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# Summit **TIMES**

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## HC upholds acquittal of SMIT student murder accused

**SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 26 SEPT:** The High Court of Sikkim has upheld the decision of the trial court acquitting the accused in the alleged murder of Rakshit Meena, a student of Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology (SMIT) in May 2013. Justice Bhaskar Raj Pradhan acquitted all the accused persons from all the charges citing that the evidence led by the prosecution taken in its entirety does not establish a case of murder. The trial court had acquitted the accused from all the charges in November, 2016.

On 18 May 2013, Rakshit Meena was allegedly assaulted by Ugen Namgyal, Gurmey Wangchuk, Bidhan Pradhan, Loden Sherpa, Sonam Namgyal, Karna Hang Subba and Phurba Tamang outside a local pub. He was pronounced dead on arrival at Manipal Referral Hospital in the wee hours of 19 May.

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# Golay wants EC to decide on disqualification waiver request before 30 Sept

**SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 26 SEPT:** Sikkim Krantikari Morcha president, Chief Minister PS Tamang [Golay], has requested the Election Commission to decide on his request seeking reduction of his disqualification period by 30 September, informs a news-report published in the Indian

Express today. Should the EC decide in his favour by the date sought by Mr Tamang, he will be able to contest the byelections called for 21 October, the last date to file nominations for which is 30 Sept. The Indian Express report informs that Mr Tamang, who is currently in New Delhi, met the

Chief Election Commissioners Sunil Arora and Sushil Chandra with his request on Wednesday. Mr Tamang, it may be recalled, following his conviction and subsequent jail term, is disqualified from contesting elections for six years. He was, however, appointed Chief Minister of Sikkim on 27

May and is required to contest and win elections within six months [counting from the day he was sworn in] to continue in office. Only the Election Commission has the jurisdiction to reduce the period of his disqualification and Mr Tamang had approached it some months back with such

a request. The last time that the EC exercised its powers to remove or reduce disqualification of a convicted person was 42 years back in 1977 when it had reduced the period of disqualification of two Uttar Pradesh MLAs - Shyam Narain Tiwari and Mitra Sen Yadav. They were convicted of

criminal offences. Mr Tamang has been convicted under the Prevention of Corruption Act. Interestingly, the IE report also quotes unnamed EC officials as saying that during Wednesday's meeting, Mr Tamang made the case that he was framed by the previous government. Tamang is learned

to have also said that if he cannot retain his chief ministership, horse-trading will ensue. Currently, SKM has 18 MLAs, BJP 10 and SDF one MLA in the 32-member Sikkim Legislative Assembly with three more constituencies going up for grabs in the ensuing byelections.

## DeMo cases: CBDT extends taxman's deadline to Dec 31



**NEW DELHI, SEP 26 (PTI):** The CBDT on Thursday extended the deadline up to December 31 for the Income-tax department to complete the final assessment of about 87,000 entities that made suspicious deposits post-demonetisation. The existing deadline of September 30 is being "extended" by three months after considering "various difficulties" being reported by the field offices of the department in finalising assessments in OCM (operation clean money) cases, a senior of-

ficial told PTI. An order was issued by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on Thursday, setting the new deadline on December 31, the official said. The CBDT frames policy for the I-T department. This is the second extension given by the Board in this case after the first deadline of June 30 was extended up to September, the official said. 'Operation Clean Money' is the special title given by the CBDT to the specific probe it launched to check black money post-demonetisation.

The assessing officers (AOs) of the tax department had in July asked the CBDT to extend the deadline, saying it was "humanly impossible" to finish the task in the given timeline as it required a lot of "paperwork and manpower". These cases are those where suspicious deposits of huge amounts or amounts not in conformity with the transaction history of the entity were made post-demonetisation, announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 8, 2016. Two high-value

notes of Rs 1,000 and Rs 500 were demonetised as part of the decision. The board, earlier, had also framed a standard operating procedure (SOP) for the assessment of these cases stating that the taxman initially sent notices (under Section 142(1) that pertains to inquiry before assessment) in three lakh cases, 87,000 out of these have "not filed their return of income" for assessment year 2017-18." It had asked the assessing officers to use the 'best judgement assessment' procedure as stipulated under Section 144 of the I-T Act to finalise these 87,000 cases. The section essentially reads, "If any person fails to comply with all the terms of notice issued under Section 142(1), the assessing officer after taking into account all relevant material which the AO has gathered shall after giving the assessee an opportunity of being heard, make the assessment of total income or loss to the best of his judgement.."

## Sikkim gets Best Performing State Award for TB Control



**NEW DELHI, 25 SEPT (IPR):** Sikkim has been selected for the prestigious Best Performing State Award in implementing the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme. The award was conferred by Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan at the launch of the "Accelerator to National Stra-

tegic Plan - TB Haarega Desh Jeetega Campaign" of the Central TB Division, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra, New Delhi on 25 Sept, 2019. The award, consisting of a trophy and a certificate, was received by OSD, Resident Commissioner's office, Sikkim House on

behalf of the Health Department, Government of Sikkim. The same was presented to the Chief Minister upon his arrival at Sikkim House today. Five other states/UTs, namely Daman & Diu, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Puducherry, Sikkim and Tripura also received the award in various other categories.

## Day 53: Normal life remains crippled in Kashmir

**SRINAGAR, SEP 26 (PTI):** Students stayed away from schools, markets remained shut and public transport stayed off the roads in the valley for the 53rd day on Thursday as the shutdown over the Centre's decision to revoke Jammu and Kashmir's special status continued, officials said. Classes were not held in most schools across Kashmir as students did not turn up due to the prevailing situation, they said. The officials said the state government is trying its best to ensure that schools function normally but its efforts have not borne fruit as most parents continue to keep their children at home due to apprehensions about their safety. Main markets and other business establishments in the valley remained closed. Only the stalls of a few vendors at the TRC Chowk-Lal Chowk road were open, they said. Public transport largely stayed off the roads. Few inter-district cabs and autorickshaws were seen plying in



some areas of the city, the officials said. The movement of private cars was unhindered, they added. Normal life in the valley has remained crippled since August 5, when the Centre revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special

status under Article 370 and announced the decision to bifurcate the state into two Union territories. Restrictions imposed by the government were lifted in phases. However, the normal life in Kashmir continues to be dis-

rupted due to the shutdown. The officials said there are no restrictions in the valley but security forces continue to be deployed in vulnerable areas to maintain law and order. Mobile services remain suspended in Kashmir except in Handwara and Kupwara areas in the north while internet services continue to be snapped across all platforms in the valley, they said. Most of the top-level and second-rung separatist politicians have been taken into preventive custody while mainstream leaders, including two former chief ministers -- Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti -- have been either detained or placed under house arrest. Another former chief minister and sitting Lok Sabha MP from Srinagar Farooq Abdullah has been arrested under the controversial Public Safety Act, a law enacted by his father and National Conference founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah in 1978 when he was the chief minister.

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## YUWA conducts awareness programme at Rhenock

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 26 SEPT:** Youth United Welfare Association (YUWA), Rhenock organized Awareness and Counseling programme at Rhenock regarding the role of social media and child line on 26 Sept, 2019 which had the participation of 70 children from the area.

Station House Officer, HB Pradhan, Rhenock Police station attended the programme as chief guest while Executive Secretary, YODESS, MK Gurung and teacher, Reshmi Bhujel were invited as resource persons. President (YUWA), Mahesh Gautam briefed about the activities undertaken till date and said that counselling plays a very important role for children in nation building.

Resource Person, Reshmi Bhujel spoke about social media and conducted various activities on the day.

Chief guest, HB Pradhan highlighted the importance of law and order.

## No nominations for Poklok Kamrang

**NAMCHI, 26 SEPT (IPR):** No nominations were received today for the upcoming by-election of Poklok Kamrang Assembly Constituency, as per Returning Officer (South), Ragul K.

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# Agriculture Minister visits landslide affected areas in Yuksam

**YUKSAM, 26 SEPT (IPR):** Agriculture Minister, L. N. Sharma today visited Tsong and Mangtabung areas which were affected by landslides earlier this month. N. B. Chettri [Director AH&VS], Dr. Sonam R. Lepcha [SDM Yuksam], Sanjay Pradhan [Addl. Dir. AH&VS] and other officials accompanied the Minister.

In his address, the Minister appreciated the efforts of all the Government Officials and NGOs of Yuksam who are working day and night to make the lives of the victims as normal as possible. He also extended his heartfelt condolences to all those who have lost their homes and property during the landslides.

He stated that the Government will do ev-



everything in its might to help the victims. He also encouraged the victims to let the VOs and other officials do proper treatment for their domesticated animals. He also urged everyone present

to let them provide the required medical help to the animals so that they too can get medical relief and be fit.

Mr Sharma visited the areas and then proceeded towards the Con-

ference Hall of GPK, Yuksam where he interacted with the victims and public of Yuksam. He also took stock of the requirements and the stocked materials and the steps taken to restore the victims' life to normalcy.

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sam where he interacted with the victims and public of Yuksam. He also took stock of the requirements and the stocked materials and the steps taken to restore the victims' life to normalcy.

## Legislators from Indian Himalayan Region discuss water policy



**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 26 SEPT:** About a dozen MPs/State Ministers and MLAs from different hill states of the Indian Himalayan Region participated in the High Panel Parliamentarians/Legislators Dialogue on Water Policy for the Indian Himalayan Region held at the ongoing Water Future Conference: Towards a Sustainable Water Future, Bengaluru on 25 Sept, 2019.

A press release informs that the conference was organized by Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI) and supported by Divecha Centre for Climate Change at the Indian Institute of Science and Indian Himalayas Climate Adaptation Programme (IHCAP).

The high level roundtable conference was attended by MPs, MLAs and representatives from Uttarakhand, Ladakh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh,

Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya and members of IMI, World Bank, Divecha Centre for Climate Change, United Nations University (UNU) and officials from national and international institutes of excellence including Future Earth and Global Water Futures.

The members raised several critical areas of concern with regard to water source, water quality, management, increasing water scarcity and rapid decline in freshwater biodiversity. Two critical areas of melting of glaciers and reviving springs were discussed at length as is the impact of tourism sector in increasing water stress in the region.

Member of Parliament from Tura and member, Parliamentary Standing Committee for Water Resources, Agatha Sangma highlighted the rising conflicts due to scarcity of water in many rainfed areas. She urged

for reduction in ecological footprints and for polluting companies to take responsibility of the mess they have created.

