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PEOPLE LIVING WITH UNFULFILLED
DREAMS: GITANJALI RAO**

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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Sports Minister requests Centre for infrastructure development support

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 15 Nov: Minister Sports and Youth Affairs, Kunga Nima Lepcha attended the Conference of Ministers/UTs in-charge of Youth Affairs and Sports at Delhi today, a press release informs.

In his address, Mr Lepcha requested the central government to extend support to Sikkim in order to develop sports infrastructure in the state. He also requested for expediting project proposals submitted by the state government for the first phase of infrastructure development at school, sub division and district levels.

"I also request Sports Authority of India to kindly strengthen the SAI Centre at Namchi, Sikkim by way of infrastructure development and providing adequate coaches. I visited the centre last month and found that the budding athletes are being trained well. Swimming was doing well in the state, however, SAI has not replaced the coach since he was transferred," said Mr Lepcha.

Further, the Minister congratulated the Minister and officers of the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs for the success of Fit India movement and Khelo India movement.

CBI raids Amnesty International Bengaluru, Delhi offices

BENGALURU, NOV 15 (PTI): The CBI on Friday conducted raids at the Amnesty International Indias Bengaluru and Delhi offices. Yes, raids were carried out. Details are awaited, a CBI officer told PTI.

An Amnesty International India executive, speaking on condition of anonymity, said about half-a-dozen CBI sleuths arrived at about 8.30 am at the Bengaluru office and carried out searches till 5 pm." In a statement, the human rights watchdog said "Over the past year, a pattern of harassment has emerged every time Amnesty India stands up and speaks out against human rights violations in India. It said that it stands in full compliance with Indian and international law.

Our work in India, as elsewhere, is to uphold and fight for universal human rights.

These are the same values that are enshrined in the Indian Constitution and flow from a long and rich Indian tradition of pluralism, tolerance, and dissent, it added.

East Dist wins state-level annual sports competition



SAGAR CHHETRI

GANGTOK, 15 Nov: East District emerged the Overall Champion of the state-level Annual Sports Competition held in the capital. South District finished as the runner-up.

The two-day competition was organised by the Department of Sports & Youth Affairs and has been inaugurated by Sports & Youth Affairs Minister, Kunga Nima Lepcha, at Paljor Stadium on Thursday.

The closing function of competition had Transport Minister, Sanjit Kharel, as the chief

guest accompanied by Rhenock MLA, Bishnu Kumar Khatiwada, as guest of honour among other dignitaries.

East District also lifted the overall championship in athletics, while North became the runners-up team.

In Archery, South District emerged champion with East District coming second. East District won football with North on second place. East emerged champion in Karate as well with West District coming second and East won the TT competition as

well with South coming second. East District's domination continued in taekwondo and South District came second.

In his address, the Minister stated that sports was a priority sector of the SKM government to take and urged youngsters to pursue their disciplines seriously.

Earlier, the function started with a welcome address by SYA Department Deputy Director, NK Pradhan.

Sports & Youth Affairs Department Deputy Director [HQ], CL Rai, in turn informed that the department had organised

competitions at the block and district levels and finally at the state-level in 10 disciplines.

He informed that 12,636 athletes took part in the block-level competitions, 2,990 in the district-level and finally 375 sportspersons in the state-level.

He informed that shortlisted athletes and teams will be participating in the National School Games and those shortlisted at the National School Games will get a chance in the Khelo India Youth Games 2020 to be held in January.

Samajik Adhikarita Shivir held in Gyalshing



Assistive aids distributed to differently abled and senior citizens

GYALSHING, 15 Nov (IPR): Samajik Adhikarita Shivir, a mega camp for free distribution of Assistive Aids and Appliances to Divyangjan and Senior Citizens belonging to BPL Category under ADIP and Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana, was held at Government Senior Secondary School, Kyongsa, Gyalshing, West Sikkim, today.

The programme was jointly organized by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) Department of Social Justice & Empow-

erment, Government of India, in close coordination with the Social Justice and Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim and West District Administration.

Chief Minister, PS Tamang attended the occasion as the chief guest and the programme was presided over by Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, Dr Thaawarchand Gehlot.

Deputy Speaker, Sangey Lepcha, Health Minister, Dr MK Sharma and Agriculture Minister, Lok Nath Sharma, Labour Minister, MN Sherpa and PHE Minister, Bhim Hang Limboo were the guests of honour.

The programme began with Chief Minister, PS Tamang offering flower bouquet and khada to the Union Minister.

Union Minister, Dr Thaawarchand Gehlot, in his address, mentioned that the Government of India in coordination with the States is fully committed for the welfare and empowerment of persons with disabilities for their safe, productive and dignified life and such kind of programme began only after the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi came to power at the centre, he added.

Addressing the gathering, Union Minister, Dr Gehlot informed that a total number of 3458 Aids and Appliances will be distributed to 1073 beneficiaries at a total cost of Rs. 104.52 lakh in the West District.

Till date, the Ministry has organised 8227 camps whereby 40 lakh

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STATE LEVEL BAND COMPETITION 2019

North Sikkim Academy boys and West Point Sr Sec girls win top prize

GANGTOK, 15 Nov [IPR]: The 3rd Edition of State level Band Competition for Schools under Samagra Shiksha, Education Department, Government of Sikkim was conducted today at Guards' Ground, Gangtok.

Building and Housing Minister, Sanjit Kharel, was the chief guest while Chairperson State Trading Corporation, Bishnu Kumar Khatiwara, and Advisor to CM (Press and Media), C.P. Sharma, were the guests of honour.

State Project Director, Samagra Shiksha, Bhim Thatal during his welcome address briefed about the Band competition and also highlighted that in the 1st and 2nd editions, the Sikkim team secured 1st runners-up and first positions, respectively, in the National level competitions.

The band competition was conducted in two categories i.e, Boys and Girls. In Boys category, three schools took part and in Girls category, four schools partici-



pated in the competition. North Sikkim Academy, Mangan, won in the boys category while West Point Senior Secondary School, East Sikkim, bagged the 1st position in girls category.

These two teams will now represent the State in the Zonal level Band

Competition to be held in the month of December 2019 at Guwahati.

Minister, Mr Kharel congratulated the winners and awarded cash prize to them. He also extended his best wishes to them to perform well in the Zonal level competitions.

Blood Bank inaugurated at Gyalshing Hospital

GYALSHING, 15 Nov (IPR): Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr MK Sharma inaugurated the newly established Blood Bank within District Hospital Gyalshing in the presence of Minister-cum-MLA of Gyalshing Bermiok constituency, Lok Nath Sharma and Minister for Power and Labour, MN Sherpa, today.

The Ministers congratulated the blood donors and encouraged them to motivate the community towards blood donation.

Health Minister, Dr Sharma marked the establishment of blood bank as one of the necessary achievements for the convenience of patients of West District.



Now onwards the Gyalshing District Hospital is no longer required to bring blood from Namchi District Hospital with the establishment of the newly inaugurated blood bank.

He also outlined the future roadmap of health department to upgrade medical facilities in the district hospital.

Minister, Lok Nath Sharma extended grati-

tude to the State Government and the health department for the establishment of the Blood Bank. He appealed to voluntary organisations to come forward for blood donation.

Further, he urged the Minister to provide additional medical facilities so as to reduce referrals from Gyalshing hospital in future.

Following CM's directions, DC leads EF-FD visit to Amba GPU

GANGTOK, 15 Nov [IPR]: Following up on the directions of the Chief Minister regarding adoption of Amba GPU, a team headed by the District Collector, East, and comprising of Zilla Panchayat Amba Taza territorial constituency, Panchayat members of the GPU, ADC/ East, ADC (Dev) Pakyong, SDM [Pakyong], BDO [Pakyong] and other officials from various line departments visited Amba Gram Panchayat Unit today.

During the field visit, the DC directed that the DE [PMGSY] deploy workers to fill potholes in the PMGSY road leading from the SDAC, Pakyong to Tokchi Road.

Repair of damaged footpath from Tokchi road to ICDS Centre Ward No.1- Nindi Lassithang - was also sanctioned under NC in convergence with MNREGS and will be executed by BDO Pakyong.

DE, Tourism Department, was directed to complete the 10 Homestays being developed in various parts of the GPU and repair of ICDS Centre and toilet and instal-



lation of railing and drain around the ICDS Centre-Nindi Lassithang Ward was also sanctioned under NC in convergence with MNREGS to be executed by BDO Pakyong.

Repair of damaged footpath from Homestay to Machong road has been sanctioned under NC in convergence with MNREGS and will be executed by BDO Pakyong.

The task of painting the waiting shed along the footpath between a Homestay and Machong Road was given to the Panchayat while the JE, Roads & Bridges Department, was directed to ensure timely com-

pletion of the CRF Road from Gan- chung to Mamring via Nalakhthang.

Repair of damaged footpath from Machong road to Raigaon has also been sanctioned and will be executed by BDO Pakyong.

IOCL-Rangpo has been directed to install 30 stand-alone solar lights in different parts of the GPU and the Panchayat given the responsibility for maintenance.

ADC [Dev], Pakyong, and the Pakyong SDM have been directed to conduct camps to identify citizens who have not obtained EPIC Voter cards,

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Regional Ayurveda Research Institute observes World Diabetes Day



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 15 Nov:

Regional Ayurveda Research Institute, Gangtok, observed World Diabetes Day at Shilay Village under Tumin GPU in East Sikkim, a press release informs. The programme was conducted with various activities like diabetes awareness, free

blood sugar and blood pressure checking as well as free Ayurvedic consultation and treatment.

The prescribed Ayurvedic medicines were distributed free of cost. Dr Amitava Acharya (SRF) and Dr Satyandra Chaudhury (SRF) from RARI, Gangtok, were present for Ayurvedic consultancy.

Tripura, Mizoram govts differ on number of Bru refugees repatriated

AGARTALA/AIZAWL, NOV 15 (PTI): The governments of Tripura and Mizoram on Friday differed on the number of Bru refugees repatriated and there is a mismatch of 193 people in the figures provided by the two states.

Mizoram Home Secretary Lalbiakzama said 892 people of 221 internally-displaced Bru families have been repatriated, while North Tripura District Magistrate Ravel H Kumar put the figure at 699 refugees belonging to 144 families.

Altogether 4,447 Bru displaced families, lodged in relief camps at Kanchanpur and Panisagar sub-divisions of North Tripura district, are scheduled to return to neighbouring Mizoram from where they had fled since 1997 following ethnic clashes. This ninth round of repatriation process, stated to be the "final" one, will come to an end on November 30.

The Mizoram home secretary said 892 Bru people, including 351 children, belonging to 221 families have been repatriated till November 14.

Of them, 134 families have been settled at Mamit district, 68 in Lunglei and 19 in Kolasib district of Mizoram, Lalbiakzama said.

Kumar on Friday sent an official report to the chief secretary's office providing date-wise number of people repatriated to Mizoram between October 3, when the process began, and November 15.

However, he said in the report, no Bru person went to Mizoram since October 31, though the process has been on.

The displaced people had launched a roadblock at Kanchanpur from October 31 demanding resumption of cash-dole and free ration to them. It was withdrawn on November 7 following an assurance from Tripura Deputy Chief Minister

Jishnu Deb Varma to resume supply of free ration.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has stopped all allowances to the displaced Bru persons from October and the Mizoram Bru Displaced People's Forum (MBDPF), a major body of the refugees, claimed that six people had died of starvation after the ration supply was stopped.

The Tripura government, however, said four people died and the cause of the deaths was being ascertained. Meanwhile, the MBDPF on Friday said a delegation of the Bru refugees had visited New Delhi to meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah but could not meet him due to his busy schedule.

