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# Summit **TIMES**

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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## CM's message on National Cancer Awareness Day

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 06 NOV:** On National Cancer Awareness Day observed every year on 07 Nov, Chief Minister, PS Tamang has released a message for the people of Sikkim.

The Chief Minister has appealed to everyone to unite together for a cancer-free state, by implementing awareness on prevention, early detection, and treatment of cancer.

Screening of common cancers such as Breast, Cervical, Oral are being done at the grass root level by our Health Department and Tertiary cancer centre is coming up at the new multi-specialty hospital, Sochyangang, he has added.

National Cancer Awareness Day was started in 2014 by former Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan with a vision and mission to control cancer. This day is observed to make people aware of the disease, its prevention and treatment.

According to the National Cancer Registry Programme of the India Council of Medical Research (ICMR), more than 1300 Indians die every day due to cancer.

## Angry lawyers gather outside district courts in Delhi

**NEW DELHI, NOV 6 (PTI):** Scores of angry lawyers gathered outside the district courts in Rohini and Saket on Wednesday, a day after Delhi Police personnel laid an 11-hour siege outside the Police Headquarters. TV visuals showed a man in standing on top of the high-rise court building Rohini in an apparent suicide bid.

As lawyers raised slogans, litigants could be seen standing outside the gates of the courts, waiting to enter but not being allowed to do so.

On Tuesday, the chairman of the coordination committee of All Bar Associations in Delhi had said lawyers would continue to boycott work on Wednesday, notwithstanding a Bar Council of India appeal to end their strike.

Mahavir Sharma condemned Tuesday's protest by thousands of police personnel against the alleged attack by lawyers on them and said the strike will continue till the "guilty officers" were arrested.

"The strike will continue till justice is met. Litigants will be given easy access to court but lawyers would not be appearing in hearings. Police personnel are present at courts premises tomorrow; we do not have any

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# Govt explores cable car option to decongest 'Jamtok'



**GANGTOK, 06 NOV [IPR]:** Gangtok's traffic woes have earned it the sobriquet "Jamtok". Since the conclusion of the recent by-election, the State Government has been working rigorously towards coming up with a feasible and sustainable alternative to resolve the issue on a top priority basis.

In this regard, Chief Secretary SC Gupta chaired a meeting-cum-presentation on

"Techno Economic Feasibility Study of Cable Car as Public Transport System for Gangtok" organised by the Urban Development & Housing Department in co-ordination with Urban Mass Transit Company Ltd. of New Delhi here at the Tashiling Secretariat conference hall on Tuesday.

The meeting was also attended by HoDs of various stakeholder departments all of whom

shared their views on the option of adopting cable cars to ease traffic congestion in Gangtok.

A UD&HD Department official informed that the department had engaged UMTC Ltd. in September 2016 and thereafter a UMTC team made a primary survey to project the traffic situation over the next 30 years.

He also stressed that the report [presented during the meeting] was

only preliminary data and not the detailed project report. The proposal is still at pre-feasibility stage and once the approval of the state government was obtained, a detailed DPR will be prepared.

He further informed that after holding consultation meetings, public hearings and incorporating their suggestions and inputs, the department had submitted its final report to the government

## As per the proposed cable car network planning, the activity nodes will be set up as follows:

### 1. NORTH SOUTH ALIGNMENT (ALONG NH-10)

Ranipool - Tourism Office Complex (1.76 km); Tourism Office Complex - Sikkim Manipal Hospital (0.92 km); Sikkim Manipal Hospital - Gangtok Municipal Corporation (0.62 km); Gangtok Municipal Corporation - Denzong Cinema/Supermarket (1.41 km); Denzong Cinema/Supermarket - Old STNM Hospital (0.85 km); Old STNM Hospital - Taxi Stand North District (0.95 km); Taxi Stand North District - Helipad (1.69 km); Helipad - Burtuk (1.01 km)

### 2. EAST ALIGNMENT

New Hospital at Sichey - District Center (0.38 km); District Center - Taxi Stand North District (0.68 km)

### 3. WEST ALIGNMENT

Old STNM Hospital - Chandmari Taxi Stand (1.2 km); Chandmari Taxi Stand - 2nd Mile HPC Church (1 km)

earlier this year in February for approval.

The Chief Secretary, while addressing the meeting, stated that adopting cable cars for public transport in Gangtok was being explored as one of the appropriate solutions to the capital's burgeoning traffic menace.

He said that if adopted, cable cars could become a viable long term solution and put forward the resolve of the state government to effectively decongest the roads of the state capital and mentioned that all possible op-

tions were being explored with utmost priority.

The CS maintained throughout his briefing that cable cars were being examined as one of the solutions and was not the only solution.

He mentioned that all stakeholders were tinkering with the traffic problem and asserted that a long term plan will soon be implemented by the state government.

He said that Gangtok was a hill station and all the challenges in terms of geography and limited space are being con-

sidered while devising customized solutions to solve the traffic problem for the capital.

While speaking on the possibility of adopting cable cars as a public transport, the CS stated that Gangtok was one of the pioneer cities in adopting cable cars.

He asserted that the traffic situation in the capital was alarming and that an immediate and effective long term solution should be taken up to curb this menace.

He stated that cable cars

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## CM to attend two-day Global Investors Meet



**HIMACHAL PRADESH, 06 NOV (IPR):** Chief Minister of Sikkim, PS Tamang was accorded a warm welcome at Dharamsala by the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Jai Ram Thakur who was accompanied by Health and Family Welfare Minister of HP, Vipin Singh Parmer. Mr Tamang was accompanied by Tourism and Industries Minister, BS Panth.

The CM is in Himachal Pradesh to attend the two-day Global Investors Meet which will be inaugurated by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi on 07 November.

The Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh offered a traditional cap along with the traditional pashmina shawl to Mr Tamang.

In return, the Chief Minister of Sikkim pre-

sented natural indigenous products produced by the local entrepreneurs of Sikkim.

Both CMs discussed the possibility of inviting global investors in their states, investments in tourism, green economy and environment friendly sectors.

They also discussed the developmental challenges being faced by the Hill States.

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## Sikkim Police downs Punjab Police to reach Gold Cup semis

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 06 NOV:** Sikkim Police entered the semi-final round of the ongoing 39th All India Governor's Gold Cup Football Tournament 2019 here at Paljor Stadium today downing Punjab Police 2-0 in a keenly contested quarter-final match.

Sikkim Police made an attacking start and maintained constant pressure, breaking through early in the 18th minute when Sangay C Bhutia shot true and took the local team 1-0 ahead.

With Punjab Police players putting in their best effort to bounce back into the match, the referee offered a penalty shot to Sikkim Police after a rough tackle in the D-box



area in the 41st minute.

Sikkim Police stopper, Dawa Lepcha, successfully converted the penalty kick into a goal to finish the first half 2-0 ahead.

In the second half, Punjab Police played its heart

out with an attacking game but was not able to net any goals. The home team also created some good opportunities but failed to finish and the match ended 2-0 in its favour.

Next, Sikkim premier

division club Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club will take on the current Durand Cup 2019 champion, Gokulam Football Club of Kerala in the third quarter-final match on Thursday.

## Summit Times in Nepali

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Thank You!



## SIT files 4,700-page charge sheet in Chinmayanand case

**SHAHJAHANPUR (UP), NOV 6 (PTI):** The Special Investigation Team probing sexual harassment allegations against former Union minister Swami Chinmayanand and a related extortion case filed a voluminous charge sheet on Wednesday in the two cases in a court here.

"The SIT has filed a 4,700-page charge sheet and case diary in the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Omveer Singh," Chinmayanand's lawyer Om Singh told PTI.

"We will study the charge sheet and the mobile call detail record," the lawyer said.

During the probe, the SIT recorded statements of 105 people and collected 24 physical and 55 documentary evidence.

The contents of the charge sheet were not immediately available as the probe team has to file a final report in form of an affidavit in a sealed cover in the Allahabad High Court on November 28.

Chinmayanand is lodged in the jail following the case lodged against him by the law student under section 376C of the IPC, an offence pertaining to the abuse of one's position by a person in authority to "induce

or seduce" a woman under his charge to have "sexual intercourse not amounting to the offence of rape".

The four accused in the extortion case are the woman law student who had charged Chinmayanand with sexual harassment, Sanjay, Vikram and Sachin. All of them are in jail.

IG-rank officer Naveen Arora, who is heading the SIT, had said on Tuesday that BJP leaders DPS Rathore and Ajit Singh have also been made accused in the extortion case.

Chinmayamand, the law student, and some others were also

brought to the court on Wednesday after the charge sheet was filed.

The law student and her three male friends were booked under sections 35 (criminal act done with a criminal knowledge or intention), 385 (extortion), 506 (criminal intimidation), 201 (disappearance of evidences) of the Indian Penal Code and section 67 of the Information Technology Act.

The 72-year-old Chinmayanand also faces the charges of stalking under section 354 D, wrongful confinement under section 342 and criminal intimidation under section 506 of the IPC.

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## Meeting held on State Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction

**GANGTOK, 06 Nov (IPR):** A preliminary meeting was held at the conference hall of the Social Justice and Welfare Department (SJ&WD) at Lumsey, 5th Mile today to mainly discuss the State Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (SAPDDR) (2019-2020) and related issues in the state.

The State Action Plan is being implemented by the Social Justice and Welfare Department as the Nodal Department in collaboration with other line Departments and NGOs.

The meeting was attended by Secretary, Social Justice and Welfare Department, Dhan Jyoti Mukhia, Special Secretary, (SJ&WD), Anand Pradhan, Additional Secretary, (SJ&WD), Gloria Namchu along with participants and representatives from other line departments and NGOs.

During the meeting, various activities and measures to be undertaken under the State Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction were discussed at length.

In her opening remarks, Secretary, Social Justice and Welfare Department, Dhan Jyoti Mukhia highlighted the three main components focusing on awareness generation, capacity building, rehabilitation and specific intervention in vulnerable areas to ensure drug demand reduction.

She added that involvement and proper coordination of all line departments, Government organisations in collaboration with NGOs, private institutions and private establishments would be imperative for the smooth implementation of the action plan.

Ms Mukhia also mentioned that such meetings would be conducted at regular intervals in the future to monitor effective implementation of the complete action plan.

She further suggested the constitution of steering committees headed by Nodal Officers in every line department.

Likewise, action plans for establishment of Children's Parliament, organising football tournament, creating awareness on waste management and installation of stalls during the football tournament were discussed at length.

Also, modalities for the smooth running of the upcoming Rehabilitation Home and Livelihood School at Khichudumra, South Sikkim, were adopted during the course of the meeting.

Earlier, Joint Secretary, SJ&WD, Rohini Pradhan apprised the gathering and briefly discussed the State Action Plan (2019-2020) for reducing Drug Demand in the state by creating more awareness and educating people about the ill-effects of drugs abuse on the individual, family, workplace and the society at large and integrating them back into the society.

Meanwhile, the participants from other line departments also wholly contributed in the deliberations and placed their valuable suggestions and feedback for the proper implementation of the State Action Plan discussed at large.

The preliminary meeting concluded with the offering of vote of thanks proposed by Deputy Director, SJ&WD, Tshering Dorjee Bhutia.

## North holds programme on Expansion of Childline Service



**MANGAN, 06 Nov (IPR):** A day-long programme on Expansion of Childline Service in North Sikkim was conducted here at the District Collector's Chamber, Mangan today.

The Childline Service which comes under Ministry of Women and Child Development is a telephone service where anyone can report child abuse and exploitation in the District through phone by dialing 1098.

