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# SummitTIMES

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O N T O P O F T H E N E W S

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## Union MoS Tribal Affairs to visit Sikkim

**GANGTOK, 23 OCT [PIB]:** Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs, Jaswantsinh Sumanbhai Bhabhor, will be visiting Sikkim from 25-26 Oct. During his two-day visit, Mr Bhabhor, will visit Eklavya Model Residential School at Parakha in East Sikkim and attend a review meeting with State Government officials in Gangtok.

## SC shocked over disappearance of 31 hills in Aravalli area

**NEW DELHI, OCT 23 (PTI):** The Supreme Court Tuesday expressed shock over "vanished" 31 hills in the Aravalli area of Rajasthan and asked the state government to stop illegal mining in the 115.34-hectare area there within 48 hours.

The top court said though Rajasthan was earning a royalty of around Rs 5,000 crore from mining activities in Aravalli, it cannot endanger the lives of lakhs of people in Delhi as the disappearance of hills there could be one of reasons for rise in pollution level in the national capital region (NCR).

A bench of Justices Madan B Lokur and Deepak Gupta referred to the status report filed by Rajasthan government and said it indicated that illegal mining activity was

## Court allows CBI to quiz its DSP for 7 days in custody in bribery case

**NEW DELHI, OCT 23 (PTI):** A Delhi court on Tuesday allowed the CBI to quiz in custody for seven days its Deputy Superintendent of Police Devender Kumar, who has been arrested in connection with bribery allegations involving agency's Special Director Rakesh Asthana.

Special CBI Judge Santosh Snehi Mann remanded Kumar to the custody of CBI, which had sought ten days of custodial interrogation of the accused official alleging that it has recovered incriminating documents after raiding his office and residence.

The probe agency has claimed that Kumar was part of an extortion racket being run in the garb of investigation.

Kumar's counsel, however, opposed the submission and moved a bail plea before the court.

CBI has also sought the court's nod to add some more sections in the present FIR against accused including Kumar.

Kumar was arrested yesterday.

# CM returns with Future Policy Gold Award 2018, grand welcome at Rangpo

## World looks up to Sikkim now: Chamling

**WANGCHUK BHUTIA  
GANGTOK, 23 OCT:**

A large number of public welcomed Chief Minister Pawan Chamling at Rangpo today on his arrival to the State after receiving the Future Policy Gold Award 2018 in Rome on 15 Oct.

A grand reception programme was held at Rangpo Tourism Guest House premises wherein all Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, Chairpersons of different departments and the general public were present.

Addressing the gathering, Mr Chamling dedicated the award to the farmers and the people

of Sikkim along with Agriculture and Horticulture Department.

"I received the award on behalf of the people of Sikkim. All the credit for this award goes to Sikkimese people including my Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, departments, Panchayats and business communities. The work which we have done in unity has not been achieved by any other State because of which our State was earlier awarded with JRD Tata Memorial Award in a function held in New Delhi on 12 Oct," said Mr Chamling.

He also appealed to people to avoid getting misguided so that peace and harmony can prevail in the State and urged all to respect dignity of labour.

"The award has been conferred to the State for sustainable development. Sikkim has given a message on the importance of organic farming to the world since it is troubled by various diseases caused by the consumption of chemically grown products," added Mr Chamling.

He further stated that Sikkim has shouldered a great responsibility as the world now looks up to the State as a model for future agriculture policy.

"I request the people of Sikkim to take this responsibility. I want organic farming to be a fashionable and lucrative profession, and combine it with all other professions. It is our brand name," expressed Mr Chamling.



## USFC opens Gold Cup with win for Sikkim

**SAGAR CHETTRI  
GANGTOK, 23 OCT:**

The 38th edition of All India Governor's Gold Cup International Football Tournament 2018 kicked off here at Paljor Stadium today. Sikkim Premier Division 2018 champion, United Sikkim Football Club outplayed Aryans Football Club, Kolkata 4-2 in the extra-time of the inaugural match of the tournament.

Amrit Tamang scored the lead for United Sikkim FC in the 19th minute but the home team could not hold the lead for long as Md Farid scored the equaliser for Aryans FC in the 25th minute. Both the teams played neck-to-neck to take further lead in the match but could not find



the net and the first half ended in 1-1 draw.

In the early minutes of the second half, Samshad

Ali extended the lead of Aryans FC to 2-1. In return, the home team tried hard to equalise the score-

line but missed the net many times and the match ended with the same score until Karan Rai scored the

equaliser for the United Sikkim FC in the last minute of the match.

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## Sikkim all set to host NE States Youth Conclave

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 23 OCT:**

Sikkim is all set to host the North East States Youth Conclave 2018 from 28-30 Oct in the capital. The three-day event is being organised by the Department of Sports & Youth Affairs, Government of Sikkim in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India. Around 500 youths in the age group of 15-29 years from all North Eastern States are expected to participate in this youth conclave.

Addressing a press conference here today, Secretary to Sports & Youth Affairs Department, SD Dhakal, mentioned that the main ob-

jective of the event is the amalgamation of youth from the North-Eastern region and to further strengthen their unity and brotherhood.

He added that the youth conclave also seeks to provide a platform for the exchange of cultural and traditional heritage between States. The event will be a good opportunity to know and learn about arts, craft, culture, tradition, system, music and other details of other States, he said.

The Secretary informed that the three-day event will feature series of activities for participants in competitive and non-competitive categories at MG Marg, Manan Kendra and Tashi

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## SC to hear on Nov 13 petitions against Sabarimala verdict; Vijayan slams BJP and RSS for protests

**NEW DELHI/THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, OCT 23 (PTI):** The Supreme Court Tuesday said it would hear on November 13 multiple petitions challenging the Sabarimala verdict allowing entry of women of all age groups into the shrine that remained unimplemented following week-long protests.

A day after the doors to Lord Ayyappa temple in Sabarimala in Kerala closed, six days after opening for the first time since the Supreme Court lifted the ban on entry of women of menstruating age, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan accused the BJP and the RSS of "hidden conspiracy" to destroy peace at the temple.

At least 12 women in the 10-50 age group had made a failed attempt to



trek the hills and had to return following protests from believers.

Even women over the age of 50 were stopped at Sabarimala.

An apex court bench comprising Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice S K Kaul told lawyer Mathews J Nedumpara that it has already passed

an order with regard to listing of petitions on November 13.

"Sabarimala cases will be taken up on November 13 at 3 PM. The order has been passed," the CJI said when Mathews J Nedumpara, representing the National Ayyappa Devotees Association again mentioned the plea

against the verdict for urgent hearing.

Earlier, the court had noted that there were 19 review petitions pending in the matter, filed by the Association and others seeking a review of its Sabarimala verdict.

A five-judge constitution bench in a 4-1 verdict last month lifted

the centuries-old ban on entry of girls and women in the menstruating age of 10-50 years into the hilltop shrine.

The petition filed by Shylaja Vijayan, president, National Ayyappa Devotees Association through Nedumpara, submitted that faith cannot be judged by scientific or rationale reasons or logic.

Union minister Smriti Irani also waded into the escalating Sabarimala row, saying the right to pray did not mean the right to desecrate.

"I am nobody to speak against the Supreme Court verdict as I am a serving cabinet minister. But just plain common sense is that would you carry a napkin seeped with menstrual blood and walk into a friend's house. You would not.

"And would you think it is respectful to do the same when you walk into the house of god? That is the difference. I have the right to pray, but no right to desecrate. That is the difference that we need to recognise and respect," Irani said at an event in Mumbai.

Hitting out at the BJP and the RSS for the agitation at Sabarimala that stalled the entry of women in the hitherto banned 10-50 age group, Vijayan alleged there was a "hidden conspiracy" to destroy peace at the temple.

He alleged the agitations were a "planned and deliberate attempt" to create an atmosphere of tension in the state.

The CPI-M strongman also asserted that no force will be allowed to turn the shrine complex

into a centre for trouble-makers.

Talking to reporters, he alleged that the Sangh Parivar was attempting to "insult" and "mislead" believers.

While maintaining that the faith of believers would be respected, Vijayan made it clear that the government had the responsibility to implement the apex court order.

Vijayan said both the main opposition Congress and BJP were "playing politics" on the Sabarimala issue since they had earlier welcomed the court verdict.

Some leaders of the Congress are joining hands with the RSS and it was a "dangerous trend," he said.

Attempts are being made to destroy the

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## Nepal's first electric bus service launched in Kathmandu

SHIRISH B PRADHAN

**KATHMANDU, OCT 23 (PTI):** Nepal introduced China-made electric buses on the roads of the capital on Tuesday, with Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli emphasising on the operation of such vehicles to deal with the shortage of petroleum products in the land-locked country.

The electric buses have come into operation in Kathmandu with the joint initiative of Lumbini Development Trust and Sajha Yatayat, the public transport corporation.

The bus service has begun operation under the South Asia Tourism Infrastructure Development Project supported by Asian Development Bank (ADB), according to Sajha Yatayat Executive Director Bhusan Tuladhar.

Purchased with a Chinese company at Rs 20 million rupees each, two buses have already been brought to Kathmandu while three others are in process for arriving.

The bus has 19 seats and can accommodate 35 passengers.

The management of the electric buses which are also disabled-friendly will be conducted by Sajha Yatayat, a semi-government body.

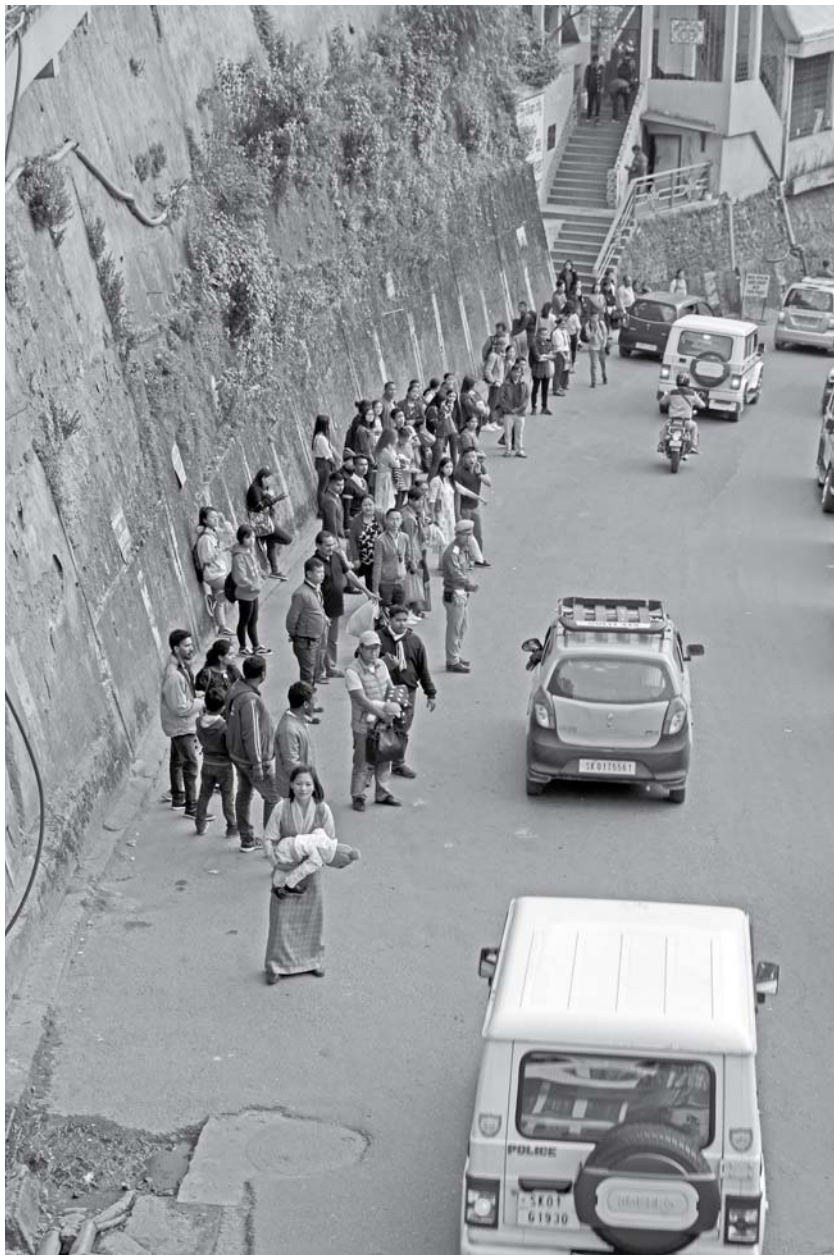
Prime Minister Oli inaugurated the electric bus service by travelling on the bus from Pulchok-based Sajha Yatayat premises to the Prime Minister's Office at Singha Durbar Secretariat.

