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# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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## CM returns today with awards, SDF plans grand welcome

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 22 OCT:**

Sikkim Democratic Front [SDF] is all set to organize a grand welcome for Chief Minister Pawan Chamling who is scheduled to return to the State from Rome on 24 Oct. The elaborate welcome, to stretch from Rangpo to Gangtok, is being organized to celebrate the recent awards conferred on the State.

On 12 Oct, the Chief Minister had received the 6th JRD Tata Memorial Award in New Delhi conferred by The Population Foundation of India which had selected Sikkim as the best performing State under 'high



focus category'.

Sikkim was also awarded the Future Policy Gold Award, 2018 by the World Future Council and

IFOAM Organics International. The CM received the award on behalf of the State on 14 Oct in Rome.

SDF has directed all

the elected members of the State Assembly, Urban and Rural bodies and party functionaries to be present at Rangpo to re-

ceive the CM on 24 Oct. The CM is returning to the State after completing his 12-day visit of Europe.

SDF senior party functionary informed that at least 20-25000 party functionaries including officials are expected to be present in the reception function at Rangpo and the CM may address the gathering at Rangpo. The CM is expected to reach Rangpo at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

The Chief Minister along with his official delegation visited Bologna University, the oldest University of the world, on 19 Oct at Bologna in Italy.

Founded in 1088, the University is the oldest functional University in

the world to undertake courses as varied as Architecture, Cultural Heritage, Classical Philosophy & Italian Studies, Physics & Astronomy, Agriculture & Food Science, etc.

During the next leg of his tour programme, Mr Chamling also visited the Instituto Dante and Voltaire in Milan on 20 Oct. Named after the classical literacy giants of The Divine Comedy fame, the CM paid tribute to the poet and philosopher who shaped the literacy landscape of all the subsequent centuries through their literary works with major influence cutting across the continents and nationalities the world over.

## Sikkim team sets off for NE Olympic Games 2018



**SAGAR CHETTRI  
GANGTOK, 22 OCT:**

and Dawa Tamang as observer.

Sikkim Olympic Association team has left for Manipur on 21 Oct to represent Sikkim in the 1st edition of North East Olympic Games 2018 scheduled to be held from 24-28 Oct at Imphal in Manipur. Sikkim will be participating in Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Boxing, Football [men and women], Karate, Table tennis, Taekwondo, Weight Lifting and Wushu Toalu [women] and Wushu Sanshoia [men].

The State contingent comprises of 141 players, 13 coaches, 11 managers, 07 technical officials and 05 delegates. The team is accompanied by president, BK Roka, and general secretary, Jasall Pradhan, as officials and Kuber Bhandari as chef de-mission, BB Subba as deputy chef de-mission

While expressing his best wishes to the State team members, State Youth Development Board Chairperson, Khem Prasad Dahal, encouraged the athletes to maintain good discipline and bring medals and laurels for the State with their performance.

The SOA president expressed his gratitude to Chief Minister Pawan Chamling for his support. He also thanked the Secretary of Sports & Youth Affairs Department, SD Dhakal, for providing financial grant for sending the Sikkim contingent for the NE Olympic Games.

It is informed that the first ever North East Olympic Games will have the participation of all top ranking players of the North Eastern States as per the Olympic Charter.

## Two tourists die in separate incidents

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 22 OCT:**

Two tourists have died in two separate incidents on 17 Oct. One elderly man from West Bengal who had come with his family to Sikkim died after complaining of having trouble breathing on the way back from Lachung. The family had gone to Gurudongmar and were on their way back to Gangtok. The man was declared dead by the Medical Officer at Chungthang PHC after attempts to revive him failed.

In another incident, two families from West Bengal staying at a homestay in Rolep, East Sikkim went to the banks of the river at Rangpo. While taking photographs, four persons including a minor were swept away by the river. Local residents managed to save three of them but could not save one woman who was found dead in the river.

## 42nd Sakya Trizin to visit Sikkim in Oct-end

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 22 OCT:**

The supreme head of the Sakyapa order of Mahayana Buddhism, Sakya Trizin, will be visiting Sikkim on the request of the monasteries and followers here. This is his first official visit to Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Sikkim since his enthronement as the 42nd Sakya Trizin in March 2017, a press release informs.

On assuming the charge of Sakya Trizin, His Holiness taught Lamdre, the most profound lineage teachings of Sakyapa, to over 700 monks for about two months at Sakya Centre in Dehradun. He has been giving teachings in Europe, USA, South East Asian countries, Mongolia, etc.

Sakya Trizin will be arriving in Gangtok on 29 Oct and will stay at Sa-Ngor Chotshog Centre [Ngor Gonpa].

During his ten-daylong stay in the State, he will be giving teachings at Pal Kar-

ma Zurmang Shedrup Cho Khorling Monastery in Lingdum, Sera Jhe Dhonpheling Monastery, Sakya Tsechu Tsokpa, Derge Mani Dungdrup Tshogpa Temple, Rabongla Sakya Monastery and will also visit Tathagatha Tsal, Khuenpheling Tibetan Settlement and holy place of Tashiding to offer prayers for world peace.

Sakya Trizin will also visit Namgyal Institute of Tibetology and give a talk on Buddhism.

Further, he will pay courtesy calls on Governor Nanda Prasad and Chief Minister Pawan Chamling.

While in the capital, Sakya Trizin will bestow initiations and transmission to the monks of the Sa-Ngor Chotshog Centre and public sermons [Tsewang] on the occasion of Lhabab Suechen on 31 Oct and initiation, transmission and explanation of Guru Tsigduen Zabdrub [Seven Verse] on 01 Nov at Ngor Gonpa at 1.30 pm on both days.



## Dancing her way out of fear: tale of hope from Kolkata's red-light area

**SURYA S PILLAI**

**NEW DELHI, OCT 22 (PTI):** Born in a red-light area in abject poverty, she was married to an abusive man when she was 16 and fought a four-year battle to get custody of her son. The odds were stacked impossibly high, but Uma Das fought back and is today a much sought after dance teacher.

Just 25, she also manages a unit to make sanitary napkins in Munshiganj, the red-light area in West Bengal's capital Kolkata.

Walking firmly on the path towards independence and empowerment, Uma Didi, as she is known, is a beacon of hope for other young

women in Munshiganj who, like, her, refuse to be sucked into the vortex of flesh trade.

My mother was sold to a brothel. I was born in a red-light area. All my life, I have seen fear in the eyes of young girls. My mother fought tooth and nail to protect me from the flesh trade, Uma told PTI in a telephonic interview from Kolkata.

When she was 19, Uma witnessed a sex worker being burnt alive by a customer over a paltry sum of money and decided she would not allow young lives go up in flames.

The activist saw hope in dance and used it as a potent tool to hit back at

patriarchy and poverty.

She joined Apne Aap Women Worldwide, a charitable trust. Apne Aap was founded by 22 women from Mumbai's red light district, with a vision of a world where no woman could be bought or sold.

Undeterred by threats from pimps, brothel owners and others, Uma uses dance therapy to help girls of the red-light area choose a life of dignity.

She teaches Rabindra Sangeet Nritya, a classical based dance form invented and devised by Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore, to girls in the area.

Uma learnt the dance

form at Kolkata Sanved, an NGO which uses Dance Movement Therapy (DMT) as an alternative approach to counselling, psycho social rehabilitation, self-expression and empowerment.

The unique therapy model is designed to heal and empower individuals from marginalised communities, including survivors of gender-based violence and at-risk children and youth.

"I always wanted to dance. It is my salvation. Today, as a part of Apne Aap, I teach dance to girls of my area. We also run a sanitary pad making unit. Girls are also taught to make jute bags. These girls are often scoffed at

for the work they do, but what they need is an avenue to earn their livelihood with dignity, Uma asserted.

Uma is also an international celebrity of sorts. Held out as an example for others, she has met former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and American actor Ashley Judd.

I met Hillary Clinton in 2012 when she visited Kolkata. I tied a band with the line Cool Men Don't Buy Sex' on her wrist. We met Ashley Judd last year when she visited my house as part of an initiative by Apne Aap, she said.

Uma, who helped show many young wom-

en the light at the end of the proverbial tunnel, has waged a long, often lone battle against power.

When I started out, I was a nobody. I got threats from pimps, brothel owners and middlemen. I have led many raids in brothels and rescued young girls. Small kids are lured with the promise of chocolates and sweets. They are then sold off. We worked hard to create an effective circle of discreet informers who tip us off about any immoral activity, she said.

She continues to live in Munshiganj and strives to empower the girls of the area.

Discussing personal

life, she said her mother has been a pillar of strength for her.

I survived an abusive marriage. I married a boy from our neighbourhood when I was 16 against my mother's wishes. I want to forget that phase of my life as it was a big mistake.

"I fought a long custody battle for my eight-year-old son. I have now filed for divorce. My strength in all these phases was my mother. She never lost confidence in me.

An Apne Aap worker praised Uma's determination and courage to fight the odds.

Uma today is in charge of Apne Aap's

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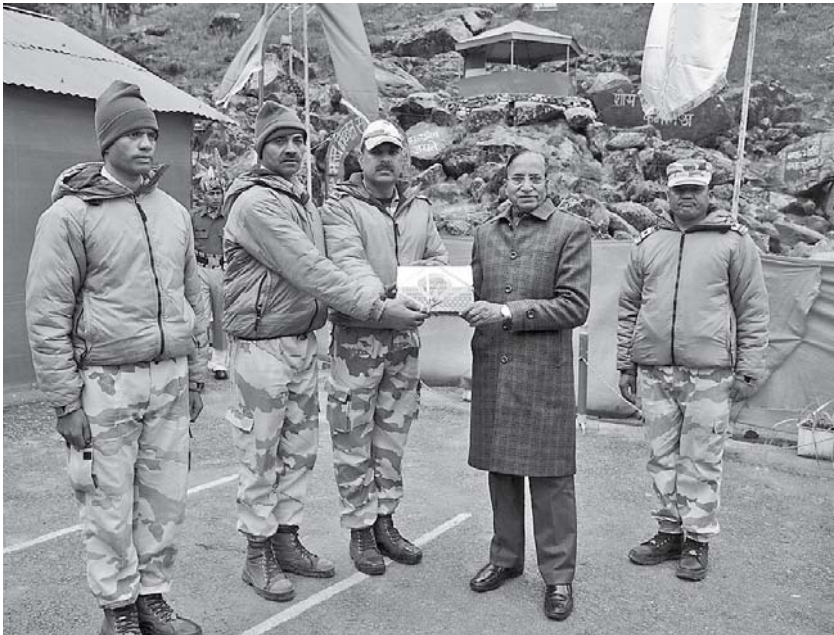
# Governor celebrates Vijaya Dashami with Indian Army at Nathula

**GANGTOK, 22 OCT [IPR]:** Governor Ganga Prasad visited Nathula post which is situated at a height of over 14000 ft to celebrate Vijaya Dashami with Indian Army personnel on 19 Oct. The Governor was received and escorted by Brigadier Gambhir Singh [AVSM, 63 Brigade], Major General Raja Subramani [SM, VSM] and Lieutenant Colonel & Commanding Officer, Rahul Gautam, along with the army personnel at the Nathula border post.

