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SummitTIMES

Vol 03 | Issue 303 | Gangtok | Wednesday | 28 November 2018

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

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**Assam girl
takes on Trump
for global
warming tweet**

GUWAHATI, NOV 27 (PTI): A teenaged girl from Assam has taken on US President Donald Trump for his tweet mocking the phenomenon of global warming.

On the mercury dropping to -2 degree celsius on November 21 in Washington, Trump had tweeted "Brutal and Extended Cold Blast could shatter ALL RECORDS Whatever happened to Global Warming?"

To it the 18-year old girl, identified as Astha Sarmah from Jorhat in Assam commented "I am 54 years younger than you."

"I just finished high school with average marks. But even I can tell you that WEATHER IS NOT CLIMATE. If you want help understanding that, I can lend you my encyclopedia from when I was in 2nd grade. It has pictures and everything."

**Tribal group
supports Cong
CM of Mizoram**

GUWAHATI, NOV 27 (PTI): A tribal organisation has appealed to Mizoram's powerful Presbyterian Church to support Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla in the Assembly election, describing him as a "prominent Christian leader" in the country.

The Kuki Organisation for Human Rights Trust (KOHRT) -- a Manipur-based organisation of the Kuki tribe -- has alleged that the current political climate was promoting religious intolerance and affecting the Christians.

In his letter to Rev. Lalrinnunga, the moderator of Mizoram synod of the Presbyterian Church of India, KOHRT chairman T Lunkim said he considered Thanhawla as a prominent Christian leader in the country.

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CM inaugurates new Pabyuik Monastery

**REBYNA RANA
GANGTOK, 27 NOV:**

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling today inaugurated the newly constructed Pabyuik Monastery at Pabyuik-Naitam under Shyari constituency.

Devotees, monks, local residents and government officials were present.

Also today, the Chief Minister sanctioned demands placed by the monks and local people. The demands sanctioned today are for courtyard fencing and beautification of Pabyuik Monastery, Rs 50lakh financial support for completion of Pema Choeling Monastery, Merung Monastery and Lower Shyari monastery.

Also sanctioned was a from Gairigolai, Rs 20 lakh for reopening of Lower Tathangchen road.

A demand was also placed seeking heritage status for the old Pabyuik monastery.

"I will write to UNESCO seeking world



heritage status for the monastery. We have previously submitted a request seeking world heritage status for Dupdi monastery as well," the CM said.

The CM mentioned that during my 32-day constituency-wise tour

of the State recently, demands were received from around 1,200 religious institutions. He informed that all these demands were have been sanctioned and cheques are currently being disbursed against the same. The CM said the pend-

ing government scholarship for school students will be disbursed in December and informed the audience that laptops will be distributed to students from classes X to XII and college students in January.

"We want our village

students to be a part of digital education and be equipped to compete in the digital world. We will also give laptops to all the SHGs of Sikkim. There are around 5,000 SHGs in Sikkim," he announced.

Keeping the focus on rural Sikkim, he in-



formed the gathering about the Janta Melas to be held in January when government assistance in the form of cows, piglets, green houses, power tillers, induction stoves, housing schemes etc will be handed over to people.

The CM also informed that a grievance redressal assistants will be appointed for every village soon, tasked with the responsibility to take note of the problems and grievances of the villagers and convey the same to the government.

"We are also appointing village police assis-

tant guards who will try to mediate smaller cases at the village-level itself and work out whether matters can be resolved at the village or a police case needs to be registered. The appointees will first be trained and then sent to the villages," he informed.

He further informed that Environment Protection Assistants will also be appointed in every village.

The Chief Minister also said that unutilized government lands should be allotted to 'Sukumbasis'

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3 Cooperative Societies awarded NCDC Regional Awards for Cooperative Excellence

GANGTOK, 27 NOV (IPR): Three Cooperative Societies of Sikkim were awarded with the NCDC Regional Awards for Cooperative Excellence and Merit -2018, at an event held at Sahakari Bhawan, Gangtok today. The programme was organized by National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) in collaboration with Cooperation Department, Government of Sikkim.

The Cooperative Societies awarded on the occasion were Nayuma Women's Cooperative Society Ltd. Gangtok Sikkim in Women's Society category, Luing Perbing Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society Ltd. East Sikkim in the Primary Agriculture Credit Society



category and Kadamtam Women's Milk Producer's Cooperative Society Ltd. Kadamtam, East Sikkim in the Dairy Sector.

The awardees were given cash prize of Rs. 25,000 with a memento and certificates, respectively.

The programme was

attended by Secretary Cooperation Department, LB Chettri, as the chief guest and had the presence and participation of Additional Registrar, Cooperation Department, Jabi Thapa, CEO Sikkim Cooperative Union (SICUN), Robin

Sewa, NCDC officials, Managing Directors of Denzong Cooperation and SISCO Bank, and officials from the Cooperation Department.

Secretary, LB Chettri in his address congratulated the awardees and thanked NCDC for

choosing Sikkim as the host State for organizing the Regional-level programme. Appreciating the efforts of NCDC and officers of Cooperative Department, Mr Chettri said that programmes such as this one would

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SDF condemns Golay's statement on One Family One Job

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 27 NOV:**

Sikkim Democratic Front has condemned the statement of Sikkim Krantikari Morcha president, PS Tamang [Golay] on 'One Family One Job' scheme of the government. The SKM president had alleged that this scheme is a lie and the government should provide regular instead of adhoc jobs under the scheme.

SDF today has said that this statement is totally false, baseless and an attempt to mislead and deceive the people. SKM has proved itself to

be anti-people and anti-youth by protesting the youth-centric programme 'One Family One Job' of the state government, the release states.

The party has said that permanent jobs are provided to candidates following proper process and this scheme is being provided on humanitarian grounds by the Chief Minister, Pawan Chamling.

The release informs that 'One Family One Job' scheme was passed in a legislators meeting and made public referring to Mr Tamang's allegation

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Dowry deaths account for substantial share of female homicides in India: Report

YOSHITA SINGH

UNITED NATIONS, NOV 27 (PTI): Dowry deaths continue to account for a substantial share of all female homicides in India despite legislation prohibiting it, according to a UN study which says the home is the most dangerous place for women around the world.

Around 87,000 women were killed around the world last year and some 50,000 - or 58 per cent - were killed at the hands of intimate partners or family members. This amounts to some six women being killed every hour by people they know, according to new research published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

In India the female homicide rate in 2016 was 2.8 per cent, higher than the rate in Kenya (2.6), Tanzania (2.5), Azerbaijan (1.8), Jordan (0.8) and Tajikistan (0.4). Further, in India 33.5 per cent of women and girls aged 15-

49 who experienced physical violence (irrespective of perpetrator) at least once in their lifetime and 18.9 per cent in the past 12 months, according to data from 1995-2013.

Dowry-related deaths in India continue to be a matter of concern. The study noted that available data on dowry-related killings from the National Crime Records Bureau indicate that female dowry deaths account for 40 to 50 per cent of all female homicides recorded annually in India, representing a stable trend over the period 1999 to 2016.

"Despite legislation adopted by the Indian Government in 1961, prohibiting the payment of dowry, the practice continues throughout the country and dowry deaths continue to account for a substantial share of all female homicides," it said.

Sorcery accusations also affect

some women living in countries in Africa, Asia and Oceania and can be the driver behind gender-related killings. Data from Papua New Guinea and India on homicide resulting from sorcery accusations show that, although in small proportions, this phenomenon still exists.

"While data are not sex disaggregated, it is likely that women account for a large share of the victims," it said.

The study, released for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, examines available homicide data to analyse the gender-related killing of women and girls, with a specific focus on intimate partner and family-related homicide and how this relates to the status and roles of women in society and the domestic sphere.

"While the vast majority of homicide victims are men, women continue

to pay the highest price as a result of gender inequality, discrimination and negative stereotypes. They are also the most likely to be killed by intimate partners and family," UNODC Executive Director Yuri Fedotov said.

"Targeted criminal justice responses are needed to prevent and end gender-related killings. UNODC is releasing this research for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women 2018 to increase understanding and inform action."

Looking at the rate of female victims of homicide by intimate partners or family members, the study found that the global rate was around 1.3 victims per 100,000 female population.

In terms of geographical distribution, Africa and the Americas are the regions where women are most at risk of being killed by intimate partners or family members.

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**CAREER COUNSELLING
and STUDY ABROAD**
with Mindscan Education, Noida

**04-06 Dec, 2018
Hotel Rendezvous, Gangtok**

Mindscan specialises in Career Counselling and offering Overseas Education guidance to students - and has helped more than 15,000 students in the past 10 years. In addition, there is a range of online programmes, which can help college students develop skills which are required by industry.

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MoS Skill Development visits Shram Bhawan

GANGTOK, 27 Nov (IPR): The Union Minister of State for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Anant K Hegde, who is on a two-day visit to Sikkim visited Shram Bhawan - the Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Department at Sokeythang, today.

The Secretary [SDED], CC Bhutia welcomed the Minister along with the department officials and faculty. Assistant Director, IBS Yadav, made a presentation on the Skill Development and Capacity Building visions, activities, schemes and results.

The agenda of the meeting was mainly the stock-taking of the available skills eco-system and addressing the challenges. Mr Hegde sug-



gested stressing on high-end skill development and stated that in order to do so, the department would receive all support from the Ministry for proper implementation of the Central Schemes.

He further proposed making communication and connectivity a priority, to take skill development to the next phase.

He then visited the Apparel Training & Design Centre [State Fund-

ed Programme] and the Hospitality Training Institute [Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna [PMKVY] CSSM] and interacted with the trainees. Upon understanding that there was 100%

job placement for these trainees, he wished them luck.

Minister then proceeded to Temi Tea Estate for site visitation and interaction with the officials there.

343 died, Rs 1,600 crore lost in HP due to rains, untimely snowfall this monsoon: CM

Shimla, Nov 27 (PTI): Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said Tuesday the state had suffered a loss of Rs 1,600 crore since July 1 this year due to monsoon rains and untimely snowfall in tribal areas that also claimed 343 lives.

The chief minister said this while presiding over the meeting of an inter-ministerial central team at Mandi, which is on a state visit to assess the damages caused to the state due to untimely snowfall and heavy rains.

Thakur said the Public Works Department (PWD) suffered major

losses due to damages to roads and bridges. The total losses on this account have been assessed at around Rs 930 crore. He said 405 incidents of landslides and 34 cloudbursts were reported in the state. The Irrigation and Public Health department suffered losses worth Rs 430 crore while damages to agriculture crops and infrastructures cost Rs 130.37 crore, he added.

The chief minister said that 343 people lost their lives due to flash floods, landslides, cloud bursts and road accidents -- all during the monsoon fury.

SDF condemns Golay's...

that the government should frame a law to give such jobs.

SKM is at a loss and is trying everything possible just to come to power, the release states.

3 Cooperative Societies...

definitely bring confidence and encouragement among the Cooperative Societies and infuse in them the zeal to work better in their respective areas.

He also talked about the responsibility of the Sector and urged everyone to focus more on up-scaling Cooperative Movement in Sikkim. He said that Cooperative Sector in the State should have a proper road map to further strengthen and institutionalize cooperative societies at the grassroots levels. He however maintained that the Cooperative sector in the State has seen visible improvement over the years.

CEO SICUN, Robin Sewa congratulated the awardees and gave a brief background of the Cooperative Movement in the State. He also briefed about the activities of SICUN.

During the programme, representatives from the award winning Societies shared their experiences and thanked NCDC, Cooperative Department and the Government of Sikkim for the recognition.