"However, we submitted a memorandum to his office. We have clearly mentioned there that six Brus including four infants had died as starvation hit the rehabilitation camps following stoppage of ration by the Centre since October 1," MBDPF president A Swaibunga told reporters. They also put forward several demands including repatriating the refugees in Bru inhabited areas to preserve their ethnic identity, allocate more land to each displaced family for their proper rehabilitation, and provisions for development projects in the proposed rehabilitation areas.

"The Mizoram government plans to repatriate 35,000 Brus in 77 villages of different districts. We demanded that rehabilitation should be in Bru inhabited areas to preserve our identity and central forces should be there for the security of the Brus," Swaibunga said.

He said the Mizoram government has allocated only 1,200 square feet of land per repatriated family in rural areas which is not sufficient.

Samajik Adhikarita...

beneficiaries have been benefited with Aids and Appliances since 2014 throughout the country.

After his address, the Chief Minister and Union Minister, jointly presented Aids and Appliances like Smart Cane, Wheel Chair, BTE Hearing Aids, Complete Dentures, Smart phones, Spectacles, Crutches, MSIED Kits, etc. to persons with disabilities and senior citizens.

Minister, Dr MK Sharma, in his brief address, extended warm welcome to the Union Minister and expressed gratitude for the mega distribution camp. He also shed light on various facilities being provided by the Government of Sikkim and schemes implemented in the State of Sikkim.

The programme began with the welcome address proposed by District Collector, West, Karma R Bonpo.



CONSTRUCTION OF THE FLYOVER that connects Singtam Bazaar to Singtam Hospital is on the verge of completion. Workers are putting in extra hours to finish the long awaited flyover. [Photo: Yogen Thatal]

CM discusses urban mass transport and tourism ideas with JICA delegation



GANGTOK, 15 Nov [IPR]: A six-member JICA [Japan International Cooperation Agency] delegation headed by K Matsumoto, the Chief Representative JICA-India, called on Chief Minister PS Tamang [Golay] at Samman Bhawan this evening.

The delegation presented a brief report on progress made by

ongoing forestry projects here.

The Chief Minister requested them to explore all possibilities to start some new projects which can be taken up in Sikkim.

Among the prominent highlights of the discussion were urban mass transport, tourism, sustainable development in

horticulture and agricultural and environmental conservation.

Biodiversity conservation was also discussed in detail during the meeting.

The JICA head also expressed his satisfaction with presentations made by the line departments during a recent workshop.

Agriculture Minister visits Kirateswar Legship Mandir



Legship, 15 Nov (IPR): Minister-cum-Area MLA of Gyalshing Bermiok constituency, Lok Nath Sharma visited Kirateswar Legship Mandir to take stock of preparations for Vaidik Sammelan to be held from 17 to 19 Nov, 2019. He was accompanied by the Executive Member of the Organ-

ising Committee.

Various subjects including accommodations, light connectivity, beautification, decorations, cleanliness of surrounding areas and all related matter were discussed in detail for finalization of preparation work.

Minister Sharma also handed over a cheque to

the executive committee who jointly expressed gratitude to the state government for generous support.

Further, the Minister urged committee members to deliver assigned responsibilities with full accountability and extended cordial invitation to the public to attend the Vaidik Sammelan.

LIC felicitates 10 students of Tiny Tots School



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 15 Nov:

Life Insurance Corporation of India under CSR felicitated 10 students of Tiny Tots School (TTS) Rangpo with Students of the Year 2019 Awards. The program was organised at the school and was attended

by Principal, Ajit Sharma, teachers, students, and staff of the School, a press release informs.

The Student of the Year award was presented to the ten students of the school who secured 1st position in their class from Nursery to Class VIII. LIC dele-

gates congratulated all the students and also urged them to avail the opportunity provided by LIC for making the youth self-dependent.

Principal TTS, Ajit Sharma thanked the team of LIC for encouraging students at different levels.

Marquez and Lorenzo top the bill in Valencia By Jean-Louis Doublet

VALENCIA, NOV 15 (AFP):

A MotoGP season dominated once again by Marc Marquez rolls to a close in Valencia this weekend with a fond farewell for another Spaniard, former champion Jorge Lorenzo who announced his retirement on Thursday. Marquez has undoubtedly been the star of the season, winning 11 races so far and wrapping up his sixth world title with four races to spare.

No one has come close to his speed and consistency. Since the Spanish GP in Jerez at the start of May, Marquez has finished either first or second in every race, an achievement that fast-tracked Honda to its eighth constructors' championship, its fourth in a row. The 26-year-old has done it on the much-maligned RC213V which has been criticised for its handling.

No surprise then to see Marquez planning to use Valencia as something of a test drive for next season. "We are looking to 2020 already and continuing to try some options while we have this time before we go into test mode after the race," he said.

Surprisingly, given that he has won 55 MotoGPs since joining the circuit in 2013, Marquez has only one victory in 2014 to show for his work in Valencia.

- LORENZO BOWS OUT -

His Honda teammate Lorenzo, by contrast, has won it four times in a distinguished career that saw him crowned world champion three times. The 32-year-old, though, has not had the best of seasons -- he has mustered just 25 points and sits 19th in the standings.

Lorenzo has never quite come to terms with the awkwardness of the RC213V and his season has been dogged by injuries and falls. At Assen in June he fractured a spinal vertebrae during a crash in practice, causing him to miss three races. "This will be my last race in MotoGP and at the end of the race I will retire as a professional racer," he told a press conference on Thursday.

With Lorenzo's departure opening up a seat at Honda, there may be an added zip in the Valencia race as riders try to make an impression, none more so that the Frenchman Johann Zarco whose career appeared to be over until Honda threw him a lifeline with a ride in their shadow team.

Following CM's...

Aadhaar cards, Ration Cards, Bank accounts, etc. and ensure 100% compliance of the same.

Directions were also passed to expedite the construction of an ICDS Centre at Mamring Gumpa and repair of the footpath from Mahuadara to Mamring Sr. Sec. School was sanctioned.

Repair of the shed at Amba Mamring Gumpa and construction of footpath from the kitchen was sanctioned for execution by the Pakyong BDO. The Panchayat members will carry out beautification and landscaping at the Sheda.

CIPLA Pharmaceuticals was directed to construct a 10-room building costing approximately Rs 40 lakh in consultation with the SMC at Mamring Sr. Sec. School and Rs 2 lakh sanctioned for the repair of Class XI and Mid Day Meal kitchen. Repair of the toilet and construction of an ekra room on the top floor of the new building at Mamring School was also sanctioned and will be executed by the SMC.

Also sanctioned was the repair of the approach road to Mamring School.

Repair of the footpath and construction of a ramp at Mamring PHSC was also sanctioned along with repair of the PHSC building and a further Rs 2 lakh sanctioned by the Zilla Panchayat for fencing around the PHSC.

Panchayat members were also directed to ensure water supply at the PHSC even as repair of the water storage tanks and installation of two poly tanks were sanctioned.

All works at the PHSC will be done under the supervision of the Senior Medical Officer there, it is informed.

Meanwhile, repair of the approach road to the Gram Prashasan Kendra, Amba GPU, was also sanctioned and will be executed by BDO Pakyong while the ADC [Dev], Pakyong, will prepare a proposal for construction of a meeting-cum-conference hall above the GPK under MGNREGA.

The visiting team was also informed that GRD Hem Kr Basnett has not reported for work for a long period and the Pakyong BDO was directed to take disciplinary action and withhold his salary and submit a report.

At West Amba, repair of footpath to the ICDS Centre was sanctioned.

The ADC [Dev], Pakyong, has been directed to convene a Special Gram Sabha on 19 November and prepare a skill profile of the GPU while AD, Horticulture Department, directed to take immediate action to complete the office building at West Amba.

Repair of footpath and construction of railing till the Amba Secondary School Ground was sanctioned along with repair of the ceiling, flooring and also painting of Classes IV, V, VII, VIII, Science Lab and Vocational Training Labs have been sanctioned under NC in convergence with MGNREGS and will be executed by BDO Pakyong.

The ADC was also directed to construct a community toilet near Amba School and install CCTV cameras at the school.

The Mid-day Meal kitchen and flooring of the staff toilet at the school will also be shortly repaired.

Repair of the footpath from the road to the ICDS Centre at Chuthang Pithang has also been sanctioned and will be carried out by the Panchayat, it is informed.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I Dhan Kumari Chettri w/o Lt. Harka Bdr. Chettri resident of Lower Kitam P.O. Kitam, South Sikkim solemnly declare that previously my name has been recorded/known as Bina Chettri in my locality. I, vide this affidavit number 028377, I have change my name from Bina Chettri to Dhan Kumari Chettri for all purpose

Oath taken before SDM Namchi, South Sikkim on 12th November 2019.

~ SummitTIMES ~ CLASSIFIEDS

GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

Roadside plots for sale at Adampool, Ranipool-Rumtek highway.

For details contact: 9083826462

FLAT FOR RENT/LEASE

Fully furnished 3BHK flat available for rent/lease at Church Road near DPH. Roadside and five minutes walking distance from MG Marg.

For more details: 9083826462 /9832556698

GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

General land 30X40 (3 Plots) available for sale at Tadong 6th Mile next to Harka Maya College.

Flat Land no cutting required. Price 30 Lakhs (negotiable).

Contact: 9800201335

LAND FOR SALE

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

C'garh govt to launch new integrated healthcare scheme

RAIPUR, Nov 15 (PTI): The Chhattisgarh government has decided to launch a new integrated healthcare scheme to provide better and quality medical facilities to the people of the state, officials said on Friday.

The scheme will be implemented in a trust-based model, they said.

The ongoing central and state healthcare schemes - Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), Chief Minister Health Insurance Scheme, Chief Minister Bal Hriday Suraksha Yojana, Chief Minister Bal Shravan Yojana and National Child Health Program (Chirayu) - will be merged into this new scheme named as 'Dr Khubchand Baghel Health Assistance Scheme', the officials said.

A decision in this regard was taken during a meeting of the state cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Friday at his official residence here, a government public relation official said.

Under this scheme, families possessing 'priority' and 'antyoday' (categories under BPL-below poverty line) ration cards along with those being covered under Ayushman Bharat scheme will get health and medical facilities up to Rs 5 lakh per annum.

Similarly, other ration card holder families will get treatment up to Rs 50,000 per year under this scheme, he said. "The scheme will increase the beneficiary family count from 42 lakh to 56 lakh having health treatment coverage up to Rs 5 lakh in the state," he said.

After the launch of this scheme, Chhattisgarh would be the only state in the country covering almost 90 per cent families with the health benefit coverage up to Rs 5 lakh per year, he added. "Ration card holder families will be able to avail cashless treatment at any government and registered private hospitals under the scheme," they said. The scheme will be run by a state nodal agency to be set up under the Directorate of Health Services through trust-based model.

The nodal agency will pay to the hospitals against the treatment instead of making payment through an insurance company, he said.

Besides, the cabinet also gave its nod to extend the financial assistance limit for treatment given under the Sanjeevani Sahayata Kosh and rename the scheme as 'Mukhyamantri Vishesh Swasthya Sahayata Yojna' (CM special health assistance scheme), he said.

Under this modified scheme, financial assistance up to Rs 20 lakh will be provided to the patients suffering from rare ailments. Any people residing in Chhattisgarh can avail its benefit after approval from the chief minister, he said. The cabinet also approved allotment of land to All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Raipur in Atal Nagar Nava Raipur.

Wakeup Movement rallies for Climate Change awareness



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 15 NOV:

Wakeup Movement, a social youth organisation in collaboration with Redendron organised a rally on the occasion of Children's Day (14 November) to create awareness on Climate Change, Global

Warming and other rising environmental concerns.

The 5km rally commenced from Nar Bahadur Bhandari Degree College, Tadong and ended at Hungry Jack, Gangtok. The rally was held with the objective to ignite urgency in combating Cli-

mate Change and Global Warming.

