with US law enforcement departments.

However, Yu said accusations that China was the main source of the opioid in the US were untrue.

He said American deaths from overdoses had continued to rise even as Beijing's control over fentanyl-related substances had tightened.

The White House's "drug czar", Jim Carroll, said after meetings with Chinese officials in September that he was convinced that Beijing was committed to going after traffickers.

In October, three Chinese citizens were charged by US authorities with distributing the drug in the United States.

But experts warned much more work was needed to stamp out the drug trade to the US.

"It is good to see the Chinese government working on a fentanyl case with their American counterparts," Scott Stewart, a security analyst at Stratfor, told AFP.

"But until they address the deeper problems, such as the tax credits companies get for selling certain chemicals, and go after the powerful players, they are not going to be able to stop the flow of fentanyl and fentanyl precursors."

Iran resumes uranium enrichment at Fordow plant in new stepback from deal

Iran resumed uranium enrichment at its underground Fordow plant south of Tehran on Thursday in a new step back from its commitments under a landmark 2015 nuclear deal.

Engineers began feeding uranium hexafluoride gas into the plant's mothballed enrichment centrifuges in "the first minutes of Thursday", the Iranian Atomic Energy Organisation said.

The suspension of uranium enrichment at the long secret plant was one of the restrictions Iran had agreed to on its nuclear programme in return for the lifting of UN sanctions.

Iran's announcement that it would resume enrichment at the Fordow plant from midnight (2030 GMT Wednesday) had drawn a chorus of concern from the remaining parties to the troubled agreement.

Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia have been trying to salvage the hard-won deal since Washington abandoned it in May last year and reimposed crippling unilateral sanctions.

They say Iran's phased suspension of its obligations under the deal since May makes that more difficult.

The resumption of enrichment at Fordow is Iran's fourth move away from the deal.

Uranium enrichment is the sensitive process that produces fuel for nuclear power plants but also, in highly extended form, the fissile core for a warhead.

Iran is now enriching uranium to 4.5 percent, exceeding the 3.67 percent limit set by the 2015 deal but less than the 20 percent level it had previously operated to and far less than the 90 percent level required for a warhead.

Iran has always denied any military dimension to its nuclear programme.

It has been at pains to emphasise that all of the steps it has taken are transparent and swiftly reversible if the remaining parties to the agreement find a way to get round US sanctions.

"All these activities have been carried out under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency," the Iranian nuclear organisation said.

A source close to the UN watchdog told AFP that it has inspec-



tors on the ground in Fordow and would report "very rapidly" on the steps taken by Iran.

- UN INSPECTOR TOLD TO LEAVE -

Iran revealed on Thursday that it had withdrawn the credentials of one IAEA inspector last week after she triggered an alarm at the gate to Iran's other enrichment plant at Natanz, raising suspicion she was carrying a "suspect product".

It did not specify what the product was or whether it had actually been found in the inspector's possession.

But it promised that its representative to the IAEA would deliver a detailed report on the incident at a special meeting on Iran at the agency's headquarters in Vienna later on Thursday.

The resumption of enrichment at Fordow comes after the passing of a deadline it set for the remaining parties to the nuclear agreement to come up with a mechanism that would allow foreign firms to continue doing business with Iran without incurring US penalties.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov expressed concern about Tehran's announcements but said European powers should do their part.

"They are demanding that Iran fulfil all (obligations) without exception but are not giving anything in return," he told reporters in Moscow.

The Kremlin has previously called sanctions against Iran "unprecedented and illegal".

- EUROPEAN CONCERN -

French President Emmanuel Macron said Iran had made "grave" decisions and its resumption of uranium enrichment was a "profound change" from Tehran's previous position. "I will have discussions in the coming days, including with the Iranians, and we must collectively draw the consequences," Macron said during a trip to Beijing.

The next few weeks will be dedicated to increasing pressure on Iran to return within the framework of the pact, the French president said, adding that this must be "accompanied by an easing of some sanctions".

"A return to normal can only take place if the United States and Iran agree to reopen a sort of trust agenda" and dialogue, Macron said, adding that he would discuss the issue with Trump.

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said Britain remained committed to a negotiated way forward but demanded that Iran abide by its obligations. "We want to find a way forward through constructive international dialogue but Iran needs to stand by the commitments it made and urgently return to full compliance," he said.

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said Iran must roll back its "unacceptable" decision to resume enrichment at Fordow.

"We call on Iran to reverse all steps taken since July and return to full compliance with its commitments," Maas told reporters in Berlin.

E-cigs may damage the heart, study says

Vaping devices and the chemicals they deliver -- increasingly popular among teens -- may damage the cardiovascular system, a study said Thursday, adding to a growing chorus of concern over injury and deaths related to e-cigarettes.