NCDC official, S. Goswami highlighted on NCDC Regional Award at each State/Union Territory and its objectives to recognize the important role played by Cooperatives for cooperative development of the country and to promote the spirit of competition amongst the grass-root level cooperatives i.e. Primary Level Societies and recognize their role in socio-economic development and to publicize the role of NCDC as a National Level Institution for Promotion and Development of Cooperatives.

National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) is a statutory corporation under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India which provides financial assistance for development of Cooperatives.

Dowry deaths account...

In Africa, the rate was around 3.1 victims per 100,000 female population, while the rate in the Americas was 1.6 victims, in Oceania 1.3 and in Asia 0.9. The lowest rate was found in Europe, with 0.7 victims per 100,000 female population.

According to the study, tangible progress in protecting and saving the lives of female victims of intimate partner/family-related homicide has not been made in recent years, despite legislation and programmes developed to eradicate violence against women.

The conclusions highlight the need for effective crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women that promote victim safety and empowerment while ensuring offender accountability. The study also calls for greater coordination between police and the justice system as well as health and social services and emphasizes the importance of involving men in the solution, including through early education.

BJP accuses SDF workers of attacking team at Taza

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 26 Nov:

A delegation of Bharatiya Janata Party Sikkim Pradesh has alleged that the ruling Sikkim Democratic Front workers attacked a team of BJP state-unit at Taza under Rhenock constituency on Monday and threatened them to immediately leave the area. However, the delegation did not listen to them and continued with its interaction programme and later reported the matter at Pakyong Police Station, informs a

BJP press release.

The release informs that a BJP state unit delegation led by the state president, DB Chauhan was on a two-day visit of Namcheybong and Rhenock constituencies in East Sikkim since Sunday. The team interacted with employees, intellectuals and people, informs a BJP press release.

During the visit, the team members apprised the people on the pro-people and welfare programmes of the BJP-led central government and

also enquired about whether the central government schemes and programmes have reached the people. The people accused the state government of partiality in the distribution of government benefits, as per the release.

The incident took place when the team reached Taza from Maming, the release informs further adding that Pakyong PS has assured to investigate the matter and to take stringent action against the people involved.

Union MoS for Skill Development on a two-day visit to Sikkim

GANGTOK, 27 Nov (IPR): Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Anant Kumar Hegde arrived in the capital last evening.

The main objective of his visit is to discuss and update the initiatives undertaken by Ministry of Skill Development, Government of India with the Chief Minister of Sikkim.

This morning, the Minister called on the Governor at Raj Bhawan, where they had a succinct talk and after that the Minister visited the

Government Fruit Preservation, Singtam. He was accompanied by the Secretary, C.C Bhutia and had an interactive session with the students and faculty. The Minister was welcomed by the faculty where he had an interactive session with the students who apprised him on their courses and skill development. A presentation on ITI Rangpo was also made and the Minister encouraged and stressed on the upscale of skills with preparedness.

The Managing Director, Pawan Awasthy gave a round of the factory and the Minister was shown around the factory where the MD explained how every product is made from organic products and packaged and manufactured. The Minister

then interacted with the staff of the factory.

After that, the Minister visited ITI, Rangpo and had an interactive session with the students and faculty. The Minister was welcomed by the faculty where he had an interactive session with the students who apprised him on their courses and skill development. A presentation on ITI Rangpo was also made and the Minister encouraged and stressed on the upscale of skills with preparedness.

Jack Ma, China's richest man, is a Communist Party member

BEIJING, Nov 27 (AFP): Jack Ma, founder of Chinese tech giant Alibaba, is among the world's richest people but he has now emerged as a member of another club: China's 89-million-strong Communist Party.

The billionaire's Communist bona fides were revealed by the People's Daily, the party's official mouthpiece, in an article praising contributors to China's development. He is not the first nor likely the last Chinese super-rich capitalist to join the party, which counts

property titan Xu Jiayin and Wanda Group founder Wang Jianlin among its billionaire members.

But Ma's membership had not been widely known until now as China's richest man had previously suggested that he preferred to stay out of politics. In Monday's article, the People's Daily said Ma was a party member who has played an important role in pushing China's Belt and Road global trade infrastructure initiative -- a pet project of President Xi Jinping.

He has also been

honoured as one of the "outstanding builders of socialism with Chinese characteristics in Zhejiang Province", where Alibaba is based, the daily said. Joining the party can be helpful to private businessmen and women in the country as they navigate a complicated business environment where the state-led economy dominates many industries and private business can be unwelcome. In China, company chiefs need the backing of the Communist Party to get rich, but they also need it to survive.

CM inaugurates new...

and if the government land is not sufficient, private land should be purchased at government rates.

"We are giving government jobs to 16,000-17,000 youths under the one family, one job scheme. The appointment orders will be given in December and they will be reporting for duty on 02 January. Those left out from the scheme, will be given jobs in the second phase in March 2019. All of them will be appointed on adhoc basis and will become regular employees after five years of service," the CM announced.

The CM also lashed out against Opposition parties and accused them of indulging in a politics of bitterness, hate and spite when what Sikkim deserves was positivity, vision and service.

The Chief Minister was also felicitated by the Duchi Committee of Pabyuk Gompa, Dharma Friends Group of Tathangchen and senior citizens from Syari Constituency. Organic produce was also offered to the Chief Minister by Pastanga Mani Lakhang.

SNPP president lashes out against State Govt on pharma companies

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 27 Nov:

Pharma companies operating in Sikkim should give medicines free of cost to Sikkimese people as part of their corporate social responsibilities since the State has not benefited from these pharma companies so far, according to Sikkim National People's Party (SNPP) president, Delay Namgyal Barfungpa.

Alleging that the state government has not been able to rein in these pharma companies, he said that the 50 pharma companies that are operating in Sikkim could easily provide free medicines for the entire population of 7 lakh Sikkimese.

Even after 24 years of governance, the SDF led government has neglected health, edu-



cation and other infrastructure sectors and remains interested only in 'Murti' politics, alleged Mr Barfungpa.

The only cardiologist of the state-run STNM Hospital has been transferred and posted to Animal Husbandry and Livestock Department which shows the importance the state government gives to the public health sector, he stated.

During the Pancha-

yat Sammelan on 23 Nov the Chief Minister said that students of government schools are not at par with those of private schools, said Mr Barfungpa and demanded that if this is the case then he should immediately sack his HRDD Minister for failing to provide quality education. It is unfortunate to hear such statements from the head of the government, he added.

Zonal meeting held for Sikkim Christmas Festival 2018



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 27 Nov

A zonal meeting of Sikkim Christmas Festival 2018 [SCF] was held today at Shiloh Christian Church in Singtam. The meeting was attended by the Pastors of 32 Churches under Singtam's jurisdiction, a press release informs.

The meeting began with a prayer by Pastor Stephen Subba of Singtam and was chaired by vice president of the organising committee, Sumati Chettri. The house discussed vari-

ous aspects of upcoming Christmas Festival, which is scheduled to be held at MG Marg, Gangtok on 22 and 23 Dec.

Chief Patron of SCF and Advisor for Food Security and Civil Supplies Department, Satish Chandra Rai, shared valuable suggestions and requested people to cooperate and make the event successful.

At the outset of the meeting, Finance coordinator of the Committee, Elijah Thatal, gave details about the present

financial situation and urged everyone to come forward to lend a helping hand for this festival, the release mentions. Pastor Ranjit Bardewa and Pastor Solomon Shankar also encouraged everyone to support the event.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks from Pastor Issac Chettri and lunch sponsored by Sumati Chettri.

The meeting was also attended by president, Pastor RK Stephen and secretary, Andrew Chettri.

Meghalaya govt rules out CBI probe into activist assault case

Shillong, Nov 27 (PTI):

Turning down the opposition's demand for a CBI probe into the recent attack on an RTI activist, Home Minister James K Sangma said Tuesday the government has decided to form a fact-finding committee to carry out an independent investigation into the incident.

RTI activist Agnes Kharshiing and her aide Amita Sangma were assaulted near a coal mining site in East Jaintia Hills district on November 8. Kharshiing, who received serious head injuries in the attack, is currently undergoing treatment at North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences here.

"I would like to state

that the government has ordered a fact-finding inquiry into the matter. I do not see the need for a CBI inquiry because an independent committee is in the process of getting instituted," Sangma told a special session of Assembly here. Former chief minister and Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, Mukul Sangma, had pitched for a probe by the central investigation agency, citing "complete lawlessness" in the coal mining belts of the state.

Congress MLA Amareen Lyngdoh, who heads the Assembly committee on women empowerment, tabled a preliminary report on the incident in the House, expressing her dissatisfaction at the pace of

progress in the case.

In the report, Lyngdoh also recommended reassessment of the compensation paid to the two victims by the district administration. Kharshiing and Sangma were paid Rs 12,700 each as compensation by the East Jaintia Hills district administration, last week. Sangma, on his part, assured the House that the inquiry will be conducted in a fair manner, free from any interference. The home minister's statement came a day after the cabinet approved an independent inquiry, likely to be headed by a retired high court judge.

He urged the lawmakers to have faith in the administration. "Six persons have been arrested till date in the case.

Tribal group supports Cong...

Thanhawla is also considered to be a conscientious and inclusive leader for all the Kuki, Chin, Mizo people across the globe, Lunkim said.

He alleged that money power was being used in the northeastern states, terming it a great shame to any state where the larger population follows Christianity."

The Kuki leader, however, did not say who was promoting religious intolerance or using money power in the northeastern region.

When contacted, state Congress spokesperson Lallian Chhunga alleged that the religious factor was a major issue in this election because of a "secret understanding" between the main opposition Mizo National Front (MNF) and the Bharatiya Janata Party.

"They (KOHT) have rightly said that Thanhawla is a good Christian leader. We can even say that the church is now supporting us at the last moment of the campaigning," Chhunga said.

Mizoram goes to polls on Wednesday.

*Gangtok on
Wednesday,
27 Nov*

Temp: 18°C/07°C
Forecast: Sunny
to partly cloudy
with a little rain in
the evening, then
a shower in spots

Sunrise: 06:05 AM
Sunset: 04:42 PM

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Health Minister inspects new facilities at Gyalshing Hospital



GYALSHING, 27 NOV [IPR]: Minister for Health Care, Human Services and Family Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim, A.K. Ghattani visited District Hos-

pital, Gyalshing, today and inspected the newly installed facilities in the laboratory.

High-tech device of Electrolyte Analyser and three Olympus Mi-

croscopes have been installed in the Hospital. Now onwards, lab investigation of ionized and total calcium can also be carried out in addition to potassium, calcium

and chloride.

The Minister also inspected the Blood Storage Centre in the Hospital which has been equipped with three Blood Counting Monitors. The Minister also took stock of the functioning of the X Ray and ultrasound machine in the Hospital.

The District Hospital is also being upgraded with the facility of lift and the installation work is under progress.

The Minister along with Chief Medical Officer, Dr Tsheten Namgyal then visited the ongoing construction of fifty-bed TB Hospital within the premises and instructed the workers to expedite the construction for early completion without compromising on the quality of work.

GPU Level training on Tracenet ID and Certification for Maneybong farmers



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 27 NOV:**

Mevedir, a service provider in collaboration with NERLEP [North East Rural Livelihood Project] organized a GPU level training on Importance of Tracenet ID & Certification on 26 Nov at Maneybong, West Sikkim, informs a press release.

The training program was conducted in the presence of Panchayat, Tuka Maya, Panchayat president, Dushan Rai and VVA from Gram Vikas Kendra, A.D. Rai. The resource persons for this training were Nar Bahadur Chettri from NERLP and Arpita Chettri from Mevedir.