The discussion highlighted the need for a comprehensive water policy for the states of the Indian Himalayan Region and explored areas of strengthening research, action and policy directions. Acknowledging the need for a sustained, integrated effort to addressing key water issues of the region, a proposal was made to establish a Mountain Solutions Programme which will include a Water Solutions Lab for the region.

The meeting concluded with the chair, PD Rai, Former MP (Sikkim), emphasizing the need for more interactive platforms between the scientific community, policymakers and communities to arrive at better solutions in building towards a water secure future.

## Mangan to get stricter on source segregation of waste



**WANGCHUK BHUTIA**  
**MANGAN, 26 SEPT:**

Mangan Nagar Panchayat conducted an awareness program (IEC) on source segregation at various Garbage Collection Points under Pentok ward and Power colony ward of Mangan Bazaar, North Sikkim.

It was observed that some citizens are still not segregating the waste before handing it over to the garbage collectors.

Segregation of waste at source is being made mandatory and MNP has done all the required awareness with respect to segregation of waste at source.

Waste segregation at source refers to separation of degradable items

(wet waste) in one coloured bin and non-biodegradable items (dry waste) into another bin before handing it over to the garbage collector, he added.

He also said that in coming days, as per the solid waste management action plan of the State government, fines will be imposed accordingly.

"If the wet waste and dry waste are segregated at source itself and contained, it will be beneficial for all including the environment. The purpose is to recycle the dry waste easily and to use wet waste as compost," he stated.

Sanitary napkins and dry diapers are to be wrapped in paper so that it can be identified and disposed accordingly.

It was also informed that MNP will not collect garbage if the waste is not segregated from the source from the house.

## Training on climate change risk mitigation for marginal farmers begins at CAEPHT



**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 26 SEPT:** A 3-day training programme on "Climate Change Risk Mitigation for Marginal Farmers of Himalayan Region in Sikkim," sponsored by CCS NIAM of Jaipur (Rajasthan), started today at

the College of Agricultural Engineering and Post Harvest Technology here at Ranipool. The programme was inaugurated by Secretary, RDD, Dr P Senthil Kumar and the inaugural session was chaired by Prof PP Dabral, Dean, CAEPHT.

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## DeMo cases...

The CBDT, on its part, had assured the AOs that its technical and data mining arm will provide them with the addresses, bank accounts and the transaction details of these 87,000 individuals and entities who have made "substantial cash deposits during the demonetisation period".

It had asked the AOs that they should also make a "detailed analysis of past Income Tax Returns, if available, to form an opinion regarding the nature of transactions related to demonetisation" while framing the assessment of these entities.

"On the basis of all material and evidence gathered by the AO, during the course of assessment proceedings, assessee would be duly provided with an opportunity to explain his/her case," the SOP said.

The SOP said that once the "ultimate beneficiary of a transaction has been established", the AO should forward this to his counterpart who has jurisdiction over the entity under scanner.

It had flagged a special case, saying if "entry operators" or hawala trade-like instances are found then the jurisdictional assessing officers should "tax the unaccounted commission receipts" and unearth the nexus to catch tax evaders.

The range heads, officers in the ranks of principal chief commissioners and chief commissioners of the department, were also asked to "monitor" the framing of the final assessment order of these entities.

## KUTSE SHEGU

The kutse Shegu of our beloved mother late Karma Doma Bhutia who left for heavenly abode on 12th August falls on 29th September, 2019.

All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us for offering prayers to the departed soul at our residence Penlong Bazaar, East Sikkim.

We take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude towards those who extended their support during our time of bereavement..

**Khittu Tshering Bhutia (son) 9434127474**

**Tenzing Bhutia (son)**

**Sonam Nedup Bhutia (son)**

**Tshering Dorji Bhutia (son)**

**Lazey Bhutia (daughter in law)**

**Lazzey Bhutia (DAUGHTER)**

**Chunki Bhutia (daughter)**



## Talkharkha village – an emerging ecotourism destination

**REBYNA RANA**

**GANGTOK, 26 SEPT:**

Talkharkha village, a remote village in East Sikkim, has embraced ecotourism. It is about one hour's drive from Rangpo and the village is blessed with natural beauty and biodiversity.

There are 9 homestays in the village which have been welcoming tourists, both domestic and international, since last year. In the past, the village was aloof from the rest of the world but with the operation of homestays, it has joined the mainstream of tourism. There are many livelihood activities undertaken by the villagers like bee keeping, bird watching and poultry farming. The village is surrounded by a rich biodiversity and covered with a lush green forest cover.

It was only recently when road connectivity was improved that the village took to tourism on a larger scale.

There are around 25 households in the village scattered along the hillside, offering spectacular views of the surrounding ridges of Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary. Several exotic flora and fauna including Red Panda are found in the sanctuary.

Walk off the grid, exchange stories with people you meet, get to know a new culture, eat homegrown delicacies



and make new memories, all that while you get closer to Mother Nature, says the villagers.

A promotion awareness programme for the villagers of Talkharkha was held on Wednesday.

Speaking to SummitTIMES during the programme, Zilla Panchayat, Tulman Rai, Regu Panchayat Subani, informed that nine homestays in the village have been officially registered with the State Tourism department

through WWF India.

"This has proved to be a boon to the people of Talkharkha," he said.

Asked about the response from tourists, Mr Rai said tourists from Germany had also visited our village and they were enchanted by the natural green environment, cleanliness and hospitality of Talkharkha.

"We charge Rs. 1200 per head and provide complimentary food. However, we have got a major problem of phone

network connectivity and because of this we are unable to do online booking. We are trying to get online booking from Rangpo and Gangtok," he said.

Different kinds of training programmes for Talkharkha villagers are being done by the WWF-India and the donors, ICICI Foundation.

The road connectivity to the village was deplorable but since August 2017, the road condition has improved.

Panchayat President, Regu GPU, Chujachen constituency, Shiva Kumar Rai, said the villagers are motivated and aim to take forward homestay tourism in a big way.

"We are also grateful to the WWF India, donors [ICICI Foundation] for their strong support and contribution to develop this remote village through ecotourism," he said.

During the program, ICICI Foundation, representatives from WWF India, Kanchenjunga landscape Sikkim, team leader Priyadarshini Shrestha, Landscape Coordinator WWF India, Lak Tsheden Theengh, ACF Territorial, Rongli Sub Division, BS Tamang, CEO ECOSS, Rajendra Psd Gurung, Forest department, general public had also attended the promotion awareness program. Some traditional dances were presented by the local villagers.

# Mr Sikkim 2019 Manhunt finalists attend orientation program



**NITESH PRADHAN**  
**GANGTOK, 26 SEPT:**  
Finalists of Temi Tea Mr Sikkim 2019 Manhunt today gathered at Temi House in the capital for their first orientation

program which was attended by the organisers and special guests. Miss Supranational India 2017 Peden Ongmu Namgyal was present on the occasion to brief the

finalists for the upcoming sessions on grooming. She asked the finalists to be themselves and make the best use of the platform to hone themselves into good models

and good human beings. Likewise, Football star Nirmal Chettri also oriented the boys to work hard for success and make the most of the platform. They appreciated the

efforts of the organisers for giving a platform to the youth of Sikkim in the glamour and modelling industry.

Event heads Yougan Tamang and Pragya Sathpathy have informed that this year's competition will be bigger and better with many talented bright youngsters.

The organisers of the event are Sikkim Chronicle and The Accelerator which has successfully launched two back to back editions of the competition in 2018 and 2019.

Finalists will be competing for three winning titles and various subtitles. They will be judged by a team of professionals in grooming sessions, other activities and finale.

# Bank strike called off



**ARPAN PRADHAN**  
**GANGTOK, 26 SEPT:**  
The two-day strike by a cluster of four bank employee unions has been called off.

As per information shared by the local representative of a banking union, the decision to call off the strike was taken after representatives from various bank unions and employee associations recently met the Union Finance Sec-

retary and were assured of a positive solution to their demands.

The two-day strike, earlier announced for 26 and 27 September would have been followed by the weekend and thus kept people away from banking services for a four-day stretch. Needless to add, with the festival season barely a week away, this would have proved very inconvenient for the people.

The two-day bank strike had been called by All India Bank Officers' Association (AIBOA), All India Bank Officers' Confederation (AIBOC), Indian National Bank Officers' Congress (INBOC), and National Organisation of Bank Officers (NOBO).

They are demanding salary revision, were opposed to bank mergers, seeking introduction of a five-day working week etc.

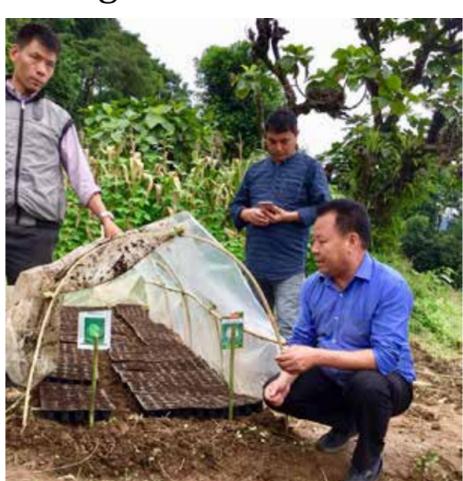
## UCWSS elections postponed

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 26 SEPT:**  
An emergency meeting of United Christian Welfare Society of Sikkim [UCWSS] was held here on Thursday to discuss the upcoming election of the UCWSS.

After thorough discussion and deliberation, the meeting unanimously decided to postpone the election of the UCWSS, which was scheduled to be held on 19 October, informs a UCWSS press release. The release informs all churches of Sikkim that the election will be held on 26 October.

## Training on seedling care in West Sikkim

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 26 SEPT:**  
Mevedir service provider agency organized training cum demonstration program in collaboration with Horticulture Department at Lower Suldung & Parengaon, West Sikkim on 25 Sept, 2019, a press release informs.



The training was conducted in the presence of HDO, AB Rai, Horticulture Officer, Suren Tamang and the members of Organic Field Assistance (OFA) along with Mevedir staff, Field officer, Chandra Lal Manger and Agronomist, Diwas Chettri.

Main purpose of this day long training program was to provide technological information and hands on training to OFA members about how to raise & care seedling of vegetables in pot-tray and some of the common mistakes which many growers make when undertaking such operations.

During this hands on demo participatory exercise the benefits of pot-tray and the ratio of the planting mixture consisting of cocopeat, sand and vermi compost and the method of preparing these was explained and also demonstrated. The participants were also shown and explained

the depth of sowing seed which has to be 1.5-2.5cm and how it needs to be kept inside the poly tunnel for quick growth and seedling transfer.