The latest findings, published in the journal Cardiovascular Research, come after the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention last month declared an "outbreak of lung injuries" linked to vaping.

"E-cigarettes contain nicotine, particulate matter, metal and flavourings, not just harmless water vapour," senior author Loren Wold of Ohio State University wrote in Thursday's study.

"Air pollution studies show that fine particles enter the circulation and have direct effects on the heart -- data for e-cigarettes are pointing in that direction." Nicotine, also found in tobacco, is known to increase blood pressure and the heart rate.

But other ingredients inhaled through the va-

ping may lead to inflammation, oxidative stress and unstable blood flow, Wold said.

Ultrafine particulate, for example, has been linked to thrombosis, coronary heart disease and hypertension, among other conditions.

E-cigarettes also contain formaldehyde, which has been classified as a cancer-causing agent and associated with heart damage in experiments with rats.

Moreover, almost nothing is known about the potential health hazards of flavouring agents that mimic the taste of mint, candy or fruits such as mango or cherry, the study noted. "While most are deemed safe when ingested orally, little is known of their systemic effects following inhalation," the researchers wrote.

To assess possible impacts on the heart and vascular system, Wold and colleagues undertook a systematic review of medical literature, which remains thin due to the newness of e-ciga-

rette use.

- Teens 'not getting the message' -

Wold noted that most studies to date have focused on the acute effects of e-cigarette use rather than the risk of chronic use. Also, little is known about the secondhand effects of vaping, as well as exposure to particles lodged in walls, drapes and clothing.

Thirty-seven deaths in 24 states have been linked to e-cigarette and vaping products as of October 29, according to the CDC. There were nearly 1,900 cases of associated lung injury nationwide.

In the majority of cases, persons affected also used the devices to consume products containing THC, the psychoactive ingredient in cannabis, raising the possibility that unknown impurities were also present. The CDC discourages non-smokers from starting to use e-cigarettes and suggests individuals trying to kick a tobacco habit use alternatives approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), such as patches and gums.

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SWEET LOOKS! The *Charlie's Angels* star, Kristen Stewart pairs a blue jacket and skirt combo paired with black lace up boots while leaving the *Good Morning America* studio in New York City.

Deezer Releases AI Tool That Quickly Isolates Vocal Tracks

The open-source Spleeter software can split a track into four stems 100x faster than real time

French streaming platform Deezer has released an AI tool called Spleeter that can quickly isolate vocal and instrumental tracks and separate a song into two, four, or five separate audio tracks. The software was originally developed for research purposes, but was released on Monday, November 4, as an open-source package on GitHub.

While many techniques exist to isolate vocal tracks (also known as “stems”) from a mixed-down audio file, most are difficult, time-consuming, of low-quality, or some combination of the three. Spleeter is an audio separation library built on Python and the machine learning platform TensorFlow that can do it at many times the speed of the original audio. The blogger Andy Baio sampled the software with a selection of songs, comparing them to stems

from the studio as well as other audio-splitting tools like PhonicMind and Open-Unmix.

As released, the software lacks a graphical user interface, so users need to be comfortable with command line prompts. But



as the software is open source, nothing is preventing an intrepid programmer from developing a streamlined user interface, which democratizes the technology for aspiring remixers, samplers, and karaoke aficionados. Seasoned producers are already citing the software's potential.

‘DEADPOOL 3’ release date, cast, and role in Marvel’s PG-13-rated MCU

Disney’s purchase of 20th Century Fox and all the superheroes the company had the right too shifted the superhero cinematic landscape as we know it, making it possible for the X-Men and Fantastic Four to start punching Avengers in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, but the fate of everyone’s favorite R-rated Merc With a Mouth hangs in the balance. Is *Deadpool 3* ever going to happen?

What place does a foul-mouthed *Deadpool* have in the comparatively tame MCU where Captain America had a reputation for policing foul language for years? *Deadpool* star Ryan Reynolds teased in July 2019 that the third film might be part of Marvel’s Phase Five, but is it true? And what about the rumored X-Force spinoff?

So far, everything about any future *Deadpool* movies remains unconfirmed, but there’s strong evidence to support that Wade Wilson’s return to the big screen in some capacity is inevitable.

Here’s everything we know about *Deadpool 3*, from the cast and characters to possible release dates to how the R-rated franchise even fits into Marvel’s PG-13 cinematic universe.

Is *Deadpool 3* confirmed or canceled?

Before the Disney-Fox merger, *Deadpool 3* seemed all but certain, but as of this writing, the third film remains unconfirmed even if there are plenty of hints that *Deadpool 3* is happening.

In an interview with i09 from October 2019, *Deadpool* and *Deadpool 2* writers Paul Wernick and Rhett Reese spoke about their enthusiasm to continue the character’s story in a third film.