The Governor met and greeted the jawans on the eve of Vijaya Dashmi. He also distributed sweets to the Army personnel and wrote on the visitor book before departing from Nathula.

Addressing the soldiers at Nathula, the Governor extended his heartiest greetings and distributed sweets among the soldiers stationed at the border post. He also exchanged pleasantries with the Chinese soldiers at the Indo-China border.

Highlighting on the hardships faced by the soldiers especially at the



border post, the Governor expressed his gratitude to the soldiers for their sacrifice towards the nation.

Praising the soldiers for their courage and contribution towards the nation, he said, "We the citizens can sleep secure-

ly because of the soldiers guarding our borders amid harsh conditions."

He also acknowledged the sacrifices made by the soldiers over the past years and appreciated the efforts of all the soldiers guarding the borders diligently

at the cost of their lives. The Governor expressed his deep happiness and gratitude on meeting and spending valuable time with the soldiers at Nathula border post.

Before reaching Nathula, the Governor made a brief halt at

Changu Hut where he spent some quality time interacting with the officers and jawans from 5th Sikh Li Regiment. This is the Governor's first visit to Nathula as the Governor of the State.

The Governor also paid his visit to Baba

Harbhajan Mandir where he offered his prayers on the auspicious occasion of Dussehra.

After offering his prayers at Baba Harbhajan Mandir, the Governor visited the Black Cat division camp at Sherathang where he was overwhelmingly greeted by the officers and soldiers stationed at Sherathang.

Addressing the soldiers at Sherathang, the Governor said he had come to Sherathang and Nathula to especially celebrate Dussehra with the Army personnel. He extended his best wishes and offered Dussehra greetings to all the army personnel present during the function.

Subsequently, prior to his departure to Raj Bhawan, the Governor made a final short stopover at Indo-Tibetan Border post at Sherathang where he distributed sweets among the soldiers and exchanged greetings with the soldiers on the auspicious occasion of Vijaya Dashmi.



## SPCC president calls on Rahul Gandhi

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 22 OCT:**

All India Congress Committee [AICC] secretary in-charge of Sikkim, Pradyot Bikram Manikya Debbarma, and Sikkim Pradesh Congress Committee president, Bharat Basnet, called on AICC president, Rahul Gandhi, on 18 Oct at his residence in New Delhi.

During the 40-minute long meeting, AICC Sikkim secretary in-charge apprised the AICC president on various politi-

cal issues of Sikkim and gave brief report of his meetings with leaders of different political and non-political organisations of Sikkim after taking responsibility as the State in-charge, informs an SPCC press release.

The release informs that the national president of the party gave a patient hearing on the State issues despite his busy schedule and assured to take appropriate action.

## Cong loses yet another MLA ahead of Mizoram assembly poll

### AIZAWL, OCT 22 (PTI):

Congress MLA Hmingdai-ova Khiangte resigned from the membership of the Mizoram house on Monday becoming the fourth legislator of the ruling party to do so ahead of the November 28 state assembly poll.

With the resignation, the Congress' strength in the 40-member house has come down to 30, while that of opposition Mizo National Front (MNF) stands at 6. Four seats are vacant.

Mizoram is the only state in the north east under the Congress.

Khiangte submitted his resignation to Speaker Hiphel at his official residence, Assembly secretariat sources said.

When contacted Khiangte said that he would announce the reason behind his decision as well as the future course of action on Tuesday.

Resignations from the Congress began when R Lalziriliana, the state home minister and second-in-command of Chief Minister Lal Than-

hawla's council of ministers, stepped down as minister on September 14 protesting against the government's refusal to create a separate Saitual district comprising his home turf Tawi seat.

Lalziriliana was expelled from the post of vice-president of the Mizoram Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) and the primary membership of the party on September 17.

He resigned from the party on October 12 and joined the opposition Mizo National Front on October 15.

Former health minister Lalrinliana Sailo had resigned from the state assembly on October 3 and also stepped down as the member of the All India Congress Committee (AICC), general secretary of the state Congress committee and primary member of the ruling party on the same day. He later joined the MNF.

Founded by legendary Mizo leader Laldenga in 1959, MNF is being headed by former chief minister Zoramthanga. The party is a member of the North East Democratic Alliance (NEDA) headed by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Another Congress legislator Buddha Dhan Chakma, who was the former fisheries minister had resigned from the state legislature on October 16 and had joined the BJP in the presence of the visiting party chief Amit Shah the next day.

## Rajnath holds talks with his Chinese counterpart; Rijiju part of delegation

**NEW DELHI, OCT 22 (PTI):** Home Minister Rajnath Singh and his Chinese counterpart on Monday held delegation-level talks which was also attended by union minister Kiren Rijiju, an MP from Arunachal Pradesh, the border state over which India and China are locked in a territorial row.

Rijiju was part of the Indian team led by Singh but his name later apparently did not figure for talks with the Chinese delegation, led by Zhao Kezhi, China's Minister of Public Security, said an official in the Ministry of Home Affairs privy to the development. The official did not want to be identified.

However, as the restricted meeting between Singh and Zhao was in progress, a message was sent to Rijiju, who was at his residence, to reach North Block, which houses the Home Ministry and where the delegation-level talks was supposed to be held in minutes, the official said.

After receiving the message, the junior home minister rushed to North Block and attended the delegation-level meeting between the two sides, where an India-China security co-operation agreement was signed, the official added. A home ministry spokesperson declined to comment.

Rijiju hails from Arunachal Pradesh, which China considers as a "disputed" territory. China does not issue regular visas to people from Arunachal Pradesh but gives staple visa, which India has been protesting strongly. India considers Arunachal Pradesh as an integral part of the country.

It was not immediately not known whether, at the restricted meeting, Singh informed his Chinese counterpart about Rijiju's participation in the delegation-level talks held shortly afterwards.

## AS Presentation releases Ramailo Dasai MV on YouTube

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 22 OCT:**

AS Presentation, a film-making studio established and led by Aadarsh Chettri and Sunny Pradhan, has released its music video, "Ramailo Dasai [Ramjham]" on YouTube.

The music video blends glimpses of Nepali culture and folk music and features young talented individuals capturing the essence and beauty of the festival of Dasain.

The team has extended gratitude to former Minister, Thukchuk Lachungpa, and Tourism Minister, Ugen T Gyatso, for their support and has also thanked Amrit Sharma of Chalamthang Homestay, South Sikkim, the dance crew of the video and the people of Chalamthang for their support during the shoot of the music video.



## Yet another woman makes failed bid to reach Sabarimala shrine

**PAMBA (KER), OCT 22 (PTI):** Yet another woman in the "barred" age group made a futile attempt Monday to reach Sabarimala but was forced to retreat by agitated protesters, while security was tightened at the shrine amid reports that more women of menstruating age could try to visit the temple before its doors close tonight.

Bindu, a Dalit activist, who was proceeding to Pamba at the foothills of Sabarimala temple from where devotees undertake an arduous 5 km trek to the shrine, was given police protection at her request, officials said.

However, when the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation bus she was travelling on with police personnel was about to reach Pamba, a group of BJP workers and those opposing the entry of girls and women aged



between 10 and 50 years into the temple, blocked the road and forced her to alight.

She was then escorted to safety in a police jeep, officials said.

Nearly a dozen women have been turned back by angry protesters while attempting to visit the shrine of Lord Ayyappa, the presiding deity of Sabarimala temple considered "naishtika brahmachari" (eternally celibate), since its door opened for a five-day

pooja on October 17.

No pooja was performed on the first day of the opening of the temple. The doors to the shrine will close at 10 pm Monday.

Hundreds of devotees are camping at the Sabarimala Sannidhanam temple complex to prevent women of menstruating age group from reaching the shrine situated in a dense forest.

Despite clamping of section 144 CrPC at Sabarimala Sannidhanam,

Pamba, Nilackal and Elavumkal, hundreds of Ayyappa devotees have prevented women of the "barred" age group from visiting the shrine.

Police have tightened the security at Sannidhanam and other areas following reports that some women could try to visit the temple.

Inspector General of Police S Sreejith, deputised to ensure security of women devotees, offered prayers at the temple Monday morning.

Visuals of the officer offering prayers with tearful eyes before the deity were telecast by the local media.

Sreejith had faced the ire of the devotees for taking activist Rehana Fathima to the temple under police security.

However, police could not facilitate her entry into the main temple because of strong protests by Ayyappa devotees.

Six women were prevented from entering the Sabarimala temple Sunday alone.

Amid high drama, the devotees, up in arms against the Kerala government's decision to enforce the Supreme Court order lifting the ban on the entry of women in the 10-50 age group blocked the six -- all Telugu-speaking women -- from reaching the famed shrine.

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**Gangtok on Tuesday, 23 Oct**

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

## Dancing her way out of fear...

contd from pg01

sanitary pad making unit in Munshiganj. She gets a stipend from Apne Aap. Five girls from the red-light area work under her. They make around 250 to 300 sanitary pads daily. The girls are usually paid Re 1 per sanitary pad. The unit was started in 2015.

It requires a lot of courage to stand up to power when you are a nobody. Uma strived to change her destiny and today she is a force to reckon with, she said.

Moving away from an unhappy past to a brighter future, Uma dreams big.

I want to raise my son by giving him a good education. I still remember that horrible day when a sex worker was burnt alive, I hope no life goes up in flames. I will continue to protect young girls from the flesh trade, just the way my mother protected me.

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# SCA signs 3 pro cricketers for Ranji Trophy

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 22 OCT:**

Sikkim Cricket Association [SCA] has signed three professional cricketers for upcoming Ranji Trophy 2018-19 on 18 Oct at Siliguri in West Bengal. Bipul Sharma, Ishwar Chaudhary and Milind Kumar have been signed for Sikkim to play in Ranji Trophy.