The service works in collaboration with various Child Protection Units and NGOs in the District. DC/N, Tenzing T Kaleon said that the BDOs play an important role in the rural areas to spread awareness about children's rights against abuse and exploitation

to the general public in the district. The stakeholders present in the meeting should have a broad view and in-depth knowledge of seriousness of violation of children's rights before disseminating information about the Childline Service to the public.

Mr Kaleon directed the BDOs to spread awareness about the Childline Service during Gram Sabha meetings.

District Incharge, Childline Foundation, Mr Biswas gave a brief history on Childline Service which provides 24-hour free service for children in need of care and protection. In his power point presentation, he gave information on how the service works

in the other three districts of Sikkim.

He encouraged the stakeholders to spread awareness through rigorous outreach, door-to-door awareness programmes and skits to spread awareness of Childline service in the district to help children against exploitation and abuse.

DCPO/N, Wendy Lepcha sought support from all the stakeholders to propagate awareness on Childline Service in the District. She hoped that the NGOs and various Departments of the Government will collaborate with District Child Protection Unit for dissemination of Childline Service. Furthermore, she said that the children are

the future of our community who must be protected from abuse and exploitation at all cost.

The programme was also attended by Additional District Magistrate, North, Surat Gurung, Chief Medical Officer, North, DC Sharma, Additional Superintendent of Police, North, Mahendra Subba, District Incharge, Deputy Director, Education Department, North, Sajjan V Sebastian, Childline Foundation, Kolkata, Block Divisional Officers, CDPOs, Child Welfare Commission, North, Mingma Doma Bhutia, Head of Departments, representatives from Non-Government Organisations and Bhavisya Bharat Foundation.

## Annual School Sports Competition concludes in North



**MANGAN, 06 Nov (IPR):** Department of Sports and Youth Affairs, North District, successfully conducted the District Level Annual School Sports Competitions and talent hunt 2019-20, under-17 boys and girls here at Mangan Public Ground today.

Sr Superintendent of Police, North, Sonam Gyatso Bhutia attended the final day as the chief guest.

The sporting event was organized by the Department of Sports and Youth Affairs, Government of Sikkim. The competition features eight disciplines- Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Boxing, Football, Karate, Table Tennis

and Taekwondo.

The three-day sports competition was held under the supervision of the Deputy Director, Sports and Youth Affairs Department, North, Janim Lepcha and staffs of sports department.

Altogether there were 154 participants (boys and girls) from Junior High Secondary schools, Secondary schools and Senior Secondary schools from the district. These competitors have been drawn from all four Blocks of the District viz. i) Mangan BAC. ii) Dzongu BAC. iii) Kabi BAC. iv) Chungthang BAC.

This annual school

sports competition was held in various disciplines at different venues. On 04 Nov football was played at Mangan Public Ground, on 05 Nov Tae-Kwondo and table tennis at Mangan School Hostel and on 06 Nov Athletics at Mangan Public Ground.

Mangan Block lifted the overall championship trophy. Similarly, Dawa Sherpa from Kabi Block and Phur Lhamu Lepcha from Mangan Block bagged the Best Athlete title in boys and girls categories respectively.

All selected players will take part in the upcoming state level competition.

## Gold drops Rs 301, silver too tumbles Rs 906

**NEW DELHI, Nov 6 (PTI):** Gold dropped Rs 301 to Rs 38,870 per 10 gram in the national capital on Wednesday due to subdued global trend, according to HDFC Securities. Silver prices also witnessed correction tumbling Rs 906 to Rs 46,509 per kg from Rs 47,415 per kg in the previous trade.

On Tuesday, gold had closed at Rs 39,171 per 10 gram.

HDFC Securities Senior Analyst (Commodities) Tapan Patel said, "Spot gold prices for 24 karat in Delhi were trading lower by Rs 301 with overnight fall in global gold prices. The downside in gold prices was limited on the rupee depreciation." He further added that the spot rupee was trading 25 paise weaker against the dollar during the day.

In the global market, gold prices were trading almost flat at USD 1,486 an ounce, while silver was quoting flat at USD 17.54 per ounce.

## Govt explores...

were a modern and futuristic system of public transport and if adopted, would effectively solve the traffic problem and prove a great benefit to the people of the state.

He directed the stakeholders to take all aspects into consideration while deliberating upon this mode of transport and made several inquiries regarding safety, travel time and environment factors related to cable cars and expressed satisfaction with the study conducted by the concerned department and UMTC.

He called for co-operation and active participation of all the stakeholders to come together and deliberate and decide upon a feasible solution that would solve the traffic crisis on a long-term time frame.

A detailed review of the project was presented by Senior Manager (UMTC), Animesh Ahaskar, and UMTC Manager, Harshita Sarma, through their presentation on Techno Economic Feasibility Study of Cable Car as Public Transport System for Gangtok.

Ms. Sharma informed that UMTC was a unique joint venture of the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoH&UA) and Government of Andhra Pradesh that focuses on developing sustainable urban mobility solutions.

Stressing the focus on 'moving people and not vehicles' of the National Urban Transport Policy, 2016 and taking into consideration the population of Gangtok including tourist inflow and the unique geography of the town, Ms. Sharma said that if an initiative was not undertaken to tackle the traffic problem today, congestion will increase by 80% in the next 30 years.

She added that the key mobility concerns of the town were challenging terrain conditions, limited land availability for road network development, increasing private vehicle share, extensive dependence on taxi services, poor infrastructure and lack of parking spaces.

She stated that an organized public transport system - one that is non-road-based was the need of the hour to decongest traffic in Gangtok.

Non-road-based alternative for public transport like cable cars offer various benefits including small environmental footprint, terrain sustainability, lower implementation of time & cost, mobility & accessibility and reduction in emission of green house gases as compared to the 'do nothing' scenario.

The presentation also touched upon coverage, multimodal integration, accessibility and safety of cable car transport system.

The conceptual system length of the proposed cable car network planning rounds up to 12.42 kms with 13 conceptual stations, it was informed.

Comparative studies between Gangtok and Medellin in Columbia and La Paz in Bolivia were also discussed at the meeting as these cities share geographical and infrastructural similarities.

## Sikkim Judicial Academy hold two workshops on JJ Act

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 06 Nov:**

Sikkim Judicial Academy organised two workshops on 04 Nov, 2019. One workshop was on "Role of Child Welfare Committee, Role of Welfare Officers and Role of Special Juvenile Police Unit and NGOs" under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and Rules, a press release informs.

The Resource Person for the programme was Advocate, SS Hamal. The participants were Members of Child Welfare Committee, Officers from Social Welfare Department,



ment, Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Special Juvenile Police, District Child Protection Officers (DCPO).

The other workshop was on "Role of Child Psychologists in effective implementation of

Juvenile Justice Act." The Resource Person for the programme was Clinical Psychologist, Dr Sangila Dorjee, SAN-Ker Rehabilitation and De-addiction Centre, Shillong, Meghalaya.

The participants

## Angry lawyers...

problem with that. We want a fair investigation against Monday's incident of alleged attack on a police officer by a lawyer at Saket court.

"Despite the Delhi police being a disciplined force, they held such strong protest today. It was done to divert the attention from the actual culprits and to save their seniors who were at fault," he said.

Police protests were triggered by two attacks on their colleagues, one on Monday outside Saket District Court and another on Saturday at the Tis Hazari Courts Complex after a parking dispute between an on-duty policeman and a lawyer which led to at least 20 security personnel and several advocates being injured.

Two FIRs were registered against unidentified persons, who were seen in a video hitting a uniformed policeman on a motorcycle with his elbow and slapping him outside the Saket court.

## SIT files...

The SIT was constituted by the Uttar Pradesh government on the orders of the Supreme Court in September to investigate the charges levelled by the woman, who was then a postgraduate student at a college run by Chinmayanand's trust.

The woman went missing on August 24, a day after she posted a video on social media alleging that a "senior leader of the sant community" was harassing and threatening to kill her.

Her father had filed a complaint with the police, accusing Chinmayanand of sexually harassing her, a charge refuted by the former Union minister's lawyer who claimed it was a "conspiracy" to blackmail him.

Chinmayanand was later arrested on September 21.

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## ANYESTHI KRIYA

Anthesti Kriya of late. Kiran Rai (Shyakri) who left his heavenly body on 1st of November falls on 6th day of November 2019 at Temi bazar near Oralay homestay at Rajalim Khim.

Contact no: 9733275092, 8509758180, 7363877415



## 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



## ~ SummitTIMES ~ CLASSIFIEDS

### GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

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

### LAND FOR SALE

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

## HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

email us: news@summittimes.com

And now an exclusive park for monkeys in Karnataka

**BENGALURU, NOV 6 (PTI):** The Karnataka government has decided to develop a monkey park on 100 acres in Shivamogga district to control their menace and to protect crops in the region.

On Tuesday, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa chaired a meeting along with Ministers, Chief Secretary, forest officials, MLAs and farmer representatives from Shivamogga district regarding damage caused by wild animals to crops in the region.

Sharing details of the meeting, Tirthahalli MLA Araga Jnanendra, who hails from the region, on Wednesday said, "we had brought to the notice of the government the menace caused by wild animals by destroying our crops, and the Chief Minister has responded positively.

"In the meeting yesterday two of our demands like installation of solar fence by the government to check wild buffaloes and setting up of monkey park to stop monkeymenace were discussed.

"The government has agreed to set up a monkey park at Nagodi in Hosanagara taluk of Shivamogga in 100 acres on a pilot basis," he added.

The Chief Minister is also said to have taken forest officials to task during the meeting on Tuesday and asked them to plant fruit bearing trees in the forests.

Asking officials to prepare a report on how to set up monkey park on a pilot basis, he said if proved successful, it can be replicated in other places also.

Yediyurappa represents Shikaripura constituency in Shivamogga district, and his son B Y Raghavendra is the Member of Parliament from Shivamogga.

Jnanendra said the monkey park concept has been tested in Himachal Pradesh and Assam, and the government has agreed to send a team of forest officials, MLAs and farmer representatives to study it.

It has been decided to look at the possibilities of controlling monkey menace at the proposed park, where adequate food will be made available to them.

The Deputy Commissioner of Shivamogga has been instructed by the government to provide land for this purpose near Nagodi immediately, he said adding regarding installation of solar fence forest department officials have been asked to prepare an estimate and send it to the government.

Highlighting the "loot" caused by animals from the forest especially monkeys and wild buffaloes, Jnanendra said their numbers have increased, also forest laws have become stringent.

Vegetable crops, arecanut, pepper, banana, cardamom crops are the ones that are most affected, he said.

Governor meets Kerala delegation



**SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 06 NOV:** Governor of Sikkim, Ganga Prasad today met a 21-member group comprising of elected representatives, faculty members, local government functionaries, and support staff from Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) at Raj Bhavan.

As per a Raj Bhavan press release, the group is in Sikkim for a four-day educational tour as a part of their course module for Diploma in Gender

and Local Governance. The group was led by Research Scholar of Sikkim University, Hemant Yadav as its Gangtok Coordinator.

In his brief address to the team members, the Governor highlighted the achievements of Sikkim specially in gender equality, women's empowerment, safety and security of women, Swachhta, green initiatives, tourism and organic farming.

The Governor further stated that it's a matter of satisfaction for the State

that a developed state like Kerala is now choosing Sikkim as their destination for educational tour and are learning about organic farming, Panchayati Raj, environmental policies and social harmony.

He also urged members of the team to exchange their views and ideas with their counterparts in Sikkim in the course of their field visit and take back the good practices that Sikkim has championed in the socio economic front.