“The plan and the hope is that Marvel allows us to continue *Deadpool* in his R-rated universe that he lives in and also, hopefully over time, we get to play a little bit in the MCU sandbox as well,” Wernick said.

Reese echoed the sentiment, saying, “It’s all undetermined.”

Also in October, Ryan Reynolds shared an of himself image at Marvel Studios HQ. His snarky Instagram caption didn’t confirm anything, but the obvious explanation is that he met with Marvel and Disney execs to discuss the future of *Deadpool*. Then, in November

2019, HN Entertainment reported that Disney had designated a shell company called “Finger Guns Production LLC.” *Deadpool* seems like the only Disney character that would fit a gun-related production company name like that.

All signs point to *Deadpool 3* being very early in the production process, but everything remains unconfirmed.

When is the *Deadpool 3* release date?

Disney has not confirmed the film is even happening, so a release date for *Deadpool 3* remains a mystery. Reynolds

Cable also becomes an unlikely ally in the efforts to stop Russell Collins (aka, Firefist) from becoming a homicidal maniac in a dark version of the future.

Deadpool also gets help from X-Men members Colossus, Negasonic Teenage Warhead, and Yukio at different points in the movie. Plus, there’s *Deadpool*’s former roommate Blind Al and his friend/taxi driver Dopinder. Through some time travel shenanigans, Wade’s fiancée Vanessa survives as well.

All of these characters are likely to



has previously implied that if it happens, *Deadpool 3* would be part of Marvel’s Phase Five. In theory, Phase Four will finish in late 2021 with the release of *Thor: Love & Thunder* on November 5, 2021 or perhaps even later with the release of the *Hawkeye* Disney+ series. Marvel has already confirmed all of the Phase Four titles, so anything else that gets announced will presumably happen as part of Phase Five.

Blade, Black Panther 2, Guardians of the Galaxy vol. 3, Captain Marvel 2, and *Avengers 5* are all expected for release in 2022 or 2023. *Deadpool 3* could possibly be released at some point in that timeframe as well. February 8 and July 29 in 2022 are currently booked for Marvel movies, but no specific films have been attached. *Deadpool 3* could claim one of those — or it might not.

Who’s in the *Deadpool 3* cast?

In the newly assembled X-Force during *Deadpool 2*, only *Deadpool* and Domino survive — but *Deadpool* uses a time travel device to later save the powerless Peter from his gruesome death.

return in the sequel, but there’s no way to know for sure.

Whatever happened to the X-Force spinoff movie?

In January 2019, *Deadpool* creator Rob Liefeld tweeted that the rumored X-Force movie had become a “victim of the merger,” referring to the Disney-Fox mega-deal that froze many of Fox’s productions.

How might *Deadpool* crossover with other Marvel characters?

In August 2019, industry insider Tim Vo from Lords of the Long Box tweeted that his sources said *Deadpool* would appear in the *Black Widow* post-credits scene and then again in *Avengers 5*. That could be *Deadpool*’s launching point in the MCU. The tone doesn’t quite seem right for *Deadpool*’s debut, but at this time, there’s really no way to know for sure.

Deadpool has a rich history with Spider-Man in the comics and some animated series, so seeing two of Marvel’s goofiest characters interact would be a delight in live-action when the third Spider-Man Tom Holland movie premieres in July 2021, but that’s also just us speculating.

Lady Gaga And Oprah Winfrey Just Set All Those Bradley Cooper Romance Rumors Straight

“We wanted people to believe that we were in love.”

If you’ve ever seen *A Star Is Born*, you know that Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper have ridiculous onscreen chemistry. That naturally got fans talking, and rumors of an offscreen romance heated up when they performed their loving duet “Shallow” together at the Oscars. Then, people almost started hyperventilating when Bradley and his longtime girlfriend Irina Shayk broke up not long after the awards show.

Well, Gaga just sat down to Oprah Winfrey to set things straight. In an interview with Elle (conducted by Oprah), Gaga called all the press around her and Bradley was “very silly.” “I mean, we made a love story. For me, as a performer and as an actress, of course we wanted people to believe that we were in love,” she said. “And we wanted people to feel that love at the Oscars. We wanted it to go right through the lens of that camera and to every television that it was being watched on. And we worked hard on it, we worked for days. We mapped the whole thing out—it was orchestrated as a performance.” Apparently,

Gaga and Bradley even discussed all the press around a potential romantic relationship afterward. “When we talked about it, we went, ‘Well, I guess we did a good job!’” she added.

Oprah also referenced a conversation she had with Bradley, in which he told her that “if [the rumors] had been true, he never would have been able to look [Lady Gaga] in the eye sitting at that piano.” The pop star agreed, saying, “Absolutely. Absolutely.” Though the rumor mill was swirling for months on end, Lady Gaga was reportedly dating sound engineer Daniel Horton around the same time, though she never publicly acknowledged the relationship. However, Gaga wrote on Instagram Stories in October that she’s “a single lady” while celebrating at her makeup artist Sarah Tanno’s bachelorette party.