An SCA press release issued today informs that the Special General Meeting of the association held on 11 Oct in Gangtok had decided that as per the Board of Control for Cricket in India [BCCI] norms, SCA will include professional players in the team.

Bipul Sharma of Punjab is a left hand all-rounder who bowls slow left-arm orthodox and has played for India-A, North Zone, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh Lions, Kings XI Punjab. He was part of Sunrisers Hyderabad squad in Indian Premier League 2018 and Mohammedan Sporting



Club squad in Dhaka Premier League 2018. He has been playing professional cricket since 2004. Ishwar Chaudhary of Gujarat is a right arm medium fast bowler and has played for India U19, West Zone, Gujarat,

National Academy of India, Australian Centre of Excellence, and Kolkata Knight Riders. He has been playing for Gujarat since 2007.

Milind Kumar of Delhi is a right-hand batsman and an occasional

off-break bowler. He has been playing for Delhi since 2010 and was part of Delhi Daredevils squad at the Indian Premier League 2018.

President, SCA, Lobzang G Tenzing, expressed that experienced guest

players were expected to mentor and guide talented Sikkimese cricketers to the highest level of cricket in India. He expressed his best wishes to the State team for the upcoming camp and Ranji Trophy season.

## United Bojoghari hosts Dusshera special with soccer tourney for U-15's and felicitation of elders



**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 22 OCT:** United Bojoghari organised an under-15 boys Dusshera football tournament at Bojoghari School Ground from 13 to 18 Oct.

The United Bojoghari junior team lifted the trophy downing Saramsa United 04-01 in the final match.

United Bojoghari Club also felicitated senior citizens of the area who were feted with a shawl and a bouquet of flowers on the day of the finals.

A total of 15 teams participated in the tournament. Chief Patron Chungda Lepcha expressed his gratitude to all the guests of tournament.



## Thambong Badminton Club holds Dussehra badminton tourney

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 22 OCT:** On the occasion of Dussehra, Badminton Club of Thambong, West Sikkim organised three-day Block level Badminton Tournament at Lower Thambong, Sombaria, West Sikkim, a press release informs.

On the final day of the tournament held on 19 Oct, Mirak Nambang and his partner defeated Navin Limboo and his partner in the men's doubles match by 3 points. Prasant Chettri was adjudged Man of the Tournament.



## Chiya Kabita at PCS



**GANGTOK, 22 OCT:** Poet Surendra Poudyal Astfal from Chitwan, Nepal, attended poetry event, Chiya Kabita, at Press Club of Sikkim in the capital today.



## NSS-Sikkim raises Rs 6.67 lakh for Kerala relief

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 22 OCT**

National Service Scheme [NSS] volunteers from various institutions across the State have collected donations for the Kerala flood victims relief fund. A total of Rs 3,67, 697 has been collected under this drive. The cheques in favour of Prime Minister's Relief Fund was sent to the regional directorate, Guwahati, on 10 of this Oct.

The following institutions of Sikkim have donated the following amounts: Mangan Sr Sec School [Rs. 24,795], Gyalshing Girls Sr Sec School [Rs 6,000], Jorethang SSS [Rs 31,480], Loyala College

of Education [54,189], Uttarey SSS [4,560], Burtuk Government College [54,331], Hee-Yangthang, West [4,100], Yangsum SSS [10,280], Government Law College [44,000], Kalzang Gyatso SSS [2,300], Rhenock College [5,510], Namchi SSS [14,200], Bojoghari SSS [9,303], DAV Public School, Rangit Nagar [4,900], Eklavya Model Residential School [6,100], Temi SSS [5,100], Singtam SSS [30,189], West Point SSS [10,000], Phodong SSS [5,000], Soreng SSS [12,120], Sakyang SSS [10,000], Lingdok SSS [5,881], Mangshila SSS [7,000], Yuksom SSS [5,729].

## Oct 23 Assam bandh cannot be allowed: Assam minister

**GUWAHATI, OCT 22 (PTI):** Citing a Gauhati High Court ruling, a senior Assam minister said the 12-hour Assam bandh, called by 46 organisations Tuesday, cannot be allowed.

The High Court in 2013 had banned bandhs in the state and termed it "unconstitutional and illegal".

The organisations have called the bandh to protest against the Centres bid to pass the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016, in the winter session of Parliament.

Political parties, including the Congress, have extended their support to the bandh, led by the Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti (KMSS) and Asom Jatiyatabadi Yuba Chatra Parishad (AJYCP). Assam Finance and Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said Monday that Gauhati High Court had ruled that calling a bandh was an illegal act and so the bandh called by 46 organisations cannot be allowed.

The High Court had

ruled in 2013 that calling of bandh was illegal and as such "we have to follow the court's order and ensure that there is no bandh Tuesday," Sarma told reporters here.

"All shops and business establishments should remain open while government employees must report for their duties or else it will be treated as a contempt of court," he said.

KMSS leader Akhil Gogoi said that this was the first time that they had called a bandh and would not call it off as the very "existence of the Assamese people and their identity is at stake".

Sarma also said that following an assessment of the prevailing law and order situation in the state, permission will not be granted for the November 17 convention organized by the Citizen Right Protection Forum, Assam (CRPFA), a conglomeration of 26 Bengali organisations, in support of the Citizenship Bill.

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES		
DEAR LOVING MORNING	DEAR PRECIOUS	DEAR FLAMINGO EVENING
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ARUNACHAL PRADESH STATE LOTTERIES	
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# SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

## No Country for Women

**Repression of women remains disturbingly routine**

Accepted, there is nothing new in what this piece headlines. In fact, it is disturbingly routine. And yet, every once in while we collectively dredge the bottom of the barrel when it comes to realities like this and hence arrive moments when we hold up the mirror and stare at our grotesqueness. In the present instance, the trigger is not another episode of misogynist violence but another reiteration of the disgusting straight face with which repression of women has been normalized in our country. The MeToo movement has brought some ugly realities to the fore, but sexual harassment at the workplace was always an open secret. It is hence time that the predators are being named and shamed and the horror of it all being exposed. One must realize those that such attitudes in the workplace manifest from the institutionalization of harassment and denial of women at homes and by institutions and the society.

For instance, it was barely a year ago that the government of Madhya Pradesh directed government schools there not to insist on the name of the biological fathers when rape victims brought their children for admission. Seriously? Schools are being administered by such louts that they insist that rape victims give the name of their rapists to their children? And this has been allowed to go on? (the MP govt's directions did, after all, come only recently). And this, in all probability, was held up as a progressive development, kind of like how Saudi Arabia was celebrated for allowing women to drive. That is how regressive we remain as a country and a society.

And these practices continue because we remain stubbornly supportive of patriarchy and all its violent denials. So, we continue to ask for father's name for all documentations. Yes, some forms also accommodate the mother's name but it is still not an either-or choice. There is still no official document or identity you can acquire in our country solely on the basis of your mother's name. This is inexcusable because it perpetuates the belief that a woman follows the religion, community and nationality of the men in her life – father first and then the husband – and has nothing to bequeath her children by way of official identity. When the idea of equal inheritance rights was mooted and passed, its essence was to end such misogyny but it has remained constricted to just a law on inheritance, not an attitude adjustment on how the identity of women is seen and treated.

Political and even public discourse in our country continues to see women primarily as daughters and mothers, very rarely as wives and never as friends, colleagues or equal partners. This is clearly a manifestation of a society that accepts male domination and is comfortable only when women are dependent, subservient and controlled. Check all these boxes and then they can also be respected. And from the same attitude springs the normalization of sexual harassment at the workplace.

So yes, there is something called Beti-Bachao, Beti-Padhao initiative underway across the country. But that, apart from sheer tokenism as has become routine for the present dispensation in power, also fits in well with the showboating masculinities insistence that women be subservient and dependent. Seventy years since the nation became independent, we really should not be trying to save and educate our daughters, that should have been established on 15 August 1947 itself; by now we should have ensured that they were liberated. But we didn't. And we have not even kept them safe. They remain at risk not just from the depravity that walks too free anyone's comfort, but also stand exposed to the insensitive insistence of our obsolete and offensive laws and rules and the acceptance of the fact that most workplaces are not safe.

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# Jamal Khashoggi: Casualty of the Trump administration's disregard for democracy and civil rights in the Middle East?

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The international crisis over whether top Saudi Arabian leadership murdered U.S.-based Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi is a striking example of the consequences of Donald Trump's blanket disregard for democratic politics and human rights in other countries. This departure from decades of American foreign policy rhetoric remains comparatively undiscussed.

However, in the Middle East, my area of expertise, I believe this Trump policy shift opens the door to exactly the sort of flagrant attacks on individual freedom and safety that likely recently claimed Khashoggi.

Most criticism of Trump's foreign policy has focused on two other major departures from decades of past American practice.

First, Trump has rejected the cornerstones of the post-WWII international order largely built by the U.S.: deep alliances among Western democracies and global free trade. Second, Trump has shown an affinity for authoritarian rulers, including Russia's Vladimir Putin, which has undermined American interests.

Yet, the Trump administration's abandonment of support for democracy and civil rights hurts the interests of both Middle Easterners and Americans.

### DID THE US WALK THE WALK?

In the past, U.S. leaders and officials within the government have shown interest in political rights and government accountability in other countries. Such talk has nonetheless often taken a back seat to considerations of geopolitical power or resources.

Perhaps the lack of attention to current U.S. disregard for democracy and rights in the Middle East has to do with Washington's inconsistency and perceived hypocrisy in the region.

Even before the U.S. became a superpower after World War II, Western countries like England and France trumpeted democratic values while engaging in colonial control of the Middle East. This left a legacy of local suspicion regarding the sincerity of Western leaders' stated political values.

The U.S.'s own track record in the region of allying with repressive governments, mounting coups (as in Iran in 1953) and overthrowing leaders by force (as in Iraq in 2003) are among examples where the U.S. practiced a politics other than what it preached.

At best, the U.S. has embraced democratization and human rights as one of many goals in the Middle East. More cynically, democratic talk could be seen as a cover for more imperialistic policies in the region during and after the Cold War.

Yet these days even the pretense is gone that U.S. policy in the Middle East – or elsewhere – should advance political freedom.

When asked about why he refuses to criticize repressive rulers like Putin or Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, Trump's response is to question whether "our country's so innocent." Denying that the U.S. is distinguishable from countries that penalize dissent, the current American leader disavows the very

project of advancing democratic values abroad.