On the occasion, Oli said, It is necessary to emphasise the operation of electric buses during the shortage of petroleum products.

Electric vehicles would be promoted in days to come by coordinating with authorities concerned, Oli said.

He said that Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) would set up charging stations at 20 different places.

"Active participation of private sector is necessary in expansion of electric bus service, the prime minister said.



## WAITING FOR GODOT-GAADI

**GANGTOK, 23 OCT:** As tourists begin pouring into the State, taxis are disappearing from the stands. Taxi drivers and owners on the Dasain

break are only just beginning to hit the road and together with the start of the tourist season, the waiting begins. [foto: SAROJ CHHETRI]

## Indian students lack access to quality education: Super 30's Anand Kumar

LALIT K JHA

**WASHINGTON, OCT 22 (PTI):** India has no dearth of talent but a large number of students lack access to quality education that could meet the demands of the modern times, Super 30 founder and mathematician Anand Kumar has said.

Kumar, who is presently in news for an upcoming biopic on his life starring Bollywood actor Hrithik Roshan, was felicitated in the Silicon Valley over the weekend in recognition of his effort to help poor children to get admission into the prestigious IITs.

"In India, there is a huge craving for education, but quality educa-



tion is not accessible to all of them. Today, technology can make it happen. online classes can do what is not otherwise possible," Kumar said.

"Education is changing fast, as the requirements are changing. This calls for new approach to education," he said while

speaking at the golden jubilee function of 'Indian for collective action' organised in San Jose, California, on Saturday.

Observing that there is no dearth of talent in India, Kumar said equal opportunities in terms of quality education and modern-day require-

ments often eluded a large number of students.

"Today, there are opportunities to fill this void through technology. You people can make it happen through small contributions from your side in your own way to make a big difference," he said.

Anand runs Super 30 educational programme to mentor 30 students free off cost through a year-long residential programme for India's prestigious IIT-JEE exam.

In its 17 years, Super 30 has helped hundreds of students, mostly from poverty-stricken background, successfully chase their IIT dream.

## USFC opens Gold Cup with win for Sikkim

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The full time of the match ended in 2-2 draw and the match entered into extra-time game of 30 minutes to decide the winner.

In the third minute of the extra-time, Karan Rai scored his brace to extend the lead of the United Sikkim FC to 3-2 and soon his teammate Tshering Zangpo further took the lead of the home team to 4-2. Kolkata team sweated it out hard to bounce back into the match but could not score any further goals.

With this 4-2 win, United Sikkim FC will

take on Army XI [Red] in the quarter-final match on 27 Oct.

The inaugural match had Sports & Youth Affairs Department Secretary, SD Dhakal, as chief guest.

George Telegraph, Kolkata will take on Armed Police Force Club, Nepal in the second pre quarter-final match of the tournament on 24 Oct.

Twelve teams from different parts of the country and Nepal are participating in this prestigious tournament which is being organised by Sikkim Football Association [SFA].

## Cambridge English to develop language skills of students at SRM Sikkim



SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 23 OCT:

Cambridge Assessment English, a part of the University of Cambridge, has signed a Letter of Intent [LOI] with SRM University, Sikkim to develop English language skills of the students to enhance their employability, a press release inform.

The LOI was signed by Registrar, SRM Sikkim, Professor Ch Satish Kumar, Deputy Director, Global Network, Liam Vint, and Regional Director [South Asia], Cambridge Assessment English, TK Arunachalam.

Deputy Director, Global Network, Mr Vint, said, "We are happy to be associated with SRM University, Sikkim and look forward to a very fruitful partnership ahead. We laud their initiative to provide a platform to help students in developing their language and communication skills and gain international certification."

Registrar, SRM, Professor Kumar, in his address stated, "We are working on the possibility of integrating BEC into our regular curriculum and set up a center of excellence that will benefit

the student community in Sikkim. Cambridge English exams can open up a world of study, work or travel opportunities. These high-quality international exams are designed to develop practical English language communication skills for career and study success and extensively researched by one of the world's largest dedicated language research teams. With a Cambridge English Certificate, the student will be able to prove his/her English language skills to universities, employers and governments around the world."

## Assam bandh against citizenship bill evokes widespread response

GUWAHATI, OCT 23

**(PTI):** The 12-hour Assam bandh called by 46 organisations against the citizenship bill evoked a widespread response in the state Tuesday with markets and financial institutions closed.

Though BJP-led Assam government's alliance partner Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) was not in support of the bandh, it took out a massive rally to protest against the bill. It was led by party president and Agriculture Minister Atul Bora from Latasil Field to Chandmari area in Guwahati.

During the bandh, picketeers burnt tyres on roads across the state to prevent movement of vehicular traffic and blocked rail tracks early morning in a bid to prevent movement of trains, official sources said.

Shops, markets and financial institutions kept their shutters down, while attendance in offices and educational institutions was thin, the sources said.

State-run Assam State Transport Corporation (ASTC) city and long distance buses plied with police escort Tuesday. Private commercial vehicles, however, kept off the roads as operators claimed that damage to their vehicles during bandhs and riots were not compensated by insurance companies.

Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti (KMSS), Asom Jatiyatabadi Yuba Chatra Parishad (AJYCP) and 44 other organisations had called the 12-hour bandh from 5 am to protest against the Centre's bid to pass the bill in winter session. The Congress and the

AIUDF had extended support to the bandh.

The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 was introduced in the Lok Sabha to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955 to grant Indian citizenship to Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians who fled religious persecution in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan and entered India before December 31, 2014.

The Assam government had on Monday directed all district administrations to ensure that there was no bandh Tuesday. Deputy commissioners had issued orders that all shops, business establishments and educational institutions remain open, transport facilities ply normally and all government officials should attend to their duties.

Carrying the AGP flag, placards and banners, the participants in the 'pratibadi samadal' (protest rally) walked through the main thoroughfare Gopinath Bordoloi Road to Chandmari to create awareness against the bill.

Party cabinet colleagues Kesab Mahanta and Phani Bhusan Choudhury were part of the protest rally besides former Chief Minister Prafulla Kumar Mahanta.

Addressing a gathering before the start of the procession, AGP president Atul Bora said the rally was called against the bill as it threatened the existence, identity, culture and language of the indigenous people of the state.

"We have already made our stand clear on the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill. Under no cir-

cumstances, are going to support it. We will fight till the end against the bill," he said.

Bora said the party was opposed to the bill as it "violated" the Assam Accord which was the result of a six-year long Assam agitation from 1979 against illegal migrants when 855 people died for the cause.

A team of AGP ministers, MLAs and leaders had recently visited Delhi to meet the members of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on the bill to put forward the party's views on it, he added.

Finance and Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma Monday said the Gauhati High Court had ruled that calling a bandh was illegal and as such the state-wide bandh called by 46 organisations could not be allowed and anyone supporting it would be committing contempt of court.

KMSS leader Akhil Gogoi said that this was the first time that they had called a bandh as the very "existence of the Assamese and their identity was at stake".

Gauhati West MLA Ramendra Narayan Kalita said, "We will not allow the bill to be passed in Parliament and we are taking all measures towards it. The Centre has to understand the sentiments of the people of Assam."

He said the government should realise that the people of Assam had come out to protest against its move to endanger their existence.

"We have been opposing the passage of the bill in Parliament and will continue to do so," said another AGP MLA Satyabrata Kalita.

## Sikkim all set to host NE States Youth Conclave

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Namgyal Senior Secondary School.

The conclave will have the competitive events of folk dance and song, quiz and painting competitions and there

will be cultural presentations in the non-competitive category. Motivational talks and friendship bond for participants are other highlights of the event.

He informed that be-

ing the host State, there will be 200 participants from all four districts of Sikkim in this youth conclave and around 270 participants from other NE States.

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### Gangtok on Wednesday, 24 Oct

**Temp:** 24°C/09°C  
**Forecast:** Times of clouds and sun, a shower or thunderstorm around in the afternoon.  
**Sunrise:** 05:0 AM  
**Sunset:** 05:00 PM

### Delhi's air quality index stays in 'poor' category

**NEW DELHI, OCT 23 (PTI):** Delhi's air quality continued to be in the "poor" category Tuesday, a day after it had improved from "very poor" Air Quality Index (AQI) zone.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) recorded the city's overall AQI at 252 at 11 am.

An AQI between 0 and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'.

The air quality in the national capital had shown signs of improvement Monday as it moved from 'very poor' to 'poor' category, but experts said it could deteriorate in the coming days due to toxic air coming out of a fire at Bhalswa landfill site.

The fire was extinguished Monday by a team of firefighters even as the area's civic body said it was keeping a watch on it, while Delhi Environment Minister Imran Hussain directed the municipal corporation to work on preventing landfill site fires.

The Centre-run System of Air Quality Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) also reported an AQI in the 'poor' category.

On Sunday, the AQI had oscillated between 'poor' and 'very poor' categories.

On Saturday, a haze had engulfed the national capital and the worst air quality of this season was recorded at 324.

Anumita Roychowdhury of Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) Monday said, as winter approaches, toxic air emanating out of such landfill fires is likely to affect the air quality.

"If the wind speed is lower and the temperature dips, the polluted air coming out of landfill fires will get trapped, which would severely affect the air quality," she said.

The Supreme Court-appointed Environment Protection Control Authority (EPCA) had last week held a meeting with officials of Punjab, Haryana and the Delhi governments to discuss the pollution situation in the national capital.

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# Aakraman FC ready for battle this Governor's Gold Cup



**REBYNA RANA**  
**GANGTOK, 23 OCT:**

One of the strongest football squads of Sikkim, Aakraman FC, is all set to battle Sogolband United, Manipur in the 38th All Indian Governor's Gold Cup International Football Tournament 2018 here at Paljor Stadium at 2 p.m. on 25 Oct.

Organised by Sikkim Football Association [SFA], the Governor's Gold Cup kicked off today and will continue till 03 Nov.

Speaking to SummitTimes, manager for Sikkim

Aakraman FC, Khituk Tongden Lepcha, has extended gratitude to the fans for their support.

"Squad Aakraman FC is prepared to play against Sogolband United which is said to be one of the strongest teams from Manipur. Preparation for the first match on 25 Oct is in full swing. Players have been undergoing rigorous training under their coach, Shishir Karthak, for the past two weeks with special focus on fitness and game plan," said Mr Lepcha.

Expressing hopes to clinch the champion's ti-

tle this year, Mr Lepcha added, "We have worked hard for the tournament and we believe that our efforts will not go in vain. Our squad had participated in Governor's Gold Cup in the year 2016 but unfortunately lost in the semi finals. We will bounce back strong this year with positive vibes, enthusiasm and strong willpower."

Mr Lepcha informed that Aakraman FC has only one player from outside [Ghana] and has appealed to all to come and support the team.