Temi Tea Mr Sikkim 2019 finalist Vikky Sharma

**NITESH R PRADHAN GANGTOK, 06 NOV:**

Vikky Sharma from Gangtok is another finalist in this year's Temi Tea Mr Sikkim 2019 Manhunt. Apart from helping in his family business, Vikky's passion in modelling has got him into the finale of this season

Why Mr. Sikkim Manhunt?

First thing's first. It's a great platform for the youth to showcase their talents and also to explore the world of opportunities. And for me, the idea of being part of this pageantry is enough to knock the doors of Temi Tea Mr. Sikkim 2019 Manhunt.

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

I am an imperfect person with lot of imperfect qualities. But being calm and pleasant has always paid off for me.

What if you win or lose the competition?

Winning, first and foremost, will make me very happy. I will take part in many pageantry shows and make proud not only my state but my country too. If I lose this competition, I will not stop here, rather, I will work harder for future competitions.

Define or tell us something about yourself?

I am Vikky Kr Sharma, resident of Gangtok. I am in my mid-twenties, we are a family of six. I have a bachelor's and master's degree in commerce. I look after the accounts in our family business.

I am a fun loving guy, who loves to dance but am not a professional dancer.



I love to cook and take care of my pet. I am a big fan of horror movies.

And, fun fact about me is, whenever I listen to energetic songs I can't control myself. **What is that one thing that can unite humanity?**

In my opinion that would be Behavioural Change. And, a compassionate attitude towards others even if they behave negatively.

Any appeal/ message?

As we all know, suicide rate in Sikkim is among the top in the country. So, as a concerned citizen of Sikkim, I would like to request the people of the state to fight against it. And say, Yes to life and No to suicide.

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

email us: news@summittimes.com

STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD SIKKIM DEPARTMENT OF FOREST AND ENVIRONMENT GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM DEORALI, GANGTOK - 737101

Ref No. 940/SPCB/276

Dated 1.11.19

NOTICE CONSENT TO ESTABLISH/OPERATE/RENEWAL

In pursuance with the order of the Hon'ble NGT in the matter of O.A No. 673/2018 dated 20/09/2018, 19/12/2018 and 08/04/2019, all states require to prepare Action Plan for rejuvenation of identified polluted river stretches.

As per the Action Plan approved by Competent Authority all units which are liable to affect the river quality requires to be regulated for rejuvenation of the identified river stretches. Further, establishment and operation of any units without consent of SPCB and inadequate treatment facility for trade effluent and emission is a violation of the statutes and results in environmental pollution.

Whereas, no person can establish or operate any enterprise, industrial units without obtaining prior Consent under the provision of Section 21 of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Section 25 of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. The unit includes any type of enterprises e.g. Health Care Facilities (Hospital, Clinics, Clinical Labs, Blood Bank etc.), Pharmaceutical Units, Fabrication Units, Vehicle Cleaning Facility (Car Spa), Automobile Workshop/Garages, Hydro-electric Projects and Industrial Units including Hotel, Resorts, Restaurant, Hot Mix Plant, Stone Crusher Plant, Slaughter Houses, Laundry and Jewellery shops etc.

Establishment and Operation of such units without Consent of the prescribed Authority i.e. SPCB-Sikkim if a criminal offence under the Environmental laws and such unit/person are liable for legal action. Hence, notice is hereby given to all to submit their application online through skocms.nic.in for obtaining Consent to Establish/ Operate as well as Renewal of Consent to Operate within 30 days from the date of this notice without fail. For further enquiry please contact the office of the State Pollution Control Board-Sikkim, Forest Secretariat, Annexe Building, 'C' Block, Deorali, Gangtok.

Sd/-

Member Secretary

R.O No. 230/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20 dated: 4.11.2019

State Pollution Control Board-Sikkim, Department of Forest & Environment Government of Sikkim.

SESA to organize INDEF Annual Council meeting

**REBYNA RANA GANGTOK, 06 Nov:**

After many years, the State Engineers' Service Association Sikkim [SESA] is organizing the annual council meeting of Indian Engineers Federation [INDEF], North Eastern Region. The event is slated to be held on 10 November at Chintan Bhawan, Gangtok.

SESA is officially affiliated to INDEF, a national organisation with 3.5 lakh engineers as



members, said SESA president, CK Basnet. He added that there are 500 engineers in SESA.

As per the event sched-

ule, there would be two sessions and the morning session will be attended by Chief Minister, PS Tamang along with other dignitaries and members. Twenty-nine delegates from Northeastern region along with INDEF chairman would also be at the function.

During the meeting, issues to be deliberated are service matter, pay scale, 7th pay commission, engineers' commission and problems faced

by engineers. A copy of the resolutions adopted in the meeting will be submitted to the Chief Minister and Chief Secretary, Government of Sikkim. A copy shall also be submitted to INDEF.

Mr. Basnet also mentioned that the Chief Minister shall be felicitated along with INDEF delegates during the function. All the state engineers right from assistant engineers to secretaries shall be attending the function.

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.	<b>A. Written Examination (150 marks) Paper - I (100 marks Duration: 2 hrs) English Language: Essay Writing, Letter writing, idioms &amp; 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</b>
2.	Peon	01	Rs.18,000/- Cell 1 level 4	Class VIII passed from a recognized school/ Board	<b>Vive Voce only.</b>

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	01	Rs. 25,400/- Cell 1 Level 9	Graduate from a recognized university & having knowledge in Computers.	<b>A. Written Examination (150 marks) Paper - I (100 marks Duration: 2 hrs) English Language: Essay Writing, Letter writing, idioms &amp; 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</b>

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.	<b>A. Written Examination (150 marks) Paper - I (100 marks Duration: 2 hrs) English Language: Essay Writing, Letter writing, idioms &amp; 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</b>
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.	<b>A. Written Examination (150 marks) Paper - I (100 marks Duration: 2 hrs) English Language: Essay Writing, Letter writing, idioms &amp; 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</b>
3	Peon	01	Rs.18,000/- Cell 1 level 4	Class VIII passed from a recognized school/ Board	<b>Vive Voce only.</b>

Conditions of eligibility

- Should have attained age of 18 years & should not 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 or 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 (Saturday).
- Candidates issued with admit card for the post of Junior Accountant shall have written examinations on 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 (Tuesday).
- Candidates issued with admit cards for the post of Data Entry Operator shall have written examination 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 (Wednesday).
- Candidates issued with admit card for the post of Lower Division Assistant shall have written examinations on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2019(Thursday).
- Viva-Voce for the post of Peon shall be held on 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Time to Change

*We gossip so that we don't have to engage*

Rumours serve only one purpose - entertainment. They titillate, scandalise, and then evaporate. In most cases, the receivers and circulators of such gossip know that no one believes the rumours and everyone partakes in it only get over the boredom with which most people appear afflicted in these lazy winter months. That said, there also appear to be a whole lot of people, who even if they don't accept rumours as true, convince themselves that there has to be a germ of truth some layers down for active imaginations to have created the dramatized versions in circulation. And then there is that whole smoke and mirrors trick that 'information' bereft of context can pull. But then again, while one can reason with the informed, there is really no defence against ignorance. Hence, at the end of the day, there is really only one way to settle a rumour - ignoring it. But while it is easy to ignore something when it is only whispered in street corners and closed circles, it becomes difficult to do so when they are palmed out and circulated in the public domain.

The drift should be obvious by now. Most rumours are brought into wider circulation by political parties, both ruling and opposition and the in-betweens, by way of press releases, public speeches, throwaway comments and wink-wink suggestions. Trolls, and the anonymity they hide behind, have now made it possible for nuance to be abandoned on "social media" and fling anything at the thousands of walls hoping that something sticks. Leaders, most of them new to the medium, make the mistake of engaging with agent provocateurs either by getting into arguments themselves, unleashing their online armies or issuing official denials and/or suffering an online meltdown themselves. The moment they do any of these, they give the faceless rumour-mongers credibility as representative voices because they receive response. Once this cycle begins, followers follow and the lines start getting blurred and suspicions start getting stronger.

Meanwhile, newspapers, by the very definition of their jobs, are required to allow space for public statements by public personalities. Unfortunately, the party affiliates who play rumours into the streets are not required to be accountable. What is worse, few demands are made of them to even be professional. Allegations are raised without even prima facie evidence and claims are made without any supporting evidence and very often condemnations issued on something that is only being gossiped. To deny them the space by way of news coverage would be unfair to the profession of journalism, but to sensationalise their statements means being even more unprofessional. It is a difficult call, but given the extremes to which claims and counter-claims swerve in the political domain, the only hope is that the readers can see through the weak fronts on their own and sift the gossip from the news.

That would be the ideal situation, but we don't live in an ideal world, do we?

The best defence against rumour-mongering would have been strong implementation of the Right to Information Act. If that were to happen, whenever people felt real fears or suspicions, they would be able to draft an application and exercise their right to information. But information by itself is worthless if the debate that follows is not intelligent, informed and coherent. Thus far, public debates have essentially been shouting matches with no heed paid to putting things in context or explaining the issues, much like the nightly TV newsroom debates. The people had to make do with slanging matches, but, if the people desire, things can be different now. They can inform themselves in advance and then hear out the politicians to decide whether their arguments and interpretations are sound or not. At the end of the day, the only weapon against rumours is the truth. Circulate it in the public domain and embarrass those who deal in rumours.

### WRITE US:

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



## EU targets fragile West African fish stocks, despite protection laws

IFESINACHI OKAFOR-YARWOOD  
[theconversation.com](http://theconversation.com)

Most of the large fishing vessels that operate in West Africa are from distant water fishing nations - such as countries in the European Union (EU) and China and Russia. To get permission to fish in West African waters they form agreements in exchange for a fee that is payable to the government.

But these agreements have been criticised for contributing to the over-exploitation of fish stocks in the region. Specifically affected are, Guinea-Bissau, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Cape Verde, Mauritania, Senegal and The Gambia.

So far, over half of the fisheries resources in waters off West Africa are already over-fished.

In our recent paper, my colleague Dyhia Belhabib and I show that the EU's agreements with West African countries continue to target fragile fish stocks. This is despite the fact that the EU is bound by policies that are meant to protect fish stocks.

EU activities alone are not to blame for over-fishing in the region. The impact of trawling by other countries, like China, is well-documented. But, through its fisheries policies, the EU has a commitment to sustainable fishing. It also continues to enter into fresh agreements with countries, despite evidence of serious population declines in the species of interest.

Marine fisheries play a significant role in the food and economic security of millions of people in West Africa. If stocks are depleted, small-scale fishers that depend on them won't be able to make a proper income and many people will lose their main source of protein. Competition for depleting resources is already leading to conflict between fishers and foreign fishing vessels.

It is crucial that these natural resources are better protected. We propose that one way to do that is for countries to renegotiate their naively low royalties with the EU. And there needs to be more investment in marine enforcement.

### WHAT WE FOUND

The original objectives of the EU's Common

Fisheries Policy was to preserve fish stocks, protect the marine environment, ensure the economic viability of European fleets and provide consumers with quality food.

In our paper we argue that the policy protects EU waters, but damages the marine environment of third countries to which it has now been extended.

We also argue that subsidies under the policy are a key driver of this over-exploitation of fisheries in third countries. For instance, these subsidies incentivise the construction of new vessels to allow boats to go farther and remain active at sea for longer, and even support the fuel costs for these more extensive activities.

And we highlight that abuse by EU vessels undermines local food security and provokes conflict with artisanal fishers. This is because demand in EU countries has led to EU vessels targeting fragile fish species such as the European anchovy, bigeye grunt, sardinellas, bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna and swordfish.