### PRETENSE MATTERS

Let me be clear that I am not suggesting that Middle Easterners should be, or are, dependent on foreign countries or activists for greater political rights. If so, why does an end to Washington's inconsistent support for democratic politics and rights in the Middle East matter?

There are several reasons.

First, U.S. support for democratic values abroad – however variable – helps empower non-government organizations that consistently focus on rights in places like the Middle East.

That means Human Rights Watch, the World Justice Project and local movements these groups help can improve human rights and legal accountability in part because they have allies in Washington's broader political culture.

Second, advocates for democratic rights exist within the U.S. government, and enjoy influence, even if their superiors are less constant in their support for democracy abroad.

So, groups within the State Department, and government organizations like USAID or the United States Institute for Peace, work to improve citizen

nized his coercive practices.

### LACK OF PRETENSE MATTERS

Is it actually significant that the White House ignores political rights and freedom?

In the Middle East, the difference is large and palpable. For one thing, increased deference to authoritarian leaders in the Middle East by the world's most powerful democracy has allowed for the pursuit of deadly warfare and attacks on civilians. This is apparent in the actions of Syrian leader Hafez el-Assad, who has not hesitated to use chemical and other extreme weapons on his population.

Meanwhile, the Saudi government uses U.S.-supplied weapons to wage war in Yemen. The White House has not responded to the devastating civilian casualties.

More broadly, and as the Khashoggi affair highlights, the U.S.'s current lack of interest in political rights emboldens Middle Eastern governments to crack down on dissent and the dissenters, in flagrant and shocking ways.

Egypt under President Sisi is more repressive politically than it was prior to 2011 under Mubarak. Prince Salman of Saudi Arabia may be committed to increasing Saudi prestige and the selective enhancement of less puritanical social mores. Yet he also has shown little tolerance for political opposition.

When the Canadian foreign ministry tweeted critically about Saudi political arrests, the Saudis countered by expelling the Canadian ambassador and suspending trade, flights and Saudi student exchanges with Canada.

Such a strong reaction is hard to imagine in the days when at least pockets of the U.S. government showed concern about human rights in the Middle East. In this instance, the Trump Administration refused to support support Canada, its democratic neighbor. Similarly, Trump's response to Khashoggi's disappearance so far is to highlight the importance of Saudi-U.S. ties, particularly in the realm of weapons sales.

The upshot is that Middle Easterners have grounds to believe that Washington cares little for their basic well-being, their hopes for more responsive political systems and, in Syria and Yemen, their very lives.

The volcano of popular resentment against authoritarianism that erupted most notably in 2011, known as the Arab Uprisings, may have been capped temporarily. It has not quieted.

People in the Trump administration purport to care a great deal about potential violence from Middle Easterners. This is why it is puzzling that they side strongly with unelected leaders willing to use intimidation and violence to quell dissent.

It is tempting to argue that the inconsistency of U.S. efforts to further democratic values means that these efforts don't matter.

At least in the Middle East, racked by ongoing war, the rising influence of autocrats, and increases in flagrant attacks on critical speech like Khashoggi's death, I fear that the Trump administration's abandonment of such efforts will in fact fuel more misery and anti-Americanism.

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capacity and rights in places like the Middle East. In more rights-oriented presidencies, such groups can affect broader government policy.

Even in administrations less focused on human rights, the rhetoric of support for democracy can be politically useful or persuasive. President George W. Bush partly justified American military overthrow of Iraq's Saddam Hussein in 2003 with the argument that a more democratic Iraqi government might help transform the broader Middle East.

Third, the lack of U.S. predictability around political rights in the Middle East can actually deter governments dependent on good relations with Washington from repressing their citizens. That's because they can't be entirely sure about political consequences. Tacit approval by the U.S. of human rights abuses could turn overnight into condemnation.

For example, Egypt's pre-2011 authoritarian leader Hosni Mubarak was known for political oppression. But he could not undermine democratic and human rights activists in his country altogether. He knew that, in a U.S. that provided billions of foreign aid to Egypt, at least some policymakers scruti-

# Why collecting water turns millions of women into second-class citizens

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A family in India needs fresh water. But this family can't just turn on a tap. Instead, the women in the household must walk to fetch it, sometimes travelling miles carrying plastic or earthenware pots, possibly with a child or two in tow, to the nearest safe source – regularly repeating the journey up to three times a day. In the scorching summer months of April and May, when temperatures regularly exceed 40C, it is a particularly gruelling daily ritual – and when they get home they must complete their other household chores: cooking, washing, bringing up the children, even helping on the family farm.

These women are reminiscent of the many-armed Hindu goddess, Durga – they have so many daily tasks, they could doubtless do with an extra set of hands. But they aren't the exception. This is the reality for millions of women in India. From the Western Ghats and the mountainous north-east to the arid desert state of Rajasthan, women across the country act as water collectors. And this gender specific role has a severe impact on every aspect of their lives, from their health and social life to education and their ability to have a real say in the community.

It is estimated that 163m Indians still don't have access to clean, running water. Until that's fixed, this significant national problem will prevail, with women paying the biggest price.

A woman's burden  
Water collection in India is a woman's job, irrespective of her physique – and there's no respite, even when

she's menstruating, ill, or has something else to do. As groundwater resources are placed under increasing pressure due to over-reliance and unsustainable consumption, wells, ponds and tanks can also regularly dry up, escalating the water crisis and placing a greater burden on women to travel long distances. Access to unsafe drinking water also results in the spread of water-borne diseases. And women are often the first victims of both water scarcity and water pollution.

In urban areas, long queues of women with colourful plastic water pots are eye-catching. But such images also highlight problems of water scarcity and the long waits they endure for the water tankers that deliver it in cities.

Urban woman, especially on the outskirts of cities and in slum areas, face the particular burden of this water scarcity. In some areas, water is occasionally supplied in the middle of the night, meaning that these women are deprived of sleep and their productivity is affected. Indeed, there are women in the global south who are denied education purely because they have to collect water rather than go to school. In fact, one report revealed that almost 23% of girls in India drop out of school on reaching puberty due to a lack of water and sanitation facilities.

When girls have to drop out of school to help their mothers collect water and perform other household tasks, they are denied their right to education – which is now a fundamental right under Article 21A of the Indian Constitution. The saying goes: "Educate a woman, and she shall educate her family" – well, not these women.

And because they're missing out on the opportunities education provides, so are their other family members.

Collecting water is an irksome journey, especially in dry areas during heat waves. But it can be a dangerous one, too. Women may risk physical attack, for example, or abuse. The situation is made worse by the lack of adequate sanitation facilities both at home and en route to the water source. And things are even worse for women from the lower strata of society who are even denied access to water sources like public wells. This caste discrimination persists even though the Indian Constitution – which ensures equal access to public wells without any discrimination based on religion, race, caste, and sex – is 70 years old.

### WHAT THE LAW SAYS

India is a federal democratic country divided into the centre (or union government), 29 states, and seven union territories. The power to make laws is divided between the union government and the states as per Schedule 7 of the Constitution of India, 1950. Accordingly, state governments can legislate on issues related to water, except for those matters involving inter-state rivers and water disputes.

However, the central government has also initiated several programmes and policies to ensure universal access to water in rural and urban areas, such as the National Rural Drinking Water Programme. Access to water is, after all, a fundamental right, covered by the "right to life" that is guaranteed by the Constitution. Indeed, Indian law far predates the international human rights regime on this. The broader hu-

man right to water was only recognised in 2002 under General Comment 15 of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR).

The three obligations on states regarding the human right to water – "respect, protect and fulfill" – have been recognised by the Indian courts in several cases (such as Subhash Kumar v State of Bihar, 1991 and Vishala Kochi Kudivella Samprakashana Samiti v State of Kerala, 2006). However, there is no legislation in India that explicitly recognises and implements this fundamental right to water. Instead, every five years, each new government brings with it its own pet programmes for water supply – and none of them have genuinely addressed the issue of water collection for women nor suggested any practical way to ease their burden.

### HOW TO TACKLE THE CRISIS

Several parts of India face severe water scarcity and drought during the summer months. The reason for this water scarcity lies at the grass-roots level – unsustainable water consumption and unscientific ways of managing water supply. Traditional water sources and groundwater recharging points, such as tanks, ponds, canals and lakes, are either neglected, polluted or used or filled in for other purposes.

Only with the constructive involvement of all of society's stakeholders can this problem be solved. And it must be solved soon. With the increasing threat of climate change, water scarcity could soon be an irreparable issue – and not just for women, but for everyone in society.

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Bomb found in Manipur’s border town Moreh

**IMPHAL, OCT 22 (PTI):** A rocket propeller bomb, planted under a tractor, was found by locals at the Indo-Myanmar border town of Moreh in Manipur on Monday, a senior police officer said.

The recovery of the bomb led to the disruption of normal commercial activities between the two neighbouring countries for a few hours, officials said.

The bomb was detected at 10.30 am at Moreh Bazar Ward number 6 locality, some 200 metres from Moreh Police Station in Tengenoupal district, following which the law enforcers were informed, the officer told PTI.

The police cordoned off the area and the bomb squad of the state police from Imphal rushed to the border town, located 110 km from the state capital, to defuse the explosive.

They safely defused the bomb at around 2.45 pm at Holenphai area, 3 km from the site where it was found.

Normal trade and commerce between the two countries, which was halted for few hours, resumed after the bomb disposal operation, the police officer said.

Citizens of both countries are allowed to cross the border for commercial activities from 7 am to 4 pm, the officials said.

India’s border trade with Myanmar takes place mainly through Moreh, in Manipurs Chandel district, which links with Tamu, located in Sagaing in northwest Myanmar.

Gold smuggling on rise along India-Myanmar border: Report

**IMPHAL, OCT 22 (PTI):** High import duties coupled with an increasing gap in gold prices between India and Myanmar have led to an upsurge in smuggling of the yellow metal across the international border, a report compiled by anti-smuggling unit of Imphal customs division has said.

Manipur shares a 398-km-long porous international border with the neighbouring country.

An official of the customs division feels facilitating ‘free movement’ of citizens for a stipulated period from Manipur’s border town of Moreh to adjacent Namphalong market in Myanmar has made the conflict-ridden state ‘more prone to illicit trafficking of contraband and gold’.

India and Myanmar border have a Free Movement Regime (FMR) which allows people living along the border to travel 16km across the boundary without visa restrictions.

“This unhindered movement across the border and lure for easy money have made Manipur a soft target for smugglers,” the official added.

The recovery from the entire northeast region amounted to 267.2 kg of gold, worth Rs 84.12 crores. In 2016, the customs division had seized 16.15 kg gold, valued at Rs 10 crore.