## 108 films from 52 nations to be screened in 2nd GIFF

**GUWAHATI, OCT 23 (PTI):** As many as 108 acclaimed films from over 50 countries will be screened in the second edition of the Guwahati International Film Festival, which will begin on October 25.

The seven-day film extravaganza is likely to see participation of about 45 foreign delegates, including eight Ambassadors, and nearly 5,000 domestic movie buffs.

"We are ready with all our preparations. In total, 108 films from 52 countries will be screened in this festival. We hope, this will be more successful than the last year's edition," 2nd Guwahati International Film Festival (GIFF) 2018 Artistic Director Rahul Jain told PTI here.

Nearly 35 film personalities from abroad will take part with their flicks, while Ambassadors from Lithuania, Myanmar, Argentina, Latvia, Estonia, Serbia, Singapore and Malaysia are likely to be present, he added.

"In terms of delegates,

over 3,800 have so far have registered. In the next two days, we hope to touch the figure of 5,000," Jain said.

The Assam Government-owned Jyoti Chitraban (Film Studio) Society is the organiser of the festival, which will be held from October 25 to 31, in association with Dr Bhupen Hazarika Regional Government Film and Television Institute.

Eminent filmmakers Buddhadeb Dasgupta and Shaji N Karun will be the chief guests during opening and closing ceremonies of the festival respectively.

The 2nd GIFF will begin with streaming of the National Award winning Director Jahnur Barua's yet-to-be released Assamese film 'Broken Window' (Bhoga Khirikee), while 'Black Crow' (Siyah Karga) by Turkish Director Muhammet Tayfur Aydin will be the closing film.

Jain informed that this year ASEAN will be the focus region instead of having any focus country.

"We will have 14 films from 10 countries of the ASEAN region. This will be a new experience as usually we have focus country in any such international festival," he added.

Some of the films from the South East Asian nations will be 'In the Life of Music' by Caylee So and Sok Visal, 'Woman of the Weeping River' by Sheron Dayoc, 'The Seen and Unseen' by Kamila Andini, 'Father and Son' by Luong Dinh Dung, 'Poppy Goes to Hollywood' by Sok Visal and 'Smaller and Smaller Circles' by Raya Martin and 'Mudras Calling' by Christina Kyi.

Apart from the ASEAN, films from the US, the UK, Spain, France, Argentina, Poland, Hungary, Italy, Croatia, Latvia, Israel, Greece, Turkey, Iran, Bangladesh, Qatar, Portugal, Sweden, China, Germany, Denmark, Georgia, Serbia, Switzerland, Netherlands, Albania, Estonia, Lithuania, Ireland, Peru, Czech Republic, Mexico, Iceland and Denmark will also be screened.

## Congregation of Christian Brothers to probe allegation of sexual abuse

**SHILLONG, OCT 23 (PTI):** The Congregation of Christian Brothers in India, a religious community within the Catholic Church, Tuesday said it will initiate an inquiry to ascertain the truth, after one of their senior members got mired in a #MeToo controversy.

The Professional Ethics Commission of the community assured action against accused Brother Francis Gale if found guilty.

"Due procedure will be initiated as laid out in our policy - safeguarding children and vulnerable adults - to take this serious allegation forward towards arriving at the truth and assisting the survivor with necessary help to attain due closure," the Commission's protection officer J Johnson said in a statement here.

He said the commission looks into all cases of abuse to find out the truth while taking appropriate

action against the alleged abuser if found guilty.

As part of the ongoing #Metoo campaign, a woman had last week accused Gale of sexually abusing her when he was serving at the St Edmund's School here. He is in West Bengal at present.

The victim had alleged that Gale started abusing her since she was five-years-old and the abuse continued till she turned 12. She finally managed to "muster enough courage" to refuse meeting him as she was afraid of getting pregnant.

While the 40-year-old victim has also named Brother Muscat of the Salesians of Don Bosco, another society under the Catholic Church, the society refused to speak on the matter.

"We have already spoken to the state police and have nothing to say at the moment," a senior

member of the society told PTI.

The State Commission for Women has urged the victim to file a formal complaint against the accused persons.

"It would be advisable if the victim files a formal FIR so that the legal framework can be activated to its optimum," the Chairperson of Meghalaya State Commission for Women, Theil Phanbuh, said.

She said that she would soon discuss the issue with other members of the Commission to decide whether to take suo motu action or not.

"The victim must file a FIR. It will definitely add teeth to the case and give ample space for a thorough investigation by relevant agencies of the government," the Chairperson of the Meghalaya State Commission for Protection of Child Rights Meena Khar-kongor said.

## Sirwani youth hacked to death

**YOGEN THATAL SINGTAM, 23 OCT:**

A 24-year-old youth, Saran Subba, was hacked to death with a 'khukuri' at Sirwani, East Sikkim on 19 Oct at around 6:30 p.m.

The accused, Sagar Subba [25], who was working as a domestic help at Sirwani, has been apprehended and is under police remand at Singtam Police Station for further investigation.

"It has been reported that the duo got into a scuffle on that fateful evening. The accused first hit the deceased on the head and then on the back with a khukuri multiple times," informed Sub Inspector, SD Lachungpa, while speaking to SummitTimes.

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## SC shocked over disappearance of 31 hills in Aravalli area of Rajasthan

**contd from pg01**

going on in 115.34 hectare area in Aravalli range in the state.

It also referred to a report of the central empowered committee (CEC) which had said that out of 128 samples taken by the Forest Survey of India (FSI), as many as 31 hills or hillocks have vanished.

"31 hills or hillocks have disappeared. If hills will disappear in the country, what will happen? Have people become 'Hanuman' that they are running away

with hills?," Justice Lokur asked the counsel appearing for Rajasthan.

"15-20 per cent hills have vanished in the state of Rajasthan. This is your ground truth. Whom you want to take for a ride?," the bench asked, adding that the state has failed to protect the Aravalli range from illegal mining.

The top court said that it was compelled to pass an order to stop illegal mining activities in 115.34-hectare area there within 48 hours as

it appeared that the state has taken the issue "very lightly".

It directed the chief secretary of Rajasthan to file an affidavit regarding compliance of its order within this week and posted the matter for hearing on October 29.

The bench said that it was "not at all satisfied" with the contents of status report filed by the state as it mostly deals with the "so called incompetence" of the FSI.

## SC to hear on Nov 13 petitions against Sabarimala verdict...

**contd from pg01**

peace and harmony at Sabarimala, he said, adding criminals will not be allowed to turn the temple complex into a trouble zone.

The government will restore the peace and harmony at Sabarimala and this will be through the cooperation of "actual believers" of Lord Ayyappa, Vijayan said.

Vijayan also made it clear it was the constitutional responsibility of the LDF government to implement the court order and said protection will be given to women who wish to offer prayers at the shrine.

The blocking of women and attack on media personnel, who had come to cover the historic event, was part of

a conspiracy led by the RSS, he alleged.

The temple in Sabarimala had witnessed high drama and tense moments for six days when it was opened for monthly prayers from October 17 to 22.

Vijayan also criticised temple tantris (priest), Kandararu Rajeevaru, who had said he would close the temple and go if women were allowed inside the shrine and the agitation by assistants of priests who had protested near the holy 18 steps.

A series of protests were witnessed across the state since the CPI(M)-led LDF government decided to implement the verdict.

Reacting to Vijayan's attack, BJP State President, PS Sreedharan

Pillai blamed the "stubbornness" of the chief minister for the present situation in Sabarimala.

The government should rectify its mistakes and protect the faith of believers, Pillai said.

The massive support the devotees received across the state had left the ruling CPI(M) and LDF in "jitters" which was why they have started a campaign, including family meets to explain the government's stand on the issue, he added.

Pandalam Royal family member Sasi Kumar Varma said even though the government used all its machinery and tried to bring women, barred by tradition, to the shrine, they could not succeed.

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## For Education

### Figure out why... the how will then follow

The definition of literacy in India is grossly under-achieving. Anyone with an elementary knowledge to read and write is counted as literate; at times, even just being able to write and read their names is considered enough, and that is hardly what literacy should be about. If this were the yardstick to measure literacy, then handing over smartphones to the unlettered will get the job done. It is after all not rare to find preschool toddlers who have figured out how the play and pause commands on video games look different and work their way around it.

So, aiming for literacy is really aiming too low.

The aim has to be to deliver learning even if it does not include reading and writing so that the quality of human resource is improved. Governments choose the easier option of literacy when the more productive and necessary approach should be to create better educated citizens. Do that, and one need not even worry too much about employable skills, because if education does its job well, it will infuse an inquisitiveness and a confidence which will make the "educated" ready for every job and every challenge. And this has to be approached with which the education policy is approached.

Sikkim is thankfully on track since there are deep meditations and consultations underway to understand what is missing from its schools, what works and what needs to be done to inject quality into the school system here.

Education has been held up as a thrust area of governmental engagement, with 'quality' as the watch word. It is heartening for Sikkim to learn that education is receiving a relook. The density of schools in Sikkim leaves no room for complaint and the free textbooks and uniform scheme of the government ensure that at least the costumed required to remain in school are in place. Schemes like the mid-day meal are pegged as incentives to keep students in school, but the only effective incentive long-term will be the quality of education that is imparted in the classrooms, not the quality of food served during breaks or the quality of uniforms.

That said, enrolment is handsome in Sikkim's schools and kids here can complete education if they so desire. But what also needs to be accepted is that nowadays, most kids are in school because their parents don't know what else to do with them... because sending children to school is the done thing. Worryingly, most enroll in colleges for much the same reason (or rather, the lack of one). Not too many of us have really figured out why we send children to school. There are vague notions of "a better future" and employment, but come on, we should not be signing off the first two decades or more of our lives for pursuits without any clear idea of why. Hence, the first task for any enquiry into how schools can be improved should be to build consensus on why we have schools in the first place, and let's scratch employment from the reasons because imparting "employable skills" does not require such a long time – you can prepare people for most jobs with a basic 3-month course and the rest they can learn on the job. Once Sikkim has figured out "why", the how will be easy to work out.

## BJP damaging, destroying the country's institutions: Yechury

**NEW DELHI, OCT 23 (PTI):** Referring to an internal feud in the CBI between its director and deputy director, CPI (M) leader Sitaram Yechury Tuesday alleged the BJP was damaging and destroying the country's institutions.

In a series of tweets, Yechury said the party's "nefarious" design needed to be defeated.

There was no comment from the BJP on the issue.

"The role of top BJP leadership in damaging and destroying the country's institutions is unparalleled in India's history. This is needed to further the RSS's unconstitutional agenda. Their nefarious designs have to be, and will be defeated," Yechury tweeted.

"That the CBI is particularly under the spotlight should not surprise us. After all, it was the agency investigating the BJP party president for a very serious charge. No prizes for guessing how and why his name was 'cleared' under a dark cloud," he alleged.

On October 15, the CBI

registered an FIR against Special Director Rakesh Asthana alleging criminal misconduct on his part and that Sana had allegedly paid bribe of around Rs 5 crore to him, through a middleman, to get relief.

The Left leader alleged a number of "compromised officials" with dubious records were inducted into top agencies in the past four years.

He claimed it was not just due to poor governance "but due to a malafide intention to target political opposition and save their own under investigation".

Yechury also questioned the appointment of the tainted officer in the agency and asked who patronised him this official in his career.

"The official patronised by BJP and handpicked by (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi, was pushed into our premier investigation agency, despite opposition to his entry, only to subvert ongoing investigations and stop all cases against BJP leaders. He has now been caught red-handed," he claimed.

**NICK HASLAM**  
*theconversation.com*

Grief can seem desolate for those in the thick of it who often feel unable to imagine a way out of their suffering. But, as time passes, the pain usually dampens or becomes more fleeting.

Understanding the normal trajectory of grief matters for the person experiencing the grief and those treating them. Attempts to provide a map of the bereavement process have typically proposed a sequence of stages. The "five stages" model is the best known, with the stages being denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance.