Our study used a review of existing literature and policy documents. This included an analysis of catch data between the EU and countries with whom it has fishing partnership agreements in West Africa, between 2010 and 2014.

We then cross-referenced EU catches with the exploitation status of certain species extracted from the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. The categories we used were:

- Fully exploited: this means that there's no room to catch more of that fish species,
- Over-exploited: this means that too many are being caught and that numbers will decline, and
- Depleted, which means that the number of fish stock are at the lowest they've ever been.

We found that, of the species caught by EU vessels:

- Over 20% of the species in Sao-Tome and Principe were over-exploited; 10% of the species caught in Liberia are fully exploited. In Mauritania we found that 41% of the species caught are over-exploited and 5%

are fully exploited while in Guinea-Bissau, 7% of the species are over-exploited and 21% are fully exploited.

In The Gambia, 55% of species caught are over-exploited and in Cape Verde 28% of the species caught are over-exploited. In Côte d'Ivoire, 23% of species caught are over-exploited.

We also found that the EU selectively applies regulations when it comes to preventing illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. The EU issues warnings (yellow) or a complete ban in fish trade (red) to countries that are not making their fisheries more sustainable. This is when there are inadequate local provisions, like laws and enforcement measures.

We uncovered a trend. Yellow cards are issued to countries with whom the EU have a high level of trade, and a ban to countries where it has less fishing trade.

Guinea-Bissau, for example, has not received a warning despite evidence of illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing. Its maritime enforcement agencies aren't adequately equipped to monitor the activities of vessels operating in its waters.

### MOVING FORWARD

We recommend that the EU review the implementation of the provisions of its Common Fisheries Policy, including the terms of their subsidies which have been identified as being harmful to sustainable fisheries. West African countries should also do far more to ensure that future and renewed fishing agreements are negotiated more robustly.

It is possible. For instance Guinea-Bissau was firm in its negotiations over a new agreement with the EU when its old one expired in 2017. After a year of negotiations, the EU offered a much better deal than previously proposed. In return for providing five years of access to 50 EU fishing vessels, the EU will pay Guinea Bissau €15.6 million per year. The previous agreement's rate was €9.2 million.

They were also required to put more investment into effective marine governance and enforcement.

[the writer is Graduate Teaching Assistant, King's College London]

## How to be fit in your 60s and beyond

JULIE BRODERICK  
[theconversation.com](http://theconversation.com)

Ageing is inevitable and is influenced by many things - but keeping active can slow ageing and increase life expectancy. Evidence shows that ageing alone is not a cause of major problems until you are in your mid-90s. And strength, power and muscle mass can be increased, even at this advanced age.

So here are my top exercise tips for people in their 60s and older, at different levels of fitness.

### FOR LIFETIME FITNESS FANATICS

If you fall into this group, you are in the minority. You are robust, likely to be a "super-ager" and you are doing wonderfully. You are certainly optimising your chance of living longer and ageing successfully.

Generally, this is when you reap your reward from a lifetime of keeping active. With your healthier metabolic, skeletal, cardiovascular and immune systems you can probably outperform people decades younger.

Keep up the kettlebells, spin classes, rowing, triathlons or manual work such as gardening - whatever you like to do. You can keep challenging yourself physically. Mix your routine up - a combination of aerobic and resistance work as well as an activity to challenge your balance is ideal.

Maximise health benefits by swimming outdoors and as part of a community. You might want to try sea swimming - although it's not for everybody.

But watch out for chronic overloading, that is, diversify your exercise programme by incorporating cross-training. For example, if you are a runner, incorporate cycling or swimming to avoid overloading any

part of your body.

Recovery after strenuous exercise is slower as you age and can take up to five days. So exercise smart.

### FOR THE AVERAGELY FIT

You are doing well, so keep going. Long-term consistency is the key

to do the exercise you enjoy. Try to steadily build up your level of aerobic exercise at a level where you build up a sweat and feel slightly out of breath.

Often strengthening and flexibility exercises are neglected, so try to include these type of exercises

never too late to build more physical activity into your daily life.

Even reducing time spent sitting and doing a little exercise will have major health benefits, doing any type of activity at all is better than none. Even chair-based exercises or practising sit-to-stand can be a great start.

Feeling a bit out of breath with exercise is normal and some initial aches and joint pain are fine. But if you ever feel chest pain or severe discomfort, you need to see a doctor straight away.

If you have a set-back such as a chest infection or fall which results in a hospital admission, get up and moving as soon as is safely possible. Even a few days of bed rest can result in major decreases in strength and fitness.

If you have surgery scheduled, being as active as possible before being admitted

to hospital and start moving as soon as possible afterwards will help your recovery. It may also prevent complications that could prolong your hospital stay.

If you are diagnosed with cancer, keep active, even during treatment, such as chemotherapy and radiotherapy, and during recovery. If you have other common chronic conditions, such as heart or lung disease, keep as active as your condition allows.

Just remember, whatever your state of health, it's never too late to reap the benefits of being more physically active.

[the writer is Assistant Professor, Physiotherapy, Trinity College Dublin]



for benefits. You don't necessarily have to join a gym, just keep building meaningful physical activity into your day. For example, walk briskly to the shops to get your groceries, keep up gardening and be active around your house. Even repeating simple stair climbing is a great exercise.

If you are suffering from hip or knee pain, walking may be painful, so try cycling or water-based exercise instead.

Coupling physical activity with social engagement can optimise its benefits, so try yoga or a dance class. Incorporate some outdoor exercise for an added mental health boost.

The main thing is to avoid long periods of sitting. Also, ideally, continue

where possible.

### FOR THE UNFIT OR UNWELL

You may be managing complex chronic conditions, which make it more difficult to exercise. Or it may be that exercise is not a habit for you. If you have several chronic conditions, you may need clearance from a doctor to exercise and specialised exercise advice from a physiotherapist or other exercise professional.

If you are experiencing three or more of the following: unplanned weight loss, exhaustion, slowness, weakness of grip and physical inactivity you may be considered frail, which will leave you vulnerable to even minor health stresses. But it is

# Curtains down on Guwahati international film festival

**GUWAHATI, NOV 6 (PTI):** Curtains came down on the 3rd Guwahati International Film Festival on Wednesday, in which 100 films from 65 countries were screened.

In the competition segment of the GIFF, Gajendra Ahire-directed 'Dear Molly' (Hodi) was adjudged the Best Feature Film while Arjunn Dutta received the Best Director award for 'Un-said' (Abyakto).

At the closing ceremony of the seven-day extravaganza, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award-winning actor Mohan Agashe said a film that does not force a viewer to think passes on adulterated information.

The difference between good and bad movies is that good films provide authentic information, while bad ones pass on information laced with 'masala', he said.

"Our formal education doesn't include how to see, feel and touch. The only media that teaches all of these is films.

In a country like India, a lot of people can't read and write.

For them, the only source of information is movies and their own experiences," the veteran film personality said.

The closing film of the festival was 'To The Desert' (Al Desierto) by Argentinian director Ulises Rosell.

This year, the competition segment was extended to national level after containing it for only state films in the



earlier two editions.

The Special Jury Award was given to Sumitra Bhav for Art Direction in 'Seeing' (Dithe), while Philip Sangma for his acting in 'Ma Ama' by Dominic Sangma and 'Jwlwi - The Seed' by Rajni Basumaty bagged the Jury Special Mention certificates.

European film personality Nenad Dukic was the chairman of the Jury, while the other two members were Abu Sayeed and Santwana Bardoloi.

Along with Dukic, the other dignitaries present during the Closing Ceremony included eminent cinematographer A K Bir, Argentinian Ambassador to India Daniel Chuburu and Assistant High Commissioner of Bangladesh in Guwahati Shah Mohammad Tanvir Monsur.

"I came here last year too and very impressed to see the festival growing every year. I will come next year also and hope that GIFF moves to

a bigger place," Chuburu said. Monsur said Assam and Bangladesh are two brothers, which got separated during the partition of 1947.

"We are going to be connected. Already the two prime ministers of the two countries have signed 72 agreements.

India also provided USD 8 billion line of credit to various projects in Bangladesh," he added.

For the first time, 3rd GIFF also screened short films of debut filmmakers under the competition segment.

'Aharor Duporiya' was adjudged the Best Short Film.

'This is Life' and 'Soan Papdi' were awarded the Jury Special Mention certificates.

The Jury Members of the short film segment were filmmakers Kangan Deka and Jaicheng Jai Dohutia along with audiographer Debajit Gayan. The Assam government supported festival began on October

31 with the screening of Iranian film 'Charcoal' (Komur) by renowned director Esmael Monsef.

Around 70 film personalities from India and abroad took part in the festival. Ambassadors from South Korea, Hungary, Taiwan, Trinidad and Tobago, Bolivia, Argentina and Bangladesh were also present among other diplomats.

The State Government-owned Jyoti Chitraban (Film Studio) Society organised the festival in association with the Dr Bhupen Hazarika Regional Government Film and Television Institute.

This year, Iran was the country of focus with five films, while the focus region was Latin America and Caribbean countries with seven films in the GIFF 2019.

Apart from these countries, films from Sri Lanka, Hungary, South Korea, Spain, Israel, the US, Taiwan, Italy, Iceland, China, Canada, Philippines, Bangladesh,

France, Portugal, Bhutan, Bolivia, Poland, Russia, Japan, Nepal, Germany, Belgium, Turkey, Kyrgyzstan, Indonesia, Vietnam, Qatar, Slovenia, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Syria, Denmark and Tunisia were also screened.

The film festival had a special session by Polish film director Krzysztof Zanussi and a retrospective of his movies were showcased.

The festival was divided into eight categories with the tribute section being dedicated to Mrinal Sen and Girish Karnad. The other categories included World Cinema, Indian Showcase, Competition Section, North-East Kaleidoscope, 150 years of Celebrating the Mahatma and Indian Panorama.

An important feature of the festival was Open Forum sessions on topics related to films and the region as well as Master Classes by film personalities in their respective fields.

## Depression over Bay of Bengal turns into deep depression

**BHUBANESWAR, NOV 6 (PTI):** The depression over the Bay of Bengal has turned into a deep depression on Wednesday and is set to intensify into a cyclone, an IMD official said.

As it is likely to trigger widespread rainfall, the Odisha government has already put 15 of the state's 30 districts on alert asking them to remain prepared for possible flood-like situation and waterlogging, a state government official said.

The deep depression lay centred over east-central and adjacent south-east Bay of Bengal, about 810 km south-southeast of Paradip in Odisha and 920 km south-southeast of Sagar Islands in West Bengal.

The system was around 960 km south-southwest of Khepupara in Bangladesh, said Director of Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre, HR Biswas.

"It is likely to intensify into a cyclonic storm during the next 24 hours and move west-northwestwards for some more time," he said.

Thereafter, it is likely to move north-northwestwards, towards West Bengal and adjoining north Odisha and Bangladesh coasts, Biswas said.

According to IMD Director General Mrutyun-

jay Mohapatra, chances of the cyclonic storm hitting the Odisha coast are very low. The system is being closely monitored to ascertain the exact direction the cyclonic storm will take and possible location of its landfall, he said.

With IMD predicting widespread rainfall, Odisha government on Tuesday alerted the administration in several districts asking them to remain prepared.

"We have put 15 of the state's 30 districts on alert in view of the possible heavy rain," Special Relief Commissioner (SRC), P K Jena had said.

The likelihood of a cyclonic storm in the region comes barely six months after cyclone Fani devastated coastal Odisha on May 3, claiming around 64 lives.