The first session was chaired by Nar Baha-

dur Chettri who briefed about the importance of organic farming. He also spoke about the recent Panchayat and Farmers Sammelan held at Saramsa Garden and highlighted some of the benefits provided by Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamlung to farmers.

The next session was addressed by Arpita Chettri who informed participants about the Tracenet registration numbers which is a unique identity number allocated to each farmer in the grower group. This Tracenet number can be generated by APE-DA only when all the authentic details of the farm are provided to the service provider who

makes the entries, the release mentions.

This unique registration identification number has also become mandatory for farmers to receive any inputs from the Government for any organic related activity.

Further, it was informed that in-order to sell the organic products – all the registered farmers need to update their product details in this online traceability system so that the transactions are traceable and the buyers are also tracked by this system. The various ICS documents like Internal Inspection Checklist, the maintenance of Farmers Diary were also explained by Ms. Chettri.

Meeting discusses Republic Day celebration

GANGTOK, 26 NOV (IPR): A meeting was held in the conference hall of the Chief Secretary, A.K. Shrivastava in connection with the celebration of the upcoming Republic Day 2019. The meeting was mainly called upon by the Chief Secretary to discuss the preparation for the upcoming Republic day celebration in the state capital.

Various agendas were discussed which included major involvement from all the line departments under the Government of Sikkim. Various topics were discussed for the Republic Day celebration and the Chief Secretary asserted that all the concerned departments must come together to ensure the success of this great day.

Works were distributed amongst various

departments and various agendas were discussed in detail such as cultural programs, march pasts, displays, power and water supply, medical facilities, coordination amongst school students, refreshments etc.

Suggestions were also put forward by representatives of various Departments to ensure smooth functioning of designated works. In conclusion, the Chief Secretary urged all the Heads of Departments and concerned officers to put their best foot forward and make it a grand success.

The program was also attended by DGP, S.D.Negi, ACS to Raj Bhawan, Dr. K.Jayakumar, HODs, representatives from Army, paramilitary forces and representatives from various other departments.

Paschim Bengal Sikkim Prantiya Marwadi Yuva Manch meets



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 27 NOV:**

The second executive meeting of Paschim Bengal Sikkim Prantiya Marwadi Yuva Manch was held at Bolpur, West Bengal today, informs a press release. The meeting was attended by more than 40 convenors of different cells along with three delegates from Sikkim, PRO, Sanjay Agarwal, Mandal vice president, Ashish Agarwal and State Convener, Amita Mundra from Gangtok.

Delegates from different parts of West Bengal and Sikkim discussed the future programs of the manch and social activities to be started in the

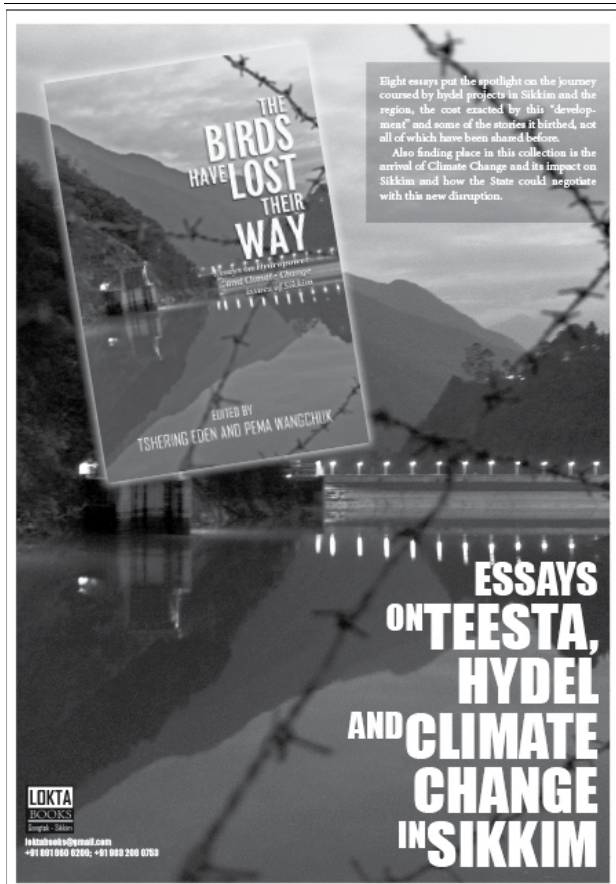
next tenure. State president for West Bengal Sikkim Prantiya Marwadi Yuva Manch, Vipul Sharma in his address mentioned that Sikkim has four branches at Rangpo, Singtam, Gangtok and Jorethang with one ladies branch at Gangtok named 'Prerna Gangtok'.

Mr Sharma appealed to all branches and delegates to attend the national conference of All India Marwadi Yuva Manch which will be held in December at Visakhapatnam. He also appealed for sending students of class XI to the youth conclave going to be held at Varanasi in January 2019, the re-

lease mentions. Former national president, Om Prakash Agarwal in his address urged everyone to work for the society, state and country.

In the program the prizes of the debate competition organized during Deepawali were presented to the winners and runners up.

Manch Directory edited by Sarad Sarawagi, Swachh Bharat booklet printed by state convener for Swachh Bharat, Manoj Agarwal, booklet printed by Sarva Siksha Abhiyaan convener, Kiran Malpani along with book by convener Dhiraj Nahar was officially released in the program.



Wandering Souls to set up library in Pacheykhani school



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 27 NOV**

Wandering Souls of Sikkim, a webzine and youth forum, formed with an objective of providing a platform for young minds is planning to set up a library at Pacheykhani Senior Secondary School on 17 Dec, a press release informs.

The initiative is a part of their NEEV: A Foundation for better future campaign. The objective of the initiative is to inculcate the habit of reading amongst students so that they can enhance their knowledge and wisdom, informs Pranay Khatiwara, Co-founder, Wandering Souls of Sikkim.

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GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT GANGTOK

No: 01/AE(E-I)EW/HRDD/GOS

Dated: 24/11/2018

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Human Resource and Development Department, Government of Sikkim, on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, invites sealed **percentage rate tender under single cover system from Class-III contractors, enlisted with Sikkim PWD within 02- West Pendam GPU**, for execution of work as detailed below:

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Cost of Bidding documents	Bid Security 2.5% of the bid value	Bid value
1	2	3	4	5
1	Construction of Hostel for Reserved Category at ATTC Bardang in East Sikkim.	Rs. 30,000/-	Rs. 3,27,115.00	Rs. 1,30,84,586.00

Calendar of Events:

1. Date of Submission of Application : 17/12/2018 (During office hours)
2. Date of issue of Challan : 18/12/2018 (During office hours)
3. Date of Issue of Tender of Tender Form and Documents : 19/12/2018 (During office hours)
4. Date of Submission of Tender : 29/12/2018 (from 11.00 a.m. to 12 noon)
5. Date of Opening of Tender : 29/12/2018 (1.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m.)
6. Place of Submission of and Opening of Tender : Panchayat Bhavan, Shyapley, 02 West Pendam, GPU, East Sikkim.

General Directions and Conditions:

- i. The bidders should apply to the Divisional Engineer (East-II), HRDD at East Division Office, Tathangchen, Gangtok in writing for issue of tender form and tender documents by submitting a copy of attested enlistment and Bank Receipt/Challan of Rs. 30,000/- under revenue head: 0202-01-101.03 other receipt.
- ii. Tender documents including tender form with quoted offer should be placed in a Sealed Cover with the name works super scribed on it. The Sealed Cover should contain the following documents:
 - a. TDR of Rs. 3,27,115.00 should be drawn in the favour Accounts Officer (Works), HRDD, Gangtok
 - b. G.S.T Registration Certificate.
 - c. Signed tender documents issued by the department.
- iii. Bidders should sign on every page of the tender documents. The rate quoted should be both in figures and words and should be inclusive of all the taxes involved. Over writing and correction should be avoided and if it occurs, it should be authenticated.
- iv. Sealed tender may be deposited in the tender box in the Panchayat Bhavan, Shyapley, 02 West Pendam GPU, East Sikkim on the date and within the time indicated above.
- vi. Incomplete/conditional tenders shall be rejected.
- vii. The department reserves right to accept or any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-

Divisional Engineer (East-II)
HRDD, Tathangchen,
Gangtok

R.O. No: 508/IPR/PIB/Classi/18-19
Date: 26/11/2018

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Needed - Rural Pragmatism, Not Urban Vainglory

Empower, for real, panchayats to shoot down superficial projects

By now, the panchayats should be rather comfortably ensconced in their posts, busy with the tasks of Panchayati Raj, and still, rather frequently, one reads of Panchayats undergoing awareness and orientation or being told what to do. They are still taken through the processes on which amendments to which Acts made their election possible, given the drill on the usual stuff about working for the people in collaboration with line departments etc etc. These are the basics that one expected the elected Panchayats to already know when they filed their nomination papers, but wait, too many of them were elected unopposed and had no need to understand either the Act or their tasks so long as they kowtowed right for the "ticket". But that we leave for another time. And that said, one still hopes that such sessions, beyond making Panchayats "aware" about how and why they are more empowered today and whether earnest plans are afoot to divest even more powers to them, also get reassured that they can call the shots and need not "obey" babus or other politicians when it comes to the affairs of the villages they represent.

The next progression should see them flex their muscles and shoot down scatter-brained projects and proposals that only somnolent bureaucrats can dream up. For instance, if a "file" was moved to invest 55% of an Innovation Fund to purchase plastic chairs and a PA system, they should be able to laugh it out of the Panchayat Bhawan. For those scoffing and claiming that such "projects" are not mooted, a quick read of the Annual Technical Inspection Report on PRIs and ULBs for the year ended 31 March 2014 by the office of the Principal Accountant General (Audit), Sikkim, is recommended. Apparently, in 2013-14, the East Zilla Panchayat blew up Rs 55 lakh (out of Rs 1 crore) towards purchase of plastic chairs and sound systems on the argument that these assets would help in "dissemination of information about welfare schemes" and would also "generate revenue" for the Gram Panchayats through rentals. The Panchayats might need plastic chairs and even sound systems, but such purchases cannot be called "innovative". Apparently, the Thirteenth Finance Commission had recommended formulation of District Innovation Fund "with a view to support and promote innovation for better alternatives, reducing costs, increasing the efficiency of capital assets, improving service delivery and governance". This Fund was expected to fill "vital gaps in public infrastructure already available in the district, which is not being fully utilised for want of a relatively small investment". So, how did they propose this one – they already had the floor space and needed chairs to fill it up for "full utilization" or that they had speeches ready, but needed a sound system to broadcast them? The guidelines suggested drawing up of an Annual Plan for utilisation of funds after carrying out Strength, Weakness, Opportunity and Threat (SWOT) analysis to "trigger innovative measures" with a view to make Government accountable and accessible to all section of the society. And they came up with this? The dodge must have been originally drafted and processed by babus not panchayats and the latter must have just fallen in line. Real empowerment will see them advise and demand better and be able to reject and amend.

There is another glaring evidence of civil works and expense-driven problem-solving superficiality. Apparently, the Rural Management & Development Department (RMDD) (through ZP, South) developed a water harvesting structure at Tamley lake in 1998-99 to provide potable water to the three villages of Mungram, Guptigaon, Sirubari and Rajarukgaon. It should come as no surprise that this project did not age too well, and in 2008, the villagers complained that water supply was poor. By Feb 2008, RMDD-Jorethang had a DPR for Rs 79.51 lakh ready to repair the water harvesting experiment. The funds were expended and work completed two years later. So, did the people go without potable water for two years? Thankfully, no. They repaired the existing pipes carrying water from a distant source. It cost them Rs 2.08 lakh to do this! Meanwhile, the Rs 79.51 lakh spent by the RMDD delivered repairs to a water harvesting structure that does not serve as a source of water to the nearby villages! The obvious need for more rural pragmatism to direct the development and investment priorities cannot be stressed more tellingly than this example.