More than 200 students from various institutions of Sikkim like Tashi Namgyal Academy, Holy Cross School, NBBDCollege, Burtuk Government College, SRM University, St Xavier's School, Mangalbaria Senior Secondary School, etc.

Wakeup movement is a forum formed by three Sikkimese teenagers namely Rishal Pandey, Ashwath Tamang and Chultim Bhutia. Tseyang Bhutia and Swarnim Gurung are also core members of the team.

The forum has organized two cleanliness drives at Darjeeling and one Inter-School Declamation Competition at Gangtok.

Rishal Pandey Chettri, one of the founders mentions, "We cannot deny the fact that Climate Change is not hitting our state. Mighty River Teesta is crying for help, pharmaceutical companies are polluting it. It's high time to wakeup. We know it's going to take a while, but if we all are united, we surely can."

Bombay HC slams Railways over women's safety



MUMBAI, Nov 15 (PTI):

The Bombay High Court slammed the Railways on Friday saying "women do not feel assured that they are safe in the compartments reserved only for them", and directed the national transporter to file a comprehensive action-taken report on the issue by December 12.

A division bench of Justice S C Dharmadhikari and Justice R I Chagla said Mumbai is considered the commercial capital of the country, but still women don't feel safe while travelling in trains.

The bench was hearing a public interest litigation filed in 2012 on the issue of women's safety in trains and also vacancies in the Railway Protection Force (RPF).

"When a woman travels, all that she wants is safe travel...whether it is late in the night or as early as five in the morning. Till date, women do not feel assured that they are safe in the compartments reserved only for them and hence during odd hours women prefer

to travel in the common coach," Justice Dharmadhikari said.

"The petition was filed in 2012. We are now almost in 2020 and till date, we don't think much has changed. This is great disappointment...a very sorry condition. Umpteen cases are still lodged each day," the bench observed.

It directed the Central and Western Railway authorities to file a comprehensive action-taken report on the issue by December 12.

The court sought to know from the Railways if it had conducted any survey among women travellers to gauge the problems they face during their travel.

"Ask these women how protected they feel in trains. Women from each strata of the society take trains day in and day out. Educated women are at least aware enough to fight and get cases lodged but what about those who do not know how to handle such situations," Justice Dharmadhikari said.

When Western Railway's lawyer Suresh Kumar pointed out that RPF constables travel in ladies coaches during late night and early morning hours, the court said RPF officials must be boarding the compartment from one side and getting off the other side.

"How do you monitor if these RPF constables travel in the compartment from start to end?" the court asked and added that no RPF official should be allowed to use their mobile phones while on duty.

"The seniors would be doing a great service if they take away mobile phones of RPF officials who are on duty on platforms and in trains. Why are they not pulled up for negligence or dereliction of duty?" the court asked and went on to say that drunkards, drug addicts and jobless youth brazenly get into ladies compartments.

"This menace needs to be curbed by the Railways, provided they see it as a menace," Justice Dharmadhikari said.

CONTRIBUTIONS INVITED FOR AMBA SCHOOL LIBRARY UPGRADATION

Wandering Souls of Sikkim is excited to announce our plan to upgrade the school library of Govt. Secondary School, Amba, East Sikkim. This will be fourth such upgradation of school libraries by WSOS.

We have successfully upgraded 3 school libraries so far with the support and contributions of our generous patrons and are looking forward to receive more such contributions.

We request all to kindly contribute books either old or new or cash for the upgradation of school library at Amba.

Our Library Initiative is aimed at upgrading School libraries specially in rural areas of the state and for laying a foundation for better future of our young minds studying in these schools.

To Contribute Contact WSOS at 7384639193.

ABYF Baptist thrashes Viswavani Samdong in Sikkim United Cup



SAGAR CHHETRI

GANGTOK, 15 NOV:

ABYF Baptist Church, Sikkim has showed a strong presence in the ongoing Sikkim United Cup 2019, an Inter Church Football Tournament, here at Paljor Stadium. In its first match on Friday, ABYF Baptist thrashed Viswavani Samdong 10-1 to enter the next round of the tournament.

Sudesh Subba scored four goals for ABYF Baptist, while his teammates, Sonam Lepcha scored a hattrick for the team. Likewise, Ajay Subba contributed a brace and Dewan Mangar scored a goal for ABFY Baptist Church.

The lone goal for Viswavani Samdong was scored by Phuchung Bhutia. Sonam Lepcha was ad-

judged Man of the Match.

Three matches will be played on Saturday. The first match will be played between Word of Life and Baptist Church, Kopibari at 10.00 AM, which will be followed by another match between HFC Gangtok and IEC Sakyang. Similarly, Wok XI, South Sikkim will take on Church of God, Sikkim in the last match at 2:30 PM.

CM's greetings on National Press Day

GANGTOK, 15 NOV (IPR): Chief Minister, PS Tamang has extended his warm greetings to media persons on the occasion of National Press Day.

He termed the media as the 'fourth pillar of democracy' saying that the media keeps our readers and viewers aware and abreast with the happenings around them as also obligates transparency and accountability amongst public figures and the people.

"I really appreciate the hard work of our

media, especially the reporters and camera-persons, who tirelessly work on the ground and bring forth various news items," he added.

In this day and age, we have seen considerable rise of social media and news being consumed through mobile phones. I am sure these advancements will further the reach of the media and make the media space even more democratic and participative.

The Chief Minister said, "We believe in com-

plete independence of the press and media from external control. It is true that sometimes irresponsible journalism can have a severe adverse outcome for social harmony, but censorship is not the answer."

It is for the members of the fourth estate themselves to collectively ensure that objectivity is promoted and sensationalism curbed. It is for them to introspect how best they can serve the nation and our society and advance their well being.

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

No. 533/Adm/Agri

Dated:11/11/2019

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Applications are invited from eligible local candidates for the following posts for a period of 1(one) year in the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sichayee Yojana (PMKSY) under Agriculture Department, Krishi Bhawan, Gangtok.

Sl. No.	Post	Number of posts	Nature of Post	Qualification	Age (Yrs)	Consolidated pay/month as per GOS norms
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Assistant Engineer (AE)	02	Contract for a period of one year on Consolidated Pay as per Col No. 7	B.Tech (Agriculture /Civil)	18-35	Rs.25,000/-
2	Junior Engineer (JE)	02	-do-	Diploma (Civil Engineering)/ B.Tech (Agri Engineering)	18-35	Rs.18,000/-

The posts are purely temporary which shall cease to exist on termination of funding by the Government of India.

The candidates will be selected through Walk-in-Interview. Eligible candidates may apply with the following attested documents:-

- i) Educational Qualification Certificate from class X onwards.
- ii) Valid Employment Card.
- iii) Age Certificate
- iv) Experience Certificate.
- v) C.O.I.
- vi) Resume (with contact No.)

Application along with all the relevant documents should be submitted at the Office of Additional Secretary (Adm), Agriculture Department from 14.11.2019 between 10 am to 4.30pm on working days. The last date for submission of application is 20.11.2019. Applications submitted after 4.30 pm on 20.11.2019 will not be accepted.

The Walk-in-Interview will be held on 26.11.2019 in the Conference Hall of Krishi Bhawan, Tadong at 11.00 am on the following dates:-

No TA/DA shall be paid for attending the interview. Original documents should be produced on the above dates.

The Agriculture Department reserves the right to reject an application without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-

**R.O. No. 249/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20
Dated: 12/11/2019**

Under Secretary (Adm)
Agriculture Department
Government of Sikkim.

Mehbooba Mufti shifted to govt house in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Nov 15 (PTI): Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti was on Friday shifted to a government accommodation in the city from a tourist hut located at the foothills of Zaberwan range, officials said here.

The move was necessitated as the approaching winters and frequent power cuts made it difficult to stay in the hut which was converted into a jail after she was detained on August 5 this year.

Officials arrived at the PDP patron's hut on Friday morning but the process to shift her got delayed because of some "paper work" which needed to be completed, the officials said.

She was shifted on Friday evening to a government accommodation in the heart of the city after it was declared a "jail" by the administration of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, they said.

Mufti, along with Omar Abdullah and Farooq Abdullah, were detained in the early hours of August 5 when the Centre announced abrogation of provisions of Article 370 besides bifurcation of the state into the union territories of Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir.

Initially, she was kept with Omar Abdullah at Hari Nivas, but was later shifted to Cheshma Shahi and lodged in a tourist hut.

On Press Day

The media might not have ‘arrived’ yet, but it has travelled quite a lot here

Yes, we in the media too have our Day. 16 November is the National Press Day, that one day in the year when the Fourth Estate, forever prying into other people’s affairs and conduct, is expected to turn the mirror on itself and take stock of where it stands and where it is headed. Accepted, the mirror has been muddled and journalism’s tasks blurred at the national level, and that is perhaps just as well because it suits the pursuit of mediocrity splendidly. But that is not the best place to be either for the profession or for its consumers. Unfortunately, even we end up trading in generalities, congratulating each other on having made it this far and return to business as usual by evening. And the ritual plays out every year. A common thread through most of these functions is the frank and common admission that the “standard” of journalism in Sikkim could do with some improvement. That’s what ‘trading in generalities’ implies. Everything, not just journalism is always in need of some improvement, always. It is in the hows and whys that more meaningful discussions can be held.

To get a true bearing of journalism and its development in Sikkim, one has to put some things in perspective. Till 1975, Sikkim was a monarchy. Free press was obviously neither practiced, nor promoted or even desired or missed. And that time, even if there had been dedicated journalists around, there wouldn’t have been enough readers because the literacy levels and the need to stay informed were low. With the Merger came the trappings of democracy and a media scene started taking birth in Sikkim. Several journalists set up base in Sikkim, but the other estates of democracy were not as prepared for free speech and the Press had a rough time for the first twenty years as a part of India. Those were specially trying times for the media and while many crumbled under the pressure, a few stood their ground. The only documentation of this period and of its trials and tribulations comes in the form of Jigme N. Kazi’s “Inside Sikkim, Against the Tide”. Thankfully, at least he had the foresight to record the time vis a vis the Press while it was still fresh in memory. There should have been more memoirs from senior journalists of the time to attest what the present media scene is born from, but that, unfortunately, did not happen. And now, it appears, no one even cares for those teething problems. But if we chose to inform ourselves better, everyone would then perhaps appreciate where the media has reached now. Things changed only with a change in regime and to its credit, the present government has been more tolerant. The impact of this change in attitude manifests in the proliferation of publications which hit the newsstands on a regular basis.

Even a decade back, there would have been very few who saw a Sikkim-based daily as anything but a folly. Now, everyone is habituated to a daily dose of Sikkim news. Agreed, not everything that gets printed is worthwhile, but at least it’s a beginning. The Press in Sikkim is admittedly young and still in the process of finding readers, but in a strong testament to the resilience of the publications and readers, newspapers rooted in diverse ideologies and leanings continue to survive. The pressure for increased professionalism is already being felt by media houses in the State and one only need pick up a newspaper from a decade back and compare it with what is released on newsstands everyday to notice the difference.

While at present most papers are concentrating on giving the readers what they want, soon, with increased readership, they will have to start giving the people what they need. The time is close when the Press will have to persevere harder to live up to the expectations of its readers and essay out its responsibility towards the people more convincingly. The next level would have been attained then.

Till then, happy National Press Day!

WRITE US:

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

Bolivia in crisis: how Evo Morales was forced out

ANGUS MCNELLY
theconversation.com

Evo Morales has left Bolivia on a plane for Mexico, a day after he resigned as president. Morales and his vice-president, Álvaro García Linera, stood down from office on November 10, following a suggestion by the head of the military, Williams Kaliman.