“The report suggests that Manipur accounts for 45 per cent of the total contraband gold recovered from the region last year. The seized gold often finds its way to the state and other parts of the country as it has no markings to indicate the place of origin,” the customs official said.

Woes of a female traveler

CK LEPCHA

When I was doing my BA, I wanted to travel solo on the Indian railways from north to south India and write a book about my experience. When I was doing my MA, I took a train from Aligarh to Delhi with my friend and decided to give up on my college dreams.

On our trip from Aligarh to Delhi, we had taken the inter-city express and boarded a carriage looking for empty seats. As we got inside, there was a helpful young man who gestured us to empty seats near him that looked like he had saved for us. We thanked him, sat down and started the journey. Ten minutes into the journey, the man who booked us our seats wanted to sit between my friend and I. He told us to move to opposite ends as he made room for himself between us, leaned back, opening his arms behind us as if we were his property. I was furious and tried to argue in my broken Hindi. But I looked around and knew that if anything

was to happen, no one in that train would fight for us. We were on our own. So I got off my seat and stood next to my friend who was almost in tears as she held my hand tight trying to ignore the obnoxious man who felt he could do whatever he pleased.

While I stopped wanting to make that train travel across India, I kept meeting men in my travels, across the country who have put me in awkward situations to say the least.

There was a time when I got in a shared taxi from Guwahati airport to Shillong with three other passengers. Someone took the front seat so the back seat was shared between a nice elderly lady, an old gentleman and myself. Both wanted the window seat so being the younger traveler, I obliged and took the middle seat.

As we got out of the city, the old man who I thought was a gentle person, placed his hand on my right knee for almost an hour or so and made me feel very uncomfortable.

I literally froze –not moving nor breathing –not knowing how to react. I was unsure of what to do and the task of asking him to remove his hand from my knee felt so daunting. Thankfully, perhaps sensing my discomfort, the lady on the other side shot a glance at him and he finally removed his hand. Thereafter, I lounged forward holding my knees and refused to turn toward the man who kept asking, “are you comfortable?”

When I look back at this incident, I cringe and could shoot myself in the foot for not being able to take control of the situation. And I am sure many girls have had similar experiences as they travel around the country. But women do not and cannot always speak or take charge because they are conditioned to ignore or accept things, let it be, and not speak up –especially against older men who might have brushed past your breasts or your bottom. On a bus ride from Gangtok to Kalimpong, one middle-aged man sat next to me and pretended to have

his arms folded while touching my breasts underneath his folded arms. I also think this is the most common tactic employed by men as most of my friends have also experienced this.

But there are a few among us, who have shown ways to deal with these men. I am reminded of my aunt who once felt somebody poking her behind in a crowded place. So she grabbed the hand behind her back, turned around and punched this person as he dropped on the floor. He was a middle-aged man who could’ve very well been somebody’s father or an uncle. And that’s the scary part. It is not only those with money and power but these unassuming men in our everyday lives who think they can get away with harassing women like that.

In recent days we have heard women speaking up against powerful men and the advantages they took in situations where women were left helpless and silenced until recently. These women have gone through emotional and psy-

chological roller coasters and the tiny account I have narrated from my travels may not seem important in the bigger picture. But I tell you, all these bits add up to the situation we are in now. I am certain there is not a single woman in this country who has not been subject to harassment in different levels.

In hearing and sharing these stories we are able to see the problem in our society. Men get away so easily with inappropriate touches even in public spaces because male privilege is real. They know if the girl raises her voice then the girl is overreacting or being dramatic. But stories after stories, we should now be able to see through the situation and see that the girl is not always at fault. It is these men who think they can do what they want and society for the most part approves of it.

While most men and some women criticize these developments of bold women who are speaking about their harrowing experiences, it is a welcome sign for women in our country and across the world who are able to see through patriarchy and voice a desire for equality and justice.

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FIELDWORKREFLECTIONS

Waiting and Walking in the Field

MONGFING LEPCHA

It is said that the one who takes the road less travelled are often the independent ones, who are also looked as brave ones and as pioneers for others. But for the ones who take that road, there can be numerous reasons behind it. Some take it as a passion, some as obligation, and some due to the situation and so forth.

As a researcher, I see travelling the road less travelled in search of answers from the people and the places. As a researcher in the field of anthropology, travelling to different fieldwork areas is part and parcel of the subject. Personally, the idea of travelling to new places fascinates me which adds more meaning to my interest in the subject. But, taking the road less travelled is not as easy as it sounds. Taking into consideration the research topic, if there are no work or less work done on the topic that a researcher has chosen than the work load is even more as the data has to be precise so to avoid ambiguity for others following research works based on related topics, and reaching to the field area to get data, both are a big challenge. But, as it says, good things never comes easy; so one has to endure the hardship that comes along while doing research because that is also a part of research which adds more value to it.

This reflection is from my travel experiences while conducting fieldwork in two different remote and unfamiliar villages situated in the West district of Sikkim. Among the two, one was Bulung and the other was Gangyap. Travelling to Bulung was something that I really enjoyed as a solo traveler as well as researcher.



Both villages are very far from Gangtok. Booking the service vehicle is something one has to deal with beforehand as there are only a few vehicle services to places which are far from the capital. So I had to book my seat in advance. The first destination was Gyalshing/ Geyzing from where I had to take another vehicle to the field area, Bulung. I started my journey at around seven in the morning from Gangtok and reached Gyalshing at around one. The other and only vehicle to the field area was already parked inside the motor stand but the connecting journey started only after three hours. While waiting, I thought of exploring the Gyalshing market for a while but since there was nothing much to see, I got back to the vehicle and counted every passing minute. Boredom was reflected on my face. So after a long wait, the vehicle’s engine finally started. The condition of roads was not good. After a long bumpy ride, I reached my destination at around six in the evening and it was already dark. Apparently, it took me whole day to reach my field area. My state never seemed

as huge for me as it did on that day. I had already arranged a place to stay. Early morning, I woke up and as I opened the window of my room to look around, all I could see was cardamom plants. There was not a single house nearby. It was a mixed feeling. I was excited as well as disappointed. I stayed back on the first day and rest of the days after that was just walking because the field area covered a very huge stretch. I never thought I could walk so much. May be because I was had to get the data for my research. I can remember a day when I walked for at least 8 hours. But even though I had to walk so much, it was never discouraging rather I would always be amazed to come across new things, meeting new people, knowing them and being at a different place. By the time I finished my fieldwork, I was already liking the place and walking up in the cardamom field, walking through the paths only few would walk on rare cases and the life which was far away from the chaotic city life.

Another similar experience was from fieldwork in Gangyap, West Sikkim. This



time another fellow researcher accompanied me. Since this village was also far from the capital and we had less idea about the connecting vehicle, we planned to stay at Tharpu at a friend’s place. The very next morning we took a service taxi from Tharpu to Jorethang from where we had to take the vehicle for Tashiding which was again a long wait. Thankfully, I was not alone, so waiting was not boring like it was in my previous fieldwork. Somehow, waiting for vehicle also became a part of my research. As I managed to explore different places wherever I had to stop and wait for the connecting vehicle to start, waiting is unavoidable if you are travelling through service vehicles. After a long wait we started our journey to Tashiding. We were told that from Tashiding we had to board another vehicle till Gangyap. We travelled accordingly. Gangyap, is a beautiful place with Eklavya Model School for tribal students as its main attraction. But as always no fieldwork is complete without walking. So there too walking for hours was a daily routine. On the very first

day we had gone to the village monastery which was a very long walk through the dense forest. There were no houses in between the village and the monastery. After getting back walking through that dense forest, we were told that there were wild bears in that area we had just walked back. If we had known that earlier, I think we would have thought twice about going there all by ourselves. So, it made me realize that in order to have fear about something we need to have the idea of fear in our minds first. Once we walked down to visit ICDS center and while walking back to place where we were staying, we were so hungry that we went into a stranger’s place who happened to be the aunt of the lady who was guiding us through the village, cooked food and had. They were really kind enough to let two strangers cook and eat at their home. Another day at Gangyap was a very long walk down the hill, which somehow we managed. Walking back to the top of the hill was a difficult task which will always remind me of how tough it can be when it comes to fieldwork.

After staying there for almost a month, we finished our fieldwork and came back to the Capital with more understanding of place that gave us more than just data for our research.

Fieldwork in both places was a wonderful experience of not just collecting data but also of taking a break from city life and living among the simplest people in simplest places. Although reaching to both places was a hectic task but had I not chosen to travel the roads less travelled I would have never known where those roads leads to. Although words will never be enough to describe every feeling that came while travelling through the roads and walking through the footpaths that connected the simplest form of lives but the experience was simply amazing. Travelling through the roads less travelled has somehow helped me to find answers that lay afar the crowd and to practically understand the saying that difficult roads often leads to beautiful destinations, which was indeed true.

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No flood threat now in Arunachal, Assam: China on formation of artificial lake in Brahmaputra

**BEIJING, OCT 22 (PTI):** China on Monday said the flood situation in Yarlung Tsangpo river has returned to normal, which had arisen due to the formation of an artificial lake created by a landslide and blocking its main steam in Tibet, posing a threat to India’s northeastern states.

China also said it will continue to share the flood data with India.

People living along the banks of Siang river in

Arunachal Pradesh were moved to safer places after China informed India about the landslide, which occurred on October 17, blocking Yarlung Tsangpo river in Tibet leading to the formation of the artificial lake.

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Saturday had also directed authorities in districts bordering Arunachal Pradesh to “remain alert” for possible flash flood

and take all possible steps to prevent any major catastrophe.

The Yarlung Tsangpo river is known as the Siang after it enters India at Arunachal Pradesh from the Tibetan region and is called the Brahmaputra once it reaches Assam.

“By October 20, the river section of the barrier lake has returned to normal. We will keep close monitoring of the landslide situation and main-

tain close communication and cooperation with the Indian side through the existing channels,” Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying told a media briefing here.

She said the Chinese hydrological department had informed India about the situation immediately after the landslide and also launched the emergency reporting mechanism.

“Up to October 22, we

have provided seven bits of hydrological information and 110 bits of statistics. We also reported the Indian side of the flow of barrier lake,” Hua said.

China has resumed sharing of hydrological data on the Brahmaputra from May 15 after a gap of one year. It had stopped sharing the data with India last year soon after the Doklam stand-off, stating that its hydrological stations in Tibet were being

upgraded and that the data couldn’t be shared.