One needs to understand that the reason the nation has empowered the rural voters is because all other attempts at fixing accountability have failed. When Panchayats decide, and if they decide from their own wits and not departmental chits, more projects will achieve fruition. When decisions are taken through informed and involved gram sabhas, then the whole village knows; when the whole village knows, the whole village watches and because it is about them and about facilities they and their children will use, they are also expected to monitor. When projects fail, the blame ends at the village boundaries and the buck can actually stop at the right door. When such accountability becomes real, the babtis will begin noticing real improvements. Urban naiveté and vainglory need to be played out of the villages and rural pragmatism allowed back in and supported to express itself more forcefully.

Trump's fascist efforts to demolish democracy

HENRY GIROUX
theconversation.com

Fascist politics is once again on the rise in the United States, Europe and Latin America. As an echo from the past, its principles and attitudes are re-emerging in a populist rhetoric that embraces extreme forms of nationalism, the cult of the leader, systemic racism, a culture of fear, a hatred of dissent and an utter disdain for the truth.

Driven by a hatred of "the other" and infused with narratives of decline and victimization, fascist politics trade in an incendiary rhetoric of fear, demonization and violence.

It creates divisions by targeting groups it defines as criminal, less than human, and then expands its hate-mongering to other groups as part of an attempt to deepen and expand a culture of terror, insecurity and disposability.

It attempts to build power through aggressive attacks on the media, critics and the judiciary.

Resentment based on real economic and existential insecurities become fodder for cult-like figures to misdirect anger, feed collective hate and foster a climate of shared fears and social divisions.

Fascist politics is inseparable from the culture of violence, which it uses as its primary tool of communication and weapon of choice.

TRUMP'S ATTACK ON THE 'OTHERS'

One recent example can be found in U.S. President Donald Trump's ongoing escalation of attacks on migrants. He has referred to the caravan of refugees from Central America as an invading criminal force against whom he is mobilizing as many as 15,000 troops, more than currently serve in Afghanistan.

According to Trump, the caravan of migrants had "violently overrun" Mexico and were on the verge of invading the United States.

Prior to the midterm elections, he called immigrants "predatory" and "the worst scum of the world." After the midterms, he ramped up the violence by authorizing "U.S. troops guarding the border against migrant caravans to use deadly force if necessary."

Trump's language does more than promote a decline in civility, it also advocates state terrorism while functioning as a savage nod to the most extremist elements of his base of support.

For instance, he has threatened to order U.S. soldiers to shoot migrants and refugees from Central America if they throw rocks at them. In addition, he has pledged to use an executive order to rewrite the U.S. constitution and annul birthright citizenship.

Trump's rhetoric and policies point to a terrifying new horizon for the political arena and its modes of governance. It shows that domestic terrorism is alive and well.

It's evident in Trump's refusal to condemn Saudi Arabia for the assassination of the journalist Jamal Khashoggi. Trump has made clear that human rights and even murder can be overlooked if dictators have money to spare in order to purchase U.S. military hardware. In the fascist playbook, commercial deals take precedent over human rights, justice, and liberty.

Trump has unleashed what Frankfurt School theorist Theodor Adorno once called an "authoritarian irrationality," the dark and menacing underside of a racist and totalitarian psychology and politics.

Trump may not be Adolf Hitler, but there are disturbing similarities in his language and reactionary policies.

RECOGNITION AND RESISTANCE

It's precisely these historical lessons that should be examined carefully so that the plague of fascism can be both recognized in its current form and resisted so that it will never happen again.

The entrepreneurs of hate are no longer con-

finied to the dustbin of history. The architects of fascist politics are with us once again, stoking dystopian fantasies in the decaying communities and landscapes produced by 40 years of a savage capitalism.

Angry loners, displaced workers and bitter nationalists looking for a place to park their misdirected anger are vulnerable to cult leaders. They've found one in Trump.

Campaigning for the midterm elections, Trump

not white enough or ethnically abhorrent to zones of terminal exclusion.

'ABOLISH DEMOCRACY'

His call to "Make America Great Again" reveals his nostalgia for a white Christian past. Allan Nairn, the award-winning investigative journalist, gets it right in arguing that Trump and the Republican Party want "to abolish democracy...because that's the only way they can perpetuate their power" and



reached for the fascist playbook and calculatedly promoted racism, hatred and ignorance in a cynical move that should send alarms ringing across the globe.

Amid an outbreak of violence that included the killings of two African-Americans in a grocery store in Kentucky, a campaign of mail bombs sent to high-profile Democrats and critical celebrities, allegedly by one of his fervent supporters, and the mass murder of 11 people in a Pittsburgh synagogue, Trump refused to acknowledge that his toxic rhetoric has fanned the flames of racism and anti-Semitism.

Instead, he blamed the media for the violence and labelled them "the true enemy of freedom."

He also called Democrats the "party of crime" determined "to unleash violent predators and ruthless killers" onto American streets.

In addition, he has ratcheted up his demonization of immigrants by branding them not only as rapists, drug dealers and criminals but also as Middle-east terrorists.

He's also publicly and proudly stated that he's a nationalist (code for a noxious strain of beliefs espoused by racists and white nationalists), emboldening right-wing extremist groups such as the Proud Boys, the American equivalent of the Nazi Brownshirts.

'WEAPONIZES LANGUAGE'

Incapable of both empathy and self-reflection, Trump uses language in the service of lies, vilification and violence.

His inflammatory rhetoric does more than legitimize and accelerate acts of violence; it weaponizes language as a tool of political opportunism without regard for the suffering and misery it inflicts on individuals and entire groups considered disposable.

He thrives in creating social divisions and merges ignorance and power to fuel conspiracy theories, eliminate the line between fact and fiction and give credence to the expanding media village of the extreme right.

Trump attempts to criminalize political opposition, maligns immigrants and others as losers and revels in his role as a national mouthpiece for white nationalists, nativists and myriad extremist groups.

He's unconcerned about the power of words to inflame, humiliate, and embolden some of his followers to violence. Instead, he displays a sadistic desire to relegate his critics and those he views as

create a form of "domestic fascism."

What's so duplicitous and dangerous about Trump is that he hides behind the institutions of representative democracy, which he attempts to destroy by stealth and through an accumulation of assaults rather than through an outright suppression of civil liberties and political rights, though that may be on the horizon.

Part of Trump's demolition of democracy is his tactic of turning his almost daily assaults into a form of political theatre. It's evident in his ongoing rallies that overflow with menace, not unlike the fascist Nuremberg rallies of the 1930s.

As the master of the spectacle, Trump normalizes through sheer repetition his ongoing attempts to fuel hatred, racial divisions and the destruction of social bonds, all of which is necessary for fascist politics to flourish.

In the Trump era, the line between deadly violence and the rhetoric of a fascist politics is dangerously thin. And as historical memory fades and civic literacy is disparaged, the rise of barbarism and brutality are on the rise.

USING LANGUAGE TO RESIST

That's why critically addressing Trump's language is a crucial act of political resistance.

Trump's hateful rhetoric also proves that education is central to politics, because it's through language and diverse forms of communication that power materializes to shape consciousness, desire, identity and values.

It's crucial therefore in the age of Trump to use the language of resistance, one that's rooted in compassion for others, expands the reach of justice and encourages us to confront the forces of tyranny.

Language is the precondition for education, and education is central to politics itself. We need a new language that both inspires and energizes people to think otherwise in order to act otherwise.

The current crisis of politics is not simply about the rise of fascist politics, it is also about the crisis of language, memory, and agency. Now is the time for individuals and social movements to give new meaning to the recognition that without an informed citizenry, democracy cannot survive and individual and collective resistance will disappear.

[the writer is Chaired professor for Scholarship in the Public Interest in the Department of English and Cultural Studies, McMaster University]

What India could learn from Ethiopia about food security

IVICA PETRIKOVA
theconversation.com

Despite India's fast economic growth and poverty reduction over the past few decades, food insecurity remains very high. This puzzle has been named the "South Asian enigma". Some indicators of food insecurity, especially child undernourishment rates, are now worse in India than in Ethiopia. This is despite the fact that Ethiopia has only a quarter of India's per capita income and has suffered many famines in the 20th century.

A comparison of how the governments of these two countries manage food insecurity suggests that the key to resolving the South Asian enigma lies in the nourishment and sanitation of children in their first 1,000 days of life – from conception to their second birthday.

SUPPORT FOR PREGNANT WOMEN

The malnutrition of Indian children often starts in the womb. Just over half of adult Indian women are iron deficient, compared with 23% of Ethiopian women. Iron deficiency in pregnancy can lead to the child having a low weight and health problems.

One reason for the difference is the lack of support for poor pregnant women in India. India's Nation-

al Food Security Act, passed in 2013, ruled that all pregnant Indian women should receive a stipend of 6,000 rupees. But the money usually manages to cover only the costs of delivery. It is also given only in a woman's first pregnancy, excluding more than half of India's annual births.

Many poor Indian women bear heavy workloads throughout their pregnancies, which compromises both their own and their unborn children's nourishment. In contrast, poor Ethiopian women receive support from the government-run Productive Safety Net Programme from the fourth month of pregnancy until their child's first birthday.

INFANT NUTRITION

As a result of the nutritional deficiencies in pregnancy, proportionally more children in India than in Ethiopia are born "very small". This difference in average weight widens with age. While 36% of Indian children under five years old are underweight, only 24% of Ethiopian children are.

Different trends in child weaning in these countries contribute to the growing gap. The World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends supplementing infants with solid or semi-solid food after six months of age when breastmilk alone no longer

meets their nutritional needs. But almost a third of Indian one-year-old children still consume only liquids.

The Ethiopian government made nutrition education for parents an important part of the latest version of their Productive Safety Net Programme. Government-funded childcare centres, called Anganwadi centres, have traditionally provided nutrition education in India but their workers, mostly women, are severely underpaid and their service consequently poor.

CLEAN INDIA

As well as unbalanced diets, children's undernourishment across the world has been increasingly linked to sanitation. Both India and Ethiopia have suffered from high rates of open defecation, associated with frequent diarrhoea and slower growth among young children.

Indian governments have tried to fight the practice by building toilets. As part of the latest Swachh Bharat (Clean India) campaign, millions of new latrines have been constructed.

But many Indian families refuse to use the toilets, often for reasons to do with caste. Sanitation work in India has traditionally been reserved for the lowest ("untouchable") caste, as a result, many people from other castes are un-

willing to clean or empty their own toilets and would rather defecate outside.

Unlike the Indian government, the Ethiopian government approached open defecation as a public health problem and focused on providing sanitation and hygiene education. The approach was widely praised by the WHO as Ethiopia reduced open defecation rates from 92% in 1990 to 29% in 2015.

India's reduction in that time frame was much smaller, from 70% to 46%. But even in the most recent sanitation campaign, India's government devoted only 1% of the campaign's budget to providing sanitation education to communities.

India sees itself as an emerging world power, but doubts about the direction of its development remain. The country's global image would undoubtedly improve if it finally managed to overcome the South Asian enigma and substantially improved its food security. Ethiopia's recent success in this respect indicates that focusing on the nutrition and sanitation of pregnant women and young children may be the most effective way forward.