The cyclone warning also comes a fortnight after six people were killed in rains that battered Odisha under the impact of a low-pressure area.

Biswas said, light to moderate rainfall is likely to lash most places over the north coastal districts of Odisha from November 9 and 10.

In West Bengal, light to moderate rainfall at most places and heavy rain at isolated locations might occur over the coastal districts on No-

vember 10 and 11, the IMD said.

Under its impact, squally winds with 40-50 kmph speed and gusting up to 60 kmph is likely to prevail over northwest Bay of Bengal off Odisha-West Bengal coasts from the evening of November 8, and gradually increase thereafter, it said.

Sea condition will be very rough over east-central Bay of Bengal till Thursday evening and become very high to phenomenal thereafter over central and adjoining northwest Bay of Bengal, it said in a bulletin.

Fishermen have been advised not to venture into the sea along and off Odisha-West Bengal coasts from November 8 onwards, it said.

The Odisha districts which were put on alert are: Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Ganjam, Puri, Gajapati, Koraput, Rayagada, Nabarangpur, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Boudh, Nuapada and Malkangiri.

The state government has taken all precautionary measures to deal with any situation, the SRC said.

The Agriculture Department has also asked farmers to take appropriate safeguards in time to save their crops, harvested paddy and vegetables.

## Not at war with West Bengal government: Guv



**KOLKATA, NOV 6 (PTI):** West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Wednesday said he is "not at war" with the state government and that his objective is to serve the people.

Dhankhar, who has been at loggerheads with the West Bengal government over several issues, also said universities in the state are not allowed to function the way they should.

"Let me say, I am not at war with the state government. I have come here to serve the people of the state," the governor said at an MCCI education forum here.

Dhankhar said that as a chancellor of universities, he has been witness to several developments that could grab headlines.

"If I start to narrate all of them, it will scream the newspaper headlines the next day... As chancellor, what we see is that we don't allow universities to function as they are supposed to.

"The all-pervading question which arises is who is the greater boss,

the chancellor or the state?" he said.

Dhankhar said he has tried to ascertain the role of both the chancellor and the state government in the functioning of universities.

"What I found is that both have little roles. So in such a case, we must cooperate and not compete as to who is the bigger boss," he said.

Dhankhar also said that the 50th Conference of Governors will be held soon. "I have written to the state government that if it wishes to flag any issue, I will be glad to raise it at the conference," he said.

The 49th Governors' Conference was held in New Delhi in 2018.

Dhankhar has been locked in a war of words with the state government over a number of issues -- ranging from his seating at the Durga Puja carnival to comments on his security -- since he rushed to Jadavpur University on September 19 to 'rescue' Union minister Babul Supriyo, who had been gheraoed by a section of its students.

## WB Heritage Commission proposes Partition Museum

**KOLKATA, NOV 6 (PTI):** The West Bengal Heritage Commission has drawn up a proposal to set up a museum dedicated to the Partition of Bengal during the bifurcation of the country, that led to migration of millions of refugees.

Headed by noted painter Suvapasanna, the commission has recently submitted a proposal to the state government to create a "compact museum" that will focus on the historical facts and the consequences of the Partition of Bengal.

The museum is proposed to be housed in the Alipore Jail, which has now been converted into a heritage building.

"We have been pondering over the idea to have a compact museum where our future generations would get to know what the partition was all about and its after effects.

"Recently we have submitted a proposal to the state government. And the government is positive about it. Let us see when the project starts," Suvapasanna told PTI.

The partition of India in 1947, that led to creation of Pakistan, involved the division of Bengal and Punjab provinces based on district-wise Hindu or Muslim majorities.

One of the most de-

fining events in the history of the subcontinent, the partition not only led to violence but also recorded one of the largest mass migration in human history.

After the partition, Bengal was bifurcated into East Bengal and West Bengal. East Bengal became a part of Pakistan.

It was rechristened East Pakistan in 1956 and later became an independent nation of Bangladesh after the Bangladesh Liberation War of 1971.

While elaborating the idea for setting up such a museum, Suvapasanna said, it is a necessity under the present circumstances to keep the history of West Bengal documented.

"In the proposed museum, we will have documents, articles, documentaries and films on the partition which will elaborate the reasons and the after effects of one of the darkest chapters of the Indian subcontinent," he said.

When asked whether the idea of the Partition Museum had anything to do with the clamour for NRC in West Bengal, as voiced by the BJP, Suvapasanna replied in the negative.

"The National Register of Citizens (NRC) is a proposal of a particular party which is in power at the Centre. Parties

will come to power and go, and so proposals will also keep changing. But this museum is about documenting the history for our future generations," he said.

A senior Trinamool Congress leader, who did not wish to be named, said that apart from projecting historical facts, the museum will highlight the pangs of the refugees who moved to India during 1946-47.

"We have been saying that West Bengal had experienced a deep scar during partition and refugee crisis, be it during 1947 or the Bangladesh Liberation War.

"We have seen how people from that side of the border came to this part of the country after losing everything. The NRC that the BJP is taking about is a plan to make Bengalis refugees in their own country again," the TMC leader said.

The NRC, which aims at weeding out Bangladeshi infiltrators, has been the latest flash point between the TMC and the BJP in the state.

The publication of the final NRC list in Assam, which left out over 19.6 lakh people - of whom around 12 lakh are Hindus and Bengali Hindus - has changed the political narrative in the state to a great extent, with the TMC appearing to have an advantage over the BJP.

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**IIMK sets to remodel Kerala's all-women 'mahila mall'**

**KOZHIKODE, Nov 6 (PTI):** Kerala's all-women 'Mahila Mall', touted to be the first such initiative in the country, is all set to be more professional as the Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode (IIMK) has stepped in to overhaul its marketing model. An ambitious initiative of the state's women self-help group 'Kudumbashree', the Kozhikode-based 'mahila mall' houses a series of shops run by women entrepreneurs in its five-storeyed building.

The 36,000 square feet mall boasts of branded outlets, supermarket, restaurant, boutiques, footwear shops, beauty parlours, banks, outlets for imported gadgets, handicraft, baby care, electronics and home appliances. It also houses conference rooms, training centres and underground parking facility and is stated to provide jobs to 250 women directly and 500 women indirectly, Kudumbashree officials said.

However, the women entrepreneurs who enjoy a sizeable footfall during festive season and exhibitions, are currently experiencing dwindling customer numbers in off-season, resulting in an unsteady source of income. This is resulting in a financial crunch and difficulty in paying rent, electricity bills and the salaries of the people employed in these outlets.

IIM Kozhikode, under its Social Outreach Programme, has reached out to the Unity Group of Kudumbashree in a co-ordination meeting held on Monday, to overcome this lacunae and to carry out a pro bono study of their marketing model to revamp and restructure the marketing strategy for Mahila Mall.

The project will be spearheaded by Debashis Chatterjee, Director, IIM Kozhikode and Deepa Sethi, Chairperson, International Relations and faculty in the area of Humanities and Liberal Arts in Management at IIMK and will comprise a team of six students who will take this as a live project, an IIMK press release said here. The team will furnish a detailed report with corrective measures to overcome the lean trading patch experienced by this Kudumbashree outlet.

On the initiative, Debashis Chatterjee said connections between society and educational institutions provide the best framework for inclusive growth and we all at IIM Kozhikode strongly believe in this and make constant effort to strengthen the social capital through our knowledge, expertise and skills. We would provide the road-map to sustainable business model to Mahila Mall. Excited at the prospect of teaming up with IIMK, Vijaya K, Secretary, Unity Group, Kudumbashree, said financial security is crucial to a self-help model like Kudumbashree.

It not only encourages women to participate but is also vital to offer social stability to households being run by these enterprising women entrepreneurs.

# Nicola Adams, two-time Olympic boxing champion, retires over eyesight fears

**LONDON, 06 Nov [AP]:** Nicola Adams, the two-time Olympic champion and current WBO fly-weight world champion, has announced her retirement from boxing at the age of 37. Adams penned an open letter to her local newspaper, the Yorkshire Evening Post, in which she revealed that continuing her in-ring career risked serious injury.

Adams became the first woman to win Olympic gold in her sport when she took the fly-weight title at London 2012 and successfully defended her crown in Rio four years later. She won the vacant WBO belt against Isabel Milan in 2018, less than 18 months after her first professional bout, and bows out with an unbeaten professional record of five wins and one draw.

"I'm immensely honoured to have represented our country - to win double Olympic gold medals and then the WBO championship belt is a dream come true," she wrote. "But it's not without taking its toll on my body, and aside from the expected aches and pains, I've been advised that any further impact to my eye would most likely lead to ir-



reparable damage and permanent vision loss. "It has been an honour to compete on the global stage, and it has been a privilege to fight against such remarkable athletes. Whilst I am proud of my achievements, the unwavering belief from everyone in my corner, is something I will appreciate for the rest of my life. "To my wonderful team, I would not be the fighter I am today without your encouragement and understanding -

what you have taught me goes beyond the ring. Particularly special thanks go to the wonderful Alwyn Belcher, my coach and personal mentor of many years. Hanging up my gloves was always going to be hard, but I have never felt luckier. And I'm so immensely proud of how far the sport has come." Adams took up boxing at the age of 12 after taking a class while accompanying her mother to the gym and quickly

developed a dream to win Olympic gold - an ambitious aim given female divisions would not even be contested at the games until her crowning moment in 2012. After becoming the first English woman to represent England in 2001 she went on to claim silver medals at European and World levels between 2007/08. Her fame reached new peaks with a thrilling, crowd-pleasing triumph at the London Olympics,

defeating rival and world No 1 Ren Cancan 16-7 in front of a sold out ExCel Centre. In an event littered with joyous triumphs for Team GB, hers was one of the most memorable. There were further successes at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, the European Games in Baku and the World Championships in Astana, before she beat Sarah Ourahmoune in Brazil to become the first Briton to retain an Olympic boxing title since

1924. After taking the plunge into the professional arena, Adams won each of her first four fights - including a celebratory homecoming win over Soledad del Valle Frias at Leeds' First Direct Arena. That earned her a world title shot against Millan, whom Adams defeated in a unanimous decision in Leicester. She managed one defence in September, a draw with Maria Salinas proving to be her final appearance before her decision to exit the stage.

Adams' promoter Frank Warren paid tribute to her career and believes her accomplishments will "go down in history". Writing on frankwarren.com, he said: "It was my absolute pleasure and privilege to promote the professional career of Nicola and it is just a pity that it has come to a conclusion.

"Nicola has that star quality in abundance that very few possess which will see her make a success of whatever she chooses to do. I am personally delighted that we guided Nicola to the winning of a world title and that she was able to realise that ambition in the professional ranks.

"Her accomplishments will go down in history and she will always be an icon of British sport. It is no secret that I, along with many others, once held reservations over the depth and marketability of women's boxing in this country and it was Nicola who won us all over with her Olympic exploits, her unquestionable talent and huge personality.

"She will be much missed in the sport of boxing, but will remain an inspiration to others for many generations to come."

## Frank Lampard hails Chelsea spirit after three-goal comeback against Ajax



**JACOB STEINBERG theGuardian**

Frank Lampard praised Chelsea's spirit after they fought back from 4-1 down to claim a point against Ajax and keep their hopes of reaching the last 16 of the Champions League alive on a dramatic night at Stamford Bridge.

Chelsea were outplayed for long spells by the Dutch champions and were on their way to an embarrassing home defeat midway through the second half. Ajax had taken a commanding lead thanks to strikes from Hakim Ziyech and Donny van de Beek and own-goals from Kepa Arrizabalaga and Tammy Abraham.