Later the participants were provided the material and asked to prepare the pot tray mixtures and also undertake sowing of vegetable seeds. Once completed the next task on how to prepare low cost poly tunnel house was shown to the participants. The farmers who had assembled used locally available bamboo materials for preparing the tunnel and plastic sheet used to cover the tunnel. The maintenance and upkeep of the ploy tunnel and irrigating frequency of the seed beds

was also explained.

In the concluding session Mr Chettri explained and demonstrated the method of seed treatment by using bio fungicide Taglife-v which is beneficial for controlling wilt, damping off, root knot and other fungal attack diseases. He informed that the seeds if properly treated at the ratio of 5 grams bio-fungicide per kg, the seed can be benefited to improve the overall yield of the crops and also keep it safe from any disease attack.

More than 20 farmers attended this training cum demonstration program and with a vote of thanks by Mr Manger, the training was concluded successfully for the day.

## Cleanliness drive at Rangpo



**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 26 SEPT:**  
A daylong cleanliness drive was organized today by students and NSS wing of Government Senior Secondary School, Mining, Rangpo

in Lower Bazar Rangpo with collaboration of Sri Satya Sai Sewa Samiti, Rangpo. The students spread awareness on impact of cleanliness on our health, society and country.

## Yangang Out Post now a Police Station

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 26 SEPT:**  
Yangang Police Out Post in South Sikkim has been upgraded to a Police Station while Hingdam Police Station has been downgraded to an Out Post, as per a government notification issued on 23 Sept 2019.

Basnet has thanked the Chief Minister for awarding Yangang with a Police Station. "The demand had been pending since many years. But after the formation of SKM Government the demand has been fulfilled. This is one of the greatest development for the people of Rangang Yangang," the release states.

Meanwhile, in a press release, Confidential Secretary to CM, Bikash

## Chandrayaan 2 a learning experience: NASA engineer



**KOLKATA, SEP 26 (PTI):**  
A spacecraft systems engineer at NASA has said that the recent Chandrayaan 2 mission has been a "learning experience" for Indian scientists as it has helped ISRO to gather a lot of information about the Moon.

Anne Devereaux, working at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) of NASA, is the lead flight system engineer for the US space agency's Mars 2020 mission. Speaking at the American Center here on Wednesday, Devereaux said, "The Indian scientists did very well. Lot of information (was) gathered. The orbiter has been successful". Chandrayaan 2, the second Indian lunar mission, had suffered a snag while attempting a historic landing on the uncharted South Pole of the Moon.

The lander 'Vikram' lost communication with ground stations during its final 2.1-km descent on September 7. When asked what could have happened to the lander, the NASA engineer said, "It is up to

ISRO scientists to figure out what went wrong.

"It is a learning experience for Indian scientists. We do learn from failures."

She said, even her husband was tracking the mission from JPL on that day, but after some time he had sent a message to her - "I don't see it anymore."

The Chandrayaan 1 mission had been "spectacularly successful" which confirmed about the significant presence of water on the Moon, Devereaux said.

## Amazon launches 8 new Echo devices for US market; 3 in India

**NEW DELHI, SEP 26 (PTI):**  
Global e-commerce major Amazon has unveiled eight new Echo devices for the US market, three of which will be available in India for now.



Seattle-based Amazon also announced new Alexa features and smart home experiences.

For the India market, Amazon has introduced three new echo devices, which include the new Echo that features an updated fabric design and premium sound for Rs 9,999, the same price at which previous generation Echo is being sold. Echo Dot with clock, which has bright LED display that shows the time, outdoor temperature, timers, or alarms, will be available for Rs 5,499.

The third product Echo Studio, priced at Rs 22,999, is equipped with five directional speakers for immersive studio-quality sound, room adaptation technology, and a built-in smart home hub. These three devices are available for

pre-order in India on Amazon.in and select retail stores.

Amazon launched five other echo devices for the US market. These include Echo Flex and Echo Show 8 for greater access to Alexa at home. All-new Echo Buds, Echo Frames and Echo Loop will enable customers to use Alexa while on-the-go.

Emphasising on the privacy, Dave Limp, Senior Vice President, Amazon Devices, said: "Privacy is our foundation. We build privacy into our hardware."

Customers will soon be able to automatically delete on an ongoing basis their voice recordings older than three or 18 months. Parag Gupta, Head of Amazon Devices

India, said, "Customers across the country have given feedback on how they love using Alexa - whether it is listening to their favourite music, playing a game with kids or controlling their smart home appliances".

Echo Flex device that enables customers to add Alexa to any space in their home will be launched in India later this year. Amazon has a strong Echo devices portfolio in India. Echo Dot, Echo Plus, Echo Show, Echo Show 5, and Echo companion devices Echo Sub, Echo Link, Echo Link Amp were launched earlier.

Later this year, Amazon will add another feature enabling customers to communicate with Alexa in a whisper.

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Alto 800	40000	20000		5000	5000	5000	65000
Alto K10	40000	20000		5000	2500	2500	65000
Celerio	40000	20000		5000	2500	2500	65000
WagonR	0	20000		5000	2500	2500	25000
Swift Diesel	30000	20000	17500	10000	10000	10000	77500
Swift Petrol	25000	20000		5000	4000	5000	50000
Dzire Diesel	35000	20000	19000	10000	10000	10000	84000
Dzire Petrol	30000	20000		5000	4000	5000	55000
Vitara Brezza	50000	20000	21000	7000	5000	10000	101000
Eeco 5 Seater	15000	20000		5000	2500	2500	40000
Eeco 7 Seater	25000	20000		5000	2500	2500	50000

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## Jai Kisan?

**More than Organic Mission required to assist farmers**

When seventy per cent of the population, that majority living in rural Sikkim which registers agriculture as their profession, is extended less than 3% of the loans advanced by banks in Sikkim, one knows that an inexcusable denial is afoot. As per stipulations governing banking practices in the country, loans to the agriculture sector should constitute at least 18% of the total advances released by banks. In Sikkim, this figure stood at a dismal 2.90% as of 31 March 2016 as per data featured in the 39th State Level Banker's Committee. It would have been all well if the under-performance by banks was because farmers in Sikkim were so well off that they did not need loans to improve the productivity of their farms. But that is obviously not the case. Public sector banks achieved only 37.90% of the target they set up for themselves for agriculture sector loans. But wait, the figure gets even more dismal when one realizes that although 37.9% of the targeted loans were disbursed, these covered only 13.1% of total beneficiaries they had aimed to cover. One cannot understand this hesitation when one also notices that recovery for agricultural loans was at a handsome 63.5% for Sikkim against the dismal 14.9% for loans to industry. If agriculture receives the right boost in the form of adequate loan support, rural Sikkim will prosper. That much any one can figure out. But what confounds is why that is not happening.

Of course, the situation of fewer new generation hands taking up the proverbial plough is not unique to Sikkim. Census 2011 informs us that 42% of the nation's farmers would, if given the choice, quit agriculture. It is into this frame that Sikkim's situation needs to be viewed. There might not be desperate poverty among the farmers in Sikkim, but the sector has obviously plateaued out and is now on the decline which is why fewer families have the new generation tilling the fields. This is not to suggest that the children of farmers should remain farmers, but is an argument to highlight that dignity needs to be brought back to the sector and more youngsters allowed the chance to leverage their wider exposure, keener scientific temperament and higher ambitions to revolutionise agriculture in Sikkim.

The State Government, to its credit, has undertaken the right policy decision by pursuing the Organic Sikkim mission and identifying horticulture and floriculture as thrust areas for the rural economy. Organic Sikkim, even as it strives to resuscitate agriculture to its original, un-poisoned by pesticides roots in Sikkim, also capitalizes on a growing respect for organic products in the world market. But it will take more than awareness workshops by "service providers" to deliver the real results. Such a turnaround can begin if capital formation in agriculture and allied sectors is accelerated. Sikkim has the benefit of being in a situation where agriculture loans are required not for sustenance but to propel the sector to a new level of prosperity. The investment is required because as per the Agriculture Census of 2010-11, 77% of the farmers in Sikkim fall in the small and marginal category, working on average farm sizes of 0.64 hectares. The general consensus on the minimum size of farmland to allow a farmer the space to "do well" is at least one hectare. Hence, for farmers to prosper, or even remain relevant, they will need to invest in their small landholdings and improve productivity through better irrigation, improved seeds, wider diversification and adding sources of livelihood like poultry and animal husbandry. This should ideally come through agriculture loans.

To draw a positive from even the current status of poor banking support for agriculture, this situation allows Sikkim the benefit of learning from the horrors of farmer indebtedness which has torn through wide swathes of farmlands across the country. If the policy-makers decide that banking support for agriculture should be expanded, they should first ensure that fiscal prudence and financial planning is instilled in rural Sikkim. Urban Sikkim already has a very poor track-record of loan repayments, but that spectrum has the cushion of salaries and commerce to tide them over, rural Sikkim is not as privileged, but its resilience is a strong asset to keep the loans safe and serviced if the people are first informed about banking and loan repayment processes.

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## IPCC report paints catastrophic picture of melting ice and rising sea levels – and reality may be even worse

MARK BRANDON  
[theconversation.com](http://theconversation.com)

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) – the UN body responsible for communicating the science of climate breakdown – has released its long-awaited Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate.

Based on almost 7,000 peer-reviewed research articles, the report is a cutting-edge crash course in how human-caused climate breakdown is changing our ice and oceans and what it means for humanity and the living planet. In a nutshell, the news isn't good.

### CRYOSPHERE IN DECLINE

Most of us rarely come into contact with the cryosphere, but it is a critical part of our climate system. The term refers to the frozen parts of our planet – the great ice sheets of Greenland and Antarctica, the icebergs that break off and drift in the oceans, the glaciers on our high mountain ranges, our winter snow, the ice on lakes and the polar oceans, and the frozen ground in much of the Arctic landscape called permafrost.

The cryosphere is shrinking. Snow cover is reducing, glaciers and ice sheets are melting and permafrost is thawing. We've known this for most of my 25-year career, but the report highlights that melting is accelerating, with potentially disastrous consequences for humanity and marine and high mountain ecosystems.

At the moment, we're on track to lose more than half of all the permafrost by the end of the century. Thousands of roads and buildings sit on this frozen soil – and their foundations are slowly transitioning to mud. Permafrost also stores almost twice the amount of carbon as is present in the atmosphere. While increased plant growth may be able to offset some of the release of carbon from newly thawed soils, much will be released to the atmosphere, significantly accelerating the pace of global heating.