While there is some evidence for these stages, the experience of grief is highly individualised and not well captured by their fixed sequence. Some of the five stages may be absent, their order may be jumbled, certain experiences may rise to prominence more than once and the progression of stages may stall. The age of the bereaved person and the cause of death may also shape the grief process.

### STAGES OF GRIEF

The first major attempt to outline the stages of grief was made by British psychiatrist John Bowlby, father of attachment theory, an influential account of how infants and children form close bonds to their care-givers. Bowlby and his colleague Colin Parkes proposed four stages of grieving.

The first is of numbness and shock, when the loss is not accepted or seen as not real. The second stage of yearning and searching is marked by a sense of emptiness. The mourner is preoccupied with the person who has been lost, seeking reminders and reliving memories.

In the third stage, despair and disorganisation set in. This is a sense of hopelessness and sometimes anger where the bereaved person may withdraw into depression. Finally, in the re-organisation and recovery stage, hope rekindles and there is a gradual return to the rhythms of daily life.

Bowlby and Parkes's model, first proposed in the early 1960s, may have been the first. However, it's Swiss-American psychiatrist Elisabeth Kübler-Ross's model coined in 1969 that has become the most widely known. Her five stages of grief – originally developed to map patient responses to terminal illness – have become famous. They have been applied not only to responses to death but also to a variety of other losses.

Kübler-Ross's first stage, denial, resembles what Bowlby and Parkes labelled numbness and

shock, but her second, anger, departs from their scheme. The affected person demands to understand why the loss or illness has taken place, and why it has happened to them. In the third stage, bargaining, the person may be consumed with "if only", guiltily wishing they could go back in time and undo whatever may have led to the illness, or death.

Stages four and five involve depression and acceptance. Despair and withdrawal gradually give way to a sense of fully acknowledging and making peace with the loss.

### EVIDENCE FOR THE FIVE STAGES

Kübler-Ross's stages emerged from her clinical work with dying patients rather than systematic research. Empirical support for the existence of the proposed sequence of stages has been scant but intriguing.

One study followed 233 older adults over a 24-month period after the death of a loved one from natural causes. It assessed them on experiences as-

sociated with a modified version of Kübler-Ross's stages. In accord with her theory, each of the five experiences peaked in the predicted order.



five stages. This points to the limitations of framing grief in the clinical terms of depression, which study participants experienced less frequently than longing.

But the study's findings can't necessarily be generalised as it looked only at older adults and natural causes of death. Another major study found the typical pattern of grieving among young adults was substantially different.

Yearning peaked before disbelief, and depression remained constant without resolving over two years. In addition, yearning, anger and disbelief returned with a second peak near the two-year mark, when acceptance also declined.

Moreover, young adults whose loved ones died by violent causes differed from the typical pattern. For them, disbelief dominated their first months, and depression initially declined but then rose again as the second anniversary of the death approached.

All these findings represent the average responses of a sample rather than the trajectories of individual participants. Even if the Kübler-Ross's stages partially reflect the statistical tendencies of the whole sample, they might fail to capture how individuals' experiences of grief unfold.

That is the conclusion of a study that followed 205 adults over an 18-month period following the loss of a spouse. These adults had been interviewed for a related study prior to the loss.

The researchers found evidence of five distinct trajectories, with some people being depressed before the loss, and recovering afterwards. Some fell into a long-lasting depression, while others were fairly resilient and had experienced low levels of depression throughout.

### STATES OF GRIEF

Kübler-Ross came to acknowledge the reality that her stages compose an appealing narrative of recovery rather than an accurate sequencing of grief. Experts now place less emphasis on her stages as a series of steps on the bereavement journey, much as they have tended to lose faith in other stage theories of human behaviour.

For all its limitations, Kübler-Ross's analysis still has value. The supposed stages of grief may be better understood as states of grief: recognisable experiences that rise to the surface in distinctive ways in each person's sorrowful passage through loss.

*[The writer is Professor of Psychology, University of Melbourne]*

## Why some earthquakes are so deadly

**LINDSAY SCHOENBOHM**  
*theconversation.com*

You feel a jolt. Was that ... no, it couldn't be. Wait, it is an earthquake.

Now the whole house is shaking. What do you do?

The answer depends less on the magnitude of the earthquake than you'd think. What matters more is what country you live in and how close you are to water.

Take, for example, the biggest earthquake you've never heard of. It happened on Feb. 27, 2010, off the coast of Chile. It was the sixth largest ever recorded, with a magnitude of 8.8.

It didn't exactly go unnoticed. It caused three minutes of intense shaking in Chile and Argentina. The tsunami it generated caused damage as far away as Japan.

Yet only 550 people died in this earthquake, 150 of those in the resulting tsunami, and it hasn't lingered in the public awareness.

Compare it to what happened in Haiti just a month earlier, on Jan. 12, 2010. That one you definitely remember because it was awful, and you and countless others donated to the rescue and recovery effort.

No one knows for sure how many died: 160,000? 220,000? But this earthquake was only a magnitude 7.0. In the world of logarithmic scaling, that means the one in Chile was 500 times more powerful. So why was the Haiti earthquake so devastating?

### BLIND FAULT

The classic saying among geologists is that earthquakes don't kill people — buildings do. Or bridges. Or failing dams. Or fires from ruptured gas lines.

Or a cholera outbreak that follows

from the lack of clean drinking water.

Nothing makes a bigger difference in an earthquake's death toll than infrastructure, especially when population is dense. Chile has a long history of earthquakes. The largest ever recorded, a magnitude 9.5, struck in 1960. It also has the building codes

an Ocean.

### THE UNEXPECTED IN SULAWESI

So what went so wrong on Sept. 28, 2018, in Sulawesi, Indonesia? The magnitude 7.5 quake was large, but not giant. The real killer, and the surprise, was the tsunami. So far, about 2,100 deaths have been reported, but



to show for it. Haiti didn't have the resources to adequately prepare or respond.

Another difference is expectation. The earthquake in Haiti happened on what is called a blind fault, meaning it was buried, so we didn't know it existed.

The fault in Chile pops all the time. And countries throughout the Pacific now know they can be hit anytime by a tsunami originating from Chile or any other number of locations.

After the devastating earthquake that struck off the coast of Sumatra on Dec. 26, 2004, generating the Boxing Day tsunami that killed more than 200,000 people, an international effort ramped up deployment of a warning system of buoys in the Indi-

the number continues to rise.

Tsunamis are devastating — inescapable and nearly unsurvivable if you're in their path. They usually occur by changing the shape of the ocean floor during the earthquake.

But the Sulawesi earthquake didn't happen under water. Instead, the tsunami may have been a secondary effect — the earthquake triggered an underwater landslide, and the landslide triggered the tsunami.

Would an early warning system have helped? Possibly, but because we weren't expecting this kind of tsunami, even if a network of buoys had been functional, they wouldn't have been in the right place because the tsunami was so local.

They also wouldn't have given

locals much warning, as the tsunami followed so quickly on the heels of the earthquake — in this situation the earthquake itself was the best early warning system.

### WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

Don't think we're immune to large or unexpected earthquakes in Canada. Vancouver is poised for "the big one." There are occasional rumblings in Québec and Ontario along ancient tectonic scars — earthquakes along faults like this are the hardest to predict because they occur so rarely.

Learning to accurately predict and prepare for earthquakes is a long game. They're so seldom that it's difficult to see the pattern, and therefore difficult to predict the future.

There is promising work on "precursor" earthquakes that give days to minutes of warning. Unfortunately, most of the time the best we can do is make pronouncements about the chance of an earthquake of a certain size occurring in a certain area in the next certain number of years. And that sounds anything but certain.

Scientists are working on extending what we know about past earthquakes beyond recorded human history. This helps. But accurately predicting earthquakes and their impact requires money, time and lots of excruciatingly detailed work.

So what do you do when you feel the jolt of an earthquake? In Chile, dive for cover; your building will probably stay standing. In Haiti, get out in the open. If you're anywhere near water, like Sulawesi, don't wait for warning sirens, head for the hills as fast as you can.

*[The writer is Associate Professor, University of Toronto]*

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# Bangladesh arrests pro-opposition editor on defamation charge

**ANISUR RAHMAN DHAKA, OCT 23 (PTI):** The Bangladesh Police has arrested prominent pro-opposition newspaper editor and lawyer Moinul Hosen on a defamation charge, days after he faced massive criticism for calling a woman journalist “characterless” on a TV talk show.

Hosen, the owner and editor of the Daily New Nation, is a well-known critic of the government and though he does not belong to any party, the 78-year-old is known for his right-wing political views.

The barrister, who had served as an adviser

with ministerial status in the past caretaker government, was arrested Monday night by police's Detective Branch.

“We have arrested Barrister Moinul Hosen in compliance with an arrest warrant issued by a court in (northwestern) Rangpur,” Joint Commissioner at the Detective Branch Mahub Alal told reporters.

Hosen would be kept in police custody overnight at the Detective Branch office to be produced before a court Tuesday for subsequent legal procedures, he said.

On a talk show on October 16 midnight journalist Masuda Bhatti

had asked Hosen if he represented fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami in the newly-floated Unity Front, as being speculated on the social media.

In his reply, Hosen had said, “I thank you for your audacity (in asking the question) and want to call you a characterless (person).”

Hosen had played a key role in the formation of the recently-floated Unity Front, an alliance between the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and other centrist parties.

He was arrested around 10 PM from the residence of left-lea-

ning opposition politician ASM Abdur Rab of the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), which is also a part of the alliance.

“He came out of the house as the plainclothesmen laid a siege around the house and sent him the message that they awaited outside with the warrant,” a witness to the arrest process told PTI.

The Unity Front comprises main opposition outside parliament BNP and several other political groups led by prominent lawyer Kamal Hossain.

Hosen is also a former chairman of the Board of Editors of the Daily Ittefaq, one of Bangladesh's

oldest newspapers.

Earlier, Masuda Bhatti had said Hosen had called her to apologise.

But, his move could help him little to evade a spate of massive disparagement and a series of defamation cases filed by women rights groups and the one lodged by the woman journalist.

A police officer said at least six defamation cases were filed against Hosen for his comments while he managed to secure bail in three of them.

“We arrested him in one of the cases where he was not protected under the High Court order,” the officer said.

Hosen's younger brother Anwar Hossain is a senior minister in the cabinet as his faction of Jatiya Party (JP) is a partner of the Awami League-led ruling coalition.

Hours ahead of the arrest Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina told a news conference that Hosen deserved punitive actions for his defamatory comments against a lady colleague of yours .

She also described him an agent of the 1971 Pakistani forces and no less responsible for the killing of martyred journalist Serajuddin Hossain during the 1971 Liberation War.

## BJP reschedules ‘rath yatra’, to be led by Shah, in Bengal

**KOLKATA, OCT 23 (PTI):** The central leadership of the BJP has deferred a “rath yatra”, to be led by its chief Amit Shah, in West Bengal by two days in view of the party's Assembly election campaigns in other states, sources in the saffron party said.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) state general secretary Sayantan Basu said Shah will now kick off the “yatra” on December 5, instead of December 3, from the temple town of Tarapith in Birbhum.

Five states -- Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Telangana and Chhattisgarh -- are set to go to the polls between November 12 and December 7.

“Taking the Assembly polls into consideration, the party has decided to reschedule the dates for the rath yatra in the state,” a senior BJP leader said.

The “yatra” will be taken to all the 42 Lok Sabha constituencies in the state -- three chariots covering 14 seats each -- he added.

Sharing the programme details, Basu told PTI, “The first rally will begin from Birbhum on December 5. The second and third rallies will start from Coochbehar district in the north and Gangasagar in the south on December 7 and 9 respectively. Amit Shahji will be present at all the three rallies.”