[the writer is Lecturer in International Relations and Development, Royal Holloway]

Mamata flays Purulia dist officials for failing to make a single Kisan Mandi operational

KOLKATA, Nov 27 (PTI): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Tuesday flayed district officials for failing to make a single 'Kisan Mandi' fully operational in the backward district.

BJP had made a dent in Purulia in the May rural polls this year. "Tell me why not a single 'Kisan Mandi' has become fully operational in your district. What is the reason behind it?" Banerjee asked an official in an administrative meeting in Purulia district. The official replied that it was taking time to make the 'Kisan Mandis' fully operational as all the farmers do not like to come to the place for locational reasons. Besides, there are infrastructural issues.

To this Banerjee said Kisan Mandis should come up at a place which will be convenient for farmers, where they can bring the agricultural produces for sale and have facilities like cold storage.

The chief minister also expressed dissatisfaction over distribution of Kisan credit card among the people in Purulia district and said banks should be more active to facilitate it. When informed that 66,000 Kisan credit cards remained to be distributed among the poor in Purulia, she urged the official of a PSU bank present at the meeting to speed up the process.

The district official present claimed that the cards had been dispatched from their end to banks. When told by the government official that 36,000 Kisan credit cards have only been distributed so far, Banerjee asked the district magistrate to involve the district cooperative bank in the process to fast track the same.

Pointing out that a sizeable portion of farm land in Purulia is not favourable for cultivation of paddy crops, she said if such land cannot be used for alternative farming, the farmers, including tribals should be employed in 100 days' work scheme.

She expressed happiness that Purulia district had been occupying the number one position in respect of 100 days' work project for successive four years in the past and called for more involvement of people in such project. The chief minister also asked for speeding up work for the road link to the proposed place of airport at Charra in Purulia district.

"An airport is needed for better connectivity," she said and called for setting up industrial park. Told that there was possibility of drought in Purulia this year, Banerjee called for chalking out an action plan to fight the situation. She suggested appointing a nodal officer to monitor the situation in drought-prone districts like Purulia and Bankura.

Banerjee called for bringing the tribal communities more under the state-sponsored housing projects and asserted her government wanted that various social welfare schemes of the government reach a cross section of underprivileged people.

Thai princess takes tour of pilgrimage site in Tripura

KAILASAHAR/AGARTALA, Nov 27 (PTI): Thai princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn on Tuesday paid a visit to a Shaivite place of worship in Tripura's Unakoti district, about 178 km from here, amid heavy security arrangements, an official said.

Sirindhorn, who arrived in Unakoti around 11am, took a tour of the rock carvings at the eighth-century pilgrimage site, accompanied by Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb and a high-level delegation from her country, he said.

"The princess was received by MLAs Bhagaban Das and Sudhangshu Das near Unakoti, where her copter landed.

Assistant Director of Archaeological Survey of India, Sujit Nayan, guided her as she toured the rock carvings and stone idols of Raghunandan Hills," he said, Sirindhorn



left for Imphal around 4.15pm, he added.

The chief minister, after her brief meet with the princess, told reporters that she has expressed her willingness to visit 'Chhabimura and Neermahal' too.

"Sirindhorn appreciated the grandeur and artistry at Unakoti and expressed her desire to

visit other tourist places in the state such as Chhabimura and Neermahal," Deb said.

Chhabimura, on the banks of river Gomati, is a historical site with rock carvings dating back to the 11th century, while Neermahal, on Rudrasagar Lake, is the summer palace of Tripura's last Manikya king, Maharaja Bir-

bikram Kishore Manikya Bahadur. The CM also said that his government was working hard to develop the tourism prospects of the state.

"We are making all efforts to develop the tourism industry in the state. The industry got a boost with the visit of the Thai princess today (Tuesday)," he said.

HC directs Centre to release freedom fighter pension to widows

KOLKATA, Nov 27 (PTI): The Calcutta High Court Tuesday directed the Centre to release freedom fighter pension to two widows, whose husbands had fought for the right since 1981.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Debashish Kargupta and Justice Sampa Sarkar ordered the central government to start paying them pension, as admissible to widows of freedom fighters, within three months of receiving a copy of the order and to pay arrears since 1981.

It was stated before the court that Ekadashi Bhowmick and Tapan Karmakar had participated in an uprising against the British Raj from 1942 to 1943 when an independent government was established at Tamluk in undivided Midnapore district of West Bengal.

The independent government, named Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar, existed for 18 to 19 months from 1942, their lawyer Ramdulal Manna said.

The government had raised two forces - Bidyut Bahini and Bhagini Nivedita Bahini - members of which destroyed all official records of the British Raj at Tamluk.

The Government of India had introduced a Freedom Fighter Pension Scheme in 1972 for those who had an annual income of less than Rs 5,000, Manna said.

In 1981, a liberalised pension scheme 'Swatantrata Sainik Samman



Pension' was introduced, which did not impose any bar on annual income to receive the honorarium.

According to the scheme, records of incarceration or case files would act as proof, in the absence of which a certificate by another freedom fighter, whose records were approved, could also act as proof, the lawyer submitted.

The district magistrate of Midnapore had said in 1981 that no official records of the period from 1930 to 1946 were found, Manna said.

A freedom fighter, Rabindranath Giri, certified for Ekadashi in 1942-44 at Tamluk and he applied for the pension on September 29, 1981. The central government rejected the prayer of Bhowmick and Karmakar who had also applied under similar circumstances, which they

challenged before the Calcutta High Court.

Karmakar died on December 4, 1988, Manna said. In 2002, the high court directed the Centre to grant pension to Bhowmick and also to the widow of Karmakar on similar grounds.

Their applications were again rejected for erroneous documents.

This was challenged by Bhowmick and Renubala Karmakar again before the high court.

In the meantime, Bhowmick died on September 6, 2010. Bhowmick's widow Tulsi Rani and Karmakar's widow Renubala had substituted them as petitioners to fight the case.

On March 24, 2017, the high court set aside the rejection orders and directed formation of a committee comprising an official each of the central and the West Bengal government to look into the issue.

Challenging the for-

mation of the committee, Tulsi Rani and Renubala moved an appeal before the chief justice's court.

During pendency of the appeal, the committee submitted a report contending that records of the said period was available, but the names of Bhowmick and Karmakar did not appear in those. On November 11 this year, Chief Justice Kargupta directed the SP of East Midnapore district to be personally present in the court with the said records on November 27.

SP Solomon Nesa Kumar informed the court Tuesday that no official record could be found for the period from 1930 to 1946, Manna said.

Having found that the contention of the petitioners were right that the records were not available, the division bench directed the Centre to release the pensions of Bhowmick and Karmakar to their widows.

Hooghly college teachers protest against TMCP

CHINSURAH (WB), Nov 27 (PTI): Teachers of Hooghly Women's College here demonstrated at the college gate Tuesday alleging that some members of the Trinamool Chhatra Parishad (TMCP) had forcibly stopped the teachers from participating in the foundation day programme of the institution.

College Principal Seema Banerjee told reporters the teachers demonstrated outside the college main gate when they were forcibly prevented by some TMCP members from entering the insti-

tution and conducting its foundation day and prize distribution ceremony.

She said some outsiders, who were not students of the institute had been entering the campus and creating trouble for past several months in the name of TMCP.

Commissioner of Police, Chandernagore commissionerate, Ajay Kumar said the sit-in on the road, in front of the college, continued for about an hour and was later dispersed at the behest of police officers.

The teachers, however, said that the protest has not been withdrawn

and would continue till those responsible for the trouble at the college were brought to book.

Kumar said the higher education department would be informed about today's development at the college by the district administration.

A TMCP member said some of the teachers were merely enacting a drama in the name of protest and the union had expressed its resentment to invitation cards not being sent to the general students and union members by the college principal.

PM urged to take up Arunachal's issues with China at G-20

ITANAGAR, Nov 27 (PTI): Lok Sabha MP from Arunachal Pradesh Ninong Ering on Tuesday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take up several issues involving the state with Chinese President Xi Jinping during the upcoming G-20 Summit.

The next G-20 Summit would be held at Buenos Aires, Argentina, from November 30 to December 1.

In a letter to Modi, the Congress MP said the relation between India and China is critical from the view point of Arunachal as the state shares border with China.

"The issue of China providing stapled visa to the people of Arunachal Pradesh is not new and must be brought to their notice tactfully. The Government of India must assert the territorial integrity of India, and convey the feelings of the state people in a firm manner," Ering wrote in the letter.

As a policy, China is-



sues stapled visas to people of Arunachal Pradesh leading to problems for them. They were prevented from boarding China bound flights because of this.

The MP of Arunachal East constituency also drew the attention of the Prime Minister at several instances in recent time when Chinese troops have tried to enter into the state's territory and build roads.

"India must protest against such incidents and ask China to respect the sovereignty

and territorial integrity of the country for a peaceful co-existence, as envisaged in historical Panchsheel agreement," Ering said.

The Panchsheel agreement, or the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, was signed between the Tibet region of China and India in 1954.

The MP urged Modi to take up the issues with the Chinese president and stand up to the hopes and aspirations of the people of Arunachal Pradesh.

India extends USD 5 mn aid to Myanmar for border development projects

DHAKA, Nov 27 (PTI): India has extended a USD 5 million aid to Myanmar as its assistance for development projects on the Indo-Myanmar border.

India's Ambassador to Myanmar, Vikram Misri handed over a cheque of USD 5 million to Myanmar's Minister for Border Affairs, Lt General Ye Aung at a ceremony on Monday.

Under the 2012 Border Region Development agreement, Indian government is extending USD 5 million micro development assistance every year for five years for projects on India-Myanmar border.

"Friendship Project|Amb @VikramMisri

handed over US\$ 4.95 Million Ceremonial Cheque to Union Minister for Border Affairs, Lt. General Ye Aung as India's assistance to Myanmar's Border Area Development Project," Misri tweeted.

India and Myanmar signed a Memorandum of Understanding for border development in May 2012, under which India is to provide a total of USD 25 million to Myanmar, divided into five tranches of USD 5 million each.

Under the first year project plan, 21 schools, 17 health centres and eight bridges are being built in Chin State and Naga Self Administered Zone of Myanmar

through the Myanmar's Border Affairs ministry, according to the information available on the website of the Indian Embassy in Myanmar.

The Myanmar government is in the process of selecting contractors to execute the second year projects under which five road projects each would be completed in Chin and Naga Self-Administered Zone, it said.

Three schools would be also set in Chin state and eight in the Naga Self-Administered Zone, it added.

Myanmar shares around 1600 km border with four Northeastern Indian states?Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram.

Bangladeshi court bars Khaleda Zia from contesting next month's polls

ANISUR RAHMAN DHAKA, Nov 27 (PTI): In a major setback to jailed former Bangladesh prime minister Khaleda Zia, a top court Tuesday ruled that a person jailed for more than two years cannot contest polls, effectively ruining her chance to participate in the December 30 polls.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam said the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chairperson, who is convicted in two graft cases, cannot contest the upcoming

11th general election next month.

"She is disqualified from taking part in the upcoming elections," Alam told a press conference, hours after the High Court issued a rule saying persons jailed for more than two years even if their appeals are pending with the courts cannot contest the polls.

The 73-year-old ex-premier is currently serving jail terms in two graft cases involving charities named after her slain husband

Ziaur Rahman. She has been in custody since February 8, when Dhaka Special Court convicted her in the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case and sentenced her to five years of imprisonment for embezzling 21 million Bangladeshi Taka (USD 252,504) in foreign donations meant for the Trust. On October 30, the High Court doubled her jail term to 10 years.