Met with jubilation and despair by different sectors of Bolivian society, the resignations were the culmination of weeks of unrest following presidential and parliamentary elections on October 20. Morales initially appeared to have won in the first round, but the whole process was overshadowed by accusations of electoral fraud and the spectre of military intervention.

Nothing at the moment is black and white. The events represent both a military coup d’état and a moment of mass protest that unseated the government.

FOR AND AGAINST MORALES

The social base of Morales’s political party, Movement Towards Socialism (MAS), are the peasant organisations of the Andean highlands altiplano and the semi-tropical valleys of Cochabamba, alongside a group of unions and federations which represent peasants and rural proletarian labourers. They have an organic relationship with the MAS and as such will all turn out to vote for and defend it on the streets.

This hard core of social support is complemented by those who work in sectors that have benefited from the politics of the MAS. These include swaths of the informal petty commodity producers and hidden wage labourers found in the popular economy, miners employed by both the state and cooperatives, and sections of the lower middle and professional classes who feel Morales has reduced the stigma they confront in their day-to-day lives. These groups, as I examined in my own PhD research, felt excluded and unrepresented within the liberal parliamentary democracy before the election of Morales in 2006.

The opposition to Morales is also comprised of multiple different – and contradictory – currents. First, there is a group concerned with the abstract notion of representative democracy, comprised of the urban middle-classes and university students. This is probably the largest opposition group and is found in all nine departmental capitals.

The second are indigenous groups which do not share the developmental agenda of the MAS government, and are in the pathways of extractive or large-scale infrastructure projects. The most visible of this opposition has come from the lowland indigenous groups, particularly those in the Isiboro Sécura National Park and Indigenous Territory and

groups in the Chaco regions affected by hydrocarbon extraction. Others include groups in the Madidi national park opposing the megadams Bala and Chapete and the ayllus, socio-territorial units of Aymara indigenous communities, of North Potosí.

Increasingly powerful regional opposition groups are also concerned with the distribution of power and resources within the country. The indigenous opposition to Morales in the city of Potosí can be categorised as part of this group, as can the civic committees of the departments of Beni, Pando, Santa Cruz and Tarija.

COUP D’ÉTAT?

Time accelerated in the period following presidential and parliamentary elections in Bolivia on October 20, with a decade’s worth of political events unfolding in the space of a couple of weeks, reorienting the political terrain. Yet time has also slowed down, with observers from afar looking on as if at a car crash in slow motion.

That Morales and García Linera stood down at the behest of the military is no surprise, and the possibility of a coup became increasingly likely in the days of protests and civic strikes between election day and November 10.

But the story of a coup d’état is by no means the whole story – and the ability of the three opposition groups to construct a multitude of popular forces powerful enough to direct the political currents in this moment has been astounding. In the wake of the election, the city of Santa Cruz was shut down for weeks by a general strike – the longest in the city’s history – while the streets of La Paz, Oruro, Potosí and Cochabamba were also barricaded.

The disorganised masses who congregated and burnt down vote counting stations in Oruro, Potosí, Santa Cruz and Tarija following the suspension of the quick count broadcast on the night of October 20, coalesced into a movement strong enough to coordinate and sustain political activity against the MAS government.

During Morales’s final days in office, they were joined by social groups once supportive of the MAS, including the Bolivian Workers’ Central. In this sense, the resignation of Morales and García Linera follows weeks of massive social protest.

Probably the most remarkable dynamic in this sped-up unfurling of history is the emergence of Luis Fernando Camacho, head of the Pro Santa Cruz Committee, from the backwaters of regional, right-wing politics in Santa Cruz to a political figure on the national scene. The arrival of the evangelical right to Bolivian politics – first in the form of presidential candidate Chi Hyun Chung and now in the figure of Camacho – has been a long time coming, but is nothing to celebrate.

Camacho, who speaks of bringing the bible to

Bolivian politics, has been one of the more prominent figures calling for military intervention. The far-right currents in the opposition movements have created the conditions that allowed more extreme opposition groups to burn down the houses of several prominent MAS allies during the night of November 9.

These acts of violence, coupled with the initial findings of an audit of the election by the Organisation of American States of the elections, led Morales to call for new elections, overseen by a re-constituted Supreme Electoral Tribunal. But by the day of Morales’s resignation the demands of many protesters had surpassed the call for new elections and now only Morales’s exit would do.

POWER VACUUM

In the wake of the resignations, both Carlos Mesa, Morales’s main electoral opponent and Camacho demanded new elections without the participation of Morales. The urban support base of the MAS took to the streets in violent protest.

The preliminary report from the OAS audit into electoral fraud – whose methodology has been questioned by some experts – stated that even though there were numerous voting irregularities, it’s highly probable that Morales would have captured the largest share of the vote anyway.

Without Morales on the ballot paper in a future election, a large section of the electorate will not be able to vote for their candidate. This is a situation that some will call justice, given the way Morales skirted around the constitutional term limits, but that will leave a large, mainly rural, indigenous section of the population disenfranchised. Such frustration will lead to further violence if left unresolved.

The resignation of Morales and García Linera has now left a power vacuum. The deputy head of the senate, Jeanine Anez, is likely to step into the breach as interim president, but the route to new elections under a reconstituted Supreme Electoral Tribunal remains far from clear.

In 1983, Bolivian social theorist René Zavaleta Mercado noted the inability of Bolivian democracy to represent its sociedad abigarrada – its motley society. In 2019, the route forward appears to be the exclusion of a large proportion of Bolivians. The wiphala, the square banner that has long been a symbol of indigenous peoples and resistance, has been torn from government buildings and uncere- moniously burnt.

If Camacho’s proclamation that “Pachamama (indigenous people) will never return to the palace. Bolivia is Christ” is anything to go by, Bolivian democracy remains incapable of managing the country’s motley society.

[the writer is Lecturer in Latin American Politics/International Development, Queen Mary University of London]

Free adult education is vital for a healthy economy – and UK politicians are finally starting to get this

JOHN BUTCHER
theconversation.com

Shadow education secretary Angela Rayner has performed a miracle – she has managed to get journalists and politicians talking about the need for adult education. Her passionate speech in Blackpool, and interview on the BBC’s Today programme, asserted Labour’s plans for a radical expansion of lifelong learning. In doing so, she stimulated national interest in an educational policy area that has been neglected for too long.

The number of adults achieving a qualification in English or Maths dropped by 25% in 2017/18. The number of adults currently learning at all is at its lowest point since 1996. Spending on adult education has been slashed by 45% since 2009/10.

In England, under the current higher education tuition fee loan system, adult learners are disproportionately likely to be studying part-time – and part-time numbers have dropped by 61% since 2010, plummeting from 40% to 20% of those in higher education. The Sutton Trust claims 40,000 potential part-time learners – essentially a proxy for adults – have been lost from higher education since 2012.

The decline can be traced back to the impact of the regulatory change instigated by tightening access to Equivalent Level Qualifications (for those learners, inevitably adults, studying a qualification at the same or a lower level to one they already hold) by New Labour in 2008-9 and was exacerbated by the steep rise in tuition fees in England introduced by the coalition government in 2012-13. As a result, fewer adults are accessing the transformative potential of learning, and are missing out on enhanced job opportunities, confidence-boosting and well-being. The nation suffers from a more disengaged population.

LIFE GETS IN THE WAY

My research interviewing adult learners studying part-time suggests a diverse group with some shared characteristics. Many missed out at 18 due to “life disruptions”; many perceived the costs associated with higher education in England a significant disincentive; many found existing provision insufficiently flexible; many take a slow, non-linear trajectory through education as “life gets in the way”; many experience “imposter syndrome”. But crucially, many regret missing out earlier.

There can be no denying adult access to education is in a dire state, starved of funding and inaccessible to many potential learners. The long-running financial squeeze on adult education is outrageous. Just contrast the millions spent by universities on widening participation activities aimed at school pupils. This lack of emphasis on adult learning is also politically and economically unsustainable: there are insufficient 18-year-olds to undertake the “digitally-savvy” jobs required in the near future.

Introducing proposals to “throw open the doors” to adult learners, whether they want to change career, are made redundant or didn’t get the qualifications they needed when younger, Labour has offered the guarantee for every adult to study and retrain throughout their lives via a six-year free entitlement. This would mean any adult without A-levels or equivalent would be able to study for free at college, with maintenance grants available for those on low incomes.

The party has also stressed the importance of vocational as well as academic education, calling for skills and vocational qualifications to be valued the same as university degrees.

A TIPPING POINT?

Hopefully, a tipping point has arrived. Adult education has been in a dangerously moribund state for too

long, starved of funds, bereft of ambitious policy ideas and sidelined by policymakers seemingly infatuated with 18-year-old school leavers entering full-time higher education in universities.

Yet in this election, other parties have noticed adult learners: the Liberal Democrats have promised to give every adult a “skills wallet” worth £10,000 over their lives to spend on education and training of their choice, and the Conservative Party is offering a “national retraining scheme” to help adults whose jobs are at risk of automation. While these proposals are less radical than Labour’s, they at least demonstrate a broader recognition that adult education is a thing.

So why has adult education suddenly become a thing?

This belated interest in the value of adult education is partly driven by a skills agenda – the future UK workforce will need the right skills for new industries. Recent research reveals that 37% of workers do not feel the need to reskill, although 47% recognised that automation could be putting their jobs at risk. Labour’s plans, for example, give employers a role in designing qualifications to make sure learners are taught the skills they need in an age of increasing automation. And under its plans, workers will be given the right to paid leave for education and training.

But perhaps it is not just about the economy. Rediscovering the transformational role of adult education is also driven by a recognition that 20 years of efforts to widen participation and close attainment gaps have excluded adults. More flexible pathways and more transparent financial support will be crucial if, as Rayner alleges: “For many, adult education is too expensive, too time consuming or too difficult to get into.”

BACK TO WW1

There is a delicious irony in this sudden (but welcome) political redis-

covery of adult education. 2019 is the 100th anniversary year of the final report of the Adult Education Committee of the Ministry of Reconstruction, a key policy document published in 1919 which argued that a population educated throughout life was vital for the future of the country.

The report recommended public funding and an expanded role for universities beyond the lecture hall. It asserted that adult education should never be seen as a luxury (as more recent governments have tended to see it) but indispensable to national recovery and effective democracy. This was all too obvious in the aftermath of World War I – and we would do well to remember this in a time threatened by mass automation, the climate crisis, and the uncertainty of Brexit.

The remarkably bold claim for adult education back then was to produce a more intelligent citizenship, and to create a society with truly democratic values. This now seems like a golden age. Sadly, in the 21st century, adult education has become a Cinderella service, unloved by governments and consequently underfunded by local authorities.

For adult education to finally become a thing is a surprise for many of us working in the sector – but a welcome one. For too long, adults who missed out at school, or who lack the confidence to continue with their studies, or who perceive the cost of education to be too expensive, have been left behind and sidelined from opportunities to transform their lives.

If the funding and ambition is there to galvanise adult education out of its slow decline, hundreds of thousands of adults will benefit, gaining personal confidence and enhanced job prospects. This is surely a great thing.

[the writer is Director, Access and Open, The Open University]

Meghalaya stun Mumbai by 6 wickets



MUMBAI, Nov 15 (PTI): Meghalaya ended Mumbai's winning streak after they defeated the domestic giants by six wickets in the league match of Syed Mushtaq Ali trophy here on Friday.

After restricting the hosts to a below-par 157/6 at Wankhede Stadium, Meghalaya rode on half centuries by Ravi Bhamidipati (61 not out) and Sanjay Yadav (55) to chase the target with four balls to spare, despite a poor start.

This is Mumbai's first loss in the tournament and the result is also

seen as a huge upset in cricketing circles.

Opting to bat first, Mumbai failed to capitalise on the flying start provided by openers Jay Bista (44 off 30 balls, 6x4, 1x6) and Aditya Tare (27 off 22 balls, 4x4), who added 73 runs for the first wicket.