The tableaux will stop at various places for public meetings and interactions, Basu said.

At the conclusion of the “yatra”, the party planned to hold a massive rally in Kolkata, which was likely to be addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he added.

Sources in the saffron party said the decision to take out the “rath yatra” was taken during Shah's two-day visit to the state in June.

Buoyed by its performance in the last panchayat polls in West Bengal, the BJP has prepared its 2019 Lok Sabha election blueprint, targeting at least 22 parliamentary seats in the state.

“Bengal is of immense importance to our party as people are fed up with the Trinamool Congress (TMC) regime. We need to win the maximum number of seats from east and northeast India, especially Bengal,” another BJP leader said.

The saffron party currently has two Lok Sabha seats in Bengal -- Asansol and Darjeeling.

Senior TMC leader and MP Abhishek Banerjee said his party was not bothered about the BJP taking out any “yatra” as the people of the state were with the ruling party.

“Let them take out the rath yatra. The people of the state will defeat the divisive politics of the BJP,” he added.

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## Security pact with India provides institutional guarantee to combat trans-border crimes: China

**BEIJING, OCT 23 (PTI):** China on Tuesday said its first internal security cooperation agreement with India will provide institutional guarantee to combat trans-border crimes, but did not indicate any change in its stance on blocking India's efforts to list Pakistan-based JeM chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist by the UN.

The agreement was inked during the first India-China high-level meeting on bilateral security cooperation which

was co-chaired by Home Minister Rajnath Singh and Zhao Kezhi, State Councillor and Minister of Public Security, China, in New Delhi.

“This cooperation treaty is very important in terms of advancing law enforcement and security cooperation so that the two countries enjoy the sound development of bilateral relations,” Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying told a media briefing answering a question on the pact and

the talks between the two ministers.

Referring to the April informal summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping, Hua said, “We believe this cooperation on security and law enforcement will help us to combat crimes as it will provide more institutional and systematic guarantee on this.”

“We will continue to step up our cooperation in combating separatist forces, telecom fraud the drug crimes and other

trans-border crimes. We will explore more areas for security and law enforcement cooperation and ensure the security of our personnel that carrying projects in each other's countries,” she said.

On India's request for China's support to declare Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Azhar as global terrorist by the UN, Hua said she has to check the specific details of the talks between the two ministers.

“As per to India's request for the listing of Masood (Azhar) we al-

ready stated our position for many times,” she said.

“On the counter terrorism issue, China has always actively participated in international anti-terrorist operations. We have always made our decisions and judgements on the merits of the matter itself,” she said.

“We will continue to step up the security cooperation to uphold the regional peace and stability with parties,” she said.

A veto-wielding permanent member of the UN Security Council, Chi-

na has repeatedly blocked India's bid at the United Nations to list Azhar as a global terrorist.

On reports that India has requested China to not to give shelter to hard-line United Liberation Front Of Assam (ULFA) leader Paresh Baruah, Hua said, “I shall stress that the Chinese government has always adhered to the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries. This remains unchanged.”

## Resigning from Assembly as I cannot fulfill duty: Assam MLA

**GUWAHATI, OCT 23 (PTI):** First-time BJP MLA Terash Gowalla Tuesday said he has sent his resignation letter from the Assam Assembly to Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal.

The legislator from Duliajan constituency said he has sent his letter to Sonowal, who is the leader of the BJP Legislative Party in the state, on Monday night.

Confirming the development, a senior BJP party official said, “Yes, he has sent the resignation to the CM's office on Monday.”

Asked about the reasons for resigning from the house, Gowalla said, “There are various issues. I am not able to ful-

fill my duties as MLA. So, taking the moral responsibility, I am resigning from the Assembly.”

When pointed out that the issue of not offering him any post, particularly in Assam Gas Company Ltd (AGCL), during the recent appointments, Gowalla said, “That is one reason.

The AGCL is in Duliajan and people elected me as their representative. They had some expectations from me.

“However, without consulting me, the appointment in the company was made. I am not saying that you (government) give me the post, but at least I should have been consulted.”

Asked if there was any possibility of withdrawing the resignation under party pressure, Gowalla said, “I have informed the issues to the CM. If I get a satisfactory answer, I may re-consider it.”

Gowalla told PTI he has not sent the letter to the Spaker, Hitendra Nath Goswami, which he will be doing after consulting the people of his constituency.

When contacted, the Principal Secretary of the Assembly Secretariat, MK Dekha said, they had not received any intimation about the MLA's resignation.

At present, the saffron party has 61 representatives in the 126-member

Assembly.

Sonwal on Monday appointed various persons, including politicians from the BJP, AGP and BPF, as chairman, vice chairman and directors of 40 government-run bodies.

This included appointment of Sadiya MLA Bolin Chetia as chairperson and Indra Gogoi as the vice chairperson of Assam Gas Company Ltd.

Terming it as “very unfortunate”, Congress spokesperson Rhituporna Konwar said, “It is nothing but opportunistic politics”.

When people are worried about their own identity and a conglom-

erate of organisations have called an Assam Bandh, Gowalla resigned for his own benefit.

“The BJP MLA had sought peoples' man-

date as a legislator only to serve the constituency and not to be appointed as chairman of AGCL or any other company post,” the Congress leader said.

## Market hits over 6-mth low as rupee woes, trade war worries linger

**MUMBAI, OCT 23 (PTI):** Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty fell for the fourth session in a row to hit their over six-month low levels, dragged by IT and pharma stocks as concerns over rupee fall, global trade war tiff and geo-political tensions resurfaced.

The BSE index ended 287.15 points lower at 33,847.23 -- the weakest closing since April 10, when the 30-share gauge had settled at 33,880.25. Similarly, the NSE Nifty dropped 98.45 points to end at 10,146.80 -- its lowest closing since April 4.

Meanwhile, the rupee depreciated to 73.82 (intra-day) against the US dollar, which too had a negative influence.

Geo-political concerns over death of a Saudi journalist, Brexit and likely breach in Italy's budget also kept investors cautious.

“Profit booking in

IT & Pharmaceuticals stocks dragged the indices lower today. These two sectors were holding their ground recently while overall markets corrected. Investors choose to book some profits here as the tailwinds of depreciating currency are slowing,” said VK Sharma, Head PCG & Capital Markets Group, HDFC Securities.

The 30-share index closed down 287.15 points or 0.84 per cent at 33,847.23 after hitting a low of 33,742.75. This is the weakest closing since April 10 last, when it settled at 33,880.25. The index had lost 1,028 points in the previous three sessions.

The broader NSE Nifty too fell below the 10,200 level by dropping 98.45 points, or 0.96 per cent, to end at 10,146.80. Intra-day, it touched a low of 10,102.35.

However, short-cov-

ering by speculators towards the fag-end helped both the key indices to trim losses.

“In yet another volatile trading session, the Indian equity benchmark indices ended lower for fourth straight session, driven largely by weak global cues... Barring Power & Realty which ended marginally higher, all the other sectoral indices ended in the red with IT, Healthcare & FMCG being the top losers, down 1.2-2.8 per cent. Globally, the Asian & European indices traded sharply lower,” experts said.

Overall market sentiment remained weak largely in sync with other Asian markets, tracking overnight losses at the Wall Street as caution grew ahead of a slew of earnings reports this week, brokers said.

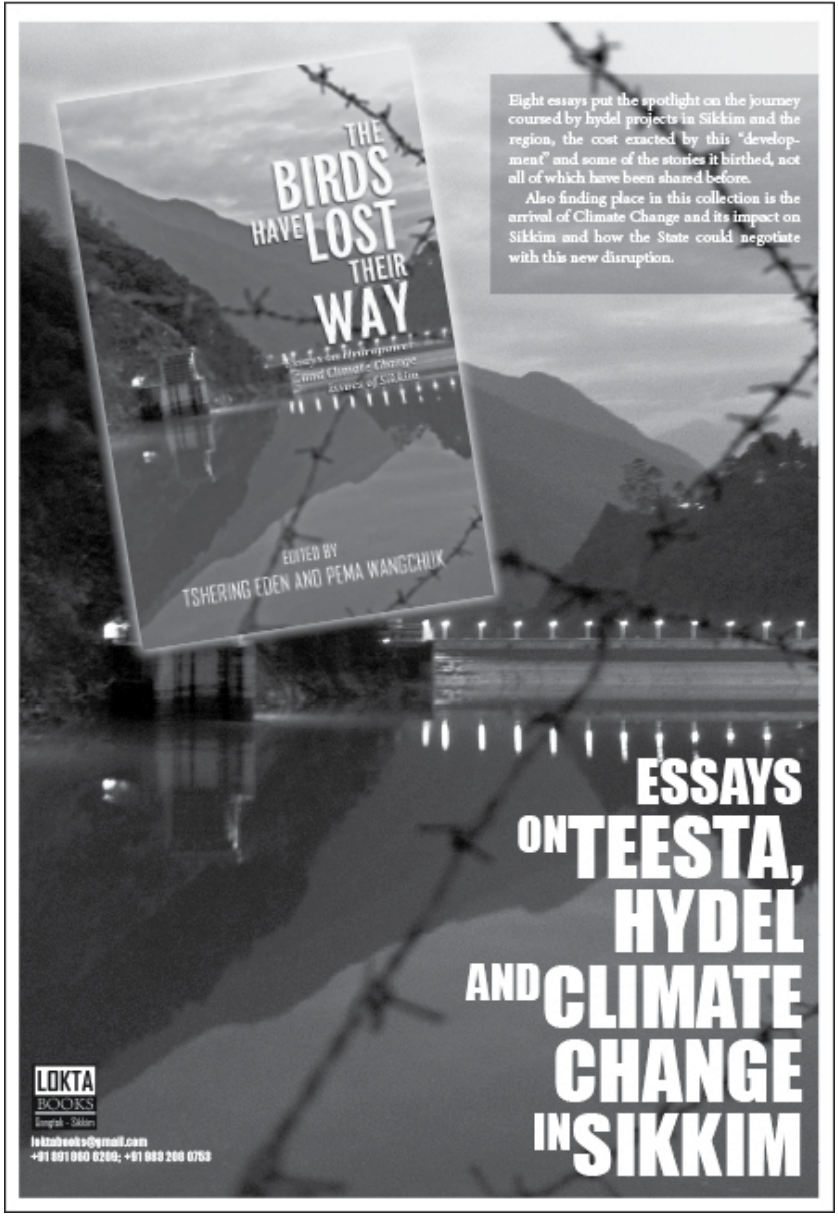
On a net basis, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs)

sold shares of Rs 511.91 crore Monday, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) bought shares worth Rs 303.21 crore, as per provisional data.

Asian Paint was among worst performer in the Sensex pack, falling 5.21 per cent, followed by Sun Pharma at 5.07 per cent after the company reported a 14.76 per cent fall in its consolidated net profit to Rs 506 crore for the September quarter Monday.

Other laggards included Wipro, TCS, Infosys, SBI, Vedanta Ltd, HUL, RIL, M&M, ICICI Bank, ITC Ltd, Maruti Suzuki, ONGC, Hero MotoCorp, HDFC Bank, and L&T, falling by up to 3.93 per cent.

Bucking the trend, IndusInd Bank, PowerGrid, HDFC Ltd, Yes Bank, Bajaj Auto, Kotak Bank, Adani Ports, Coal India, Axis Bank, Tata Steel and NTPC were top performers.





# Messi injury gives Barca and Dembele chance to prove their worth

**BARCELONA, OCT 23 (AFP):** Barcelona's lowest ebbs are invariably followed by questions about Lionel Messi but the issue of over-reliance may become clearer over the coming weeks.

The sight of Messi on the ground, grasping his right arm, during Barca's win over Sevilla on Saturday prompted reactions inside Camp Nou normally reserved for the conceding of goals.