Sea ice is declining rapidly, and an ice-free Arctic ocean will become a regular summer occurrence as things stand. Indigenous peoples who live in the Arctic are already having to change how they hunt and travel, and some coastal communities are already planning for relocation. Populations of seals, walrus, polar bears, whales and other mammals and sea birds who depend on the ice may crash if sea ice is regularly absent. And as water in its bright-white solid form is much more effective at reflecting heat from the sun, its rapid loss is also accelerating global heating.

Glaciers are also melting. If emissions continue on their current trajectory, smaller glaciers will shrink by more than 80% by the end of the century.

This retreat will place increasing strain on the hundreds of millions of people globally who rely on glaciers for water, agriculture, and power. Dangerous landslides, avalanches, rockfalls and floods will become increasingly normal in mountain areas.

### RISING OCEANS, RISING PROBLEMS

All this melting ice means that sea levels are rising. While seas rose globally by around 15cm during the 20th century, they're now rising more than twice as fast – and this rate is accelerating.

Thanks to research from myself and others, we now better understand how Antarctica and Greenland's ice sheets interact with the oceans. As a result, the latest report has upgraded its long-term

To top it off, the ocean is becoming more acidic as it continues to absorb a proportion of the carbon dioxide we emit.

Collectively, these pressures place marine life across the globe under unprecedented threat. Some species may move to new waters, but others less able to adapt will decline or even die out. This could cause major problems for communities that depend on local seafood. As it stands, coral reefs – beautiful ecosystems that support thousands of species – will be nearly totally wiped out by the end of the century.

### BETWEEN THE LINES

While the document makes some striking



estimates for how much sea level is expected to rise. Uncertainties still remain, but we're headed for a rise of between 60 and 110cm by 2100.

Of course, sea level isn't static. Intense rainfall and cyclones – themselves exacerbated by climate breakdown – can cause water to surge metres above the normal level. The IPCC's report is very clear: these extreme storm surges we used to expect once per century will now be expected every year by mid-century. In addition to rapidly curbing emissions, we must invest millions to protect at-risk coastal and low-lying areas from flooding and loss of life.

### OCEAN ECOSYSTEMS

Up to now, the ocean has taken up more than 90% of the excess heat in the global climate system. Warming to date has already reduced the mixing between water layers and, as a consequence, has reduced the supply of oxygen and nutrients for marine life. By 2100 the ocean will take up five to seven times more heat than it has done in the past 50 years if we don't change our emissions trajectory. Marine heatwaves are also projected to be more intense, last longer and occur 50 times more often.

statements, it is actually relatively conservative with its conclusions – perhaps because it had to be approved by the 195 nations that ratify the IPCC's reports. Right now, I would expect that sea level rise and ice melt will occur faster than the report predicts. Ten years ago, I might have said the opposite. But the latest science is painting an increasingly grave picture for the future of our oceans and cryosphere – particularly if we carry on with "business as usual".

The difference between 1.5°C and 2°C of heating is especially important for the icy poles, which warm much faster than the global average. At 1.5°C of warming, the probability of an ice-free September in the Arctic ocean is one in 100. But at 2°C, we'd expect to see this happening about one-third of the time. Rising sea levels, ocean warming and acidification, melting glaciers, and permafrost also will also happen faster – and with it, the risks to humanity and the living planet increase. It's up to us and the leaders we choose to stem the rising tide of climate and ecological breakdown.

[the writer is Professor of Polar Oceanography, The Open University]



## Shopping addiction is a real disorder

CATHRINE JANSSON-BOYD  
[theconversation.com](http://theconversation.com)

UK-based healthcare group the Priority is well-known for treating gambling, sex, drug, alcohol and computing addictions – especially of the rich and famous. Now it has added a new condition to its list: shopping addiction.

Research suggests that as many as one in 20 people in developed countries may suffer from shopping addiction (or compulsive buying disorder, as it's more formally known), yet it is often not taken seriously. People don't see the harm in indulging in a bit of "retail therapy" to cheer themselves up when they have had a bad day.

Indulging in the occasional bit of frivolous spending is not a bad thing, if it is done in moderation and the person can afford it. But for some people compulsive shopping is a real problem. It takes over their lives and leads to genuine misery. Their urges to shop become uncontrollable and are often impulsive. They end up

spending money they don't have on things they don't need.

The worst part is that compulsive buyers continue to shop regardless of the negative impact it has on them. Their mental health gets worse, they get into serious debt, their social network shrinks, and they may even contemplate suicide – but shopping still provides the brief dopamine rush they crave.

There is no doubt that people who engage in this behaviour suffer, and often badly. But it is debatable whether compulsive buying disorder is a condition in its own right or a symptom of another condition. Often it is difficult to diagnose because people with compulsive buying disorder have symptoms of other disorders, such as eating disorders and substance abuse.

### FORMAL CRITERIA NEEDED

The most commonly used manuals for diagnosing mental disorders are the DSM and ICD, and neither include diagnostic criteria for compulsive

buying disorder. One reason may be that there are many theories about what kind of illness the disorder is. It has been likened to impulse control disorder, mood disorders, addiction and obsessive-compulsive disorder. How the disorder ought to be classified is an ongoing debate.

What is also an ongoing debate is what the disorder should be called. To the general public, it's known as "shopping addiction", but experts variously call it compulsive buying disorder, oniomania, acquisitive desire and impulse buying.

Researchers also struggle to agree on a definition. Perhaps the lack of a clear definition stems from the fact that research shows that no single factor is sufficiently powerful to explain the causes of this compulsive behaviour.

What most experts seem to agree on is that people with this condition find it difficult to stop and that it results in harm, showing that it is an involuntary and destructive kind of

behaviour. People with the condition often try to hide it from friends and partners as they feel shame, thereby alienating themselves from the people who are best placed to support them.

Although the disorder has not yet been clearly defined by name, symptoms or even category of mental health problem, most researchers agree on one thing: it is a real condition that people truly suffer from.

The fact that the Priority, a well-established healthcare group, is treating people with compulsive buying disorder, may help to raise awareness of the condition. Hopefully, this will result in more research being conducted to help define diagnostic criteria. Without the criteria, it will be difficult for healthcare professionals to diagnose the illness and treat it. This is a condition that is crying out to be properly recognised and should not be trivialised.

[the writer is Reader in Consumer Psychology, Anglia Ruskin University]

# Assam doctor fined for medical negligence

**GUWAHATI, SEP 26 (PTI):** Assam Human Rights Commission (AHRC) has found a doctor of an urban health centre guilty of medical negligence leading to the death of a woman, and ordered him to provide Rs 5 lakh compensation to the patient's husband.

A full bench of the AHRC, including its chairperson Justice T Vaiphei, on Wednesday found Dr Ghanashyam Thakuria of Ambari Urban Health Centre, guilty of medical negligence that led to the death of one Pinky Das in 2017, an AHRC press release said.

The Commission recommended that the amount be paid by Dr Thakuria to the patient's husband within two months.

"As the employer of the charged officer, it is open to the State Government to pay the said amount on his behalf and recover the same from his salary by instalment or otherwise," the AHRC release said.

The AHRC had regis-



tered a case on the basis of a complaint filed by the patient's husband in October, 2017. Pinky Das had visited the doctor with symptoms of backache, mild fever, lower abdominal pain and burning sensation.

"At the time of her examination, she had normal blood pressure, normal pulse, but tenderness on her lower abdomen and both sides of her kidney region,

which were diagnosed as symptoms of urinary tract infection.

"The accused doctor had prescribed injections and drips after administering of which the patient developed complications. She was referred to the C Hospital here but she died before receiving any treatment," the release said.

The Commission called for an inquiry report from the state Direc-

tor of Health and Family Welfare wherein it was concluded that there was no medical negligence on the part of Dr Thakuria, the release said.

The Commission observed with surprise as to how a patient who, at the time of her examination by the doctor was admittedly having back pain only, could die after taking the prescribed drug. "As such an independent opinion was

sought from an expert or specialist in medicine from the Gauhati Medical College and Hospital wherein no negligence by the charged doctor was found.

But in the absence of proper explanation by the charged officer, the Commission had no alternative but to hold Dr Thakuria guilty of medical negligence which resulted in the death of Pinky Das," the AHRC said.

## Rijiju urges nation to join Fit India Plog Run on Oct 2

**NEW DELHI, SEP 26 (PTI):** Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju has urged the nation to join the Fit India Plog Run as a tribute to the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi on October 2.

Plogging involves picking up plastic and other waste from the surroundings while jogging. The activity therefore has a two-pronged effect - Swasth and Swachta, staying fit while keep the country clean.

The Fit India Plog

Run is part of the Fit India Movement launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 29.

The Minister posted an appeal video on his twitter account, in which he is seen cycling on Delhi roads.

"Our Honourable Prime Minister's vision for the Fit India Movement is to turn it into a people's movement so I urge all of you to participate in this in large numbers Kyunki

Hum Fit Toh India Fit," he said.

The Plog Run has already generated a lot of interest among various sections.

About 1200 Kendriya Vidyalayas across the country, CBSE-affiliated schools, industry bodies such as FICCI, CII, Phd Chambers and Assocham, 2500 RWAs in Delhi and NCR are joining hands to organize the Fit India Plog Run across the nation.

## Trump calls Democratic impeachment inquiry a 'joke'

**NEW YORK, SEP 26 (AFP):** A downbeat Donald Trump on Wednesday dismissed as a "joke" the grounds laid out for the impeachment inquiry into him, as Democrats stood firm in accusing the US president of a "mafia-style shakedown" of his Ukrainian counterpart. Trump denied claims he abused his office by repeatedly urging President Volodymyr Zelensky to probe his rival Joe Biden -- as confirmed in a call transcript released by the White House.

The next explosive episode in the rapidly unfolding impeachment drama is set for Thursday, when acting director of national intelligence Joseph McGuire testifies on Capitol Hill.

"They are getting hit hard on this witch hunt because when they look at the information, it's a joke," said the president, who struck an uncharacteristically subdued tone at his first news conference since Democrats launched an official impeachment inquiry.

"Impeachment for that? When you have a wonderful meeting or you have a wonderful phone conversation?" A more defiant Trump had earlier insisted he exerted "no pressure" on Kiev -- a claim echoed by Zelensky, who appeared side-by-side with the US leader at a long-planned meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. But the publi-

cation of the transcript sent new shockwaves through Washington, including within the ranks of Trump's Republican Party, with Senator Mitt Romney calling it "deeply troubling." Two competing narratives immediately took hold.