The data is important for predicting floods in basins of the rivers. Brahmaputra gets severely flooded during monsoon months affecting Northeast India and Bangladesh.

India and China have established Expert Level Mechanism (ELM) in 2006 to discuss various issues related to trans-border rivers.

Under the existing bilateral agreements, China provides hydrological information of Brahmaputra (Yarlung Tsangpo) and Sutlej (Langgen Zangbo) to India during the flood seasons.

As per the arrangement, China provides data of the Brahmaputra river between May 15 and October 15 every year. This year the data sharing was extended due to the barrier lake in the river.



# Last-gasp Icardi header grabs Inter derby spoils

**ROME, OCT 22 (AFP):** Captain Mauro Icardi struck a dramatic injury-time winner as Inter Milan stunned AC Milan 1-0 in the derby at the San Siro to retake third place in Serie A.

The Argentinian pounced on a mistake by goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma to nod home in the second minute of added time after an otherwise forgettable match, leaving Gennaro Gattuso's Milan without a win in the last five league derbies.

But Inter continued their recent resurgence under Luciano Spalletti after finishing fourth last term to qualify for the Champions League for the first time since 2011-12, moving to within six points of leaders Juventus, after their 1-1 home draw with Genoa on Saturday.

"I came here to win, not to just sit on a bench for a season and try to bring home a salary," former Roma coach Spalletti told Sky Sport Italia.

"I came here to orga-



nise the future of Inter and the players must do the same.

"I liked that after the final whistle, Icardi said we must find consistency and keep pushing. Inter chose us to bring this side back to the level that the fans deserve."

There was an injury blow for Inter ahead of Wednesday's Champions League clash against Barcelona, though, with Radja Nainggolan substituted midway through the first half after tangling

with AC midfielder Lucas Biglia.

"Nainggolan has been chopped down," added Spalletti.

"We have to take him to the hospital and see. He won't be with us for a while." AC Milan remain down in 12th after seeing their eight-game unbeaten run in all competitions ended.

Icardi had the ball in the net early on, but the striker's effort was ruled out for offside after a check with VAR.

Although the opening stages of the game were not overflowing with attacking quality, there was plenty of niggles, with Biglia left incensed after he was booked despite appearing to have been stamped on by Nainggolan before the Belgian hobbled off.

Nominal home side Inter looked the more likely to find a breakthrough in the first half, with Ivan Perisic seeing a header palmed away by Donnarumma and Ste-

fan de Vrij striking the crossbar with a twisting volley.

Out of nowhere AC Milan thought they had taken the lead shortly before half-time, but it was Mateo Musacchio's turn to be denied by the linesman's flag.

Inter had a couple of second-half chances from set-pieces, with Matias Vecino nodding over and Perisic seeing a thunderous strike blocked.

The game appeared to be petering out into a goalless draw, but Donnarumma came and failed to claim a speculative right-wing cross from Vecino, and Icardi headed into the unguarded net to score his fourth league goal of the campaign and spark jubilant scenes among the Inter fans in the stands.

"We lost the game together, not because of Donnarumma," insisted Milan boss Gattuso.

"We lost because we didn't play with the right courage, we were distracted and conceded a

naive goal."

**LAZIO INTO TOP FOUR** Earlier on Sunday, late goals from Ciro Immobile and Joaquin Correa gave Lazio a 2-0 win at Parma.

Promoted in each of the three seasons since their bankruptcy, Parma have impressed this season but their late capitulation saw the visiting Roman outfit into the top four.

Ex-Italy boss Gian Piero Ventura returned to coaching but failed to guide tailenders Chievo to their first win of the season.

Relegation rivals Atalanta ripped Chievo apart in a 5-1 home mauling for Ventura in his first game since being sacked last November after Italy failed to reach the World Cup finals for the first time since 1958.

Two other clubs also locked in the relegation zone shared the points as Frosinone and Empoli drew 3-3 in a game where Frosinone doubled their season's goals tally to six and their points tally to two.

# Rampaging India hammer Asian Games champions Japan 9-0

**MUSCAT, OCT 22 (PTI):** The Indian men's hockey team put up a clinical performance against Japan, demolishing the Asiad gold-medallists 9-0 for its third win in as many matches at the Hero Asian Champions Trophy here.

As many as six Indian players made entries on the score-sheet on Sunday night in a dominating show that reaffirmed their supremacy in Asia and showed that the below-par Asian Games performance was an aberration.

With their third successive win, India lead the six-team event's league standings with a maximum nine points, followed by Malaysia on six points from two



games.

Strikers Lalit Upadhyay and Mandeep Singh scored two goals each, while drag-flicker Harmanpreet Singh converted a penalty stroke and

a penalty corner to lead the goal-fest.

Upadhyay opened the Indian scoring in the fourth minute with a diving deflection and again got into the action in the

45th minute for his double, while Harmanpreet converted a penalty stroke in the 17th minute and then sounded the board with a low penalty corner shot in the 21st

minute.

As Japan's defence was swept away by the Indian raids, Mandeep Singh capitalised on two openings in the last quarter -- in the 49th and 57th minute.

Japan's goalkeeper Takashi Yoshikawa was injured in the eighth minute when he blocked Harmanpreet's penalty corner shot, only for the ball to rebound to Gurbant, who flicked it in. Thereafter, reserve Yusuke Takano had to bear the brunt of the Indian attack.

Indian coach Harendra Singh was pleased by his team's ruthless performance.

"The way we played was good. We played to a plan and did not allow

Japan's team to play in a certain manner," said Harendra.

The game also saw a goal each from Akashdeep Singh (36th) and Sumit (42nd).

On the points table, Pakistan have three points from two matches, while Japan are on three points in three games. South Korea and Oman have lost both their matches.

Japan coach Siegfried Aikman said India were too strong to be contained in this contest.

"We tried our level best, but they were very strong. We were below the level as India sparkled with their speed, agility and hard-press game," said Aikman.

# Saina, Sindhu, Srikanth seek success in French Open



**PARIS, OCT 22 (PTI):** Indian badminton stars, including defending champion Kidambi Srikanth, P V Sindhu and Saina Nehwal will be eyeing their first major BWF title of the year when the French Open begins here on Tuesday.

World number 10 Saina, who did well to the reach the Denmark Open final on Sunday before losing to nemesis and top-ranked Tai Tzu Ying, and Srikanth, a semifinalist in the same event, have very little time to recover after a hectic last week.

World number three Sindhu will be fresher, having made an unexpected first round exit in Odense.

Besides Srikanth, the other Indians in the men's singles draw are B Sai Praneeth and Sameer Verma. Verma had lost a marathon battle against Srikanth in the quarter-finals of Denmark Open.

Ashwini Ponnappa will be playing only mixed doubles this week, alongside Satwiksairaj Rankireddy.

It will take a special performance to win the BWF World Tour Super 750 event which features a high-quality field.

Tai Tzu and Kento Momota, who won in Denmark, will be title favourites again.

The women's field comprises Tai Tzu, Saina, Sindhu and Carolina Marin while Momota could be challenged by the likes of Srikanth, Chen Long, Son Wan Ho, Viktor Axelsen and Shi Yuqi.

Srikanth faces world number 22 Wong Wing Ki Vincent in the first round while Saina and Sindhu will take on 37th-ranked Saena Kawakami and 11th-ranked Beiwenzhang respectively.

Zhang had beaten Sindhu last week.

# Witness against Bishop Franco Mulakkal in nun rape case found dead

**HOSHARPUR, OCT 22 (PTI):** Father Kuriakose Kattuthara, who was a witness in the rape case filed by a nun against Bishop Franco Mulakkal, was Monday found dead under "mysterious circumstances" in Dasuya in Punjab's Hoshiarpur district, police said.

Kattuthara, 62, was found unconscious in his room this morning and was taken to a local hospital where he was declared brought dead, they said.

Police said the cause of the death would be known after postmortem.

According to police, no visible injury marks were found on the body. There was vomit in the room, said Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) A R Sharma.

The viscera will be sent for examination which will throw light on the cause of the death, the DSP said.

Father Kattuthara was transferred 15 days back to the church at Dasuya, police said. He was staying in the premises of the church. A school is also located in the church premises at Dharampur in Dasuya.

When contacted, Hoshiarpur Deputy Commissioner Esha Kalia said, Police were investigating the matter.

Relatives of the priest in Kerala said Kattuthara

was concerned about his safety after coming out openly against the bishop.

Besides demanded a thorough probe into the death, the relatives want that the postmortem be conducted at the Alappuzha Medical College.

Priest Kattuthara had testified against Bishop Mulakkal, who is facing allegations of raping a nun.

In her complaint to the Kottayam Police in June, the nun had alleged that Bishop Mulakkal raped her at a guest house in Kuravilangad in May 2014 and later sexually exploited her on several occasions.

However, Mulakkal has denied the charges as "baseless and concocted," insisting she levelled those as the Catholic order had rejected her demand for favours.

Bishop Mulakkal had received a rousing welcome from his followers and supporters when he reached Jalandhar after being released on bail by a Kerala court last week.

He had last month stepped aside as the bishop of the Jalandhar diocese.

Supporters of the victimised nun Monday urged the Kerala government to provide security to the complainant in view of the alleged "mysterious death" of a key witness in the case.

# Climate fund approves USD 43 million to boost climate resilience for India's coastal communities

**MANAMA, OCT 22 (PTI):** A UN-backed fund has approved USD 43.4 million for enhancing climate resilience for millions of people living in India's coastal communities as part of its efforts to combat extreme impacts of climate change.

The grant is a part of more than USD 1 billion approved by the Green Climate Fund for 19 new projects to help developing countries tackle climate change.

The new project will be supported through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and is an essential step for India in reaching its goals outlined in the Paris Agreement and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The 21st meeting of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Board ended Sunday in Bahrain's capital Manama, approving over one billion dollars of new projects and programmes to support climate action in developing countries, and formally launching its first

replenishment, a statement released by the fund said.

"India's coastal areas are quite vulnerable to climate change and this project focuses on select vulnerable areas of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Odisha states.

The new project, with the GCF assistance, will not only help enhance resilience and adaptability, but also lead to emissions reduction while providing support to local communities for their livelihoods," said Ravi S Prasad, Joint Secretary, Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India.

The 19 new projects amount to a total investment from GCF of USD 1,038 million, and including co-financing the projects will channel over USD 4,244 million of climate finance for low-emission, climate-resilient development.

At the end of the four day meeting, the Board decided to launch the process for the Green Cli-

mate Fund's first formal replenishment, marking a key moment in the development of the world's largest dedicated fund for climate action.