Hands behind heads, fingers over mouths, the concern became real shortly after the final whistle when the club confirmed Messi had fractured his radial bone.

His absence leaves Barca vulnerable when they need him most, for a run of fixtures that includes Inter Milan in the Champions League on Wednesday, the Clasico against Real Madrid on Sunday, before a return match against Inter in Italy at the start of next month.

If he takes longer than expected to recover, he



could miss tricky games against Real Betis and Atletico Madrid in La Liga too.

Barcelona have grown used to accusations of dependence, not least when results have taken a turn for the worse.

When Ernesto Valverde left Messi on the bench for the 1-1 draw at home to Athletic Bilbao last month, the argument was given added weight by him coming on and making the assist for their equaliser.

"This is Barcelona," Messi afterwards.

"We have a strong team and we have enough not to have to depend on one player."

The same point was raised last season, when Messi, as a substitute, inspired a late fightback from two goals down against Sevilla and scored in the 89th minute.

He played the entirety of the Champions League collapse against Roma but then the crit-

icism was Barca had failed to find the answer when Messi had not provided it.

There is no team in the world that would not look worse with Messi extracted.

## 'CASTING FOR REPLACEMENTS'

As Real Madrid are proving in the absence of Cristiano Ronaldo, a striker's goals are difficult to replace but so too is the aura.

"Emotionally we know when Messi is

there he gives us more confidence because he is the best in the world," Pique said on Saturday.

"But it does not have to affect us." To maintain a resurgence built on wins over Tottenham and Sevilla, as well as a draw away to Valencia, Valverde will have to find the solution.

On Monday, Marca listed six options in a "casting for replacements" - Ousmane Dembele, Rafinha, Munir El Haddadi, Malcom, Carles Alena and Sergi Roberto.

Alena, the 20-year-old midfielder, is an exciting talent, while Malcom, only a year older, scored 12 goals for Bordeaux last season.

But Dembele is the most obvious. Messi's position on the right of the front three is where he is most comfortable, rather than off the left, where the 21-year-old has often been made to adapt so far.

After a debut season blighted by injuries, Dembele started the first

six games of this one, scoring five goals.

But doubts remain about him in big games, where his habit for losing possession can be punished by opponents quick in transition and clinical on the counter-attack.

When Barca went three matches without a win, he was dropped.

"He is not yet fully aware of what it means to play at the highest level," said France coach Didier Deschamps last month.

"He still needs to learn," Valverde said last weekend.

It would be a surprise if Dembele was not at least given the chance at Camp Nou against Inter, who are level on points with Barca in Group B, having also beaten PSV Eindhoven and Tottenham.

Second place might have been the limit of Inter's ambitions when the draw was made but with Messi out, they might spy an opportunity.

"It is a pity," said Mauro Icardi. "And a big blow for them."

## Mariners say Bolt not A-League grade as deal talks stall



**SYDNEY, OCT 23 (AFP):** Australia's Central Coast Mariners said negoti-

ations with Usain Bolt were stalled over money Tuesday, also warning the sprint superstar he will not play in the A-League even if he signs with the club.

The eight-time Olympic champion has been on trial with the A-League side since arriving in August to fulfil his dream of becoming a professional footballer.

The 32-year-old's quest has garnered worldwide attention, which intensified last week when he scored two goals in a pre-season friendly.

The Mariners said Bolt, who turned down a two-year, trial-free deal from cashed-up Maltese champions Valtella last week, had been offered a contract but added "negotiations remain on-going" over the athlete's footballing future.

The club said it was seeking outside sponsors to top up the offer to Bolt.

"Without the financial contribution of an external third-party, it is unlikely that Usain Bolt and the Central Coast Mariners will agree to terms," it said.

Sydney's Daily Telegraph reported this week that Bolt's representatives were initially seeking Aus 3 million (US 2.1 million) but the Mari-

ners' offer was closer to Aus 150,000.

The Mariners disputed the figures and said "if there is a suitable way forward for both player and club, the two parties will keep working together and formalise an agreement".

Despite his pre-season double, pundits have criticised the 100m world-record holder's footballing form.

The Mariners indicated the world's fastest man may have potential as a player but was not good enough to be a regular starter if he chose to stay.

"Usain has made great progression during his time on the Central Coast and we feel that he will improve further with more individual intensive training and competitive game time," they said.

"We are looking at ways to do this as the club does not have the luxury to be able to do this in the Hyundai A-League."

The Mariners said Bolt would not attend training while negotiations about his future were ongoing to avoid distracting his teammates ahead of Saturday's home match against Melbourne City.

Bolt, who retired from athletics last year, has previously tried out with clubs in Germany, South Africa and Norway.

## "Saudis plotted writer's killing for days"

**ANKARA, OCT 23 (AP):** Saudi officials murdered journalist Jamal Khashoggi in their Istanbul consulate after plotting his death for days, Turkey's president said Tuesday, contradicting Saudi Arabia's explanation that the writer was accidentally killed.

He demanded that the kingdom reveal the identities of all involved, regardless of rank.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan also said he wants Saudi Arabia to allow 18 suspects that it detained for the Saudi's killing to be tried in Turkish courts, setting up further complications with the Saudi government, which has said it is conducting its own investigation and will punish those involved.

"To blame such an incident on a handful of security and intelligence members would not satisfy us or the international community," Erdogan said in a speech to ruling party lawmakers in parliament.

"Saudi Arabia has taken an important step by admitting the murder. As of now we expect of them to openly bring to light those responsible from the highest ranked to the lowest and to bring them to justice," the Turkish

president said.

Erdogan's speech was previously pitched as revealing the "naked truth" about Khashoggi's slaying. Instead it served merely to put a named source to information already circulated by anonymous officials and the Turkish press in the days since the columnist for The Washington Post walked into the Saudi consulate in Istanbul.

However, he kept pressure on the kingdom with his demands for Turkish prosecution of the suspects as well as punishment for the plot's masterminds.

"All evidence gathered shows that Jamal Khashoggi was the victim of a savage murder. To cover up such a savagery would hurt the human conscience," he said.

Erdogan didn't mention Saudi Arabia's assertive Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in his speech, though officials linked to the royal have been implicated in the killing. The kingdom has said the heir-apparent of the world's top oil exporter was not involved, but any major decision must be signed off by the highest powers within its ruling Al Saud family.

# India look to consolidate lead against West Indies

**VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT 23 (PTI):** Equipped with a top-order that is riding an unprecedented run of rich form, India are favoured to extend their dominance while West Indies face insurmountable odds to draw parity, in the second One-day International here Wednesday.

It has been a mismatch of gigantic proportions so far and it looks highly unlikely that West Indies would have much of a chance against the well-oiled machine that India seem to be at home.

If captain Virat Kohli adds another 81 runs to his awe-inspiring tally, he will become the fastest man to 10,000 runs in this format, surpassing the iconic Sachin Tendulkar.

The possibility of this record being broken has added to the excitement of the port city's frenzied fans.

Tendulkar took 259 innings to get there and Kohli has so far batted 204 times.

Notwithstanding the Indian bowlers' profligate display, albeit on a belter, the home team made easy work of what looked like a stiff 323-run target in the series opener, taking a 1-0 lead in the five-match rubber.

In Guwahati, India unleashed their batting might as Kohli and opener Rohit Sharma, arguably the two best batsmen in the 50-over game at the moment, smashed big hundreds in quick time.

Finishing the game with eight overs to spare was a statement of sorts, and another blow to the West Indies' morale.

However, despite the convincing margin of victory, India will be better off with a bit of frugality from their bowlers at the Dr. Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy ACA VDCA Cricket Stadium.

Besides, India are unlikely to get enough opportunities to test their middle-order against this West Indies attack, what

with the home team's top three batsmen in the mood to plunder runs.

But the lack of enough game-time for their middle-order may not hold India in good stead in the run-up to the World Cup.

As far as the upcoming match is concerned, Kohli knows his team is thin in the bowling department, and West Indies made full use of the weakness, though the visiting team's attack too, was taken to the task under lights.

In the absence of 'death overs specialist' Jasprit Bumrah and the reliable Bhuvneshwar Kumar, the Indian seamers were not up to the mark at the Barsapara Stadium.

Also, Ravindra Jadeja did not look threatening in the middle overs and this allowed West Indies batsmen to keep going for their strokes.

After making a fine comeback in ODIs against

Bangladesh in the Asia Cup, Jadeja has not been able to be as penetrative in the remaining matches.

He leaked runs in the first game of the ongoing series, but considering his all-round abilities, he is expected to get a longer run.

Mohammad Shami was wayward and was taken for plenty of runs -- 81 to be precise -- in his quota of 10 overs. Given the lack of options at his disposal at the moment though, Kohli could continue with the seamer.

Fresh from a 10-wicket outing in the second Test, Umesh Yadav could not replicate his red ball form, conceding too many runs.

More than his bowling figures, what was disturbing was the fact that the speedster lacked direction, something that has troubled him in the past as well.

With less than a year left for the World Cup and the team manage-

ment eager to form a pool of fast bowlers for the showpiece in England, Umesh is also likely to get an extended run.

India could still ring in a change or two, though.

Chinaman Kuldeep Yadav, who was not played in the opening game and which had a bearing on the middle overs, is likely to replace Khaleel Ahmed, who looked out of sorts against the marauding Shimron Hetmyer, who struck a blazing 78-ball 106.

Hetmyer's knock was one of the few positives for the beleaguered visitors, apart from the brisk start provided by Kieran Powell. While the two showed up, West Indies would hope others too, would make substantial contributions in the remainder of the series.

The seasoned Marlon Samuels is part of the squad but he perished

quickly in the first match. He would look to make up for his failure, just like India's Shikhar Dhawan.

Dhawan was in prolific form in India's triumphant Asia Cup campaign and he is expected to fire anytime soon. The last time he batted here, against Sri Lanka in December 2017, Dhawan compiled a match-winning century.

Rishabh Pant, who has already made his presence felt in his brief international career, and Mahendra Singh Dhoni, only add to the West Indians' worry.

For West Indies, pace spearhead Kemar Roach is back after missing the Test series due to bereavement in the family, but he could not inspire the team first up.

Roach will get another opportunity on Wednesday, and so will the likes of Devendra Bishoo, and skipper Jason Holder himself.

# SC fixes 2-hr time period for bursting fire crackers on Diwali, other festivals

**NEW DELHI, OCT 23 (PTI):** The Supreme Court Tuesday permitted the sale and manufacture of low emission "green" firecrackers countrywide and fixed a two-hour time period from 8 pm to 10 pm for bursting them on Diwali and other festivals.

A bench comprising Justices AK Sikri and Ashok Bhushan also restrained e-commerce websites like Flipkart and Amazon from selling firecrackers which were beyond the permissible limit.

The apex court's or-

der came on a plea seeking a ban on manufacture and sale of firecrackers across the country to curb air pollution.

The bench also said that e-commerce websites will be hauled up for contempt of court if they don't adhere to the court's direction.

"Firecrackers with permissible decibel sound limits will only be allowed to be sold in the market," the bench said.

It also asked the Centre to encourage community cracker bursting

during Diwali and other festivals in Delhi-NCR and directed all states to explore feasibility of community cracker bursting during festivals.

It also said that Station House Officers of police stations concerned will be held liable if banned firecrackers are sold in their area.

The top court had earlier said there is a need to take into account all aspects, including the fundamental right of livelihood of firecracker manufacturers and the right

to health of over 1.3 billion people in the country, while considering a plea for the ban.

The apex court had said the Article 21 (right to life) of Constitution applies to both segments of people and it needs to maintain a balance while considering a countrywide ban on firecrackers.

It had asked the Centre to suggest measures for curbing pollution and the effect of firecrackers on the public at large.

Firecracker manufacturers earlier told the

court that use of crackers should not be completely banned and it should instead be strictly regulated.