Trump and his allies claimed the July 25 call contained no evidence of a quid pro quo pressuring Zelensky to probe the president's top Democratic rival for the White House. Democrats meanwhile held it up as a smoking gun.

"This is how a mafia boss talks," charged senior lawmaker Adam Schiff. "What have you done for us? We've done so much for you but there's not much reciprocity. I have a favor to ask you." "And what is that favour? Of course, the favor is to investigate his political rival, to investigate the Bidens."

The call summary -- which is not a verbatim transcript -- shows Trump saying US Attorney General Bill Barr and the president's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani would be in touch about probing the Ukraine-related activities of Biden and his son.

In announcing the impeachment probe, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Trump's actions amounted to a betrayal of his oath of office and of national security. As Barack Obama's vice president, Biden and oth-

er Western leaders pressured Ukraine to get rid of the country's top prosecutor, Viktor Shokin, because he was seen as not tough enough on corruption. "There's a lot of talk about Biden's son, that Biden stopped the prosecution and a lot of people want to find out about that so whatever you can do with the attorney general would be great," Trump told Zelensky in the call.

"Biden went around bragging that he stopped the prosecution so if you can look into it... It sounds horrible to me."

The transcript did not show Trump explicitly tying aid to Ukraine to Zelensky probing Biden, which has fed the calls to impeach him.

But the two did discuss a major aid package, which had been frozen by Trump at the time and was only released in recent weeks. The memo also shows Trump asking Zelensky for a "favor" on an issue unconnected to Biden -- just after noting that the US had been "very, very good to Ukraine." Analysts noted that the transcript uses ellipses -- denoting words or entire passages are missing -- on three occasions, all when Trump is making requests of Zelensky.

Others pointed out that it was supposed to summarize a 30-minute call, yet the transcript runs to around just 12 minutes.

## US authorities seize five tons of cocaine from submarine

**WASHINGTON, SEP 26 (AFP):** A homemade submarine carrying more than five tons of cocaine was intercepted in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of South America, the US Coast Guard said.

The 39-foot-long (12 metre) vessel had previously been detected by maritime surveillance, according to a statement published Tuesday.

The Coast Guard boarded the self-propelled submersible on September 1 in international waters with the aid of the Colombian navy, the statement added.

On board, the Coast

Guard discovered about 5.4 tons of cocaine, with a market value of more than USD 165 million.

Four suspected drug smugglers were arrested during the operation.

Along with planes and swift boats, South American drug cartels -- particularly from Colombia -- use somewhat rudimentary submarines to transport drugs to Mexico and on to the United States.

In July, the US Coast Guard announced the seizure of 13 tons of cocaine from multiple operations throughout Latin America.

## Odisha govt to prematurely retire employees of doubtful integrity



**BHUBANESWAR, SEP 26 (PTI):** The Odisha Government has decided to go for premature retirement of employees of doubtful integrity or inefficiency from public service to ensure efficiency in administration, an official said on Thursday.

The General Administration and Public Grievance department has issued a circular in this regard to all the secretaries asking them to weed out officers and employees of doubtful integrity or inefficiency from public service.

The employees who have completed 30 years of service or have attained 50 years of age, whichever is earlier, and those who have attained the age of 55, will come under the purview of this process, the circular said.

Performances of such state government employees belonging to Group A, B, C and D categories will be reviewed by committees every three months.

The secretary of the administrative department is also empowered to constitute internal committees to scrutinise all the cases to be reviewed in each quarter and finalise the specific cases to be reviewed.

The committee will recommend retirement of the employees whose integrity is doubtful or is found to be inef-

fective, the circular said adding that the basic consideration of identifying such employees should be fitness/ competence of the employee to continue in the post which he/she is holding.

While the entire service record of an officer should be considered at the time of review, no employee should ordinarily be retired on the ground of ineffectiveness, if his service during the preceding 5 years or where he has been promoted to a higher post during that 5 years period, his service in the higher post, has been found satisfactory.

Consideration is ordinarily to be confined to the preceding 5 years or to the period in the higher post, in case of promotion within the period of 5 years, only when retirement is sought to be made on the ground of ineffectiveness, it said.

Ordinarily no employee should be retired on grounds of ineffectiveness if he is retiring on superannuation within a period of one year from the date of consideration of the case.

It is clarified that in a case where there is a sudden and steep fall in the competence, efficiency or effectiveness of an officer, it would be open to review his case for premature retirement in the year preceding retirement, the letter said.

## India bag 9th gold at Asian Age Group Championships

**BENGALURU, SEP 26 (PTI):** The Indian men's 4x100m medley relay team comprising Srihari Nataraj, Sajjan Prakash, Likith S P and Viradhawal Khade won India's ninth gold medal at the 10th Asian Age Group Swimming Championship here on Wednesday.

The Indian team clocked 3:46.49 seconds to beat Thailand (3:48.89) and Hong Kong (3:53.99) respectively at the Padukone-Draavid Centre of Sports Excellence.

India withstood the

challenge posed by Thailand and Hong Kong as they got off to a flying start thanks to Srihari Nataraj (56.55) in backstroke as he finished ahead of Hong Kong's Lau Shiu Yue (57.72) and Thailand's Kasipat Chograthin (58.41).

Sajjan Prakash, diving in next for the butterfly dash, kept up India's lead with a time of 54.50 seconds while Thailand's Navaphat Wongcharoen clocked 54.50 seconds and Hong Kong's Cheung Yau Ming (56.60).

Likith SP, swimming breast stroke, was excellent as he extended the lead clocking fastest time of 1:02.47 while Thailand's Nuttapong Ketin timed 1:03.69 and Hong Kong's NG Yan Kin clocked 1:05.82 seconds.

Khade, who won gold in the 50m freestyle on Wednesday, ensured the first-place finish. He timed 53.00 seconds while Thailand's Tarit Thongchumsin clocked 52.29 seconds and Hong Kong's Fung Chung Ho 53.85 seconds.

## Gold, silver plunges on weak global trend



**NEW DELHI, SEP 26 (PTI):** Gold prices on Thursday drifted lower by Rs 497 to Rs 38,685 per 10 gram in the bullion market here, tracking a weak global trend, according to HDFC Securities.

Silver also dropped by Rs 1,580 to Rs 47,235 per kilogram from Rs 48,815 per kilogram on Wednesday.

Gold prices for 24 Karat closed at Rs 39,182 per 10 gram in the previous trade here.

"Spot gold (Delhi) prices opened lower following overnight selling in spot COMEX gold. The correction in gold prices comes ahead of the start of the festive season which could lift demand," said Devarsh Vakil, Head

- Advisory (PCG), HDFC Securities.

In the global market, gold prices were trading lower at USD 1,508 per ounce, while silver traded at USD 17.90 an ounce.

"International gold prices witnessed sell off after US President Donald Trump told a trade deal with China could happen sooner than expected that damped the safe haven demand," Vakil added. Global markets rallied after Trump's comments on trade deal with China.

Meanwhile, the BSE benchmark index zoomed over 396 points on Thursday amid positive cues from global markets.

Eight essays put the spotlight on the journey course by hydel projects in Sikkim and the region, the cost exacted by this "development" and some of the stories it birthed, not all of which have been shared before.

Also finding place in this collection is the arrival of Climate Change and its impact on Sikkim and how the State could negotiate with this new disruption.

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## Solskjaer urges Man Utd to show killer instinct

**MANCHESTER, SEPT 26 (AFP):** Ole Gunnar Solskjaer urged Manchester United's youngsters to be more ruthless after they survived a League Cup scare against third tier Rochdale.

Solskjaer was subjected to calls for his sacking on social media after United needed a 5-3 penalty shoot-out win to edge past Rochdale after a limp 1-1 draw at Old Trafford.

Following Sunday's chastening Premier League loss at West Ham, United were in trouble again when Rochdale's 16-year-old Luke Matheson cancelled out Mason Greenwood's opener.

United keeper Sergio Romero saved the day by denying Jimmy Keohane in the shoot-out, earning a last 16 trip to Chelsea.

It was a let-off for Solskjaer's men and a further reminder of the need to make their chances count, having converted just one of their 31 shots.

"We go 1-0 up in many games. Today it's again go 1-0 up and you think 'go on then, get the second' which is the key now and that is learning curve for these boys as well," said Solskjaer, whose side are a lowly eighth in the Premier League.

"We need to go for a second. At this club you don't just sit back and hope that's enough good. If you settle for good enough, that's not what we want."

Greenwood, 17, was one of the few positives after wriggling free to score in front of the Stretford End - just as he did in the Europa League against Astana last week.

"He has two great feet and took the penalty with his right, so he must be a nightmare for defenders having him one on one in the box," Solskjaer said.

"He can go both ways, which is for me fantastic and you can just see he has got quality and he will get his share of games."

Under-fire Solskjaer could have done with an easier draw than a clash with Chelsea, but United did beat them on the first day of the season and he said: "If you want to win it, you have to beat the best."

"We play them first game of the season this year. We played them in the FA Cup last year and it slots into a couple of weeks with loads of travelling."

United will have four successive away games, with trips to Norwich, Partizan Belgrade, Chelsea and Bournemouth as October turns to November.

"That's how it is. And we have got to make the best out of it - and I am sure we are because that's the type of group this is, that's the type of club we are," Solskjaer said.

"We are not going to say 'argh', we're going to relish it and look forward to it."

# Five out of five as Inter maintain perfect record

**ROME, SEPT 26 (AFP):** Inter Milan made it five wins from five games with a 1-0 victory over Lazio as Antonio Conte's men reclaimed top spot in Serie A.

However, they needed goalkeeper Samir Handanovic, on the occasion of his 300th game for Inter, to pull off a series of fine saves to ensure a win which allowed his team to restore their two-point lead over champions Juventus on Wednesday.

The only goal of the game at the San Siro came in the 23rd minute when Italian international full-back Danilo D'Ambrosio headed in from close range off a cross from Cristiano Biraghi.

At the other end, Handanovic made sure that Inter's miserly defensive record this season, which has seen just one goal conceded, remained intact as he denied Felipe Caicedo and Bastos before he thwarted Tucu Correa with a spectacular one-handed save.

Inter summer signing Romelu Lukaku was unable to add to his three goals in four Serie A games having earlier been denied the chance to play against



younger brother Jordan who was sidelined with a knee injury.

Lazio, meanwhile, went into the game with Ciro Immobile left on the bench after a touchline row with coach Simone Inzaghi in last week's 2-0 win over Parma.