On October 29, a trial court convicted her in the Zia Charitable Trust graft case and sentenced her

to seven years in prison and imposed a fine of Tk 1 million (USD 12,024).

The High Court order came as the BNP, which boycotted the 2014 elections under Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League (AL) government, was set to contest the polls in alliance with the newly formed National Unity Front (NUF) led by eminent jurist Kamal Hossain.

The chief state counsel said even if Zia was released from jail before November 28, the dead-

line of filing the nomination papers, the Constitution would not allow her to contest the polls and "she will have to wait for five more years after her acquittal to take part in the elections".

As per Bangladesh's Constitution, a person sentenced to imprisonment for two years or above for a criminal offence cannot take part in an election unless five years have elapsed since his/her release.

The two-judge High Court bench comprising

Justice Mohammad Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice KM Hafizul Alam passed the order, rejecting separate petitions filed by five BNP leaders, including Zia's adviser Amanullah Aman, seeking a stay on their convictions and sentences in graft cases.

The Attorney General said, "If the court allows them to take part in the next general election by staying their conviction, it will go against Article 66 of the Constitution...so the court scrapped their

pleas." Zia was made vice-chairperson of the BNP, the largest political opposition of the country, in March 1983 after the assassination of her husband. She became chairperson of the party on May 10, 1984, a post she is holding till now.

In her 35 years of political career, Zia went to the jail several times.

During the 2007-2008 tenure of the army-backed caretaker government, she was in jail for about a year on charges of corruption.

Diana used position against me, coach Powar humiliated me: Mithali writes to BCCI

KUSHAN SARKAR

NEW DELHI, NOV 27 (PTI): Senior Indian woman cricketer Mithali Raj Tuesday slammed Committee of Administrators member Diana Edulji and coach Ramesh Powar, saying the two are biased against her and have tried to "destroy" her.

In a scathing e-mail to the BCCI, which is in possession of PTI, Mithali said her axing from the World T20 semifinal against England reduced her to tears and left her the most deflated in her over two-decade long career.

In the note to BCCI CEO Rahul Johri and GM (Cricket Operations) Saba Karim, one of India's finest batswomen alleged that she was disrespected by the duo of Edulji and Powar.

"...I felt deflated, depressed and let down. I am forced to think if my services to my country are of any value to a few people in power who are out to destroy me and break my confidence," Mithali, also the ODI captain, wrote in her mail.

While Powar refused to comment on Mithali's allegations, Edulji could not be reached for a response.

Mithali spoke about how Edulji's stance backing her axing, made her feel "vulnerable". Edulji, in an interview to PTI, had stated that the team management's decision



could not be questioned on selection matters.

"To put things in perspective, I have always reposed faith in Diana Edulji and have always respected her and her position as a member of the COA.

"Never did I think she will use her position against me, more after hearing what all I had to go through in the Caribbean as I had spoken to her about it," Mithali wrote. A source alleged that Mith-

ali was forced by Edulji to divulge the details of her meeting with Johri and Karim on Monday.

"Her brazen support in the press with regard to the decision of my benching in the semi final of the T20 World Cup has left me deeply distressed, more because she knows the real facts having spoken to me," the player wrote.

Mithali has played 85 T20Is for India and has scored 2288 runs. She averages more than 50 in both

the Test and ODI formats.

"May I say that I am aware that by writing this email I am making myself even more vulnerable. She is a COA member while I am just a player," she lamented.

"But the brazen support of a COA member is a clear sign of bias and also that a stance has already been taken against me. By saying 'I don't support someone' and then going all out to support my benching in the press is prejudice of the

clearest sort," said Mithali.

She, however, made it clear that she has no hard feelings for T20 captain Harmanpreet Kaur, who was a party to the decision of her being dropped for the semi-finals and stood by it even after the defeat. However, her relationship with Powar hit nadir in the West Indies and Mithali said she still hasn't understood the breakdown.

"My issues with the coach started immediately as we landed in the West Indies. At first there were small signs that his behaviour towards me was unfair and discriminatory," she alleged.

She said that Powar's behaviour caused her "stress".

"For instance, walking off if I am sitting anywhere around, watching in the nets when others bat but choosing to walk away when I am batting in nets, if I try to go up to him to talk to start looking into his phone and keep walking," she said.

"It was embarrassing and very evident to everyone that I was being humiliated. Yet I never lost my cool.

"Finding the situation completely out of control and realising that it is important to resolve issues as it affects the team I reached out to the team manager and conveyed my grievances."

According to Mithali things went from bad to worse after that.

"After the meeting his behaviour turned worse. He would not even acknowledge me. To him I didn't exist in the team.

"If I was around he would immediately move away from the scene, if I looked to wish him he would deliberately start looking in other direction. He continued to behave badly as I have already informed you yesterday. It appeared to me that for him the meeting had hurt his ego."

Mithali said she was even asked not to show up at the ground by Powar during the game against Australia. "In the evening after the team meeting before the Australia game, Ramesh rings up in my room and instructs me not to come to the ground as the media will be there," she alleged.

"I was taken aback as to what media has to do with me being with the team. I was told I was not to be with my own team in one of our biggest games. I was shell shocked."

Mithali said Powar also deliberately ignored her at nets to make it clear she won't play the semi-finals after which she broke down.

"It was worrying and insulting because the coach was out to destroy and humiliate me," she wrote.

Mary Kom extends contract with IOS



NEW DELHI, NOV 27

(PTI): Six-time world champion boxer M C Mary Kom Tuesday extended her commercial partnership with sports management firm IOS by signing a 10-year deal with the company.

IOS has been managing Mary Kom since 2009. Mary Kom recently scripted history by winning her sixth world title, making her the most successful boxer in the tournament's history.

"In the last 10 years I have only focussed on my game and entire commercial work was perfectly managed by my team IOS. Looking at smooth working with them, I have decided to extend this relationship with them," Mary Kom was quoted as saying in a press release. "I would like to continue working hard on my game and want IOS to manage commercial aspect exclusively," he added.

Welcoming the extension of relationship with Mary Kom, IOS MD and CEO Neerav Tomar said, "I would like to congratulate Mary on winning her sixth historic World title. We look forward to this extended relationship and hope to establish a stronger brand Mary in the days to come."

IOS also represents other top Indian athletes such as Vijender Singh, Hima Das, Manika Batra, Mirabai Chanu, Manpreet Singh, and Jinson Johnson among others.

Coach Harendra defends selection of junior players in World Cup squad



SAUMJOYOTI S CHOUDHURY

BHUBANESWAR, NOV 27

(PTI): India's chief coach Harendra Singh on Tuesday defended presence of several junior players in the squad for the FIH World Cup, saying they are good enough to create history.

The current Indian team has seven out of 18 players from the junior World Cup squad, which under Harendra clinched the world title two years ago in Lucknow.

Junior players such as Harmanpreet Singh, Varun Kumar, Sumit, Mandeep Singh and goalkeeper Krishan Bahadur Pathak were selected in India's squad.

"Constitution gives us the right to marry after 18. So this is not a young team. It's a team that can create history," Harendra said on the eve of India's opening match against South Africa on Wednesday.

"You have to have patient. Selectors have considered the young players to be good enough to wear India colours, so we need to be proud of them. Every player in the team understands it. My advice to the players would be to stick to the basics and strategy and consider crowd as 12th man and use their ener-

gy," he added.

Citing the example of Ireland, who went on to win the women's World Cup earlier this year despite being rated as underdogs, Harendra said India first aim would be to top Pool C and qualify directly for the quarter-finals. "Did anyone think Ireland will reach women's hockey World Cup final and Croatia will make it to FIFA WC final. Every team works on their strategy. It's about that particular day. We want to top the pool and avoid crossovers because then we will get an extra day and know who we will play in the quarters," the chief coach said.

Eight-time Olympic champion India's only glory at the World Cup came way back in 1975 at Kuala Lumpur when Ajit Pal Singh and his men created history for the past masters of the game.

Since then India has failed to match the standards of the Europeans -- Netherlands, Germany -- and Australia, who have been ruling the game for over four decades now.

The inability to defend the Asian Games title earlier this year will remain Harendra's biggest failure but the coach said that episode

is a thing of the past now. "The hard fact is that all of us have forgotten the Asian Games defeat and you should also forget. We learn from history, gain experience but there is no point recalling it. We took collective responsibility. We don't talk about it now in our meetings," he said.

Ranked 10 places above world no. 15 South Africa, India will go into their tournament-opener as overwhelming favourites.

"We understand that the first match is important in every tournament. It releases 40 to 50 per cent of pressure. We want full points from the first match. But for points, we can't forget and sacrifice the basics of hockey, the strategy," he said.

"We won't compromise on playing attacking hockey against any team. We want to think ahead of the opponents."

With two matches scheduled for each day, there are significant gaps between matches in the 16-team World Cup and Harendra supported the format, saying it will help all the teams to come out with fresh legs in every game.

"I support this format

as a coach. Hockey is a fast-paced, result oriented, highly demanding game. It (the gaps) will help us to come out with fresh mind and legs in every match," he said.

Conceding last minute goals has been India's perennial problem in the last few years but Harendra said it is with all hockey playing nations.

"We always discuss India concede last-minute goal to lose. It has happened in the last 4-5 years, including the Asian Games. But that doesn't only happen with the Indian team. I can give you history where other teams also have lost the same way," he said.

India captain Manpreet Singh too said that their main focus is on topping the pool and avoid cross-overs.

"We are not focusing on crossovers. If we top the pool, we should not worry about it. We are focusing on our first match," he said.

"We have improved over the last 3-4 years. Before that we had never won FIH medals but now we have won Hockey World League bronze, then silver at the Champions Trophy (earlier this year). Now it's the World Cup and we have to show that we have improved at the highest level."

TN takes on Bengal with eye on first win



CHENNAI, NOV 27 (PTI): Tamil Nadu will take on Bengal in a crucial Ranji Trophy Elite Group 'B' match at the M A Chidambaram stadium beginning here Wednesday, with both teams eyeing their first win of the season.

The B Indrajith-led team has five points from three matches, all affected by the vagaries of the weather and will hope for a full game.

The Tamil Nadu batsmen have been among the runs but the bowlers have found the going tough. The first innings could not be completed in two matches (against Madhya Pradesh and Hyderabad) and they managed to secure the lead and three points against Andhra.

Experienced southpaw Abhinav Mukund has been among the runs along with N Jagadeesan, while the skipper himself has been in middling form. Back on home territory, Tamil Nadu will be aiming for a win and full points against Bengal (on 6 points), which is coming off a chastening defeat against Kerala, the group topper, in its previous game.

Speaking ahead of the match, Indrajith said the team was taking it one game at a time and added that there would be opportunities to push for an outright win.

"We are taking it one game at a time. I have told my boys to treat it as an away match. Just because it happens to be a home game, we can't hope to go for an outright win.

"Only three matches have been played so far and five more are remaining. I feel two outright wins can help us qualify.

Opportunities will come to push for an outright win," he added.

He also it is good that pacers K Vignesh and T Natarajan, who had been out injured, are playing together again.

Indrajith said the wicket looked dry adding "we don't expect the ball to turn big from day one."

He said considering the fact that the Bengal line-up has four left-handers in the top six, there was a possibility of making Aparajith and Kaushik Gandhi bowl more overs of their off-spin.

Tamil Nadu has retained the squad that played the previous match against Andhra. There were expectations that Dinesh Karthik and M S Washington Sundar, who were part of the national T20 team in Australia, would be included, but they are expected to return on Wednesday and hence not picked.