Yet César Azpilicueta reduced the deficit and Ajax unravelled, losing both of their centre-backs, Daley Blind and Joël Veltman, to red cards in the move that allowed Jorginho to score his second penalty of the night.

Down to nine men, Erik ten Hag's side cracked when Reece James, Chelsea's 19-year-old right-back, equalised and they were relieved when Azpilicueta had a potential winner ruled out after VAR spotted a handball by Tammy Abraham.

"For a performance like today you need characters and personalities," Lampard said. "At 3-1 down at half-time, it's easy to turn it in. Even easier at 4-1. But we never did. I keep saying it about the experienced players. Those players really pushed tonight and I loved it."

There was a mixture of relief and deflation for Lampard at the end. The draw keeps Chelsea level on points with Ajax and Valencia with two games left. Valencia, who thrashed Lille 4-1 in the group's other game, host Lampard's side later this month.

"I always felt this group was going to be tight," Chelsea's manager said. "I felt teams could take points off each other. We're in it but we certainly have work to do. We need to go to Valencia and Lille come here. Both of those are very tough matches. I felt today we could have won the game and that's with respect to Ajax because they are a top team. The performances in Lille and at Ajax should give us confidence. Valencia have had a great result tonight and that will give them confidence that they can go through."

Lampard, who lost Mason Mount to an ankle injury during the second half, was impressed with James after he brought the youngster on at half-time. "Reece is a fantastic young player and he gives what you saw," he said. "He is going to be a great player for this club."

## T20 format is one to try out emerging players: Rohit

**RAJKOT, Nov 6 (PTI):** Indian captain Rohit Sharma on Thursday said that the T20 cricket was the one where the emerging players can be tried out and he also began with it before moving to ODIs and Tests.

India has achieved less success in T20s as compared to ODIs and Tests. India last won a T20 series on home soil last year against West Indies, but after that they were beaten by Australia and later drew 1-1 with South Africa.

Even in the ongoing three-match series against Bangladesh, the hosts trail 0-1.

"This is the format where we are trying a lot of players. The key players are not involved (in this series) so we are trying the younger players who are sitting on the fringe. That is one of the reasons, because in other for-



mats we have our entire squad playing," Rohit said when asked why the Indian team was not successful in the T20s as compared to ODIs and Tests.

Rohit emphasised that the team wants to try out different players in T20 format as "they

can express themselves and get ready for ODIs and Tests." "This is the format where you can try (new players), and there is no harm in doing that. We have seen a lot of players who have emerged from this format, who have gone on to play ODI and Test formats,"

Rohit said on the eve of the second T20 International against Bangladesh here on Thursday. "We want our bench strength to be as strong as possible. This is probably the reason why you see so many new guys coming into the fray and playing," he said.

He, however, said that the priority was to win matches.

"Having said that, it does not mean that we have to not win matches. We have to win, that is the first priority. But these guys will learn from it. That is how all of us want, including myself and the other guys who started playing T20 format first and went on to play ODI and Test cricket.

"I think that is how it happens and as I said we just want our bench strength to be very, very strong. This is the format (T20) to try all these guys who are emerging," he signed off.

## AITA saying I am fired for refusing national duty is unacceptable to me: Bhupathi

**AMANPREET SINGH**

**NEW DELHI, Nov 6 (PTI):**

Mahesh Bhupathi says he does not mind being fired as the Indian Davis Cup team's captain but what is unacceptable to him is the tennis federation's allegation that he refused national duty.

Bhupathi, one of the most successful players in India's tennis history, insisted that he never made himself unavailable for the Pakistan tie, which has now been shifted out of Islamabad by the ITF due to security concerns.

The All India Tennis Association (AITA) chose former Davis Cupper Rohit Rajpal as Bhupathi's successor.

"I am not going to sit back after winning 12 Grand Slams and playing for country for 25 years to allow someone to say I am fired because I did not show up for national duty," a fuming Bhupathi told PTI in an exclusive interview. "I don't mind

being fired. They can say it's time for a new captain. But nobody can say that I refused national duty. I genuinely thought it's unsafe to travel to Pakistan which the ITF has validated. So, they are going to penalise me and players for this, it's not going to work."

Bhupathi, whose tenure as captain began in Bengaluru in April 2017 with a tie against Uzbekistan, said AITA did not have the courtesy to inform him that he won't continue as captain.

"I need some form of communication from AITA that I am not the captain anymore. I have not heard anything from them except that since Rohit is fine to travel to Islamabad and I am not, they will take him for this tie. And this was hours before the neutral venue was announced."

However, when contacted, AITA secretary general Hironmoy Chatterjee said he did

call Bhupathi to inform him about the change in captaincy. "I personally called him on the evening of November 4 to inform that we have opted for a new captain," Chatterjee claimed.

Bhupathi insisted that the communication to him was that Rajpal was being appointed just for the tie in Islamabad as he was unavailable and it was never conveyed that he was being removed for good.

"I have personally been involved with the sport at a macro level in India. Be it the Mital Champions Trust or JSW's IIS. I have raised money for Karman Kaur (Thandi), Sumit (Nagal)."

"If these guys (AITA) don't want me, I can disconnect but don't tell the country that I did not show up for national duty. That's unacceptable." Arguing his case further, Bhupathi said it defies logic that AITA first announced

him as captain for the tie against Pakistan, involved him in selection discussions followed by deliberations with the ITF before suddenly announcing his sacking.

"The easiest way to fire me was when we lost to Italy (in February this year). They could have said I did not take the team to World Group so they are firing me. Why have they fired me just before the ITF meeting? There is no logic."

When pointed out that his term got over in December 2018 and he was given an extension for the Italy tie, Bhupathi asked why AITA kept him involved in team matters even after that.

"If my term was over after Italy tie, why they called me for meetings and announced me as captain for the Pakistan tie. I was the one who convinced AITA to arrange a jet to fly to Pakistan instead of taking a flight. Today it is conve-

nient for them to tell you that my term is over.

"I am not worried about getting fired. If I am not the right man for the job, so be it. But don't take my name through the mud because I worked my whole life to get my name in tennis. I did not say I am unavailable, I said no one is comfortable going to Pakistan."

When Bhupathi's point was put across to AITA, Chatterjee said, "We have to continue with the old setup until the new captain is in place. We have now chosen the new captain."

Bhupathi feels that AITA sacked him because the body thought he was instigating the players to not to travel Pakistan.

"The way AITA has operated in the last 25 years, they want to call all the shots. They think I am rallying the players to talk in one voice, so they thought cut the head of these boys," he alleged.

# Goat farmers at climate change frontline in Argentina's wine belt

In a vast valley at the foot of the Andes, Antonio Sazo counts his goats, having ushered them down mountain slopes in the south of the Argentine province of Mendoza, where climate change forces them higher every year in order to graze.

From a third generation of goat breeders, 68-year-old Sazo has seen his herd decimated by drought in recent years. But he isn't giving up the ghost just yet. "I'll stay here with my little goats, I'll keep fighting."

Sazo and other goat breeders scattered along the Andes foothills here are on the frontline of climate change, devoid of the safety net of irrigation canals utilized by neighboring farms or by Mendoza's vineyards, where Argentina's highly prized Malbec wines are produced.

"The situation has changed a lot here. It's not what it was two years ago, when the winter was good, with more snowfall," Sazo told AFP inside his wood and adobe traditional house.

With his wife and three of his children, he ekes out a living from a herd of 300 goats in Arro Ponigue, 350 kilometers (220 miles) south of Argentina's lush wine capital Mendoza.

Here, 1,300 kilometers west of Buena Aires, farmers have seen the affects of lighter win-



ter snowfall in the austral spring, when meltwater was scarce on the slopes, lakes dried up and grassy pastures thinned out.

"Climate change has altered the entire cycle of life in the region," said Ivan Rosales, an agricultural engineer at the National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA) in San Rafael, Mendoza.

Waterflow on the mountain rivers will be 11 percent lower in 2019-20 than the previous year, and 54 percent lower than the province's historical average, according to a flow forecast by the Mendoza regional government.

"Last year, we said it was not an emergency. It was part of a pattern. The same scenarios are being repeated year after

year for the last 10 or 11 years," said Sergio Marinelli, a Mendoza state irrigation official, presenting a report in October.

"Drought, cold and wind" - The quiet drama that has decimated Sazo's herd -- recently a thousand strong -- contrasts with the robustness of Mendoza's central and northern vineyards, where sophisticated irrigation systems have helped to absorb some of the shock of climate change.

Climate warming has slowly but clearly been shrinking the glaciers along the Andean Cordillera above the valleys.

"Here we have a lot of drought. It is very cold and there's a lot of wind," said Sazo, his hands blackened from carrying pregnant goats to a cor-

ral where they will give birth to one or two kids.

But Sazo knows that the yield will be lower this year, because the animals don't give birth or stop feeding their offspring when there is a lack of pasture or water. He has seen the trend of recent years.

Goat breeders, scattered high in the valley, compete for water with bigger farms further below that use a system of irrigation canals to grow potatoes and garlic.

"Everything else is dry" - "About 5 percent of land in Mendoza is dependant on irrigation, and that's where 95 percent of the population lives," Rosales, the agricultural engineer, told AFP.

"Everything else is dry, depending on rain or

the weather cycles. All they have there is sheep, goat and horse-breeding, there is no other activity possible."

Sazo uses his herd to sustain his family. Four of his seven children have left the farm to look for work.

Rosales says the break-up of rural families is another consequence of climate change here.

Young people go to the city in search of work "but they cannot always reintegrate into another activity and end up in the slums that surround the city," he said.

In December, Sazo expects to sell his young goats that were born in October.

"But the females aren't getting fat," he said. "They are not producing milk for the kids."

# Pro-Beijing politician wounded in Hong Kong knife attack

A firebrand pro-Beijing politician in Hong Kong was wounded in a knife attack on Wednesday, the latest tit-for-tat political violence to break out in a city engulfed by months of pro-democracy protests.

Video posted online showed the moment the attack took place.

A man holding a bouquet of flowers approached Junius Ho on Wednesday morning as the politician was campaigning with party members in his constituency of Tuen Mun, a town on the outskirts of Hong Kong near the border with China.

The man gave Ho the flowers, asked to take a picture and then pulled a knife from his bag before striking his victim in the chest. Ho and his aides quickly subdued the man who could be heard shouting in Cantonese: "Junius Ho, you scum!"

Police said three people were wounded in the incident, including the attacker.

A police source, who declined to be named, told AFP that Ho received a stab wound to the left side of his chest and the attacker was arrested.

Ho, 57, was conscious when he got into the ambulance.

- **Controversial figure** - Alongside Hong

Kong's leader Carrie Lam and police chief Stephen Lo, Ho has become one of the most loathed establishment figures among democracy protesters.

He has long been one of the most stridently pro-Beijing politicians in the city.

But he shot to notoriety on 21 July after he was filmed shaking hands with a group of men in the town of Yuen Long who went on to beat protesters with sticks and poles, hospitalising 40 people.

He has delivered multiple speeches supporting Hong Kong's police force and echoing Beijing's condemnations of protesters, often using incendiary language.

Last month he accused a prominent opposition lawmaker of "eating foreign sausage" because she is married to a British journalist.

After the Yuen Long attack, Ho's office was ransacked by protesters and the graves of his parents were also vandalised.

Hong Kong has been upended by nearly five months of huge and increasingly violent protests calling for greater democratic freedoms and police accountability.

Beijing and the city's leadership have taken a hardline against the

protests, refusing concessions.

With no political solution in sight, street fights have broken out on both sides of the ideological divide with growing frequency.