But medium pacer Swarajeet Das (2-31) pegged back the hosts by dismissing both the openers in the ninth over.

One-down Shreyas Iyer (15), skipper Suryakumar Yadav (28), Siddhesh Lad (22) and last game's hero Shub-

ham Ranjane (8) failed to convert their starts, as Meghalaya bowlers, led by pacer Abhay Negi (2-41), made an impressive comeback.

Meghalaya started the chase on a poor note, as they lost their skipper Raj Biswa (0) in the first over. Soon, they were reeling at 41-3, with another opener Punit Bisht (23) and Swarajeet Das (0) back in the hut.

But Bhamidipati and Yadav had other plans, as their 92-run for the fourth wicket not only rebuilt the Meghalaya innings, but also took

the game away from Mumbai. Bhamidipati hit eight boundaries in his unbeaten 45 balls knock, while Yadav had six fours and two other hits over the fence.

Mumbai's key spinner Shams Mulani dismissed Yadav in the 16th over, but it was too little and too late.

Bhamidipati in company of Abhay Negi (10 not out) took the visitors home, leaving Mumbai stunned.

In the first game at Wankhede stadium, Haryana defeated Mizoram by seven

wickets, as they chased the 96-run target in 9.4 overs. Earlier, in the first game at Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bengal got better of their opponents Madhya Pradesh by six wickets, thanks to an unbeaten 65 by opener Shreevats Goswami.

In the second game at BKC, Pondicherry defeated Assam by six wickets.

Brief Scores: Mumbai 157/6 (Jay Bista 44, Suryakumar Yadav 28; Swarajeet Das 2-31) lost to Meghalaya 164/4 (Ravi Bhamidipati 61 not out, Sanjay Yadav 55; Shardul Thakur 2-34) by six wickets.

At Wankhede: Mizoram 95/5 (Pawan Prasad 32, Taruwar Kohli 26, Yuzvendra Chahal 1-17) lost to Haryana 97/3 (Chaitanya Bishnoi 42 not out, Harshal Patel 39; Lal Hruai Zela 3-26) by seven wickets.

At BKC: Madhya Pradesh 112 all out (Rajat Patidar 43, Rishabh Chouhan 20; Akash Deep 3-13, Shahbaz Ahamad 3-22) lost to Bengal 114/4 (Shreevats Goswami 65 not out, Agniv Pan 16 not out; Ishwar Pandey 2-20) by six wickets.

At BKC: Assam 102 all out (Rajjakuddin Ahmed 31, Abdul Mazid 30, R Vinay Kumar 4/4) lost to Pondicherry 106/4 (Paras Dogra 38 not out, Anand Subramanian 32; Rajjakuddin Ahmed 1-15) by six wickets.

Bengali film on mobile surveillance screened at KIFF

KOLKATA, Nov 15 (PTI): A Bengali film based on surveillance through mobile devices has been screened at the national competition section of the 25th Kolkata International Film Festival.

Speaking about the film at a press conference on Thursday, director of the movie, Indrashis Acharya, said 'Parcel' takes a "judgemental stand" on the issue of intrusion into an individual's privacy through mobile surveillance.

"With the help of artificial intelligence, every step you take, the places you check-in to, the people you meet, the route on which you commute every day and the place you stay at can be tracked through your mobile device," he said.

The movie is about how this suffocating atmosphere could lead to depression, Acharya said.

Bengali actor Rituparna Sengupta, who plays the lead role in



the movie, said that in certain portions of the movie, she felt "deeply disturbed".

"This is a film which is very close to my heart. It has brought to the fore a new aspect of our lives. Tracking is an intrusion into one's privacy and the feeling of always being monitored is suffocating," she said.

On the title of the film, the actor said, "We all become happy about the delivery of a parcel. But in the movie, the parcel brings in dilemma and confusion to the receiver's mind."

Critically-acclaimed actor Saswata Chatterjee, who is playing an important role in the movie, said, "It is difficult to find

a producer for films with contemporary themes that are executed in a different way."

Chatterjee, who still does not use a mobile phone, said he has often found that directors come up with an interesting storyline during narration but fail to execute it during the shoot.

"But, Indrashis (Acharya) had visualised the entire film and beautifully wove the theme with facts," he said.

Music director Joy Sarkar said musicians from Israel and Czech Republic have created a soundscape in the movie.

The movie has been selected for screening at the Singapore Film Festival.

After Supriyo, Union minister Debashree Chowdhuri faces protest in cyclone-hit district



GOSABA (WB), Nov 15 (PTI): Union minister Debashree Chowdhuri was on Friday greeted with "go back" slogans by a group of TMC activists when she visited South 24 Paraganas to assess the extent of damage caused by Cyclone 'Bulbul'.

Chowdhuri said she was in the district to enquire about the ground situation post the cyclone, which claimed at least nine lives and left behind a trail of destruction.

Shortly after she reached Gosaba, a group

of TMC activists stopped her convoy and raised "go back" slogans.

According to sources, the agitators dispersed following police intervention.

On Wednesday, Union minister Babul Supriyo had faced a similar protest during his visit to the district.

Criticising the Mamata Banerjee-led party for engaging in "dirty politics" over his visit, Supriyo said he would submit a report on the ground-level situation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Dialogue cannot be dictated through coercion: JNU VC

NEW DELHI, Nov 15 (PTI): Jawaharlal Nehru University VC M Jagadesh Kumar on Friday urged the varsity's agitating students to call off their protests, saying dialogue "cannot be dictated through coercion and illegal methods".

The Vice Chancellor also requested JNU's teachers to appeal to the disgruntled students to end their agitation that is hampering "studies of thousands of students on the campus" who are preparing for their end-semester examinations.

"JNU administration would always like to engage in a dialogue and discussion, but the process and form of any such interaction cannot be dictated through coercion and illegal methods.



No dialogue in this form will be fruitful," he said.

The university administration, after facing two weeks of protests, rolled back the hostel fee hike partially for BPL students not availing any scholarship. Students dubbed the move an "eyewash".

The VC requested the teachers to make an extra effort to convince the students that the changes in hostel charges are

not only "reasonable but vital for the financial viability of our hostels".

"It is our duty and responsibility to keep JNU on the path of becoming a globally renowned university for which peace and normalcy have to be restored in the campus. I hope you will do your best in our mission of making JNU an island of learning and enviable recognition," he said.

NGT committee asks Meghalaya to submit revised coal transport policy on Nov 21

SHILLONG, Nov 15 (PTI): An expert committee of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has asked the Meghalaya government to submit a second draft policy on November 21 for auctioning and transporting extracted coal lying at various depots in the state.

Chairman of the committee Justice (retd) BP Katakey told reporters on Thursday that he was not satisfied with the first draft policy submitted by the state government.

In reply to a question, the chairman said, "I am not fully satisfied with the first draft policy as there are certain discrepancies that should be removed."

The committee has given its suggestions and asked the state government to incorporate the same in the second draft



policy and submit it on November 21, he said.

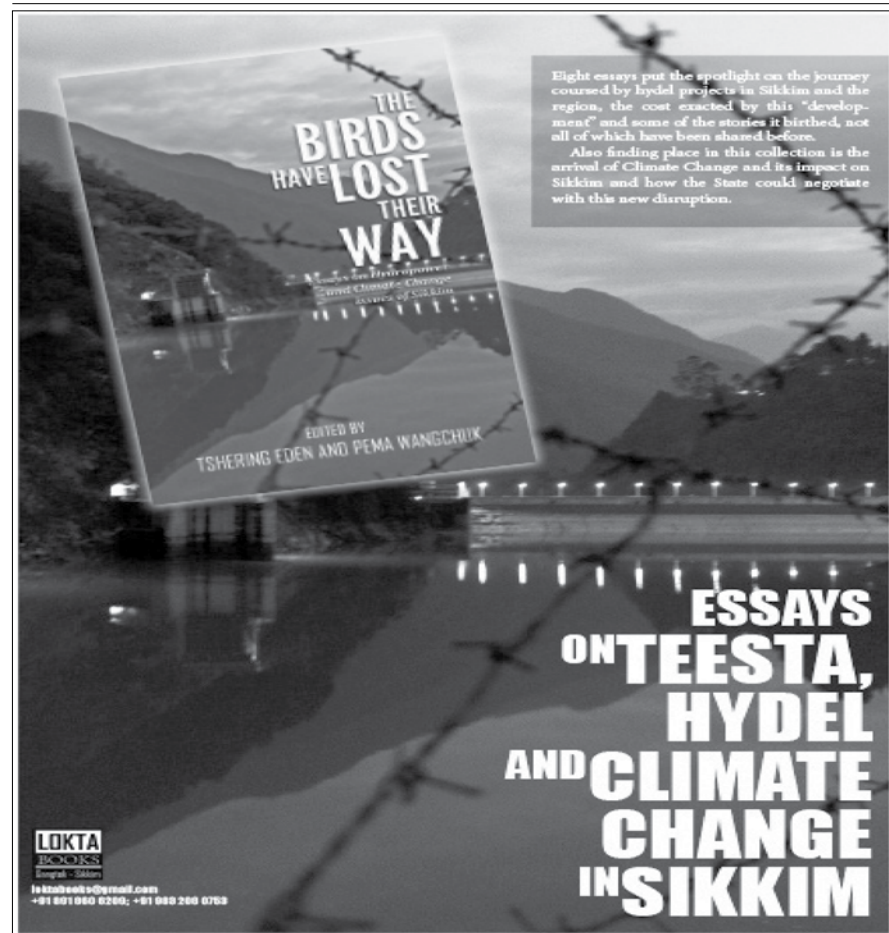
The decision was taken at a meeting chaired by Katakey here on Thursday. The meeting was attended by representatives of the state government and the Coal India Limited (CIL).

Asserting that a fool-proof mechanism for transportation of coal was very important, he said, unless such a system was in place, there was a likelihood of coal that was not put up for auction, getting transported.

"Verbally the government officials assured me that it would be fool-proof but I told them, I want it in writing," he said.

The committee has also sought a clarification whether the coal would be exported to other countries or utilised within the country.

To a query, Katakey said that CIL representatives told the committee that the available coal would not be more than 32 lakh metric tonne and the same will be put up for auction.



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
TASHILING, GANGTOK- 737103

No. GOS/TECHED/2001/V(2) Pt.file-IV/1052 Dated: 14/11/2019

NOTICE

The Directorate of Technical Education, Education Department, Government of Sikkim invites applications in the prescribed format from local eligible candidates for filling up of posts of Lecturers at Advanced Technical Training Centre (ATTC), Bardang, East Sikkim and Centre for Computers and Communication Technology (CCCT), Chisopani, South Sikkim as indicated below:-

Sl. No.	Post	Vacancy	Minimum Essential Qualification (as per AICTE norms)	Pay Scale (in Rs.)	Remarks
Advanced Technical Training Centre (ATTC), Bardang, East Sikkim					
1.	Lecturer, Civil Engineering	02	B.Tech in Civil Engineering with First Class or equivalent from AICTE recognized University.	Level - 9A Entry pay 56,100/-	Written Test on Civil Engineering of 85 Marks and Viva Voce for 15 marks.
2	Lecturer (Chemistry)	01	Master's Degree in Chemistry with first class or equivalent from Bachelors or Masters Level from UGC recognized University. Candidate must have Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics at Bachelor's level.	Level - 9A Entry pay 56,100/-	Written Test on Civil Engineering of 85 Marks and Viva Voce for 15 marks.
Centre for Computers and Communication Technology (CCCT), Chisopani, South Sikkim.					
3.	Lecturer, Computer Science	01	B.Tech/B.E. Degree in Computer Engineering /Computer Science & Engineering with First Class from AICTE recognized University.	Level - 9A Entry pay 56,100/-	Written Test on relevant subject of 85 Marks and Viva Voce for 15 marks.
4.	Lecturer, Mathematics	01 (on Contractual/Adhoc)	M.Sc in Mathematics with First Class from UGC recognized University. Candidates must have Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics at Bachelor's level.	30000/- consolidated (all inclusive)	Written Test on relevant subject of 85 Marks and Viva Voce for 15 marks.