Bengal has a loss and two draws to show so far and will be looking to bounce back after being blown away by Kerala at the Eden Gardens.

However, captain Manoj Tiwary said the mood in the camp was good despite the defeats and added it is about executing the plans.

"Despite losing, the mood in the camp is good. It's all about executing our plans and strategies on field. It is important for other batsmen to step up and contribute. Due to batting failure, we failed to qualify for the knock-out stages of the Vijay Hazare," he added.

He said there were no injury worries, but the team would miss the services of Mohammed Shami and Abhimanyu Easwaran.

"We have no injury concerns but we will be without Mohammed Shami and Abhimanyu Easwaran. We will miss the duo's services. Abhimanyu was giving us a good start and he is technically sound," he added.

Tiwary also hailed former India batsman J Arun Lal's contribution as a mentor as he brought in a lot of positivity.

"He encourages us to play freely and without any inhibitions. He was upset with how we played against Kerala.

He is passing on his years of wisdom to the younger lot," he added.

Putin warns against ‘reckless’ moves after Ukraine declares martial law

MOSCOW, Nov 27 (AFP): Russian President Vladimir Putin warned Ukraine against any “reckless acts” on Tuesday after Kiev declared martial law in response to Moscow’s seizure of three of its navy vessels.

The Ukrainian parliament late on Monday voted in favour of President Petro Poroshenko’s request for the introduction of martial law in parts of the country for 30 days.

The decision came as Ukraine and Russia face their most dangerous crisis in years after Russian forces fired on, boarded and captured Kiev’s ships on Sunday off the coast of Crimea.

The incident was the first major confrontation at sea in the long-running conflict pitting Ukraine against Moscow and Russian-backed separatists in the country’s east.

It has raised fears of a wider escalation -- in a conflict that has killed more than 10,000 people since 2014 -- and prompted international calls for restraint and offers of mediation.

Martial law gives Ukrainian authorities the power to mobilise citizens with military experience, regulate the media and restrict public rallies in affected areas.

Moscow has accused Kiev of planning Sunday’s confrontation as a provocation aimed at drumming up support for Poroshenko ahead of elections next year and convincing Western gov-



ernments to impose further sanctions on Russia.

In a phone conversation with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Putin expressed “serious concern” over the introduction of martial law, the Kremlin said in a statement.

Putin said Kiev’s actions were “clearly taken in view of the election campaign in Ukraine”.

He said he hoped Berlin could intervene with Ukrainian authorities “to dissuade them from further reckless acts”.

Sunday’s incident has been playing out on Russian and Ukrainian television screens, with dramatic footage of Russian ships chasing down a Ukrainian tugboat that was trying to pass through the Kerch Strait from the Black Sea into the Sea of Azov.

Ukraine has accused Russian border patrol

vessels of ramming the tugboat, which was accompanied by two small warships, and of firing on the Ukrainian vessels.

Russia’s FSB security service, which oversees border forces, confirmed weapons had been fired and the vessels seized, but accused Ukrainian ships of crossing illegally into Russian waters and of ignoring warnings.

Tensions have been building for months over the Kerch Strait, especially after Russia built a new bridge across the waterway that gives it a land connection to Crimea, annexed by Moscow in 2014.

Moscow has so far resisted calls to release the three ships or the 24 sailors it has detained, suggesting they could face criminal action.

In a move sure to further anger Kiev, Russian state television late on

Monday aired footage of some of the captured sailors being questioned by Moscow’s security services.

One of the sailors is heard saying “the actions of the Ukrainian armed vessels in the Kerch Strait had a provocative character” -- parroting the version of events put forward by Russian authorities.

Western governments have rallied behind Kiev in the dispute, accusing Russia of illegally blocking access to the Sea of Azov and of taking military action without justification.

Kiev urged the United States and European Union to impose more sanctions on Russia over the latest incident.

Britain, Canada, France, Germany and others expressed support for Kiev on Monday, with EU President Donald Tusk calling for Russia to return the

Ukrainian sailors and ships and “refrain from further provocations”.

The United Nations Security Council met in an emergency session on the crisis on Monday, where US envoy Nikki Haley called the seizure of the ships an “outrageous violation of sovereign Ukrainian territory” and slammed “yet another reckless Russian escalation”.

She did not, however, threaten further sanctions on Russia and President Donald Trump suggested it was up to European governments to handle the crisis.

“We don’t like what’s happening and hopefully it will get straightened out. I know Europe is not -- they are not thrilled. They’re working on it too. We’re all working on it together,” Trump told reporters at the White House.

After Khashoggi, Saudi prince looks to rebuild image abroad

DUBAI, Nov 27 (AP): Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman’s first trip abroad since the killing of Saudi writer Jamal Khashoggi will offer an early indication of the repercussions he faces from the gruesome slaying.

The prince is visiting close allies in the Middle East before attending the Group of 20 summit in Argentina on Nov. 30, where he will come face to face with President Donald Trump, who has defended US ties with the kingdom, as well as European leaders and Turkey’s president, who has kept pressure mounting on Riyadh since Khashoggi was killed and dismembered in the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul on Oct. 2.

“It’s really going to be about can you travel to the rest of Western capitals for the foreseeable future and expect to sort of shake people’s hands, and I’m not sure that that’s the case,” said H A Hellyer, a scholar at the Royal United Services Institute and Atlantic Council.

The trip, aimed at rebuilding his image and reinforcing ties with allies, promises to offer a contrast to the prince’s lengthy tour across the United States in April, where he met Michael Bloomberg, Rupert Murdoch, Disney chief Bob Iger, Google co-founder Sergey Brin, Apple’s Tim Cook and former President George H. Bush, among many others.

“There’s no way he could do that sort of trip right now,” Hellyer said. The crown prince’s plan to attend the G-20 summit in Buenos Aires “tells me that he feels that he’s ridden out the storm, or that in order for him to ride out the storm this is exactly what he needs to do.”

After denying any knowledge of Khashoggi’s death for weeks, Saudi authorities eventually settled on the explanation that he was killed in an operation aimed at forcibly bringing the writer back to the kingdom. Saudi prosecutors say the plan was master-

minded by two former advisers to the crown prince and are now seeking the death penalty for five people allegedly involved in the killing.

That seems to have settled the matter for Trump, who issued an extraordinary statement last week saying the US would not take further action after sanctioning 17 individuals linked to the killing.

Trump has brushed aside assessments by US intelligence and other experts that the crown prince must have been involved in the high-level operation, and said he would maintain close relations with Saudi Arabia in part because of its oil wealth and its multi-billion-dollar purchases of US arms.

Trump’s contention that “maybe he did, maybe he didn’t” order the killing appears to have helped pave the way for the crown prince’s return to international forums.

But even if Trump shakes his hand at the G-20 summit, the crown prince could still remain persona non grata within Washington’s beltway, where members of Congress from both parties have demanded stronger action, as well as Wall Street and Silicon Valley.

He could also get an icy reception from other leaders at the G-20.

In Europe there have been calls to end arms sales to Saudi Arabia, and Canada could still be smarting from a diplomatic row sparked by Saudi anger at its criticism over human rights in the kingdom.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who is expected to attend the summit, was instrumental to the global backlash the prince now faces. Despite the international outrage, the crown prince’s decision to travel to Argentina signals that he still has the strong support of his 82-year-old father, King Salman, and faces no major threat at home.

On his first stop on the tour, in the United Arab Emirates, the crown prince was embraced on the tarmac by Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed, a close ally who has reportedly served as a mentor to the 33-year-old royal.

The crown prince attended the Formula One Grand Prix in Abu Dhabi, where he was filmed in a VIP box chatting with the former King of Spain Juan Carlos and Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov.

In possible a sign of changes underway, Prince Mohammed embarked on his foreign tour with figures who may take on greater prominence as he redraws his circle of advisers. Those include Minister of State Mohammad Al Shaikh, Chief of General Intelligence Khalid al-Humaidan and royal court adviser Prince Turki bin Mohammed bin Fahd, among others.

The two close advisers implicated in the Khashoggi killing Saud al-Qahtani, a royal court adviser who was a friend of the crown prince, and Ahmed al-Assiri, a general whom the crown prince had promoted to a top intelligence post were fired last month. The crown prince himself oversees all major levers of power in the kingdom, including the military and security forces.

Saudi analyst Mohammed Alyahya said that over the past two years many state institutions in the kingdom were marginalized in favour of a quicker, ad hoc decision-making process led by people with newfound power.

“There’s a real understanding, I think, in the kingdom, that there needs to be serious structural change to ensure that something like this can never happen again,” Alyahya said.

“I think we’re going to see definitely some return to institutionalism, some return to a consensus-based decision-making process and commitment to defined procedures.”

Still, it remains to be seen whether a wider circle of advisers will be consulted, whether they will challenge the crown prince and whether he will listen to them.

21 held in melee over Malaysian temple land dispute

SUBANG JAYA (MALAYSIA), Nov 27 (AP): Malaysian police said Tuesday that 21 people have been arrested over rioting that broke out amid a dispute over the relocation of an Indian temple outside Kuala Lumpur.

The melee began early Monday morning when a group of intruders attacked Indian devotees praying at the Sri Maha Mariamman temple in central Selangor state’s Subang Jaya township and torched vehicles.

Another group of men retaliated early Tuesday morning by vandalising the office of property developer MCT Berhad near the temple and also set some vehicles ablaze.

MCT’s unit One City Development Sdn. Bhd. owns the land on which the temple sits and is embroiled in a legal tussle to relocate the century-old temple to an area nearby.

Government officials and police were quick to dispel rumors on social media that it was a racial conflict.

Selangor police chief Mazlan Mansor said 21 people were detained and will be investigated for rioting with weapons and arson.

He said nearly two dozen vehicles were torched but the situation is calm and under control. Some 700 anti-riot personnel have been deployed to ensure peace in the area, he added.

Tribal rights group asks India to abandon efforts to recover US national’s body

LONDON, Nov 27 (PTI): India should abandon its “incredibly dangerous” efforts to recover the body of an American national who was killed by members of a protected and reclusive tribe in the Andamans, a group working to protect the rights of tribal people has said.

John Allen Chau, 27, who described himself in social media posts as an adventurer and explorer, was killed by the Sentinelese tribes on November 17 when he tried to enter the North Sentinel Island, where entry of outsiders is forbidden by law, allegedly after paying to the fishermen to smuggle him.

The fishermen informed the Indian authorities that they saw

the Sentinelese bury Chau’s body on the beach. Efforts were being made by the authorities to retrieve the body from the remote island, but they have not set their foot on it.

The London-based group, Survival International, said that any attempt to recover the body would be dangerous for both, the Indian authorities and the Sentinelese, who face being wiped out if any outside diseases are introduced.

“We urge the Indian authorities to abandon efforts to recover John Allen Chau’s body. Any such attempt is incredibly dangerous, both for the Indian officials, but also for the Sentinelese, who face being wiped out if any outside diseases

are introduced,” Survival International’s Director Stephen Corry said in a statement on Monday.

“The risk of a deadly epidemic of flu, measles or other outside disease is very real, and increases with every such contact. Such efforts in similar cases in the past have ended with the Sentinelese attempting to defend their island by force,” he said.

Corry said the body of Chau “should be left alone, as should the Sentinelese.” The Sentinelese are generally considered the last pre-Neolithic tribe in the world.

Till June, a foreigner was allowed to visit 29 islands in the Andamans, including the North Sentinel Island, only after taking special permission - the Restricted Area

Permit (RAP).

According to officials, it was withdrawn, but any foreigner is required to take permission from the forest department and the administration of the island is protected under two other acts -- protection of aboriginal people and forest acts.