They had contended that crackers are not the reason for increase in air pollution and there are other factors, like wind and temperature, which contribute to it.

They had said firecracker manufacturers can be deprived of their right to do business based on statements which were not supported by facts.

On October 9 last

year, the top court temporarily banned the sale of firecrackers ahead of Diwali.

Later, the court refused to relax its order while dismissing a plea by traders who had sought permission to sell crackers for at least a day or two before Diwali on October 19, 2017.

The apex court said its ban order during Diwali that year was an experiment to examine its effect on pollution levels in the region.

# CID to go on intermittent break



**MUMBAI, OCT 23 (PTI):** One of the longest running cult shows on Indian television, "CID", will soon go off air but will be back with a new season.

Sony Entertainment Television announced Tuesday that the last episode of the show will be

aired on October 27.

"It has been a great journey so far, along with Fireworks Productions, and 'CID' will now take an intermittent break starting 28th October, 2018. The last episode of the show will be aired on 27th October, 2018.

"The show will gear up for a renewed season with a lot more contextual cases keeping alive the thrill that the audience has experienced so far," the channel said in a statement.

No premiere date has been finalised for the

new season of "CID".

The series featured Shivaji Satam as ACP Pradyuman, Aditya Shrivastav and Dayanand Shetty as senior inspectors Abhijeet and Daya, Dinesh Phadnis as inspector Fredricks and Narendra Gupta as Dr Salunkhe.



# China opens world's longest sea bridge connecting Hong Kong to Macau



## Turkey says Khashoggi murder 'savagely planned'

**ANKARA, Oct 23 (AP):** Turkey's foreign minister says his country would cooperate with international bodies if they were to launch an independent probe into the killing of Saudi writer Jamal Khashoggi.

In an interview with state-run Anadolu Agency, Mevlut Cavusoglu also said Tuesday that Turkey has not shared evidence concerning his death at the Saudi consulate with any country but added that there may have been "an exchange of views between intelligence organizations".

Saudi Arabia has said Khashoggi, a critic of the Saudi royal family, was killed Oct. 2 in a "fistfight" with officials sent to encourage him to return to the kingdom. Turkish media and officials say the 59-year-old Washington Post columnist was killed and dismembered by a 15-man Saudi hit squad.

Cavusoglu said: "If a request for an international investigation is made ... we would cooperate."

## Trump's adviser meets Russian defence minister in Moscow

**MOSCOW, Oct 23 (AP):** US President Donald Trump's national security adviser is meeting with Russia's defense minister in Moscow just a few days after Trump announced that he intended to pull the United States out of a landmark nuclear weapons treaty.

Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu on Tuesday lauded National Security Adviser John Bolton for his two-day visit. Russian news agencies quoted Shoigu as saying that "even small steps will benefit our relations and help restore trust" between the two countries.

Bolton arrived in Russia on Monday when he met Security Council chairman Nikolai Patrushev. He is expected to hold talks with President Vladimir Putin later on Tuesday.

Trump over the weekend declared his intention to pull out of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty because he claims Russia has violated it.

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## KJM VARMA BEIJING, Oct 23 (PTT):

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday officially opened the world's longest sea bridge linking Hong Kong, Macau and mainland China, significantly cutting the travel time from between the three territories from three hours to just 30 minutes.

The 55-km-long crossing that cost a whopping USD 20 billion is dubbed as an engineering feat carrying economic and political significance at a time when Beijing is seen tightening its grip over its semi-autonomous territories.

It connects Asia's financial hub, Hong Kong, with the southern mainland city of Zhuhai and the gambling enclave of Macau, across the waters of the Pearl River Estuary with a snaking road bridge and underwater tunnel.

It took nine years to complete the bridge due to delays, budget overruns, corruption prosecutions and the deaths of construction workers.

President Xi inaugurated the bridge at a special ceremony held in Zhuhai, in southern China's Guangdong Province, attended by

about 700 guests, including the leaders of Hong Kong and Macau.

"I declare the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau bridge officially open," he said in a one-line address, as digital fireworks exploded on a screen behind him.

Situated in the Lingdingyang waters of the Pearl River estuary, it will be the world's longest sea bridge, the state-run Xinhua news agency said.

The bridge will be opened for regular traffic from Wednesday.

Hong Kong was handed over from British to Chinese control in 1997 with the assurance it would maintain its own legal and economic system for 50 years, till 2047.

The construction of the bridge started in December 2009 and was to be completed in 2016.

Though supporters of the bridge promote it as an engineering marvel that will boost business and cut travel time, but critics termed it as a "white elephant" and said

it is one more way to integrate Hong Kong into China as fears grow that the city's cherished freedoms are being eroded, according to a media report.

The critics also dubbed the bridge as a "blood and sweat project" noting that 10 workers have died and more than 600 were injured during its construction, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported.

China claims credit for building the world's longest bridge, the 164.8-km-

long Danyang-Kunshan Grand viaduct on the Beijing-Shanghai high speed railway.

Chinese Vice-Premier Han Zheng characterized the bridge as part of the development of the Greater Bay Area -- a Beijing-driven project to create an economic hub linking nine southern mainland cities to Hong Kong and Macau.

He said the bridge demonstrates China's engineering capabilities. Describing it as a sign

of successful cooperation between the Chinese mainland, Hong Kong and Macau he said, the bridge would bring Hong Kong and mainland China closer in terms of economic and trade activities.

Han, Beijing's man in-charge of regional economic integration, said that the 55-km-long bridge could facilitate the development of "one country, two systems", a framework that allows Hong Kong and Macau a certain degree of autonomy.

He said it was the first time the three sides had worked together on a major infrastructure project.

"It opens up all three places for greater exchange in trade and economics. It also enhances the competitiveness of the Pearl River Delta," the SCMP quoted him as saying.

The bridge would help Hong Kong and Macau be integrated to mainland China, he added.

Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor said the bridge would help transform Hong Kong from a "connector to a more active participant".

He also highlighted

the three cross-border infrastructure projects - the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong express rail link, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau bridge and the Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai boundary control point which will open early next year.

It is the second major infrastructure project which connects Hong Kong to mainland China, after the opening of a high-speed rail link last month. The rail link sparked criticism that Hong Kong was giving away territory as some part of the rail terminus came under the jurisdiction of mainland China.

Additional concerns surfaced earlier this year when officials revealed that estimates for the amount of traffic expected for the bridge had been cut.

A 2008 consultancy study had predicted that 33,100 vehicles and 1,71,800 passengers would cross the bridge daily by 2030.

But the estimate was lowered to 29,100 vehicles and 1,26,000 passenger trips in a 2016 study, down 12 per cent and 26 per cent respectively, the SCMP said.

# Khashoggi's death was "a plot gone awry": Trump

## WASHINGTON, Oct 23 (PTI):

US President Donald Trump has said he believes the death of Saudi dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi was the result of a "plot gone awry", but does not want to scrap the USD 110 billion mega arms deal with Riyadh over the issue.

Khashoggi, a columnist for The Washington Post, was killed inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on October 2.

The Saudi government initially said he left the consulate through the back door.

Following a global outrage, the Saudi government on Friday in a statement acknowledged that Khashoggi was killed in a fistfight inside the consulate and noted that an interrogation went wrong.

Turkish officials have said they have evidence Khashoggi was tortured, dismembered and murdered inside the consulate.



US President Donald Trump has said he was "not satisfied" with the response of Riyadh over Khashoggi's death.

The president also said a group of US officials are in Saudi Arabia and another group of investigators in Turkey are trying to gather information on this issue.

"I am not satisfied with what I've heard," Trump told reporters at the White House before leaving for an election rally in Texas Monday.

While the Saudi explanation over Khashoggi's death has been dismissed by many US officials and members of Congress as not credible, Trump withheld judgment until top US intelligence officials could return from a trip to the region.

"We will know very soon. We have tremendously talented people very well. They're coming back tonight or tomorrow and I will know very soon," he said responding to a question.

He also said that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has told him that neither he nor the king were involved in this.

"He (Crown Prince) says he is not involved nor is the king," Trump told USA Today, a popular American daily, in an interview.

If their involvement was proven, "I would be very upset about it. We'll have to see", the president said.

Trump, who has said he wants to get to the bot-

tom of the case, told the daily that he still believed it was "a plot gone awry".

He reiterated that he would oppose efforts to cease arms sales to the kingdom.

Over the past few days, Trump has spoken with the Saudi prince and Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan.

More details of the incident would be known in a day or two, the US president said.

Responding to questions, Trump said he was against making any move on the USD 110 billion mega arms deal with the Saudis.

"I don't want to lose all of that investment that's being made in our country. I don't want to lose a million jobs, I don't want to lose USD110 billion in terms of investment, but it's really USD450 billion So that's very important," he said.

During his visit to

Saudi Arabia in May 2017, Trump signed an agreement with the Saudis for them to purchase USD 110 billion of US weapons, although so far only USD 43 billion of that has been delivered.

Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser, Jared Kushner, who has a close relationship with the Crown Prince, issued the same caution Monday, saying the administration was "in the fact-finding phase" still.

Calling for the release of information regarding the US intelligence community's advance knowledge of Saudi Arabia's plot to capture Khashoggi, over 50 US lawmakers, led by Indian-American Ro Khanna and Mark Pocan, have written to Daniel Coats, Director of National Intelligence,

"In weighing the merits of US-Saudi military cooperation, it is imperative that Members of Congress have a full, detailed grasp of the intelligence community's knowledge of Saudi actions and their potentially harmful impact on the wellbeing of US residents and citizens, as well as any US intelligence failures pertaining to Saudi activities that may have contributed to needless loss of life," the letter to Coats said.

Senator Tim Kaine, a member of the senate foreign relations and armed services committees, said Saudi Arabia's alleged murder of Khashoggi while visiting its consulate in Istanbul "demonstrates a combination of brutality and lies" that must not be tolerated.

# Asian markets tumble as geopolitical fears set in

## HONG KONG, OCT 23 (AFP):

Asian markets plunged on Tuesday as geopolitical risks pile up, from US tensions with Russia and Saudi Arabia, to trade issues and Italy's budget stand-off with the European Union.

Hong Kong lost more than three percent to wipe out its gains from the previous two trading days, while Shanghai and Tokyo were more than two percent off.

The losses brought an end to a rally that was fuelled by China's top brass issuing coordinated statements of support for the country's markets and officials unveiling tax cut plans.

The advances had provided some much-needed support to Asia but investors reverted to selling on Tuesday, with nerves tested further after Donald Trump's warning that he will pull out of a nuclear treaty with Russia and

bolster America's arsenal.

"Global financial markets continue to struggle to rally as various geopolitical concerns weigh on investor confidence," Nick Twidale, chief operating officer at Rakuten Securities Australia, said.

He added that with regards to China, dealers "will be very keen to see if they can maintain the stellar run that they've experienced over the last couple of days," he said.

"With the rest of the world looking much more pessimistic in the current environment there could be a firm correction on the cards," Shanghai sank 2.3 per cent, having jumped more than six per cent since Thursday's close, while Hong Kong fell 3.1 per cent in the afternoon.

Chen Jihao, partner at Gaoxi Hedge Fund in Beijing, said the words of support from Beijing

and Jakarta.

Asia was given a tepid lead from Wall Street, where traders are turning their attention to next month's midterm elections, which could turn control of Congress over to the Democrats.

With the polls in mind, Trump has been on a tour of the country, ramping up his nationalistic rhetoric.

On Monday he said he is ready to add to America's nuclear stockpiles after announcing he will pull the nation out of a decades-old agreement with Moscow.

There is also growing unease about Italy's row with the EU over its purse-busting budget, which Brussels said breaks the bloc's financial rules.