Please note: (In case where no class/ division is awarded minimum of 60% marks in aggregate shall be considered equivalent to first class/division. If a grade point system is adopted the CGPA will be converted into equivalent marks as per AICTE norms.

*Contractual /Adhoc appointment for six month as replacement faculty, no extension will be given after expiry.
 Other requirements:
 (i) Candidates must be in possession of either Sikkim Subject Certificate or Certificate of Identification issued by the competent authority.
 (ii) Candidates should be fluent in English with good communication skills and sound temperament.
 (iii) Age limit as per Government of Sikkim norms.
 (iv) No Objection Certificate from the present employer, if employed will be required.

Terms and Conditions:
 (i) Selection of candidates will be made on the basis of written test and viva voce for the above posts.
 (ii) Candidates selected for the posts will be initially offered 01 (one) year contract term with consolidated pay.
 (iii) Contractual Consolidated pay per month will be Rs.30,000/- (Thirty thousand only) all inclusive.
 (iv) The pay scale as mentioned will be implemented after the completion of the contract term and will be based on work performance and recommendation of the regularization committee of the Institute.
 (v) On successful completion of the contract period the candidate will be under probation of 2 years and will be regularized only on successful completion of the probation based upon the recommendation of the regularization committee.

Interested candidates may download the form available in the webportal www.sikkimhrdd.org of Education Department, Government of Sikkim from 20/11/2019. The filled in application form may be submitted at the Directorate of Technical Education, Education Department, Tashiling, Gangtok, East Sikkim or ATTC, Bardang, East Sikkim or CCCT, Chisopani, South Sikkim with a bank draft of Rs.500/- drawn in favour of Director, Technical Education, Government of Sikkim, Gangtok alongwith the requisite documents.

Last Date of submission of application : 2nd December 2019.
 Syllabus will be made available in the webportal www.sikkimhrdd.org.
 A common written test for the above posts will be held as per the details given below:-

Date of written test	9/12/2019
Time	10:30 AM
Venue	ATTC, Bardang, East Sikkim

After scrutiny of documents, admit cards of the eligible candidates will be sent through email in the id provided in the application form.
 The Directorate of Technical Education, Education Department reserves all rights to the selection procedure and appointments.
R.O. No. 256/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20 Director
Date: 15.11.2019 Technical Education
Education Department, Govt. of Sikkim.

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Harry Kane hears echoes of the past and rockets past Finney and Shearer

BARNEY RONAY

LONDON, 15 NOV [THEGUARDIAN]: Over to you then, Harry. From the flames of the Sterling affair, the dark talk of vendettas and humps and all the rest of it; from all this England found a moment of cold, still calm at Wembley.

Never mind that they also found opponents so astonishingly poor the Montenegrin defence seemed at times to be putting on a highly crafted, beautifully choreographed piece of physical comedy.

Never mind that Harry Kane's third goal in his first-half hat-trick involved him trapping the ball with a loose touch, then having enough time to take a step, erect a picnic table, uncouple his hip flask, download a podcast on second world war tank movements in occupied France, then readjust his feet and slide the ball past the laughable full-body slide of Aleksandar Sofranac.

Never mind that had this been a minor T20 tournament game the ICC would have stopped it after 10 overs and sent in the forensic match-fixing squad.

On a day when England football chose to talk about the past, to reminisce about the giants and semi-giants of that rather frustrating history, Kane did something that marks him out in an England shirt as something prodigious.

His first two goals were simple nodded set-piece headers. In fairness, Kane did



not even have to "find space" for those. Space was given to him willingly, doled out with an oversized ladle by the massed red shirts of what we must, for the sake of form, call the visiting defence.

But these goals were all significant. The hat-trick took Kane to 31 for England, past Tom Finney, Nat Lofthouse and Alan Shearer. He now stands sixth on the all-time scorers' list. More excitingly still, Kane has got there in remarkably quick time.

By the time he left the pitch early in the second half his tally stood at 31 from 44,

and 12 in his last eight. Only Jimmy Greaves has scored more for England at a similar rate. Everyone else up there is going at a goal every other game. Four years on from Kane's debut we can call it: this is now a phenomenal England career.

And yes, there will of course be carping, as there must always be carping, about the level of opposition, the number of shanks and deflections and tap-ins (also known as: goals). But as everyone with an unjaundiced view knows, international football has always

involved a large portion of filler, no-hopers, off-duty chimney sweeps and the rest.

This is what happens. Everyone has the same chance to score like this. Kane has actually done it, and that is a thing, a distinct note of its own. Not to mention another garland to a career that has consistently exceeded everyone's expectations but his own. It felt like an agreeable urgent note, a taste of the present on a night marked by the confected nonsense of England's Thousandth Game. This has been a laughably overblown marketing exercise, albeit one

bought into dutifully by an ever-willing public. In reality the 1,000 game hoopla captured the two worst things about England football in one neat package: the urge to sell itself at every turn; plus, of course, that deadly obsession with the past.

At various stages there was a parade of dignitaries, former players, former managers, commemorative shirts, heritage flim-flam, a recap of the glorious memories inspired by the sight of Fabio Capello stalking about like an angry velociraptor. It is an interesting prospect when you

strip away the codswallop. Because the thing about the good old days is they weren't really that good. Do we really want to talk about those 1,000 games, those times England football became a muster point for flag-draped underachievement? Some will remember We Have Nothing To Learn From The Brazilians and Can We Not Knock It, or Alf Ramsey's van full of imported fish fingers burning on the Mexico docks.

Those 1,000 games? Let's have a look. How about the abandoned game in Dublin, the Wembley games where John Barnes was abused, the friendly arranged to suck up to Jack Warner. Not to mention the other Special Sales Event game last year when Wayne Rooney came back for a half-speed testimonial. This is all history. And yes, it's all worth remembering.

As advertised before kickoff, Raheem Sterling felt the wrath of Gareth at Wembley, dropped as a penance for that in-house scuffle with Joe Gomez. With Sterling verboten, Jadon Sancho and Marcus Rashford both started.

Sancho looked lively. Rashford scored another international goal of his own. Best of all, Ben Chilwell completed a hat-trick of assists within the opening half hour. Towards the end there was the sight of Tammy Abraham making it 7-0: another taste of the future on a night that will be remembered for Kane and the glorious present.

Federer outclasses Djokovic to reach ATP Finals semis

LONDON, NOV 15 (AFP): Roger Federer produced a near-flawless performance as he avenged his Wimbledon defeat by Novak Djokovic and qualified for the last four of the ATP Finals with a 6-4, 6-3 victory on Thursday.

The Swiss started the tournament with a chastening straight-sets defeat to Dominic Thiem but found his best form when it mattered.

Defeat for the second seed spells the end of his bid to overtake Rafael Nadal and finish as year-end number one.

Roared on by a raucous packed house at London's O2 Arena, six-time champion Federer looked in the groove from the start, cranking up the pressure on Djokovic's serve and dropping just three points on his own serve in the whole set.

The Serbian upped his game at the start of the second set but Federer saved the one break point he faced and broke twice to canter to victory.

The third seed, making his 17th appearance at the ATP Finals, is into his 16th semi-final at the year-end event.

Djokovic needed to win the title to have a chance at knocking Nadal off the top spot, but now the Spaniard is guaranteed to finish the year as the top-ranked player for the fifth time, tying him with Federer, Djokovic and American Jimmy Connors.

"Great atmosphere, great opponent," said Federer. "It was definitely incredibly special. I enjoyed it from the beginning. 'I played incredible and I knew I had to be because that's what Novak

does. It was definitely magical. You guys made it super special, I can't thank you enough."

Speaking about what was different from Wimbledon, he said: "I won match point I guess. It was so close at Wimbledon. It was a privilege to play that match, so many ups and downs. I couldn't be more happy right now." Federer finishes second in Group Bjorn Borg, behind Thiem, who also beat Djokovic earlier this week. The Swiss will face the Group Andre Agassi winner on Saturday.

-METRONOMIC FEDERER- Djokovic looked nervy at the start of the winner-takes-all contest, double-faulting twice in the third game, in which he was broken to love.

As cries of "Let's go Roger, let's go" rang around the cavernous stadium, Federer was dead-eyed on his serve, hitting eight aces, including a second-serve ace, in the first set. Federer's service level dipped in the second set and Djokovic earned his first break point of the match in the fourth game, which the Swiss saved.

He broke Djokovic again in the fifth game to take an iron grip on the match and repeated the trick to take the second set 6-3. Djokovic, who now holds a 26-23 advantage, had won their past five meetings, including their epic five-set battle in the final at Wimbledon in July, during which he saved two championship points.

Djokovic admitted Federer deserved to win, saying he "did everything right" and admitting he himself had played badly.

Euro 2020 roundup: Cristiano Ronaldo hat-trick fires Portugal to verge of finals

FARO [PORTUGAL], 15 NOV [AP]: Cristiano Ronaldo scored his ninth international hat-trick, moving to 98 goals for his country, as Portugal thumped Lithuania 6-0 in a Euro 2020 qualifier.

The Portugal captain, whose treble was the 55th of his career, could become only the second player to score a century for his country after Iran's Ali Daei. Ronaldo showed no sign of the knee problem that led to him being substituted in his previous two games for Juventus - prompting an angry reaction on the second occasion. Pizzi, Gonçalo Paciência and Bernardo Silva shared the other goals in the one-sided Group B match.

The European champions were left waiting to confirm their place at next year's finals after Aleksandar Mitrovic struck twice in Serbia's 3-2 home win against



Luxembourg. Portugal are second with 14 points, one ahead of Serbia, and will qualify if they win in Luxembourg on Sunday. The Group B leaders, Ukraine, have already made the finals.

France's efforts to celebrate their qualification were almost spoiled by Moldova, with an Olivier Giroud penalty sparing their blushes as they came from behind to win 2-1 and go top of Group

H. Turkey's scoreless draw with Iceland ensured they and the world champions would qualify from the group, but the Moldovans were intent on spoiling the French party.

They took the lead in the ninth minute when Clément Lenglet followed up a bad defensive header with an even worse one, giving Vadim Rata the chance to poke the ball home. France equalised in con-

troversial circumstances in the 35th minute when Giroud challenged Alexei Cosele, forcing the Moldova keeper to spill the ball for Raphaël Varane to head into an empty net. France struggled to find a winner and it took a 79th-minute Giroud penalty for a foul on Lucas Digne to secure the three points.

Elsewhere in the group, Albania had to come from behind to grab

a 2-2 draw at home to Andorra. The Czech Republic joined England in qualifying for Euro 2020 from Group A by coming from behind to beat Kosovo 2-1. The home side dominated possession but failed to convert their chances before falling behind when Atthe Nuhui scored against the run of play in the 50th minute. They equalised when the 21-year-old midfielder Alex Kral pounced on a loose ball and unleashed a fierce strike that gave the Kosovo keeper no chance. That goal energised the Czechs who hit the woodwork twice in quick succession before Kral directed a header towards Ondrej Celustka who guided the winner home with 11 minutes to go.

"It's awesome," Kral said. "We worked to qualify and it's done. We reacted well to the Kosovo goal and now we're through."

Five world-medallist boxers sign up with IOS

NEW DELHI, NOV 15 (PTI): Five World Championships medal-winning boxers, including Gaurav Bidhuri and Manju Rani, have signed up with sports management firm Infinity Optimal Solutions (IOS).