Corry was also critical of the weakening of the restrictions and said “the weakening of the restrictions on visiting the islands must be revoked and the exclusion zone around the island properly enforced”.

The Survival International is an organisation working for the tribal peoples’ rights around the world, helping them defend their lives, protect their lands and determine their own futures.

-- and where lawmakers oppose it on all sides.

She announced the vote on the deal will be on December 11.

The beleaguered leader got a taste of just how tough her job will be as she briefed lawmakers on the outcome of her Brussels visit.

Opposition Labour Party chief Jeremy Corbyn called the withdrawal deal and accompanying political declaration on future relations “an act of national self-harm”.

“For the good of the nation, the House has very little choice but to reject this deal,” he said.

Yet May might be more disconcerted by the seemingly growing and

clearly more vocal chorus of resentment from her own Conservative Party. Conservative MP Mark Francois told May her deal was “as dead as a Dodo”.

Former May loyalist Michael Fallon said the government was asking parliament to “take a huge gamble” and “sur-rendering our (EU) vote and our veto without any firm commitment to frictionless trade”.

More than an hour passed before the first member of her own party stood up to voice her support for the prime minister. The current vote counts conducted by British media are not stacking up in May’s fa-

vour. Many expect the deal to fail the first time around and for May to call a second vote on more or less the same set of arrangements before the chamber breaks for the winter holidays.

Britain would be entering uncharted waters -- and quite possibly new elections -- if the deal fails a second time around.

Brexit enters into force on March 29 and May’s government is also making “no-deal” preparations just in case.

May argued on Monday that voters were simply exhausted with Brexit and just wanted their leaders to get things resolved once and for all.





GIRL POWER! Spice Girl member, Emma Bunton, steps out on a night in London in autumn attire.

Victoria Beckham to soon launch her own YouTube channel

LOS ANGELES, NOV 27 (PTI): Fashion designer Victorioral Beckham has announced that she would soon launch her own YouTube channel.

In an Instagram post, the 44-year-old former Spice Girl member said she would be providing beauty tutorials and styling tips to her viewers through her videos.

"At September's LFW @derekblasberg joined me at my store to celebrate #VB-Since08!" Beckham wrote.

"Today I have special news to share. I will be launching my own @youtube channel with beauty tutorials, styling tips and lots of stuff from me. Stay tuned! x Subscribe to my channel at the link in bio today," she added.

Beckham also posted a video on her Instagram featuring journalist Derek Blasberg, which depicts the two catching up and talking about fashion.



Physical transformation key for me to enjoy acting: Christian Bale

BEDIKA

MUMBAI, Nov 26 (PTI):

From the skeletal insomniac in "The Machinist" to the pot-bellied con artist in "American Hustle", Hollywood superstar Christian Bale is that rare artist who stops at nothing to get under the skin of his characters.

This "transformation" is the key to his acting and keeps the process intriguing and interesting, Bale said in an interview to PTI.

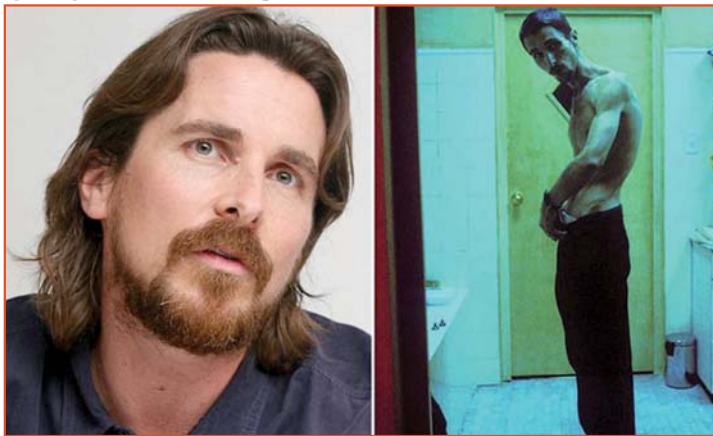
"It's not necessarily what everybody does. I greatly admire people who are able to be themselves and be entertaining and be one thing all the time. There is an incredible talent to that. I don't have that. I like to see how much I can take myself out of each and every character I play. I actually enjoy that I don't have a particular technique and it change all the time. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't," Bale, who is currently in India to promote Andy Serkis' Mowgli: Legend of the Jungle for Netflix, said.

The actor, who has spoiled Batman forever for other artists with his masterful depiction of the angst-ridden superhero in Christopher Nolan's critically-lauded and commercially successful trilogy, said people often attach the tag of "method actor" to him but the term is alien for him.

Not being a trained performer, the 44-year-old approaches every role with some apprehension and that one question everybody ponders over -- Oh god, how am I gonna do this?

"I don't consider myself the master of my craft and I think that's what keeps me intrigued because I never did train. I literally had couple of weekends at YMCA. I make it up each time and my wife knows this. Every time I get cast, I go, 'Oh god! How am I gonna do this.' I change my technique every single time," Bale told PTI.

"People have been saying to me that 'you are a method actor'. That requires training in the method and I have no idea what that means at all. I just make it up as I go along," he added.



ed. While superhero fans just can't see or imagine anyone else playing Batman, cinephiles have always held films such as The Machinist, "American Psycho" and "The Fighter" as examples of how great his cinema is.

The star's portrayal of former US vice president Dick Cheney in Adam McKay's upcoming political drama, "Vice", a part for which Bale gained more than 40 pounds, is generating another Oscar buzz for the actor.

He got the Best Supporting Actor Oscar for his portrayal of trainer Dickie Eklund in David O Russell's sports drama "The Fighter". Playing real people might limit some actors as there is only a certain way one can be but the opposite holds true for Bale, who said he finds it liberating to be other people.

"When you are playing a real person, I find it actually very liberating because sometimes when you are playing an entirely fictional character, you're concerned that you are trying to steal scenes by being, perhaps, quite an exhibitionist.

Whereas when you know the actual person is that, then you can turn to the director say 'Look at him for instance.' "The Fighter", for instance, Dickie, who I'm still in touch with, look at Dickie and just come and hang out with him over dinner. He does all these things. Therefore I can get away with it. It's not just the ego of an actor. I find it actually very liberating to play real people," he said.

Kendall Jenner Appears to Boo Tristan Thompson Jokingly at NBA Game

Kendall Jenner almost stole the show at the Cleveland Cavaliers-Philadelphia 76ers game on Friday when she appeared to jokingly boo Cavs player Tristan Thompson, father of her sister Khloe Kardashian's daughter True Thompson.

The moment was captured on camera and posted on Twitter, where it went viral. And there were no hard feelings between the two. Kendall, who sat courtside, was later photographed exchanging a hug with Tristan, who made headlines earlier this year over a cheating scandal, which played out on recent episodes of Keeping Up With the Kardashians.

The reality star and model was likely at the Philadelphia game for a different reason as well; she was seen often cheering on 76ers player Ben Simmons, to whom she was romantically linked this past summer.

Amy Sedaris boards Disney's new 'Lion King'

LOS ANGELES, NOV 27 (PTI):

Actor-comedian Amy Sedaris has joined the voice cast of Disney's live-action remake of "The Lion King". Directed by Jon Favreau, the film's voice cast includes Donald Glover as Simba; Beyonce Knowles-Carter as Nala and Chiwetel Ejiofor as Scar.

Sedaris, 57, will be voicing an elephant shrew, a small rodent known for its long nose and for being a speedy runner, reported Variety. English actor John Oliver will voice Zazu, the bird who acts as the king's adviser, while Billy Eichner and Seth Rogan take on the comedy duo of meerkat Timon and warthog Pumbaa.

James Earl Jones, who voiced Mufasa in the 1994 original, reprised the character



in Favreau's film. The 1994 original won an Academy award and Golden Globe for the best original soundtrack. It was reported earlier this year that four songs - "Can You Feel the Love Tonight", "Hakuna Matata", "I Just Can't Wait to Be King" and "Circle of Life" -- will all feature in the new version. The film is scheduled to come out on July 19, 2019.

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ARIES :What an odd day, Aries! You feel like you've been given a one-way ticket to a faraway place. Departure is imminent, leaving you no time to pack or say goodbye. There isn't a moment to waste. You're intrigued by the adventure, yet afraid to go. All signs indicate that it will be beneficial if you get on that plane. Send your loved ones a postcard once you get to your destination.

TAURUS: When the day is done, you will look back on it as an unusual one, Taurus. Wild ideas sprouted in your head like mushrooms. You may have imagined leaving immediately for a trip around the world, or drawn up plans for a housekeeping invention, or visualized an entirely new opening in the online world. Don't dismiss these ideas as

unrealistic. They are not! **GEMINI:** here's likely to be some tumult in your emotional life right now, Gemini. You may feel a pressing need to have a heart-to-heart talk with your partner. Tension may develop if you become increasingly insistent about your need to do so. Anger or alienation can be avoided if you express your feelings with clarity and compassion.

CANCER : Friends and family, while dear, can be irritating today, Cancer. Everyone around you seems upset and unable to communicate clearly. Fortunately, your temper has a long fuse. To avoid a sudden explosion, it would be a good idea to avoid home and the tensions there. If you take a break from your normal routine, you're likely to meet people who will put you in

a calmer frame of mind.

LEO: All dissatisfaction will be abolished today as you systematically confront and resolve all the little problems that have been bothering you. Your tolerance threshold is low to nonexistent. Give a wide berth to friends who have been irritating lately. Your wardrobe improves dramatically as you discard all those clothes that don't fit or no longer suit you.

VIRGO: You're rarely surprised or bothered by the occasional setback. Today, however, you should put a firm hand on any project you undertake. This isn't the time for a relaxed attitude, especially where money is concerned. If you take a systematic approach, you will have the double benefit of conserving both energy and assets.

LIBRA: Expect to be torn be-

tween two seemingly paradoxical urges today, Libra. Part of you wants to spend the day wrapped in a cocoon, playing with your toys. But another side of you is just as committed to spearheading a major creative or social endeavor with friends who share your revolutionary ideas. You feel exhausted from trying to build the perfect world.

SCORPION : You're often called the "cleanup crew." Whether it's the home or the unconscious, you enjoy preparing nests for all sorts of births, real and figurative. Don't be surprised if you find yourself tidying up your home, throwing away useless things, clearing the desk, or catching up on mail. There are powerful forces compelling you to prepare for someone or something new and different.

SAGITTARIUS: Act without hes-

itation today, Sagittarius, especially if you're following unfamiliar directions or exploring new territory. This may not seem like the best advice, but this is a day for saying an unflinching yes to all manner of proposals that come your way, even if some are unclear. Sagittarius excels at this type of test. Expect to be at the head of the class by the end of the day!

CAPRICORN: You may be a bit oversensitive today, Capricorn. It's possible that you will be irritable and conflicted as you begin to suspect that long-term projects may not be finished. The time has come to take stock. There is likely a good reason that you've been unable to complete that project you undertook several months ago. Advice from others should steer you in the right direction.

AQUARIUS: Expect to be in

a provocative mood today, Aquarius. For the past few days you may have been searching for an outlet for the overflowing energy you're so lucky to have. You will have an opportunity today, as innovative projects are likely to come your way. If you face your demons, you will find a unique opportunity to rid yourself of the fears you've been carrying around for so long.

PISCES: This is a confusing period for all of us, Pisces. But no doubt you've noticed this. In such circumstances, some people become more rigid than ever because they resist dramatic change. They try to hold on to tradition. Your Pisces sensitivity makes you very receptive to the past, but current conditions should inspire you to let go of some of your conviction.