Funding approved at the meeting in Manama includes projects linked to geothermal energy in Indonesia and greener cities in Europe and the Middle East.

Under the project, over 1.7 million people are expected to directly benefit from livelihoods support, with another 10 million indirectly benefitting from improved shoreline protection, the UNDP said in a statement.

In reaching the Sustainable Development Goals for gender equality and reduced inequalities, the project is focused on providing tangible benefits for women, female-headed households, young people and the elderly, and members of Scheduled Castes and Tribes.

Over 3.5 million tonnes of CO2 will be sequestered through restored ecosystems over

the next 30 years.

The Government of India will finance an additional USD 86.8 million toward the new project to mainstream and accelerate the impacts of the Green Climate Fund grant, it said.

To protect life on land and below water as outlined in the 2030 Agenda, project activities will focus on the restoration and conservation of over 15,000 hectares of mangroves, coral reefs, seagrasses and salt-marshes. Communities, including local youth, will be trained to work with scientists in monitoring ecosystem health and coastal ecology, the UNDP statement said.

"In addition to helping communities establish more climate-resilient livelihoods, this multi-dimensional project will contribute to global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions - over 3.5 million tonnes of CO2 will be absorbed through restored ecosystems," said Francine Pickup, Country Di-

rector at UNDP India.

"It will also have considerable long-term environmental benefits including healthier ecosystems, better biodiversity conservation and improved buffering against climate change-driven extreme weather," said Francine Pickup, Country Director at UNDP India," Pickup said.

To strengthen climate risk-informed coastal management and infrastructure planning, the innovative project will create an online decision-support tool available via mobile phone for use by government officers, academic institutions, community members and scientists. The project will also build local knowledge of climate change and the associated risks via training and public education programmes.

India's coastline is expected to be among the regions most affected by climate change globally. The Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea are both predicted to be subject to

extreme climate variability, with the frequency and intensity of cyclones and extreme weather events projected to increase, particularly on the eastern coastline, the statement said.

According to a report from the World Bank, an increase in global mean surface temperatures of 2 C will make India's monsoon highly unpredictable, while a 4 C increase would result in an extremely wet monsoon (which currently has a chance of occurring only once in 100 years) occurring every 10 years by the end of the century.

India has about 6,740 km2 of mangroves, including some of the largest mangrove forests in the world. Mangrove cover along India's coastline has decreased by 50 per cent in some areas, largely because of human pressures, including alteration of flow of freshwater from upstream. Sea-level rise is predicted to result in further reductions, it added.

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# Turkey vows to reveal “naked truth” over Khashoggi death

**ISTANBUL, Oct 22 (AFP)** — Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan vowed to reveal within days the “naked truth” over the death of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, as Riyadh said it did not know the whereabouts of his body and that Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman had been unaware of any operation to murder him.

The Turkish leader's statement came the day after Saudi authorities conceded Khashoggi had been killed inside their diplomat compound in Istanbul.

“We are looking for justice here and this will be revealed in all its naked truth,” Erdogan said in a video.

In his strongest comments to date on the affair, President Donald Trump accused Saudi Arabia of lying about the killing of

Khashoggi, a Washington Post columnist who fell out of favour with the ultraconservative kingdom, as pressure built on the US administration to strike a foreign line.

The Saudi foreign minister, Adel al-Jubeir, on Sunday described the killing as a “tremendous mistake” and said it had been a “rogue operation” by individuals who “exceeded their responsibilities” and then “tried to cover up for it”.

Jubeir insisted in an interview with Fox News that the operation was not ordered by the crown prince known by his initials MBS, also adding that “we don't know where the body is”.

Erdogan, who has not yet directly blamed Saudi Arabia, held a telephone call with Trump on Sunday where the two leaders agreed the Khashoggi case needed to be clarified “in all its aspects,” a Turkish

presidential source said.

Erdogan is expected to make a full statement to his party's MPs in parliament at around 0800 GMT on Tuesday.

Turkish officials have said they believe that 15 Saudi men who arrived in Istanbul on two flights on October 2 were connected to Khashoggi's death.

Riyadh reacted by claiming one of the 15 had died in a car accident years ago.

Saudi officials originally said Khashoggi, who stepped inside the doors of the diplomatic mission on October 2, had left unharmed, before announcing he was killed inside the building in what they described as an altercation.

The kingdom has since admitted Khashoggi died in a “brawl” inside the consulate and said it has fired five top officials and arrested 18 others in an in-

vestigation into the killing. Khashoggi, who would have been 60 this month, sought refuge in the United States after fleeing his native Saudi Arabia after the 2017 appointment of strongman Mohammed bin Salman as heir to the throne.

The journalist, who had espoused both Islamist and liberal views throughout his decades-long career in the press, was engaged to a Turkish woman.

His killing has fanned sour relations between Saudi Arabia and Turkey, already at loggerheads over Qatar, with which Riyadh cut ties in 2017 and to which Ankara has deployed aid and troops.

Turkish officials now believe Riyadh carried out a state-sponsored killing and dismembered the body, with pro-government media in Turkey reporting the existence of

video and audio evidence to back those claims.

As the Turkish leader is expected to reveal all details into the journalist's killing, Trump has stepped back from his stance that Saudi Arabia's latest explanation over the death was credible amid mounting pressure at home.

“Obviously there's been deception and there's been lies,” he said of the shifting accounts of Khashoggi's death offered by Riyadh.

“Their stories are all over the place.”

Several senior members of Trump's Republican Party said they believed Prince Mohammed, the kingdom's de facto ruler, was linked to the killing, and one called for a “collective” Western response if a link is proved.

Trump has stopped far short of calling for the prince to be replaced,

emphasising as he has before how important the US-Saudi relationship is to Washington's regional strategic goals.

He described the 33-year-old prince as a “strong person; he has very good control.”

“He's seen as a person who can keep things under check,” added Trump. The controversy has put the kingdom -- for decades a key ally in Western efforts to contain Iran -- under unprecedented pressure.

It has also blown up into a major crisis for Prince Mohammed whose image as a modernising Arab reformer has been gravely undermined.

Britain, France and Germany have shown a united front, demanding Saudi Arabia clarify how the journalist died inside its Istanbul consulate backed by “credible” facts.

Late Sunday, White

House press secretary Sarah Sanders said Trump and French President Emmanuel Macron discussed “the circumstances” around Khashoggi's “tragic death” in a phone call, without offering further details.

Australia, Canada, the UN and the EU have also demanded greater clarity around Khashoggi's death.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel added that Berlin would not export arms to Saudi Arabia “in the current situation”.

Germany last month approved 416 million euros (USD 480 million) worth of arms exports to Saudi Arabia for 2018.

In the past, military exports by Berlin to Saudi have mostly consisted of patrol boats.

## Saudi king, crown prince call slain writer Khashoggi's son

**ISTANBUL, Oct 22 (AP)** — Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman called the son of Jamal Khashoggi, the kingdom announced early Monday, to express condolences for the death of the journalist killed at the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul by officials that allegedly included a member of the royal's entourage.

King Salman similarly made a condolence call as international pressure on the kingdom continues to rise, even after it acknowledged on Saturday that the Washington Post journalist was killed Oct. 2 at the consulate under still-disputed circumstances.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said that he will “go into detail” about the Khashoggi case in a speech in parliament Tuesday, the same day a glitzy investment forum in Riyadh spearheaded by Prince Mohammed is to take place.

Saudi Arabia's explanation that Khashoggi was killed in a “fistfight” and 18 Saudis have been detained has been met with international skepticism and allegations of a cover-up designed to absolve Prince Moham-

med of direct responsibility. Turkish media reports and officials say a 15-member Saudi team flew to Istanbul, laid in wait for Khashoggi at the consulate and then cut off his fingers, killed and dismembered the 59-year-old writer.

“Why did these 15 people come here? Why were 18 people arrested? All of this needs to be explained in all its details,” Erdogan said.

The state-run Saudi Press Agency announced the calls to Khashoggi's son, Salah, early Monday morning. Statements from the agency said both King Salman and Prince Mohammed express their condolences for his father's death.

The call comes after a leaked photograph apparently taken from surveillance footage shows Maher Abdulaziz Mutreb, a member of Prince Mohammed's entourage on trips to the United States, France and Spain this year, at the consulate, just ahead of Khashoggi's arrival.

Saudi Arabia so far has not acknowledged or explained Mutreb's presence in Istanbul.

## Aus PM apologises to victims of institutional child sex abuse, says ‘we failed them’

**NATASHA CHAKU MELBOURNE, Oct 22 (PTI)** — Prime Minister Scott Morrison on Monday made an emotional national apology to thousands of Australian victims of institutional child sex abuse for failing to protect them from the “evil dark” crimes committed over the decades and voiced his anger at those who have misused the “shield of faith and religion” to hide their misdeeds.

The formal apology followed a national investigation into institutional sexual abuse in Australia, which spanned five years and stunned the country with revelations of thousands of cases of shocking abuse in institutional settings like churches and orphanages.

In a speech which was broadcast live across the country, Morrison said the trauma suffered by the victims had been “hiding in plain sight for too long.”

“To the children we

failed, sorry. To the parents whose trust was betrayed and who have struggled to pick up the pieces, sorry. To the whistleblowers, who we did not listen to, sorry. To the spouses, partners, wives, husbands, children, who have dealt with the consequences of the abuse, cover-ups and obstruction, sorry. To generations past and present, sorry,” Morrison said.

“Silenced voices. Muffled cries in the darkness. Unacknowledged tears. The tyranny of invisible suffering. The never heard pleas of tortured souls,

bewildered by an indifference to the unthinkable theft of their innocence.”

He said it was a sorry that dare not ask for forgiveness but rather “seeks to reach out in compassion into the darkness, where you have lived for so long” and assured them: “I believe you, we believe you, your country believes you.”

In a rare show of emotions, Morrison briefly broke

down and fought back tears when he talked of meeting leading author and advocate Chrissie Foster.

“As a father of two daughters I can't comprehend what she has faced,” Morrison said.

Two of Foster's three daughters, Emma and Katie, were repeatedly abused by a local school Catholic priest near their home in Oakleigh, Melbourne.