Bidhuri, Lovlina Borgohain, Jamuna Boro, Simranjit Kaur and Rani have signed up with the IOS, which will now handle their endorsements and commercial interests, a press release from the firm stated.

IOS has the country's only Olympic medallist boxers Vijender Singh and MC Mary Kom on its roster.

They also manage world U-20 champion in 400m Hima Das, Commonwealth Games



gold-medallists Manika Batra and Mirabai Chanu, and Asian Games gold-medallist Jinson Johnson among others.

Rani, in her debut appearance at the world championship

last month, won a silver medal in the light flyweight (48kg) category.

The 22-year-old Borgohain recently won her second consecutive bronze medal at the wom-

en's world championship in the welterweight (69kg) category. Simranjit had won a 64kg category bronze medal in the 2018 world championship. She is also a silver medallist in the Asian Championships.

Bidhuri came into the limelight when he won a bronze medal at the 2017 world championship in Hamburg, Germany.

He became only the fourth Indian male boxer to achieve this feat following the Vijender, Vikas Krishan Yadav and Shiva Thapa.

Boro clinched a bronze medal in the world championship and a gold medal in the 23rd Presidents Cup, Indonesia this year.

Indian women beat West Indies by 7 wickets in 3rd T20I, seal series

PROVIDENCE (GUYANA), NOV 15 (PTI): The fast-rising Jemimah Rodrigues starred with the bat after India's spinners wreaked havoc to set up a series-clinching seven-wicket win over the West Indies in a low-scoring third women's T20 International here.

The spinners restricted West Indies to a paltry 59 for 9 in the stipulated 20 overs before Rodrigues played an unbeaten innings of 40 (51 balls) to take India home with 20 balls to spare and for the loss of just three wickets.

The triumph sealed India's second consecutive T20 series win. They had beaten South Africa at home last month.

Spinners Radha Yadav (2/6), Deepti Sharma (2/12), Poonam Yadav (1/8) and Anuja Patil (1/13) were the architect of the win that reaffirmed India's supremacy over West Indies, who have now lost six T20 Internationals on the trot.

Opting to bat, West Indies were off to a disastrous start as their top order, comprising Hayley Matthews (5), Stacy-Ann King (7) and Shemaine Campbelle (2), managed to put only 12 runs on the board in the first six overs.

Anuja drew first blood for India as she removed Matthews in the beginning of the third over. Campbelle and King soon followed.

Wicketkeeper Che-dan Nation (11) and Natasha McLean (3) tried to resurrect the West Indies innings but the former was run out in the 13th over with the hosts reeling at 34 for 5.

Chinelle Henry (11) tried to fight back but the Indian bowlers kept striking at regular intervals to restrict the hosts to a paltry total.

In reply, the Indians also began on a shaky note.

Teenager Shafali Verma, who scored two-back-to-back half centuries before this game, was out for a duck while Smriti Mandhan (3) also departed cheaply.

It was not a happy outing for captain Harmanpreet Kaur (7) as well. However, Rodrigues hit a patient 40 to lead her side to victory.

The next match of the five-game series will be held here on Sunday.

Brief scores: West Indies 59/9 in 20 overs (Chinelle Henry 11; Radha Yadav 2-6, Deepti Sharma 2-12) lost to India 60/3 in 16.4 overs (Jemimah Rodrigues 40 not out; Hayley Matthews 2-7) by 7 wickets.

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Sri Lankans seek security in post-Easter attack election

COLOMBO, Nov 15 (AP): Worries about Islamic extremism will be paramount for many Sri Lankan voters while others hope to block former leaders accused of human rights violations from returning to power in Saturday's presidential election, the country's first national polls since last Easter's deadly suicide attacks.

Simply put, fear is driving the election in Sri Lanka, a South Asian island nation of 22 million people off India's southern tip. A decade of peace following three decades of civil war was shattered earlier this year when homegrown militants pledging loyalty to the Islamic State group detonated suicide bombs at three churches and three hotels, killing 269 people. The election also mirrors the global trend of populist strongmen appealing to disgruntled majorities amid rising nationalism seen as well in recent elections in neighbouring India. With a record 35 candidates vying for the presidency, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, a former defense official under his brother, ex-President Mahinda Rajapaksa, was widely expected to triumph over ruling party Housing Minister Sajith Premadasa. But as the election approached, the race became very close.

Premadasa entered the fray after an open rebellion against his party leader, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, rallying support by pledging to boost welfare programs and by embracing disgruntled party stalwarts. Many in Sri Lanka's ethnic Sinhalese Buddhist majority favor Gotabaya because of his role in the Rajapaksa government's decisive victory a decade ago over ethnic Tamil rebels, ending the secessionist civil war. But some minority Tamils and Muslims fear his reputation.

Gotabaya is accused of persecuting critics and overseeing what were called white van squads that whisked away journalists, activists and Tamil civilians suspected of links to the Tamil Tigers rebel group. Some were tortured and released, while others simply disappeared.

The Rajapaksa brothers are also accused of condoning rape and extrajudicial killings and deliberately targeting civilians and hospitals during the war. Gotabaya, a retired army officer, migrated to the United States after leaving service. He returned when his brother was elected president in 2005 and was appointed secretary to the Ministry of Defense.

Hong Kong leader condemns London protester 'attack' on minister

HONG KONG, Nov 15 (AFP): Hong Kong's leader Carrie Lam on Thursday condemned a "barbaric attack" on her justice minister, who fell while being surrounded by a crowd of jeering pro-democracy protesters in London. It was the most physical confrontation involving a member of Lam's cabinet since the protests, now in their sixth month, erupted in the international finance hub.

Teresa Cheng, Hong Kong's deeply unpopular Secretary for Justice, was ambushed by around a dozen masked demonstrators as she prepared to attend a speaking event on Thursday night in London.

They shone torch lights on her while calling her a "murderer" and shouting slogans of the Hong Kong pro-democracy protest movement. Video of the incident showed Cheng falling to the floor during the melee -- although it was not immediately clear if she was pushed by protesters.

She regained her feet moments later and was escorted away with no visible signs of injury. Cheng suffered "seri-



ous bodily harm" during the altercation, Chief Executive Lam said in a statement.

Cheng, whose department is in charge of prosecuting protesters who have filled city streets for months, is the first senior Hong Kong official to be injured in scuffles since the

unrest began in June.

Lam called on police in Britain -- Hong Kong's former colonial ruler -- to investigate, describing the incident as an "attack" which "was barbaric and violated the principles of a civilised society". Cheng is in London on a visit to promote Hong Kong's

role as a dispute resolution and deal-making hub.

She is one of the most unpopular government officials in Hong Kong, seen as playing a key role in pushing forward the now-shelved extradition bill to China, which sparked the ongoing unrest. The pro-

tests have tipped into worsening violence with two dead in a week and further protests planned for Friday.

For a fifth straight day on Friday, protesters caused widespread disruption with barricades and rallies. Overstretched police have drafted in reinforce-

ments, while Hong Kong's government has denied rumours of an imminent curfew.

The five-month crisis has entered a new phase in recent days with hardcore protesters embarking on a campaign to "blossom everywhere" across the city in a bid to stretch police resources.

New Israel-Gaza violence tests fragile ceasefire

Israel launched fresh strikes against Islamic Jihad targets in Gaza early Friday in response to rocket fire, underscoring the fragility of a ceasefire agreed after an escalation that killed 34 Palestinians. The ceasefire began on Thursday morning following two days of fighting triggered by Israel's targeted killing of an Islamic Jihad commander.

The Israeli military said it carried out new strikes overnight against Islamic Jihad, the second most powerful Palestinian militant group in the Gaza Strip after Hamas.

They came after at least seven rockets were fired at Israel from Gaza, two of which were intercepted by air defences.

The military said it "views the violation of the ceasefire and rockets directed at Israel with great severity." It said it was prepared to "continue operating as necessary against all attempts to harm Israel civilians".

Two wounded Palestinians were being treated in hospital in the southern part of the territory, according to the health ministry in Gaza.

The ceasefire brokered by Egyptian and UN officials, the usual mediators between Gaza and Israel, was agreed as the flare-up raised fears of a new all-out conflict.

During the day on Thursday, normal life had resumed quietly in Israeli regions near the Gaza border, while in the blockaded enclave residents had also embraced the return of relative calm. "We hope for peace, we don't want war," said Mahmoud Jarda, an inhabitant of the enclave.



To keep a lid on tensions, Palestinians cancelled weekly protests along the Gaza-Israeli border that have often led to violence since March 2018.

At least 311 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire in Gaza or the border area since then, most of them during demonstrations and associated clashes.

- Bomb shelters -

The escalation began early Tuesday with Israel's targeted killing of a top Islamic Jihad commander, Baha Abu al-Ata, whom it accused of being behind rocket fire and other attacks. The violence came at a politically sensitive time for Israel, with no new government in place since a September election ended in deadlock.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Abu al-Ata "was killed alongside dozens of terrorists" after the strike on his home, adding: "Our enemies got the message: We can reach anyone, even in their bed."

That strike triggered almost immediate retaliatory rocket fire from Islamic Jihad at Israel, setting off air-raid sirens and sending Israelis rushing to bomb shelters

in the country's southern and central regions. Israel's military said around 450 rockets had been fired at its territory since Tuesday morning and air defences had intercepted dozens of them in fireballs high in the sky.

No Israelis were killed, though one rocket narrowly missed speeding cars on a busy highway. Israeli medics said they had treated 63 people as of Wednesday night for mild injuries and stress. Israel responded with air strikes, saying it targeted more Islamic Jihad militant sites and rocket- and missile-launching squads.

Islamic Jihad has said several more of its members were among those killed in the fighting this week. Palestinian officials said eight members of the same family, including five children, were killed in an Israeli strike in the central Gaza Strip.

- 'Hiding ammunition' -

Israel's military said the man targeted and killed in that strike was an Islamic Jihad rocket unit commander. "He, like many others, had the tactic of hiding ammunition and military infra-

structure in their own residence," said military spokesman Jonathan Conricus. "Of course we try always to minimise the amount of non-combatants killed or injured."

Relatives, neighbours and an Islamic Jihad spokesman disputed that he belonged to its military wing, with some saying he had previously worked as a Palestinian Authority military police officer. "This is a war crime," said neighbour Adan Abu Abdallah. "You are killing innocent children, sleeping at home."

Unusually, Israel has singled out Islamic Jihad rather than hold Hamas -- the Islamist movement that rules Gaza -- responsible for the violence. Israeli analysts said it was a clear signal the army sought to avoid a wider conflict in Gaza, where Israel and Palestinian militants have fought three wars since 2008. Hamas repeatedly said it would not abandon its ally, but its decision not to join the fight helped maintain a fragile truce with Israel that has seen tens of millions of dollars in Qatari aid flow into the impoverished Gaza Strip since last year.

Singapore fines UBS \$8 mn for deceptive trades

SINGAPORE, Nov 15 (AFP): Singapore has fined Swiss banking giant UBS Sg 11.2 million (8 million) after investigations showed its advisors deceived clients about prices for bonds and other financial products.

The city-state's central bank, the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), said UBS had admitted liability for its advisors' actions and paid a civil penalty.

"The conduct of UBS through its representatives is unacceptable and has no place in the finan-

cial services industry where trust and integrity are paramount," said Ong Chong Tee, deputy managing director, financial supervision, at MAS.

Authorities took into account that UBS had agreed to compensate affected clients and co-operated fully during the investigation when they decided on the penalty, Ong said in a statement Thursday.

UBS had raised concerns about malpractice by client advisors in Hong Kong and Singapore in 2016, prompt-

ing the central bank to launch a probe.

Among problems discovered were that advisors failed to disclose -- or made only partial disclosure -- of price changes and overcharged clients, the bank said.