The populist government in Rome has refused to back down and cut its spending

promises despite warnings about the country's economic outlook. The standoff comes as officials struggle to hammer out a Brexit agreement with a deadline for Britain to leave the EU in sight.

Pressure is also growing on Saudi Arabia after it admitted that a journalist critical of Riyadh had been killed at its Istanbul consulate.

The flight to safety sent the dollar rallying against most higher-yielding currencies, with South Korea's won down 0.8 per cent, the Australian dollar off 0.5 per cent and the Mexican peso 0.6 per cent off. However, the yen, a go-to unit in times of uncertainty climbed against the greenback.

In early trade London fell 0.8 per cent, Paris lost 0.6 per cent and Frankfurt dived 1.4 per cent.

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**CHIC!** Julianne Hough steps out in style in a flowing floral dress and baker boy cap as she grabs juice with a friend.

## Taylor Swift Donates \$15,500 to Fan Whose Mom Is in a Coma

Taylor Swift filled in the "Blank Space" of a GoFundMe donation page over the weekend.

On Oct. 1, Sadie Bartell posted a long message on Twitter requesting help from her followers. "Hey guys. I'm really nervous to post this. Please help if you can and pray for my family. I'm sorry I never said anything sooner and that I'm suddenly asking for help. I love you guys so much," she wrote.

Bartell linked to a GoFundMe page to raise money for her mom, Lauriann, who has been in a coma for three years. According to her note on Twitter, "[Lauriann] had an ulcer that bled out that led to lack of oxygen to the brain which resulted in brain damage. We take care of her at home full time."

Later on in her note, Bartell wrote about Swift and thanked the singer for "keeping me afloat through it all."

Somehow, the "Delicate" singer must have seen



her fan's love, because she then donated \$15,500 to the cause. She signed the donation "Love, Taylor, Meredith and Olivia Swift." Meredith and Olivia are the name of her Instagram-famous cats.

19-year-old Bartell attended Swift's 1989 tour concert in Nashville and also described the toll her mom's health has taken on her. "I'm happy to help take care of her and I'm happy to provide

for my family but I am nineteen and everything is really hard right now. I feel like I've reached by breaking point."

After Swift made the very generous contribution, Bartell posted about it on Facebook and what the donation meant to her. "Everyone who knows me knows that Taylor Swift is my whole entire life. She has been there for me more than anyone. I really, truly, would not be who I am without her," she wrote. "She shows up every time I need her. She always has and she always will. I wish that I could express how much it means to me that ANYONE has helped my family over the years, let alone Taylor. She is the light at the end of the tunnel and is truly the best thing that has ever happened to me."

This is hardly the first of Swift helping Swifties. In early October, the American Music Award record breaker met an 8-year-old fan named Jacob Hill.

**ARIES:** Pressures on the job may be mounting. You might feel so disgruntled that you want to chuck it all and run away. Foreign countries and distant states may suddenly seem far more appealing than usual. Maybe it's a good idea to plan a vacation. **TAURUS:** Demands made by friends, children, or the special person in your life might have you feeling like you're moving in a dozen different directions at once. You may feel unfocused and scattered. You usually enjoy serving others, Taurus, but today you need to concentrate a little more on yourself. Show others how to help themselves and then go and do something you want to do. You deserve it!

**GEMINI:** A number of visitors, deliveries, service people, emails, or phone calls might keep you jumping today. Gemini, right when you're in the mood for a quiet day. It may take all your effort to keep your cool. Try to get a family member to intercede for you with some of these people or you might lose your temper. In the evening, go to a movie and relax. **CANCER:** A close friend might pass along some seemingly harmless but nonetheless untrue gossip. Cancer. Don't accept anything you hear today until you check the facts for yourself. Any information you receive is likely to be exaggerated if not totally false. You might find a lot of material on subjects that interest you - too much for you to read all at once, although you might wish you could! **LEO:** You don't normally tend toward

frugality, Leo, but today you could go overboard with your spending. Frustration from all sides makes you want to release it all at once by acquiring new possessions. This is fine up to a point. Treat yourself, but take care that you curb the impulse buying. You don't want to waste any time tomorrow taking unwanted items back to the store. **VIRGO:** Some failures that you may have experienced over the past few days could have you beating yourself up today. Virgo. Perhaps you feel that you were too hasty or too sloppy and could have done things better. Don't obsess over it. Figure out what went wrong, learn from it, and let it go. Too much negativity directed at yourself is likely to sabotage future efforts rather than help them. **LIBRA:** Today you might be able to tune in to the thoughts and feelings of

others, Libra, but you aren't likely to know exactly how to handle the situation. Should you say something or just tailor your own behavior to suit the moods of others? Reflect on the situation before doing either. This is a great day to meditate or read books or attend lectures on spiritual matters. **SCORPIO:** Group activities are probably very much on your agenda today, Scorpio. You could go to a meeting or lecture and later go out on the town with a group of friends. Don't be tempted to eat or drink too much. You'll likely regret it tomorrow. An unexpected sum of extra money could come your way. Don't spend it all in one place. This is a great day to concentrate on having fun - within limits. **SAGITTARIUS:** Too much pressure on the job could have you feeling like

chucking it all and going somewhere by yourself. You might be tempted to go on a spending spree or overindulge in food or drink. This may spill over into your personal relationships, causing disagreements with friends or family. It might be a good idea to be alone for a few hours, Sagittarius. You will feel much better once you clear your head. **CAPRICORN:** Inner conflict regarding spiritual matters might have you questioning your and others' beliefs. You might doubt just about everything, Capricorn, and you could be tempted into angry debates over different concepts. Books or TV documentaries on whatever is bothering you might spark your curiosity and calm you down a little. A legal matter might come to the forefront today. It's a hassle, but it needs to be handled. **AQUARIUS:** Although your finan-

cial situation appears to be on the upswing, you still might be feeling pessimistic and indifferent about money and life in general. You might want to soothe your discontent by overspending, overindulging in food or drink, or both. Don't let this feeling get the better of you, Aquarius. Get together with some friends and have a good time. Treat yourself to a little something without going over the top! **PISCES:** A minor and rather silly quarrel with a friend or romantic partner could have you down in the dumps. This is an overreaction, Pisces. You might need to get away for a while before you can make sense of it all. Too many demands from others could have you feeling used, and you might be tempted to tell them off. Try to avoid others long enough to gain control of yourself.

## Radhika Apte on the #MeToo movement

With #MeToo movement, many women are coming out in the open to talk about the sexual harassment they have faced by people in power across different fields, including Bollywood. Actress Radhika Apte is "loving" it and she feels everyone should come together to create safe workplaces where any kind of abuse is neither exercised nor tolerated.

"There are a lot of people in the industry who are trying to come together and find a way of forming a system which is going to be more apt to deal with the abuse or misuse of power within the industry," Radhika told IANS in an e-mail from Mumbai when asked about her take on #MeToo.

I think it is very good that people are coming out and speaking about such things. It is extremely essential and I completely support the movement. I hope that we can all constructively come together and formulate a structure where everyone can feel safe sooner rather than later. "I genuinely love that this movement is coming here," added the actress, who is the face of new campaign of Daniel Wellington watches in India.



The #MeToo movement in India started after actress and former beauty queen Tanushree Dutta in September recalled an unpleasant episode with veteran actor Nana Patekar from the sets of "Horn 'OK' Pleassss" in 2008.

After that, a slew of controversies surrounding Vikas Bahl, Sajid Khan, Anu Malik, Anirban Bhattacharya, Alok Nath, Chetan Bhagat, Gursimran Khambha and Kailash Kher have emerged. Radhika, who not only broke the stereotypical image of the Bollywood heroine with her roles in films like "Phobia", "Badlapur" and "Manjhi - The Mountain Man", but is also vocal about her strong opinions on social issues. She says Bollywood should stand up and raise voice on such issues.

Radhika said: "I think it's high time, not only in Bollywood, but in all industries that we stand up and raise awareness and speak about these issues."

I personally feel that any kind of abuse should not be exercised or tolerated and there should be systems in place that will allow people to speak about it fearlessly. There is nothing worse than having that lack of a safe foundation that results in a person being fearful to speak up and living life suppressing what happened because they fear some consequence to talking about it. Nothing can be worse than that."

## 'Wonder Woman 1984' release pushed to 2020

**LOS ANGELES, OCT 23 (PTI):** Warner Bros has postponed the release date of Gal Gadot's "Wonder Woman 1984" to June 5, 2020.

The film was earlier scheduled to hit the theatres on November 1, 2019, reported Variety.

"We had tremendous success releasing the first 'Wonder Woman' film during the summer so when we saw an opportunity to take advantage of the changing compet-

itive landscape, we did. This move lands the film exactly where it belongs," Jeff Goldstein, Warner Bros.' president of domestic distribution, said in a statement.

The sequel reunites Gadot with "Wonder Woman" director Patty Jenkins and co-star Chris Pine, with Pedro Pascal and Kristen Wiig joining the franchise.

"Wonder Woman 1984" is currently the only film dated for June 5, 2020.



## Aamir Khan to not just produce but act in Mogul too after Subhash Kapoor's exit

Aamir Khan was one of the few who decided to do something about the #MeToo stories that have become the order of the day, sadly. He had sat with the Producers Guild of India to discuss measures where they planned to put a body in place which will make sure women in the industry feel safe. The superstar had also recently posted a long note on his Twitter handle stating that he has opted out of a film.

The actor had even stated that he backed out as the director of that project was accused of sexual misconduct. Soon after the actor shared the tweet, social media users



were quick to speculate that the movie in question is Mogul, the film which is based on the life of late Gulshan Kumar. Not just that, T-Series chief Bhushan Kumar had

even confirmed that Subhash Kapoor who was supposed to wear the director's cap has been sacked.

Naturally, it was a dismaying news for all Aamir Khan fans but it seems like things might just turn the way they were supposed to, or even better. According to a Mumbai

Mirror report, the perfectionist apparently is back in Mogul following Kapoor's exit as a co-producer. Not just that, buzz is strong that he might

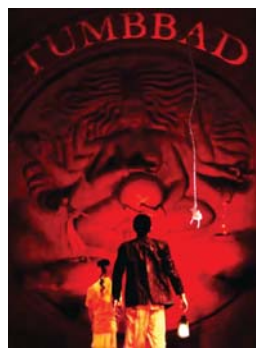
play Gulshan Kumar himself.

A source was quoted saying, "The script is close to Aamir and he wants to make the film. Bhushan and he have had a number of meetings since and decided to collaborate on Mogul again. The hunt is on for another director. They are also looking at finalising the cast so they can roll with the film, asap."

Earlier, while speaking to The Indian Express, Kapoor had said, "I understand and respect Aamir Khan's and Kiran Rao's decision. Since matter is subjective, I intend to prove my innocence in the court of law."

## Sohum Shah's Tumbbad scores well in its second weekend at the box office

Despite the release of two Bollywood films Badhaai Ho and Namaste England, Sohum Shah's Tumbbad has managed to hold well in its second weekend at the ticket windows. The historical period Fantasy horror film raked in Rs 74 lakhs and now stands with the grand total of Rs 7.75 crore. The film had clashed with FryDay, Helicopter Eela and Jalebi and has performed exceedingly well compared to all these ventures. Looking at the cur-



rent scenario, we are expecting the film to end its theatrical run around Rs 10 crore at the box office.

Lead actor of the film Sohum Shah, who has also co-produced it said despite his movie took six years to make, he never thought of abandoning the project.

"There were several moments when I felt frustrated. But there was never a thought that I would quit this and make another

film. I knew I had something so unique and beautiful in the hands of some amazing people, there was no question of even attempting to make another film."

Talking about Tumbbad, the film is about the cursed family of a now deserted village while Dar Gai's film is about a 65-year-old man who cannot take the noisy Mumbai city anymore. Ship of The-seus helmer Anand Gandhi is the executive producer of the film.