Beijing supporters have attacked opponents throughout the summer, often in targeted assaults against prominent government critics and opposition politicians.

Eight pro-democracy figures have been attacked, including protest organiser Jimmy Sham who was hospitalised last month by men wielding hammers.

On Sunday, a man with a knife attacked democracy protesters including a local politician who had his ear bitten off.

But the violence is far from one-sided.

Crowds of pro-democracy protesters have also routinely beaten their ideological opponents, usually in spontaneous mob violence during rallies.

On Saturday, a man was beaten unconscious and stripped naked in the district of Mongkok.

Beijing has shown no willingness to meet demonstrators demands and activists show no sign of leaving the streets with 22 consecutive weekends of unrest.

## Khaka stripped of Arsenal captaincy

LONDON, Nov 6 (AFP): Arsenal manager Unai Emery confirmed on Tuesday that Granit Khaka has been stripped of the club captaincy after an emotional outburst towards supporters.

The Swiss international swore and threw the captain's armband to the floor after being booed as he was substituted against Crystal Palace 10 days ago.

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, who led Arsenal for Saturday's 1-1 draw at home to Wolves, will take over as captain.

Khaka was not included in the squad for the Wolves match on Wednesday's visit to Victoria Guimaraes in the Europa League.

"I was speaking with him this morning and also I decided he's not one of the captains in our group and I decided that and I told him this morning," Emery said. "He accepted my decision."

"We have now Aubameyang, Hector (Bellerin), (Alexandre) Lacazette and (Mesut) Ozil - they are the four captains, and first is now Aubameyang." "I needed to take one decision, and now it is closed," Emery added. Khaka, 27, blamed death threats to his family for his furious response, saying he had reached "boiling point".

"My feeling of not being understood by fans, and repeated abusive comments at matches and in social media over the last weeks and months have hurt me deeply," he wrote on Instagram.

## Nigerian 'sex slavery' ring goes on trial in France



Twenty-four suspected members of a sex trafficking ring accused of forcing Nigerian women into prostitution in France go on trial Wednesday, the latest case to highlight the growing use of Nigerian migrants as sex slaves in Europe.

Nigeria was the main country of origin of the migrants arriving across the Mediterranean to Italy in 2016 and 2017, though their numbers have since dropped.

Many of the arrivals were women and girls lured to Europe with false promises of jobs as hairdressers or seamstresses, only to find themselves selling sex on arrival to repay their debts.

Nigerians now outnumber Chinese or Eastern European sex workers on the streets of France and some other European countries.

Last year, 15 members of a Paris-based female-led pimping ring known as the "Authentic Sisters" were sentenced to up to 11 years in prison for forcing girls into sex slavery in France.

Many were themselves former trafficking victims-turned-perpetrators.

Similar gangs have also been dismantled in Italy and Britain.

The investigation in Lyon, where police estimate half the city's sex workers are Nigerian, began after authorities received a tip

about a Nigerian pastor accused of exploiting several sex workers who lived in apartments he owned.

The pastor, Stanley Omoriegie, has denied the charges, which include aggravated pimping and slavery.

But in the transcript of a conversation submitted to the court, he is heard saying he wanted "those with beautiful bodies, who can be controlled, not those that cause problems."

The prosecution has presented him as the kingpin of a family-based syndicate made up of 10 women and 14 men, including one of Europe's most wanted women, Jessica Edosomwan, accused of recruiting destitute women in Nigeria for the sex trade in Lyon, Nimes and Montpellier.

Edosomwan, who is believed to be on the run in the Benelux countries, Italy or Germany, will be tried in absentia.

- **From prostitution to pimping** - The UN has estimated that 80 percent of young Nigerian women arriving in Italy -- their first port of call in Europe -- are already in the clutches of prostitution networks, or quickly fall under their control.

The accused in Lyon cover the entire gamut of sex trafficking activities, from iron-fisted "madams" and violent pimps as well as drivers of the vans in which the wom-

en perform sexual acts, and those tasked with laundering the proceeds of the trafficking.

Prosecutors estimate that 17 alleged victims, aged 17 to 38, made up to 150,000 euros (\$166,000) a month for the syndicate, selling sex for as little as 10 euros.

Most of the women come from Benin City, capital of Nigeria's southern Edo State, a human trafficking hotbed with a long history of dispatching women and men to Europe to earn money to send back home.

Many told investigators they had taken part in "juju" or black magic rituals before leaving Nigeria, during which they promised to repay the money they owed for their passage to Europe.

Many of the woman took the perilous migrant trail across the Sahara Desert to Libya and then across the Mediterranean to Italy before winding up in Lyon.

Among the accused is a 28-year-old former prostitute who was herself released from sex slavery after paying off her debts and who in turn brought over another young woman from Nigeria.

Months of police wiretaps and surveillance led to the arrest of the suspects between September 2017 and January 2018.

They risk 10 years in jail if convicted.

## Scientists foresee 'untold suffering', another climate record falls

More than 11,000 scientists warned Tuesday of "untold suffering" due to global warming, even as another team said Paris carbon-cutting pledges are "too little, too late."

The European Union, meanwhile, confirmed that last month was the warmest October ever registered, fast on heels of a record September and the hottest month ever in July.

Three-quarters of national commitments under the Paris climate accord to curb greenhouse gases will not even slow the accelerating pace of global warming, according to a report from five senior scientists.

The sobering assessment came a day after President Donald Trump formally notified the United Nations of the US withdrawal from the 2015 Paris climate pact, triggering concerns of how other nations might react.

"With few exceptions, the pledges of rich, middle-income and poor nations are insufficient to address climate change," said Robert Watson, who chaired both the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the UN's science body for biodiversity. "As they stand, the pledges are far too little, too late."

In parallel, more than 11,000 scientists sounded a five-bell alarm in the peer-reviewed journal BioScience, noting that the world had failed to act on global warming despite the accumulation of evidence over 30 years.

"We declare, clearly and unequivocally, that planet Earth is facing a climate emergency," the statement said. Emis-

sions of the gases warming Earth's surface must drop 50 percent by 2030 and to "net zero" -- with no additional carbon entering the atmosphere by mid-century -- if the Paris treaty's goal of capping warming at 1.5 to 2.0 degrees Celsius is to be met, the IPCC concluded last year.

And yet 2018 saw unprecedented global carbon pollution of more than 41 billion tonnes, two percent higher than 2017, also a record year.

Global temperatures have increased 1 C above pre-industrial levels -- enough to boost the impact of deadly heatwaves, floods and superstorms -- and are on track to rise another two or three degrees by the end of the century.

"Failing to reduce emissions drastically and rapidly will result in an environmental and economic disaster," said James McCarty, a professor of oceanography at Harvard University, and co-author of the analysis of voluntary Paris pledges to reduce carbon pollution. Just over half of greenhouse gas emissions from power, industry, agriculture and deforestation -- the main drivers of global warming -- came from four nations last year: China, the United States, India and Russia.

Accounting for 13.1 percent of the total, the US has turned its back on the Paris deal.

"China and India could say 'damn it, we're going to demonstrate to the world that we are climate leaders,'" Watson told AFP.

- EU gets passing marks - "Or they could say 'if

the US is not going to do it, we're not going to either.' It could go either way." China has said it will lower carbon intensity and peak emissions by about 2030.

But the size and staggering growth of its economy will likely overwhelm such marginal improvements, the scientists said.

At 29 percent of the global total, China alone pumps out more CO2 than the next three nations combined, though about 13 percent of those emissions are generated by exports destined for rich nations, recent research has shown.

India, which is ramping up both renewable energy and carbon-intensive coal-fired power, accounted for seven percent in 2018, and Russia -- which has made no pledge at all -- added 4.6 percent. The efforts of the world's top four emitters was deemed "insufficient", according to the report.

All told, nearly three-quarters of 184 registered pledges were judged inadequate to stop climate change from continuing to accelerate in the next decade.

All but a handful are unchanged since being submitted in 2015 and 2016.

Among major economic blocs, only the European Union, with its 28 member states, got a passing mark.

"The EU is clearly in the lead in trying to address the climate crisis," Watson said.

The emissions of the world's poorest nations have been and continue to be negligible, but steps must be taken today to shape their energy futures.

## An Oscars ban for a Nigerian film shows the Academy still doesn't get it on race

Excluding *Lionheart* for using English shows Africans are still expected to satisfy American ideas of authenticity.

The penny about the US's world-view dropped for me when I recently interviewed a highly educated, accomplished, politically and racially literate American. I mentioned something about the British empire and he looked at me blankly. "What is that exactly?" he asked.

This isn't a criticism of individual Americans; many British people themselves don't know their own imperial history. It's a feature of what is taught in schools and purveyed in the media, which is myopic.

But news about the 2020 Oscars this week did bring that particular exchange back to mind. The Academy was considering a Nigerian movie called *Lionheart* in its best international feature film category. I watched *Lionheart* when it came out last year, partly because of the novelty of seeing a movie from Nigeria's burgeoning Nollywood film industry on Netflix.

Directed by and starring the Nollywood titan Genevieve Nnaji, it is a captivating look at family, class, sexism, politics and the texture of life in the Niger delta. It's both very Nigerian and very relatable for audiences who know nothing about Nigeria. It's incredible that Nigeria has never had an Oscars submission before, but this is a good choice for its first. Yet *Lionheart* has just been disqualified because there is too much English in it.

In fact, *Lionheart* does feature the Igbo language, which millions of people in eastern Nigeria speak. But the film reflects the way many Nigerians – as former imperial British subjects – speak in real life. As in most of anglophone west Africa, education, politics and formal economic activity is conducted in English, which people interchange with the dozens – in Nigeria's case, hundreds – of African languages that they also speak. This is the legacy of empire. And this legacy of empire, even though they were once

part of it, is what some American institutions don't seem able to comprehend.

So the American Academy expects films competing in its "international feature film" category to emphatically not be in English. Its rules are very clear on the matter, stating that "an international film is defined as a feature-length motion picture (defined as over 40 minutes) produced outside the United

States of America with a predominantly non-English dialogue track".

But these rules have nonsensical implications. For example, the Algerian film *Papicha*, which is a favourite in the category, features a good deal of French – the language Algeria inherited from its colonisers. The message seems to be that as long as your imperial power spoke what Americans regard as a "foreign" language – in other words, anything but English – you can speak it and remain authentic. But if you share an imperial past with the US to the extent that English is your nation's lingua franca as a result, then it is somehow less authentic to speak it.



States of America with a predominantly non-English dialogue track".