Duvan Zapata and Marten de Roon scored second-half goals as

Atalanta condemned Roma to a first league defeat of the season, dashing England international defender Chris Smalling's hopes of a winning debut.

The win at the Stadio Olimpico allowed Atalanta to climb into third place in the table.

Paulo Fonseca's Roma, meanwhile, are in

sixth spot, seven points off Inter Milan's pace.

Atalanta opened the scoring in the 71st minute when Colombian international Zapata, on as a second-half substitute, tucked the ball away from close range.

Dutch midfielder De Roon made sure of the victory with a last-minute, close-range header

after Roma goalkeeper Pau Lopez failed to collect a cross.

It was a disappointing night for Smalling as the 31-time capped defender finally made his Roma debut after moving on loan to Italy from Manchester United in the summer.

Napoli lost ground after a 1-0 defeat against

Cagliari in Sardinia.

It was a second league defeat of the season for Carlo Ancelotti's side who dominated large parts of Wednesday's match before they were undone by a goal on the counter-attack by Lucas Castro three minutes from the end.

Dries Mertens twice his the woodwork for

Napoli whose miserable evening saw Kalidou Koulibaly red-carded in the dying moments for protesting the goal.

Fiorentina moved off the bottom of the table after a 2-1 win over Sampdoria gave them a first win of the campaign.

On Tuesday, Juventus defeated Brescia 2-1 to briefly reclaim top spot.

## Asia-Pacific Amateurs to return to Australia

**SHANGHAI, SEPT 26 (PTI):** The Asia-Pacific Amateur Championships (AAC) will return to The Royal Melbourne Golf Club in Australia after a gap of six years.

The championships are scheduled to be held from October 29 to November 1, 2020.

The announcement was made as the current edition got underway on Thursday with 120 players from 39 countries teeing off at the Sheshan International Golf Club.

An Indian contingent of six players is also featuring in the competition in which Rayhan Thomas was runner-up in 2018.

Founded in 2009 by the Asia-Pacific Golf Confederation, the Masters Tournament and The R&A, the AAC champion receives an invita-

tion to compete in the Masters Tournament and The Open, while the runner-up gains a place in Final Qualifying for The Open.

"One of the goals of the Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship was to show the world how golf is growing in our region," said Kei Muratsu, Chairman of the Asia Pacific Golf Confederation.

"The success of this championship and the quality of the competitors in this field are shining examples of those goals coming to life. We are confident that next year's return to Australia will mark another wonderful chapter in the legacy of the AAC."

"We are thrilled to host the Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship once again and bring

this exceptional event back to The Royal Melbourne Golf Club," said Andrew Kirby, Captain of The Royal Melbourne Golf Club.

Australian players have won twice in the past - Curtis Luck in 2016 and before him it was Antonio Murdaca at the Royal Melbourne in 2014.

The Royal Melbourne Golf Club, established in 1891, will be hosting the 2019 President's Cup and it hosted the AAC in 2014.

The club has a strong history of hosting top-tier Australian events as well as international competitions, including the Presidents Cup (1998, 2011, 2019), World Cup (1959, 1972, 1988, 2013) and the Eisenhower Trophy (1968).

## Had to 'beg and plead' to open innings for India: Tendulkar

**NEW DELHI, SEP 26 (PTI):** Barring great Sachin Tendulkar says he had to "beg and plead" to open the innings for India in an ODI against New Zealand in 1994, recalling a major turning point of his career. The switch from middle-order to opening the innings proved to be a masterstroke as Tendulkar finished with a world record 49 hundreds in the 50-over format.

Sharing a video on LinkedIn, Tendulkar recollected the moments leading up to that one-dayer against New Zealand at Auckland.

"In 1994, when I started opening the batting for India, the strategy used by all teams was to save wickets. What I tried to do was slightly out of the box," he said.



"I thought I could go up front and take the opposition bowlers on. But I had to beg and plead to please give me a chance. If I fail, I won't come after you again," he added.

Using that move as an example, the prolific

former batsman urged his fans to never shy away from taking risks because of the fear of failure.

"In that first match (against New Zealand at Auckland), I scored 82 off 49 balls, so I

didn't have to ask again if I would get another chance. They were keen for me to open. But what I'm trying to say here is, don't be afraid of failure," the 46-year-old Tendulkar said. While he may have ended with a 49 ODI centuries, Tendulkar's first ton in the format came after a long wait of five years. It was in September 1994 that he hit his first ODI hundred, against Australia in Colombo, having made the switch from the middle-order to opening the innings.

He recorded scores of 82, 63, 40, 63 and 73 in his first five innings as an opening batsman.

Tendulkar finished his ODI career with 18426 runs in 463 matches -- the most by any in the history of the format.

## Badminton: Kashyap enters quarters of Korea Open



**INCHEON, SEPT 26 (PTI):** Indian shuttler Parupalli Kashyap on Thursday advanced to the Korea Open men's singles quarter-final after a three-game triumph over Malaysia's Daren Liew here.

Kashyap prevailed 21-17 11-21 21-12 in a contest that lasted 56 minutes.

He will next square off against the winner of the match between eighth-seeded Indonesian Anthony Sinisuka Ginting and Denmark's Jan O Jorgensen.

The 2014 Commonwealth Games gold-medallist is the lone Indian left in fray in BWF World

Tour Super 500 tournament. Earlier, world champion P V Sindhu and the seasoned Saina Nehwal crashed out following first-round setbacks.

While Sindhu lost 7-21 24-22 15-21 to Beiwen Zhang of United States in her opening-round match, London Olympics bronze-medallist Saina was trailing 21-19, 18-21 and 1-8 against South Korea's Kim Ga Eun when she was forced to retire due to illness.

World Championship men's singles bronze-medallist B Sai Praneeth also bowed out early from the tournament.

## Daniel James gives nervy Manchester United shootout win against Rochdale

**JAMIE JACKSON**  
theGuardian

**OLD TRAFFORD, 26 SEPT:** Manchester United squeezed through to the Carabao Cup fourth round, 5-3 on penalties, Daniel James confidently dispatching the decisive kick on a night when Rochdale gave Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's men an almighty scare.

Yet the result should not mask the latest worrying display, one that followed Saturday's defeat at West Ham, as they were taken to spot-kicks by a 16-year-old right-back named Luke Matheson. He will long remember his 76th-minute equaliser and sprint to celebrate in front of the Rochdale fans he had sent into ecstasy.

Matheson, an A-level student, will be 17 next week but it was United's own 17-year-old, Mason Greenwood, whose earlier strike appeared to have won the tie. United then drew

Chelsea at Stamford Bridge in the next round and the manager said: "If you want to win it you have to beat the best."

Solskjaer had retained only Aaron Wan-Bissaka and Andreas Pereira from the West Ham loss. The headline inclusion was Axel Tuanzebe who, at 21, captained United in only a 10th appearance. He was the youngest to do so since a 20-year-old Norman Whiteside in 1985. This was despite Paul Pogba's first start for close to a month because of injury.

Brian Barry-Murphy's side are 17th in League One, six points above the relegation zone after nine games, yet reached the break on level terms.

Of particular interest was how Greenwood would perform in his first game as United's No 9 - and he impressed. He would have had a first clear chance if Pogba had turned a far-post header to him. Moments later, he was

put in the left by the same player but his control faltered.

United seemed to be moving closer to the breakthrough: Greenwood crossed the ball in from the right, yet Pogba's header was a particularly woeful miss. Possession was largely United's but they lacked the class and composure to make it count.

There was then a real scare for the United defence: it could do nothing as Ollie Rathbone - once of United - found Callum Camps and suddenly Wan-Bissaka had to clear off the line.

This had the packed away end delirious and the home support wondering what, precisely, their team was doing. Rochdale could start to believe the upset was on.

Greenwood was United's brightest player, as he continued to pop up in and around Robert Sanchez's goal.

The sign of United's des-

perate times came on the hour when Solskjaer replaced the toothless Tahith Chong for James, whose impact was instant, laying off a pass to Greenwood whose shot forced Sanchez to concede a corner.

Then United had the breakthrough and Brandon Williams, on his debut aged 19, was instrumental. He found Pereira, who relayed the ball to Jesse Lingard: Greenwood took over, and it was 1-0. Yet now came the twist as Matheson raced in from the right and buried a finish past Sergio Romero and penalties beckoned. Rathbone finished disappointed but proud. "It was amazing We were expecting to get drummed here. We did really well," he said. Solskjaer added: "You know we're better in penalty shootouts than in proper games." It was joking yet some fans may be worried that such a jest is now true of their team.

# Extreme sea level events 'will hit once a year by 2050'

DAMIAN CARRINGTON  
theGuardian

Extreme sea level events that used to occur once a century will strike every year on many coasts by 2050, no matter whether climate heating emissions are curbed or not, according to a landmark report by the world's scientists.

The stark assessment of the climate crisis in the world's oceans and ice caps concludes that many serious impacts are already inevitable, from more intense storms to melting permafrost and dwindling marine life.

But far worse impacts will hit without urgent action to cut fossil fuel emissions, including eventual sea level rise of more than 4 metres in the worst case, an outcome that would redraw the map of the world and harm billions of people.

The report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and approved by its 193 member nations, says that "all people on Earth depend directly or indirectly on the ocean" and ice caps and glaciers to regulate the climate and provide water and oxygen. But it finds unprecedented and dangerous changes being driven by global heating.

Sea level rise is accelerating as losses from Greenland and Antarctica increase, and the ocean is getting hotter, more acidic and less oxygenated. All these trends will continue to the end of the century, the IPCC report said.

Half the world's megacities, and almost 2 billion people, live on coasts. Even if heating is restricted to just 2C, scientists expect the impact of sea level rise to cause several trillion dollars of damage a year, and result in many millions of migrants.

"The future for low-lying coastal communities looks extremely bleak," said Prof Jonathan Bamber at Bristol University in the UK, who is not one of the report's authors. "But the consequences will be felt by all of us. There is plenty to be concerned about for the future of humanity and social order from the headlines in this report."

The new IPCC projections of likely sea



level rise by 2100 are higher than those it made in 2014, due to unexpectedly fast melting in Antarctica. Without cuts in carbon emissions, the ocean is expected to rise between 61cm and 110cm, about 10cm more than the earlier estimate. A 10cm rise means an additional 10 million people exposed to flooding, research shows.

The IPCC considers the likely range of sea level rise but not the worst-case scenario. Recent expert analysis led by Bamber concluded that up to 238cm of sea level rise remains possible by 2100, drowning many megacities around the world. "This cannot be ruled out," said Zita Sebesvari at the United Nations University, a lead author of the IPCC report.