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CHRIS HEMSWORTH AND A FRIEND PICKED UP A HITCHHIKER AND IT WENT SURPRISINGLY WELL



Luck was on musician Scott Hildebrand's side this weekend. On Sunday, Chris Hemsworth posted an Instagram video with his pal Luke Zocchi in the back seat of a van getting ready to hit the beach and ride some waves. In the beginning of the video, Luke narrated the tale of having "just landed in Brizzy

(Brisbane)" when they spotted a hitchhiker. It turns out this lucky tourist just happened to be going to the same place as the Thor star and his pal: the surfing mecca of Byron Bay. "We're going to Byron, we'll give him a lift," Chris chimed in. "Little does he know we're getting a chopper,"

Luke told the camera. In the purest form of hospitality, the car pulled over for the hitchhiker, Scott. "Welcome to Australia, mate," Luke exclaimed while shaking his hand. It turns out Scott had just traveled all the way from Mexico. "No way!" he repeated multiple times throughout the video upon learning he

and his new pals were taking a helicopter from Brisbane to Byron Bay. Luke even bestowed on him a new nickname: Scotty Boy. So, Luke, Chris, Scott and his guitar all hopped in the chopper and made their way to the beautiful beach-side town. Alas, all good things must come to an end. It was time

for Chris and Luke to part ways with lucky Scott. "Alright Scotty, back to the hitchhiking," the Avengers hero lamented. Scott told E! News what the field trip meant to him. "The experience was so cool and unexpected," he said. "They're so nice and I couldn't believe it was happening."



DOUBLE TROUBLE! The Chilling Adventures of Sabrina co-stars Kiernan Shipka & Ross Lynch share a laugh at the show's premiere in Hollywood.

I have too much 'life experience', says Julia Roberts

LOS ANGELES, OCT 22 (PTI): Hollywood star Julia Roberts believes she has too much 'life experience' to star in romantic comedies. The 50-year-old actor, who previously appeared in iconic films such as "Pretty Woman" and "Notting Hill", has revealed she is unlikely to star in any more rom-coms because she cannot convincingly play a naive character. "There came a point in my career where people thought I had turned on romantic comedies, which I love them,

I love to be in them, I love to watch them. But sometimes, they just don't work at a certain point of life experience. It's not about age, it's just about what people know that you know," Roberts told Entertainment Tonight. The actor, however, said there is one possible scenario in which she would agree to star in a rom-com. "We (could play) the parents of the people that are romcom-ing," she said.



THE DAY AHEAD» ARIES: Too much partying could have you feeling a little under the weather. The food and drink may have been great, but today you'd better eat plain but nourishing food. You may not be inclined to exercise, but a brisk walk or yoga class might be just what you need. It will also clear your head. You should be yourself again by midafternoon. TAURUS: Friends and lovers alike may take unfair advantage of your good nature. Some may want you to do them favors. Others might want to use you as a sounding board for their problems. You won't want to turn them away. If you can't avoid them, you should learn to say, "I'll help you later!" You can only be in one place at a time, and there are only 24 hours in a day. GEMINI: Family members might

have too much on their minds to-day and ask you for more help than you're prepared to give. Make sure you stay calm and focused so you can decide which difficulties are most urgent and need to be handled first. Don't be afraid to tell others your decision. When possible, give advice rather than help. Sometimes that's all people really need. CANCER: Today you might spend time helping a sibling or neighbor prepare for a trip. Or more than one person could ask you for advice on business matters, legal papers, investments, homework, or other intellectual concerns. Try not to spread yourself too thin or you won't be much use to anybody, least of all you. If it doesn't all get done today, there's always tomorrow. LEO: Someone may approach you

talking about investments. This person may make whatever he's pushing sound like a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Remember the adage, "If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is!" If you're interested in what this person has to say, wait a few days and then check with an unbiased source. It always pays to be cautious! VIRGO: Today you may feel like you're brimming over with physical energy. You have a lot of energy, but it isn't a good idea to get climbing mountains, running marathons, or swimming long distances right now. If you don't pace yourself, you could be exhausted by midafternoon. You may be temporarily operating on nervous energy and limited stamina. LIBRA: Responsibilities may be

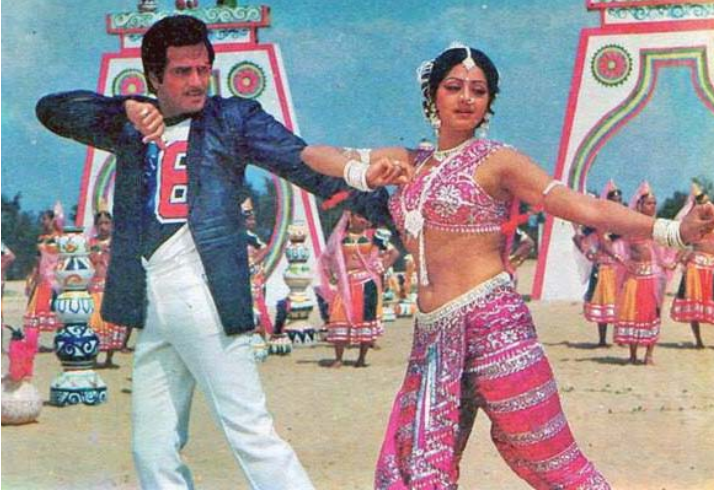
weighing on your mind today. Perhaps you've promised someone help but don't have the time and energy to come through right now. Don't be afraid to tell the person. Between the two of you, you can work something out that creates a win/win situation so your friend gets the needed help and you don't tire yourself out. A little ingenuity is all it takes! SCORPIO: A tremendous burst of creative energy regarding a cherished project could hit today. Inspiration could strike, and you'll want to turn as much of that into physical reality as possible. Don't be disappointed if your insights are exhausted quickly and you hit a roadblock. Don't try to force it. Stop working for now and take it up later. The inspiration will come again! SAGITTARIUS: Today you could

be in the public eye in some way. Perhaps you're teaching a class, giving a lecture, or leading a discussion group. Whatever it is, don't be surprised if you alternate between inspired and free-flowing articulation and total mental block. When the latter happens, ask for questions. That'll give them a chance to speak and get your brain going again. CAPRICORN: Too many errands to run? Too many calls to make? Don't be surprised if you feel like you're running in circles. You might be trying to juggle career concerns while making plans for a journey of some kind. Take time to relax. Go to a movie and forget everything for a while. It isn't worth making yourself crazy. AQUARIUS: Unexpected expenses,

perhaps for house repairs, might require some budgetary juggling. You might have to rob Peter to pay Paul. This will probably offend your practicality, but it's only temporary. With your sound financial sense, you'll be able to balance your budget again soon. Your diet over the next few days may include a lot of peanut butter sandwiches. PISCES: Surliness on the part of a partner could catapult you into a gloomy mood. Your friend isn't communicating very well, and you probably wonder if it's something you said or did. Chances are it's not. All signs indicate that it's business. Don't try to force your partner to share these concerns with you, as this will only cause further retreat. Your friend will talk when the time's right.

When Sridevi called success of 'Himmatwala' her 'bad luck'

NEW DELHI, OCT 22 (PTI): The 1980s smashing hit "Himmatwala" might have turned Sridevi into an overnight star in Bollywood, but according to a new book, the actor considered the film a "bad luck" for her. Quoting an 1987 interview of the yesteryear actor, the book titled "Sridevi: Queen of Hearts", said that she was not entirely pleased that her first big hit in Hindi cinema was "Himmatwala" (1983). "In Tamil films, they love to see me act naturally. But in Hindi films they want a lot of glamour, richness and masala. My bad luck was that my first big hit in Hindi films turned out to be a commercial one ('Himmatwala'). "When I did a character role in 'Sadma', the picture flopped. So people started casting me only for glamour roles. But one day I'm going to prove to everyone that I can act also," said the actor, as quoted in the book. Sridevi, as written by journalist-author Lalita Iyer, soon with her widely-acclaimed cult classic "Mr India" (1987) proved her versatility as a "pan-Indian" actor. "Mr India" was the year's best film and a riot at box office; it had something for everyone, and was one of her most lovable performances. Sridevi had finally proved to Hindi cinema that she was more than just a box office draw," Iyer writes in the book.



The author, who is an unabashed Sridevi fan, calls her the "Hero No 1" of the '80s, a period when, as per her, the Hindi film industry was going through a low phase and there was no real "contender for the No 1 hero position, even less so for a heroine." "People were tired of Amitabh Bachchan's angry young man persona and his films were not doing well... The angry man and his stunt-based films had largely killed music. Sridevi couldn't have chosen a better moment to enter Hindi films," claimed the author. Though the book, which in Iyer's own admission is not a tell-all tale but a tribute to the

actor, does mentions her struggle, be it "body shaming" or "being ridiculed" during the dubbing of the film, as she was not fluent in most of the languages. According to the author, Sridevi's language barrier led to a certain guardedness or aloofness on sets, which people construed as arrogance. "All through the 1980s, when her career was an all time high, she was a fortress that journalists could not breach. She spoke very little and mostly answered in monosyllables. "The media was not very kind to her. They called her 'thunder thighs' and ask Mummy' because most of her an-

swers were either ask Mummy' or yes' or no," reads the book. Ironically, it was the biggest blockbuster of 1983 "Himmatwala" only that earned Sridevi the moniker of thunder thighs, thanks to her whip-cracking scenes in leather leotards, Iyer writes. However, like the author notes, it was "Himmatwala" only that got her a dozen more films at the price she commanded. Published by Westland and priced at Rs 399, Sridevi: Queen Of Hearts foreword is written by Adil Hussain, who played the actor's husband in the 2012's superhit family comedy-drama English Vinglish'.

Pete Davidson Breaks Silence on Ariana Grande Breakup Onstage at Comedy Show

Pete Davidson has broken his silence about his split from Ariana Grande, and he's even able to joke about it. It was revealed last week that the 24-year-old SNL star and 25-year-old pop star had broken up and called off their engagement following a whirlwind summer romance. On Saturday night, he made his first stage appearance since the news broke, co-hosting the comedy show Judd & Pete for America, benefiting Swing Left at Largo at the Coronet in West Hollywood, with Judd Apatow. "Well, as you could tell, I don't want to be here. There's a lot going on," Davidson told the crowd. "Does anybody have any open rooms? Looking for a roommate?" During their relationship, Grande had acquired a \$16 million apartment in New York City for her and Davidson. A source close to Davidson told E! News last week he's "staying with family" and was "doing fine" after the split, adding, "He has a strong support system of family and friends around him that are keeping him laughing."



Grande had broken her silence on her and Davidson's split last week, writing in a since-deleted Instagram post, "Time to say bye bye to the internet for just a lil bit.

it's hard not to bump news n stuff that i'm not tryna to see rn. It's very sad and we're all tryin very hard to keep goin. love u. and thank u for bein here always."