It's ironic on so many levels. One of the reasons it's taken African countries so long to build modern film industries is that Britain – while also imposing the use of English – made a concerted effort to suppress them. The British saw the power of cinema as a crucial propagand-

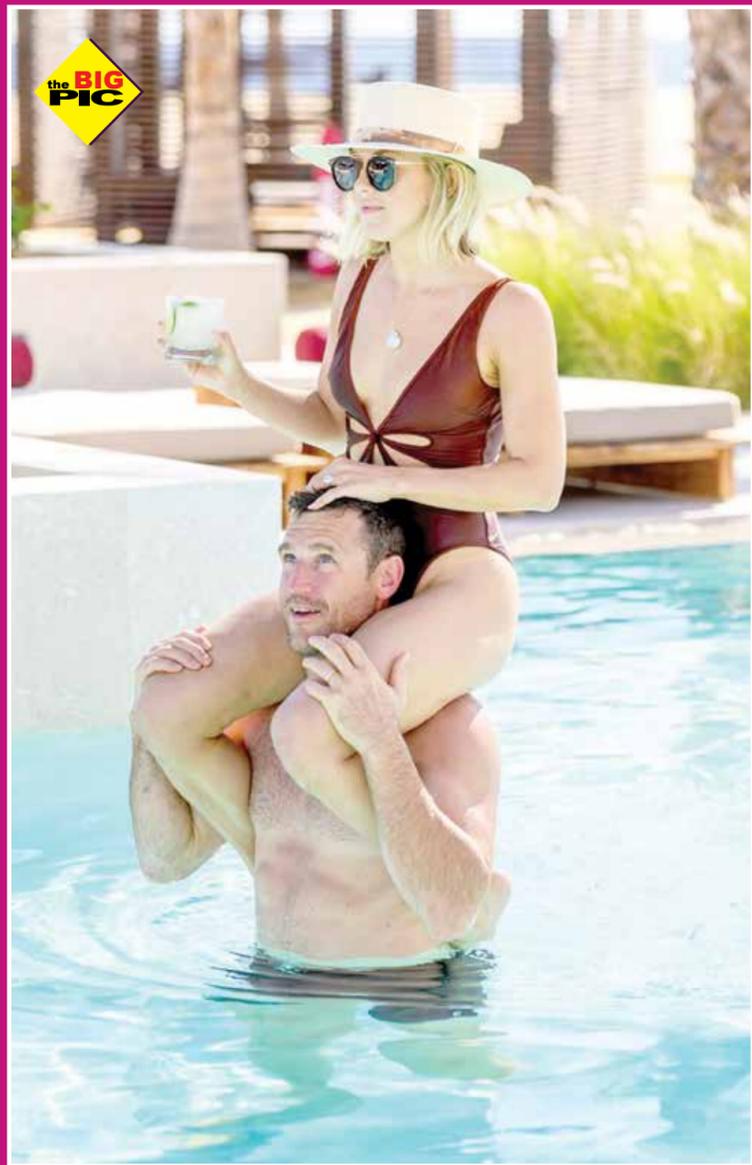
da tool for their own purposes, and consequently emphasised the importance of censoring anything that might have given Africans a sense of pride in their own history and heritage.

Now this same colonial history is being used to shut down Africans' against-the-odds achievements in doing just that.

The takeaway message from the Oscars is that Africans from parts of the

continent that were colonised by Britain must perform in an African language – regardless of how they speak naturally – in order to placate American ideas about what authentic African-ness is. It's a new kind of reverse colonialism that is breathtaking from an awards ceremony that is still supposed to be learning the lessons from #OscarsSoWhite.

The American film establishment is clearly struggling to grasp the basic idea that there are Africans who speak English. Viewers get this: Nollywood box office revenues increased by 36% last year. Streaming services get this: Netflix and China's StarTimes are among those racing to benefit from the incredible talent and energy coming out of African film industries in Nigeria and elsewhere. And international investors get this, like the French pay TV group Canal+ which has just acquired a major Nigerian studio. But the Oscars doesn't get it. Again.



**ENJOYING THAT R&R!** Couple, Julianne Hough and Brooks Laich played in the pool while they vacationed at the brand new Nobu Hotel Los Cabos in Cabo San Lucas, where they vacationed with Brooke Burke and her new beau Scott Rigsby, as well as Derek Hough and his girlfriend Hayley Erbert.

## 'Self-partnered' Emma Watson is right: we need more ways to be single

Being alone has been stigmatised by the language of it. By finding new words to describe our lives, we can find new ways to live it.

When Emma Watson described herself as "self-partnered" in an interview with British Vogue this week, the term was met with a mixture of ridicule and praise. Predictable masturbation jokes were made.

Like Gwyneth Paltrow's use of the phrase "conscious uncoupling" to describe her separation from her husband Chris Martin, or Mark Ronson's recent (albeit accidental) announcement that he was "sapiosexual" (attracted to intelligence before appearance), any deviations from the limited language we have around relationships is met with mockery.

This is a shame. We need more words, people! Being able to accurately frame our current experiences is part of being human – and we need more nuanced language to better tell our story.

We're getting better at not labelling sexuality; at accepting that it's fluid, on a continuum and sometimes hard to categorise. But as the world, its politics and the fear of impending apocalypse change how we relate to ourselves, other people and our futures, we're still stuck with outdated and limiting

language around romantic relationships – and around the lack of them.

On government forms – and in life – there are only a handful of categories available: single, married, separated, divorced or widowed. What small boxes we place ourselves into when describing something so varied, so vivid, so integral to who we are.

The words themselves come preloaded with expectations about the nature of the experience. Take "divorce", for instance: a harsh word with a lot of negative baggage. What if your experience is tender, careful, amicable and ultimately liberating? Isn't "conscious uncoupling" more apt a description?

And what if describing yourself as single is technically right, but you don't really feel single? There are so many ways of experiencing singleness – and all of them are valid.

There's being single and actively looking for a partner: asking your friends to set you up, joining a load of dating apps. Shall we call it "actively pre-partnered"?

There's being single and always wanting to be single because you love it. Let's say "committed non-committal".

Then there's being single and open to meeting someone, but not really pushing it. "Passive serendipity-seeker"?

## Book Review: 'Janis: Her Life and Music' Recovers the True Story of Rock's First Woman Superstar

New biography emphasises her musical development and offers empathetic insight into her tragic personal struggles.

It's been nearly half a century since her tragic death at 27 from an accidental heroin overdose, but Janis Joplin's life and music are still hugely resonant. In her landmark new biography, *Janis*, writer Holly George-Warren cites Pink, Amy Winehouse, Lady Gaga, and Lucinda Williams among the many artists who have been influenced by the first female rock star's courageous passion, earthy, genre-defying sound, and self-emptying vocal power. Joplin was a white kid from a small town in Texas who fell in love with the blues and went on to define the liberating spirit of San Francisco's psychedelic scene in the late Sixties, grow-

ing in leaps as an artist during her brief career, even as she fought the era's chauvinism and her own demons. "She embraced life with a joyous ferocity, though she could never escape a fundamental darkness," writes George-Warren.

Joplin grew up in Port Arthur, Texas, during the Fifties and early Sixties, a "tomboy" who ripped off her shirt to roughhouse with the neighborhood boys. Influenced by her nonconformist father, she was soon pursuing a "beatnik" lifestyle, exploring her bisexuality, and singing Bessie Smith covers for coffee-shop folk crowds. Janis teems with awestruck descriptions of her singing and the complex, often troubled person behind it. "Janis always had this thing of total insecurity and total power at the same time," recalls a

bandmate in the pioneering Bay Area blues-rock band Big Brother and the Holding Company. Big Brother's set at the Monterey Pop Festival in June 1967 made Joplin a superstar — "Haight-Ashbury's first pinup," as she dubbed herself. But by boldly putting herself out there in a male-dominated rock scene, Joplin endured sexism that now seems almost primordial: Critics commented on her weight and appearance; one Rolling Stone reviewer described her onstage as an "imperious whore." There are other even more shocking moments of physical violence, including a run-in with Jerry Lee Lewis, in which he punched Joplin, saying, "If you're gonna act like a man, I'll treat ya like one." George-Warren, a veteran journalist and longtime Rolling Stone contributor who

has written important biographies of Alex Chilton and Gene Autry, respectfully handles the gossipy side of Joplin's free-loving Sixties hedonism (fun fact: Joplin had a one-night stand with NFL great Gene Namath). The author's main focus is Joplin's increasingly ambitious music, vibrant personality, and hard emotional journey. After leaving Big Brother, Joplin patterned a mix of blues, soul, rock, and country that culminated in her classic 1971 album, *Pearl*, released just months after her death.

Throughout the book, Joplin's own voice comes alive via old interviews, accounts from friends and peers, and, most movingly, in letters to her parents in Texas, describing everything from the thrill of playing live to the process of mixing an album.

**ARIES:** Your commitment to your goals will determine the level of your success. In other words, giving your hundred per cent will bring you hundred per cent returns. The stability you are working towards is within your reach too. Remember to be consistent in your efforts.

Tip: Be committed to your goals and consistent in your efforts.

**TAURUS:** What makes the team a winning one is that each and every member brings a unique set of skills with themselves. While you enjoy letting your creative juices flow, your co-workers may excel at the practical aspects of the trade. Think collaboration over competition, Taurus. This will help you achieve the desired results sooner and make your work a lot easier.

Tip: Collaboration over competition.

**GEMINI:** There are some days when you've checked off half your to-do list before your first cup of coffee and then there are days you can barely pull yourself out of bed. Productivity is likely to be a huge challenge for you today. Ask

yourself if you are letting complacency get the better of you or that you're tired because you have been working yourself to the bone.

Tip: Reset by taking a step back from work.

**CANCER:** This conversation isn't who or what has wronged you but how you are choosing to respond to your triggers. Happiness is a choice, Cancer. So is anger, hate, sadness, and resentment. Remember you cannot control the actions of others. What you do have dominion over is yourself. Today, make a conscious effort to shift your attention

Tip: Happiness is a choice.

**LEO:** If you find yourself popping the champagne before 6pm, you know you've got your stars to blame. Wednesday promises to bring with itself the news of breakthrough, giving you a reason to start celebrating early on in the day. Remember to involve the crew as you do, so everybody feels like their contribution is being appreciated. Some of you may have been experiencing creative chemistry with a friend or loved one.

Tip: Celebrate your wins.

**VIRGO:** Virgo, you're a multitasking maven. You have more gifts than one can count on both fingers. The cards are reminding you that you are underestimating your potential by playing it small. Embrace the opportunity to break past your own limitations and tap into the dynamic force within.

Tip: Make a list of what you are good at and stick it on your work desk.

**LIBRA:** Isolating yourself is one way of dealing with the situation. Staying on the sidelines, however, gives you a better view of the entire spectacle. Actively disengage from the drama, Libra. Become an observer of your circumstances. Remember to prioritise peace and harmony above everything else. Some of you may feel like you've spent too much time being caught in the matrix.

Tip: Become an observer of your circumstances.

**SCORPIO:** A controlling or demanding boss could be the reason for the anxiety you are experiencing in this moment. Is there a way to beat him at his own game? Plan ahead and leave no stone unturned. Take this chal-

lenge as a good way to improve your management skills. In rare cases when things are starting to get borderline toxic, feel free to examine the options at your disposal.

Tip: Plan ahead.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Self discipline begins with the mastery of your thoughts, Sagittarius. If you cannot control what you think, you cannot fully control what you do. Today, you're being asked to establish structure or routine in order to inculcate the discipline you are seeking. Remember that what you put into your body also plays a vital role in shaping your thoughts

Tip: Transcend the troubles of the mind.

**CAPRICORN:** Napoleon Hill said that indecision is the seedling of fear. The fear and anxiety that you are feeling right now is stemming from a need to act, to do something, but you probably don't know what yet. Best to take things slow at this point. The incubation period is just as important. Some of you could be recovering from an illness of some sort. Be sure to give yourself the time you need to refuel.

Tip: Stay with it and trust the process.

**AQUARIUS:** Karma is the great balancer, Aquarius. If you have acted conscientiously, you will be taken care of. Already put in the work? Trust that you will receive both recognition and rewards. You're so close to fruition period. Some of you may be dealing with legal matters or paperwork. If you need an intervention, don't be afraid to approach a trusted lawyer.

Tip: The Law of Karma is working in your favour.

**PISCES:** Steve Jobs once said, "Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do." Pisces, you're making every second count by creating from a space of love and authenticity. Your passion shows in everything that you do. What this chapter of your life promises: great rewards, and not just the financial kinds.

Tip: Your commitment to your cause promises to bring great rewards.