Gaga and Bradley never said much about the dating rumors, but they’ve been super supportive of each other in public. After accepting the Oscar for Best Original Song, Gaga said, “Bradley, there is not a single person on the planet that could’ve sang this song with me but you. Thank you for believing in us. Thank you so much.”

Well, they’ll always have *A Star Is Born*.



ARIES: Look at you integrating your soul lessons, turning your wounds into wisdom, and moving forward with dignity and grace. Aries, you are like a phoenix who has risen from the ashes. Remember, your past no longer defines you. Renegotiate your terms and conditions with the Universe, and with those you are choosing to share your energy with. Given that we are in retrograde season, it is not unusual for exes to make their way back into your existence.

Tip: Level up.

TAURUS: Rules to live by: never go to bed angry, and if you do, ensure you wake your beloved up to the smell of freshly made pancakes (dusted with cinnamon, preferably). This day calls for sweet, simple gestures that are sure to bring a smile to the faces of others. Now wouldn’t you be delighted if somebody made an effort to do the things that bring you joy!

Tip: Small, simple gestures can go a long way.

GEMINI: They may not appear at your doorstep with truffles and flowers, or wake you up in the middle of the night to sing

you a love song. But they show up for you when it matters the most, and support you in the best way they can. Your relationship is growing from strength to strength, Gemini. Tip: Make practical decisions when it comes to love.

CANCER: Falling in love is the easy part. It is staying in love that requires work. Coupled Cancerians need to remember that a relationship requires constant nurturing from both parties. If things are not going well, sit together and attack the problem instead of fighting each other or quitting. Open the windows to let the old energy out.

Tip: You can work through this together.

LEO: What’s your love language, Leo? How do you become your beloved feel cared for? Today, you’re being asked to go the extra mile. Come home early from work and cook their favourite meal, or surprise them in the middle of the day with flowers. It’s the small things that make a big difference, Leo. The cards are also indicating pregnancy or motherhood (if that’s something you desire). Talk to your beloved about the children you

want to raise together.

Tip: Go the extra mile for the one(s) you love.

VIRGO: Virgo, is the fight is as big a deal as you have made it out to be in your head? Do you really want to hold on to the resentment that is in turn blocking the stream of creativity and consciousness? Sometimes, you just have to overlook the small things. Words of wisdom courtesy Calvin (of Calvin and Hobbes, duh!) to change your perspective: “If people sat outside and looked at the stars each night, I bet they’d live a lot differently.

Tip: Go outside and look at the stars tonight.

LIBRA: ‘What’s the rush?’, ‘Where is everybody going to?’, you wonder as you sip on lavender kombucha and pore over your favourite book. Everything is exactly the way it should be. You are blessed with love and abundance. Your dreams and desires are taking a tangible form. Librans who have been together for a while, this day brings with itself the affirmation that the foundation you have built is strong.

Tip: Bliss is on the cards.

SCORPIO: Daily reminder, Scorpio:

we are in retrograde season. Each of us is dealing with our personal demons. Instead of taking the words or actions of another to heart, understand where they are coming from. There’s a good chance they acted from a space of unawareness and will come back to their senses soon.

Tip: Set a few hours aside to do nothing at all.

SAGITTARIUS: What a wonderful feeling to be on the same page about the future of your relationship! Things are progressing in the right direction, and beautifully so. You are more in love than you have ever been before. Celebrate the cosmic connection you share, Sagittarius. But this day isn’t just about your romantic partnerships. Your friendships are important too. A night of wining and dining with the best friend promises to lift your spirits up.

Tip: You and your partner are on the same page.

CAPRICORN: Words to live by courtesy John Lennon: “It matters not who you love, where you love, why you love, when you love or how you love; it matters only that you love.” Capricorn, love fully and with all

your heart. Love deeply without the expectation of receiving anything in return. This is what unconditional love looks like, wild one. Tip: You are reaping the rewards of the life you have so painstakingly built.

AQUARIUS: Aquarians who’ve been committed to each other for a while could find themselves progressing towards marriage. But is this decision yours? Or are you trying to please other people? The only thing you want to keep in mind right now: doing the right thing for the right reasons. Feeling unsure?

Tip: Take your own feelings into consideration before you commit to anything.

PISCES: Sometimes, we’re so stuck on the past failures that we forget to see what the present is offering us. Where are you vibrating at, Pisces? Are you blocking yourself to love in its many forms? You don’t have to go from zero to ten if you don’t want to, but you can get to know them better. For coupled Pisceans, this is a time of love and lust. Find new ways to express your passion.

Tip: Be aware of what the present is offering you.