Even if huge cuts in emissions begin immediately, between 29cm and 59cm of sea level rise is already inevitable because the ice caps and glaciers melt slowly. Sea level will rise for centuries without action, Sebesvari warned. "The dramatic thing about sea level rise is if we accept 1 metre happening by 2100, we accept we will get

about 4 metres by 2300. That is simply not an option we can risk." Extreme sea level impacts will be felt in many places very soon and well before 2050, Sebesvari said. The IPCC report states: "Extreme sea level events that [occur] once per century in the recent past are projected to occur at least once per year at many locations by 2050 in all scenarios."

The heating oceans are causing more intense tropical storms to batter coasts, the IPCC report found, with stronger winds and greater deluges of rain. For example, Hurricane Harvey's unprecedented deluge, which caused catastrophic flooding, was made three times more likely by climate change.

Ocean heating also harms kelp forests and other important ecosystems, with the marine heatwaves that sear through them like underwater wildfires having doubled in frequency in the last 40 years. They are projected to increase by at least 20 times by 2100, the IPCC reported.

Extreme El Niño events, which see heatwaves in some regions and floods in

others, are projected to occur twice as often this century whether emissions are cut or not, the report said. Coral reefs, vital nurseries for marine life, will suffer major losses and local extinctions. Across the ocean, heat, acidification and lower oxygen is set to cut fisheries by a quarter and all marine life by 15% if emissions are not slashed.

The IPCC report also records the large reduction in Arctic ice. This loss exacerbates global heating, because the exposed darker ocean absorbs more heat from the sun than highly reflective ice. On Monday, scientists announced that the Arctic sea ice in 2019 shrank to its second lowest extent in the 41-year satellite record.

The world's high mountain glaciers, upon which almost 2 billion people rely for water, are also melting fast, the IPCC found, while landslides are expected to increase. A third of the great Himalayan range is already doomed, with two-thirds projected to vanish if emissions are not cut.

One of the most worrying alarms sounded by the IPCC report is about melt-

ing tundra and increasing wildfires in northern latitudes: "Widespread permafrost thaw is projected for this century and beyond." A quarter is already near certain to melt, it said, and 70% or more would go if emissions are not curbed. In the latter case, hundreds of billions of tonnes of carbon dioxide and methane could be released, supercharging the climate emergency.

"That risks taking us beyond the point where climate change could be easily constrained," said Richard Black, at the UK's Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit. "Nevertheless, the IPCC's 2018 report concluded that governments can shrink emissions quickly enough to keep global warming to 1.5C if they choose. None can claim to be unaware of both the dangers of untrammelled climate change nor the feasibility of preventing it."

Anne Hidalgo, the mayor of Paris and chair of the C40 Cities climate coalition, said the IPCC report was shocking. "Around 1.9 billion people and over half of the world's megacities are all in grave danger if we don't act immediately. Several cities, home to hundreds of thousands of people, are already disappearing underwater. This is what the climate crisis looks like now."

Taehyun Park, of Greenpeace East Asia, said: "The science is both chilling and compelling. The impacts on our oceans are on a much larger scale and happening way faster than predicted. It will require unprecedented political action to prevent the most severe consequences to our planet."

As well as cutting fossil fuel emissions, preparing for the inevitable impacts is also vital, said Sebesvari, especially in poorer nations that lack the funds to build sea walls, move settlements or restore protective coastal marshes.

"Action is needed now to secure the coast for our children and coming generations," she said. "The pressure now being exerted by the global school strikes for climate was important, she said. "I have very strong motivation. I have two kids and we are really being tested by our kids on our actions."

## Last Australian state decriminalises abortion

SYDNEY, SEP 26 (AFP): Abortion was decriminalised in Australia's state of New South Wales on Thursday after weeks of contentious debate, bringing its laws into line with the rest of the country.

Politicians from across the political spectrum voted to overturn the laws that date back to 1900 and meant women seeking an abortion in Sydney or elsewhere in the state and their doctors could face up to 10 years in prison.

The legislation was delayed for months by a small group of conservatives from the ruling Liberal Party who rebelled against their leader. The passage of the bill was cheered by pro-choice advocates, who had staged several large demonstrations in its support in recent months, countered by similarly passionate pro-life rallies.

Alex Greenwich, the independent representative for Sydney who introduced the bill, said he was "sorry it has taken us so long" to remove abortion from the criminal code.

"My deepest gratitude goes to my parliamentary colleagues and to the dedicated women's rights campaigners who have fought toward this for decades," he said in a statement. Though prosecutions were rare, the procedure was only considered legal in Australia's most populous state if the doctor believed the woman's physical or mental health was in danger.

The new legislation allows abortions to be performed by a doctor on request up to 22 weeks, beyond which the consent of two doctors would be required.

## FIBO to be held in Southeast Asia from 2020



SINGAPORE, SEPT. 26, 2019 /PRNEWSWIRE: Next year will see the first FIBO Southeast Asia (FIBO SEA) kicks off. From 24 to 26 September 2020, it will bring together brands, manufacturers, distributors, licensors, intermediaries, buyers and trainers from the Southeast Asia and international fitness industry. Hosting the event will be the megacity, Singapore, the international finance centre and one of the world's most visited cities.

"As a global brand, we provide access to the most dynamic and important fitness markets worldwide," says Hans-Joachim Erbel, CEO of Reed Exhibitions Deutschland GmbH, the organiser of FIBO in Germany, and adds: "Southeast Asia is one of the fastest growing regions in our industry and holds a vast potential for our exhibitors. After all, we bring together key markets including Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam and Thailand with the metropolis Singapore." The demand for fitness offerings is rising, not least on account of a growing middle class, tourism and a growing health awareness.

FIBO SEA is organised by Reed Exhibitions Singapore in collaboration

with Reed Exhibitions Deutschland, the organiser of FIBO in Cologne, which will leverage its international network and know-how in the fitness and wellness sector.

Set sights on Southeast Asia The Southeast Asia region is expected to grow at a yearly average of 5.2% from 2018 to 2022 and to become the fourth largest single market in the world by 2030 -- putting it behind only the US, China, and the European Union (EU) [1]. According to Ernst & Young (EY), ASEAN is in a "demographic sweet spot" with a youthful workforce and generous consumer base of more than 659 million people. Unlike more mature Asian countries, the region's working population surpasses its older dependents, spurring economic expansion, generous consumer and investment spending and wealth accumulation [2]. Deem as the world's most outperforming economies [3], the fitness market in this region generated a combined revenue of US 1.5 billion. In Singapore, the membership penetration rate has grown to 5.8% from 2014 to 2018, and is expected to hit 6.4 percent annually between 2018 and 2023 [4]. The

rest of the markets in the region include Thailand (membership penetration rate of 0.5%), Indonesia (0.18%), Philippines (0.53%), Malaysia (1.04%), and Vietnam (0.50%) [5].

"FIBO Southeast Asia is positioned as the strategic business platform for international brands to serve the growing fitness and wellness community in this region. With Singapore's international appeal as a green and sustainable city, strategic location and easy access to high-growth markets in Southeast Asia, the trade exhibition and conference will be the place to be seen at this annual industry gathering," says Michelle Lim, Managing Director of Reed Exhibitions Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia.

The FIBO DNA Like FIBO in Cologne, FIBO SEA also addresses the fitness industry as a whole fusing business with passion. The trade show will focus on the B2B segment, targeting dealers, club operators, facility managers and buyers from various segments such as public institutions, the military or hotels. In the B2C segment FIBO SEA will especially target fitness trainers and consumers

who can also participate in various partner events and training sessions.

Unique Venue FIBO SEA will be held at the world-famous Marina Bay Sands. The architecturally impressive integrated resort for business meetings, leisure and entertainment has changed the skyline of the city. The premises comprise a luxury hotel, state-of-the-art convention and exhibition facilities, numerous entertainment options and top-notch shopping plus world class restaurants -- all crowned by the spectacular Sands SkyPark.

About FIBO FIBO is the world's largest international trade fair for fitness, wellness and health and the place for innovations, investment and trends: At FIBO in Cologne some 1,100 companies meet with 145,000 trade and private visitors from nearly 140 countries. FIBO offers international business and networking but also captures fitness enthusiasts with a great live experience. In 2020 the trade show will run from 2 to 5 April. With other FIBO shows in China, Mexico, Africa and the USA, FIBO provides access to the most dynamic and important fitness markets worldwide.

## Indian Americans in Los Angeles raise funds for Joe Biden

BY LALIT K JHA

WASHINGTON, SEP 26 (PTI): Days after US President Donald Trump tried to woo Indian Americans by joining Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a mega rally in Houston, Democratic presidential aspirant Joe Biden was hosted for a major fund-raiser by this small but rich community. The fund-raiser in Los Angeles Wednesday night was organised by Indian-American surgeon Sanjay Khurana and his software-engineer wife Mona, at their picturesque Manhattan Beach home. It was attended by about 150 top Indian Americans from in and around Hollywood.

Indian Americans have traditionally voted for the Democratic party candidates. Trump, by attending the Houston rally, tried to attract Indi-

an Americans to the Republican fold. During his nearly 30-minute speech, Biden said he is running for president to "restore the soul of America, to rebuild the middle class and to unite the country".

The former vice president said if Trump is elected to another term, it will fundamentally change the United States. "We can handle, God-willing, the next 18 or 16 months if he doesn't get us into a war. We can handle four years of President Trump," Biden said, adding that the nation will still need to repair itself domestically and its image and relationships abroad.

"I believe four more years of Donald Trump will change the very nature of who we are as a nation, the very nature of we are and we can't let

that happen. There's too much at stake," he said. Biden mentioned his visit to Mumbai when he was vice president, noting that India is the world's largest democracy and some at the event were immigrants who became naturalized citizens.

We've been able to take the best of every country in the world, from every continent, Biden said, pointing that his great grandfather immigrated to the US from Ireland in a coffin ship.

You all decided to come, you weren't sure what was going to happen either. The people who came had resilience. They had hope. They had optimism. They were determined. They were in fact ready to be inclusive. You represent why we're the nation we are, Biden said.



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## Korean Male Celebrities Are Changing The Perception Of Male Beauty

We often see girl groups and top South Korean actresses front beauty campaigns such as BLACKPINK's Jennie for Hera and Song Hye-kyo for Sulwasoo. But equally influential are the male idols and actors who have fronted beauty campaigns and become ambassadors for beauty brands.

In South Korea especially, it is not uncommon to see well-groomed men sporting natural makeup on the daily, and to see male idols speak openly about their own beauty regime, from skincare to makeup. Now, we are seeing this trend spread to the West where some of the biggest beauty brands have appointed male Korean stars to front their own beauty campaigns to a global audience.

According to a CNN report, about three quarters of South Korean men undertake a beauty or grooming treatment (from salon hair treatments to at-home facials) at least once a week and the number increases dramatically if we reduce the sample size to males born after the year 2000. They consider these beauty regimes part of grooming and maintaining a clean appearance.

A major contributor to this is, of course, K-pop, where stars perform with a full face of makeup, complete with eye-shadow and lip colour.

While initially this was to prevent male stars from looking "washed out" on camera, it eventually transformed into an aesthetic that is synonymous with the K-pop image.

Today, we're looking at some the

pretty boys who not only deliver incredible visuals to beauty campaigns but also breaking male stereotypes on a global scale.

Solo artist and CEO of KONNECT Entertainment, Kang Daniel has been announced to be an official brand model for Givenchy Beauty. This is the latest in a string of achievements that the

This June, GOT7's Jackson Wang was announced as one of the faces of Armani Beauty. He performed at the Armani Box in Shanghai and attracted hundreds of screaming fans to the pop-up. Campaign images were also released where the rapper posed with Giorgio Armani's Si Passione which happens to be a ladies fragrance.



22-year-old former WANNA ONE member has been racking up since his solo debut in July 2019. The French Maison revealed new campaign shots of Kang modelling Givenchy's signature Le Rouge lipstick line.

Charismatic South Korean actor Lee Dong-Wook was announced to be the face of Boy de Chanel, the French maison's cosmetics range targeted towards men. The line features a complexion product, lip balm and brow product, among other things. It focuses on evening out the skin tone and overall enhancing one's natural features in a subtle manner.

He is the first male celebrity to be the face of a Giorgio Armani beauty campaign for a female fragrance. Wang can now stand alongside Hollywood actress, Cate Blanchett, who was the original face of the aforementioned fragrance.

The Bangtan Boys have been the face of many brands. The group's most notable beauty collaboration was with VT Cosmetics, a K-beauty brand that immediately shot to fame after BTS became their ambassadors. VT Cosmetics also released capsule collections with BTS that includes not only skincare products but also makeup, including cushion foundations and lip tints.



**NICE VIEW!** Singer, Gwen Stefani stunned as she visited The View in New York City.

### Lady Gaga Surprising a Fan With a Makeup Tutorial Will Leave You In Tears

Break out the tissues because Lady Gaga has done it again. This month, the singer is featured on the cover of Allure magazine for their October "Best of Beauty" issue. Brandon Galaz is an aspiring cosmetologist and one of Gaga's biggest fans, so she invited him to a Haus Laboratories makeup session with artist Sarah Tanno.

During the makeup application, Brandon shared a touching letter he wrote for Lady Gaga. "I don't know what age exactly I knew I was gay, but I always felt different and that I had no one to turn to for advice," he shared. "Your lyrics in 'Born This Way' spoke to me." Before he can finish, Brandon was given the shock of a lifetime! Unbeknownst to the super-fan, his idol was just a few feet away watching on a monitor backstage as he read the touching letter he wrote for her. Within moments, she has her arms wrapped around him in a sweet embrace. Cue the tears!

Of course she let him finish his letter to her while standing beside him in awe. Brandon wasn't the only one who got some lessons, Gaga also thanked him for reminding her what it's all about. "You reminded me that it's important to see yourself as you see you," she shared.

After some kind words of gratitude, Gaga actually started doing his makeup herself! The two shared their love of makeup and why it's important to use it to express who you are and what you're feeling. Before leaving, she thanked Brandon for inspiring her and a gener-

ation of young people to be more brave and bold with their own stories. "You're so brave and so beautiful...I love you," she told him.

The musician left to let Brandon and Sarah finish their session, but then returned in tears to once again thank him.



"My mic's not on anymore and they probably can't hear me, but I just want to say that letter that you wrote is why I do what I do. Thank you for sharing that. It's so vulnerable, so honest, so real," she told him. "That's not easy, what you did. You just changed a lot of people's lives. When they see this, they'll be less afraid."

Sarah also finished her session by sharing her story of how Gaga changed her life as well. "I feel some similar things that you said, and she gave me a lot of courage too, so we have a lot in common," the makeup artist revealed. "I have failed several times. Had to move home and start all over again. I just knew I wanted this so bad that there wasn't a backup plan. I got up and started all up again. Continue to believe in yourself, perfect your craft, and there is no way you can lose."

### MONSTA X Working On Mysterious MV In Los Angeles; Confirms Comeback

Who do you love? If your answer is MONSTA X, you'll be glad to hear that the K-pop boy band is going to make their comeback really soon!

Starship Entertainment, the boy band's management agency, confirmed the news with news outlets today, saying, "They are currently preparing for their comeback. The comeback is expected to be in late October, but the exact timing will be revealed soon."

Shownu, Wonho, Minhyuk, Kihyun, Hyungwon, Joohoney and I.M. released several hit singles this year — including "Who Do U Love" featuring French Montana, and their most recent track, "Love U" — but this news marks their first comeback in eight months, after the release of "Alligator" in February.

Earlier this week, the seven-member boy band was spotted shooting in the rain in Los Angeles, according to a report by Metro UK. They were reportedly shooting the new music video for their upcoming release, which led fans to speculate if the group was shooting a music video for their song "Love U" or an entirely new track.

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### 'Joker' to release in India on October 2



**MUMBAI, SEP 26 (PTI):** Warner Bros has announced that its upcoming feature "Joker" will release in India on October 2.

The film, featuring Joaquin Phoenix as the iconic DC comics antagonist The Joker, was earlier scheduled to release in the country on October 4.

"#JokerMovie will now release in India on Wednesday, October 2nd, two days ahead of its initial scheduled release," Warner Bros India posted on its official Twitter page.

According to the studio, the film, direct-

ed by Todd Phillips, is an "exploration of a man disregarded by society that is not only a gritty character study, but also a broader cautionary tale."

The cast also includes Robert De Niro, Zazie Beetz, Frances Conroy and Marc Maron. "Joker", which had its world premiere at the Venice Film Festival, also won the coveted Golden Lion trophy at the movie extravaganza.

Apart from "Joker", Bollywood film "War", featuring Hrithik Roshan and Tiger Shroff, will also hit the theatres on October 2.

**ARIES:** Too much of anything is a bad thing. Yes, even social media. This day requires a greater degree of Zen. Plus, a top knot and a pair of linen pants to go with it. Reconnect with your inner yogi, wild one. Make time for a spiritual practice that helps you find your lost sense of balance. Not a fan of the namasray lifestyle?

Tip: Unplug your devices and put on your linen pants.

**TAURUS:** Letting go is a concept that sometimes eludes us. We are taught to hold on to something with all our might once we get it, even if it hurts us in the process. The cards are not implying something as drastic as letting go of the one you love. They are, however, asking you to let go of the negative beliefs and fears that keep you from loving with all your heart.

Tip: Sometimes, it's our belief system that needs to shift.

**GEMINI:** Did somebody say spring wedding? Your dreams are coming true in the most unexpected way. Picture this: you are surrounded by your loved ones under a

canopy of flowers as you and your beloved promise each other a happily ever after. Consider a small, traditional wedding to mark the beginning of this soulful journey.

Tip: 'Tis the season to love and be loved.

**CANCER:** The internet opens up a whole new Universe for us, if we learn to use it wisely. In others words, you're being asked to bid farewell to social media and other mindless distractions. The project at hand requires an insane amount of research. Prepare to stumble upon information that has the potential to take your work to the next level. Not a fan of the world wide web? Consider the old school route, Cancer.

Tip: Research is the operative word.

**LEO:** Hello Zumba class hero! You're feeling more active than you usually do. What a wonderful time to experiment with new forms of movement and exercise! Don't stick to the tried-and-tested, Leo. Ditto for your intimate life. Single lions could be channeling that free love vibe. It's all good in the hood as long as you tell your partner(s) where you are at in your journey.

Tip: Sexual exploration is on the cards.

**VIRGO:** If not now, then when? The air is rife with the opportunity for change. A chance to manifest your wildest dreams in your material reality. Be creative. Give yourself permission to visualise. To take the kind of risks you used to be afraid to and act in time. A good way to monitor your progress is to maintain a journal with your intentions.

Tip: You are starting over.

**LIBRA:** Your time and energy are your most powerful resources. Use them wisely. It's better to disengage from a conversation that drains you than to allow yourself to be dragged down to hell. What are you going to gain by winning this argument anyway? If the conflict you are experiencing is internal, focus on finding inner balance. This will help you clear out the fog and forge your path with confidence.

Tip: Know when to back off.

**SCORPIO:** Vulnerability is a sign of strength, not weakness. So what if it has taken you many years to get here? You've finally mastered this soul lesson. Continue to be a

vehicle of love and compassion. Continue to express your most authentic self as you hold space for others to do the same. Your intuition is also heightened at the moment. Be cognisant of the cosmic downloads coming to and through you. Acting on the message in time will help you reroute your life in a positive direction.

Tip: Let your most authentic self be seen and heard.

**SAGITTARIUS:** We all have an idea of the kind of person we want to be with. Yet, we land up with somebody who is the exact opposite. The Universe has a way of pulling a fast one on us—exactly what seems to be happening in your life at this moment. The good news: the suitor in question promise to exceed your expectations.

Tip: A lasting relationship could be on the cards.

**CAPRICORN:** You're learning that love is not conditional and that we don't have to change who we are to deserve a place in the life of another. Embrace who you are inside out. You will find that others honour you in the same way you honour yourself. Coupled Capricorns, picture this: a dapper Ranveer

Singh carrying Deepika's veil as she walks towards stage to receive an award. PS: Expect nothing less than grand gestures from your own lover(s).

Tip: You deserve to be loved as you are.

**AQUARIUS:** Do you feel that every time you move closer to them, they move further away from you? Understand the runner and chaser dynamic, Aquarius. To be somebody who sees you as you are and not how you project yourself to be is intimidating. Where does one run and hide? Know that sometimes there is little you can do to influence another person's behaviour.

Tip: For now, focus on the self.

**PISCES:** Watch your spending habits, Pisces. Don't get carried away by the fancy things, not unless you have cleared your bills first. It's important to differentiate between your needs and wants. Today, you're also being asked to pay attention to what your body is telling you. Are you getting enough exercise? Remember, it's not always about lifting heavy weights or going for a 20km run.

Tip: Be mindful with your money.