The penalty relates to transactions executed from 2014 onwards in Singapore-managed accounts, it said.

Earlier this week, Hong Kong authorities fined UBS HK 400 million (51 million) for overcharging global customers for almost a decade.

Turkey hold Iceland to reach Euro 2020 alongside France

ISTANBUL, Nov 15 (AFP): Turkey booked their place at Euro 2020 on Thursday after a goalless qualifying draw with Iceland which also sent world champions France to next year's finals.

With two teams qualifying from Group H, leaders Turkey are four points ahead of third-placed Iceland with one match remaining after the stalemate in Istanbul, with France a point behind Turkey in second.

"We are so happy that we have qualified for the Euro. Now we have one more game to play, and then we'll focus our clubs until March," said Turkey's Leicester defender Caglar Soyuncu.

Iceland needed to win to have any chance of qualifying thanks to their inferior head-to-head record with the French but will now

have to hope they make the playoffs at the end of the qualifying phase. "We came here four points adrift and Turkey are such a strong team. We did everything we could," said Iceland forward Mikael Anderson.

"We came close to getting the result we wanted, but it wasn't enough." Didier Deschamps' France would have qualified for the Euros with a win over Moldova later on Thursday regardless of the result between Iceland and the Turks -- who have been rejuvenated since Senol Gunes returned to take charge in February -- and can now move top of the group.

Former national team goalkeeper Gunes took Turkey to third place at the 2002 World Cup during his first spell as manager between 2000 and 2004, and guided his team to qualification

with relative ease, beating and drawing with France and losing only one match.

That upturn in form comes after a dreadful slump under previous coach Mircea Lucescu that saw Turkey fail to qualify for the last year's World Cup in Russia and relegated to third-tier League C in the UEFA Nations League. The hosts largely kept Iceland at bay in a match of few chances, but had to thank Merih Demiral for making sure of qualification when he brilliantly cleared Hordur Magnusson's header off the line with eight minutes to go.

That was Iceland's only shot on target of the whole match, and sparked a frantic finale as the away side pressed for a winner and Turkey looked to snatch the win on the break.

Russia plans to deliver S-400 missile systems to India on schedule: Putin

BRASILIA, Nov 15 (PTI): Russia plans to deliver the S-400 surface-to-air missile systems to India as per schedule, President Vladimir Putin has said, amidst warnings from the US against the deal.

India announced its intention to acquire S-400 "Triumf" surface-to-air missile systems in 2015. The contract worth USD 5.43 billion was signed during the visit of President Putin to India last year.

"When it comes to S-400 deliveries, everything goes according to plan," President Putin told reporters on Thursday on the sidelines of the just-concluded

BRICS Summit here in the Brazilian capital. "Indian colleague (Indian Prime Minister Modi) did not ask to to speed up anything, as everything goes well," Putin was quoted as saying by the official Tass news agency.

Prime Minister Modi and President Putin held a bilateral meeting on the margins of the BRICS Summit on Wednesday and they reviewed the progress made in the bilateral ties and discussed ways to further bolster the special strategic partnership.

The US has opposed the S-400 deal with Russia with the Trump administration threatening to impose sanctions on the states that

are acquiring weapons and military hardware from Russia.

Senior US officials have cautioned India that the S-400 deal could attract sanctions under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) law that restricts defence purchases from Russia, Iran and North Korea.

India acquiring the S-400 missile defence system from Russia is a "problem" for the US, Admiral Philip Davidson, who is Commander of Indo-Pacific Command, said in July.

However, India has told the US that it does not intend to give up the deal for the purchase of

Russian-made S-400 air defence missile systems. In June, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar told his American counterpart Mike Pompeo in New Delhi that India will go by its national interest while dealing with other countries.

The S-400 is the most advanced long-range air defence missile system that went into service in Russia in 2007. It is designed to destroy aircraft, cruise and ballistic missiles, including medium-range missiles, and can also be used against ground installations.

The S-400 can engage targets at a distance of 400 km and at an altitude of up to 30 km.

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‘BOMBAY ROSE’ my ode to people living with unfulfilled dreams: Gitanjali Rao

BY RAVI BANSAL

DHARAMSHALA, Nov 15 (PTI): Gitanjali Rao says with “Bombay Rose”, her colourful animation feature that has been winning hearts in international film festival circuits, she wanted to explore the story of regular people whose dreams are swept away in a corner.

Rao believes Mumbai is made of immigrants who are building, cleaning and running the city but never feel at home.

“Everybody in Bombay has left some place, come here and are trying to survive. A lot of stories have been told about people who make it big. But there are thousands who are not able to achieve that and they’re essentially the ones who are running the city, building it, cleaning it and yet they’re the ones who are marginalised or swept away in a corner.

“This is unfair, but this is how the city is. I felt that the beauty was not in the people who are successful, but in those who are trying to survive huge difficulties with small successes every day,” Rao told PTI in an interview. The film, which has toured festivals like Venice, Toronto, London and Busan before its India premiere at the Mumbai Film Festival, features beautiful hand-painted frames that have been turned into animation.

The core story of “Bombay Rose”, which Rao has directed, written, edited and designed, is about Kamala, a flower-seller who moonlights as a bar dancer and Salim, a cinema-loving Kashmiri immigrant with dreams to make it big in the city. They both are struggling to make ends meet but are drawn to each other.

Rao said she made the deliberate choice to not just only focus on characters’ struggles but also on the “special” moments that they encounter in their lives.

“Nothing grand ever happens to any of my characters but whatever is happening is very special and it still keeps people engaged. At the same time, I also want people to not turn their faces away from the realities that these people live with every day and that does happen to people in Bombay.”

“Bombay Rose” also has Ms D’Souza, an elderly woman who reminisces about her past to live through her present.

“All my films are about dreams. Dreams can be the past as it really happened. Dreams can also be an imagined world where you wish you had been. So, for me, the old woman is actually reliving her past life which was glorious.

“When you’re in your 60s and 70s and have lived a full life, you can have nostalgia. Every old person I encounter are liv-

ing in that world. I have travelled with my mother a lot. She’s always reliving the beautiful times of her life. So after a certain age, you’re reliving your life.” Rao has made “Bombay Rose” in such a way that it also reflects on how the city’s secular fabric was torn apart in the ’90s.

“For me, personally, things changed after 1992 when the Babri Masjid fell. I was about 17 or 18 and in college. Until then, none of us even knew who was Hindu, Muslim or Christian. Bombay was a very cosmopolitan city then.

“What happened after 90 days, suddenly there was a breach in a place like Bombay. Suddenly the other community became very, very bad. And these were tremors were felt almost daily. So to me, it was, in a sense, the death of a beautiful part of Bombay.”

Besides the events of the 1992, the filmmaker also focused on the present and how the state and those in authority failed the city and its people.

“The present is actually 2005, which was when these dance bars were being shut down. I read about how these women were

pushed into prostitution, actually by the state. It was the same with children. They’re not allowed to work if they’re less than 14 but they’re put into juvenile homes, which make criminals out of them. So you question the state, which is making these laws without any support system.”

Rao has weaved these different threads into storyline in such a way that rather than having a melancholy tone, the film comes across as a surreal piece of art.

“Bombay Rose”, Rao said, is also a tribute to her favourite filmmakers like Pedro Almodovar, Guru Dutt, Mira Nair and especially Wong Kar-Wai, whose 2000 romance drama “In The Mood for Love” influenced the theme.

“It is a total tribute to In the Mood for Love’. I find it so poetic that it stay with you inside always. There was music, colours, paintings, slow motion shots. There is just this one look between this man and woman and it speaks volumes. Also the fact that they almost never even touch each other. “In ‘Bombay Rose’, I took this to another level where forget touching, they don’t even speak with each other. It is only in the end when you know that they are not going to be together, everything happens.”

The movie was the closing film at the just-concluded Dharamshala International Film Festival.



ALL THE COLORS! The actress, Kat Graham stuns the night in a detailed multi-print dress at the 2019 Guggenheim International Gala in New York City.

‘Deeply ashamed’ Elizabeth and Missy apologize for actions on Survivor

Elizabeth Beisel and Missy Byrd found themselves at the center of controversy on Wednesday night’s episode of Survivor: Island of the Idols after they appeared to exaggerate (at best) or fabricate (at worst) their reactions to touching from fellow contestant Dan Spilo as a strategic move in the game.

Those actions not only served to undermine the legitimate concerns of Kellee Kim, who was the victim of inappropriate touching even after she asked Dan to stop, but Elizabeth and Missy ended voting with their alleged abuser and against the only true victim in Kellee. Caught in the collateral damage was Janet Carbin, as Elizabeth and Missy actively used Janet’s moral code against her and

manipulated her motherly instincts for their own strategic gains by getting Janet to vote against Dan due to their ruse.

Elizabeth turned to Twitter and Instagram to apologize. While offering individual apologies to Kellee, Janet, and Dan, she also addressed “women everywhere,” writing, “Sexual harassment and sexual assault are extremely serious, life altering topics that I do not take lightly. They have no business being used as tactics to further one’s own agenda, whether it be in real life or in the game of Survivor. I am beyond disappointed in my behavior and will use this as a life-changing, teaching moment.” (Read the full apology below.)

Missy apologized to Kellee and Janet via social media,

explaining, “I got so caught up in game play that I did not realize a very serious situation, nor did I handle it with the care that it deserved.” She also apologized to all women and described it as “a life changing learning moment for me.” In addition, Lauren Beck — whose name was also mentioned as someone else who had voiced problems with Dan’s behavior yet told the camera that nothing he did made her feel uncomfortable and voted to keep him over Kellee — also apologized in a Twitter thread. These latest apologies follow one from Aaron Meredith for his comments at Tribal Council, as well as a statement from CBS and MGM and Jeff Probst talking to EW about what happened and production’s reaction.

BY MANISH SAINI

NEW DELHI, NOV 15 (PTI): Feroz Abbas Khan’s decision to adapt K Asif’s blockbuster film “Mughal-e-Azam” in 2016 for stage was met with much scepticism. Many around him called the act a “sacrilege”, betting that the project would bomb. Three years and 180 international shows later, the production has secured a safe spot in Indian theatre’s hall of fame, and the director is ready with his next production a desi adaptation of William Shakespeare’s tragedy “Romeo and Juliet”.

Set in rural Punjab, Khan has decided to call it “Raunaq and Jassi”.

He said he was sold at the very first draft of the musical, and believed it was a project that needed to be done.

“It almost became an obsession for me and my writer that we needed to get this on stage, so this is an obsessive piece of work that I am doing,” Khan told PTI.

The musical premieres on November 28 at Mumbai’s Mukesh Patel Auditorium.

Like the original 16th century play, “Raunaq and Jassi” too explores a long-standing hatred between two feuding families the Jagirdars and Chaudharys, and a spark between young Raunaq and Jassi who belong to either clans leads to a compelling journey of separation and hatred but accelerated by love.

Khan, however, insists his produc-

tion has an “original script told in an Indian context”. “It is kind of a homage (to Shakespeare) but it is a completely original piece of writing, and the fact that we are doing a musical, that’s the fresh aspect of it,” Khan said.

Unwilling to divulge much about the plot, he said it was a powerful love story that will resonate with the current times. “I can tell you that the play resonates very much with the times we live in. It’s a powerful love story and restores the faith in love. It’s an absolutely Indian play...it connects with everything around us very strongly. It is a celebration of love,” he said.

The 60-year-old producer-director said that directing “Mughal-e-Azam” was a feat, particularly because he had the legendary status the 1960 film to match up to, but asserted that adapting “Romeo and Juliet” was an even bigger challenge because several versions of the tragedy already existed in different media including cinema, theatre, and ballet.

“With ‘Mughal-e-Azam’, it was a conviction that we are going to be a disaster. Because to even try and attempt to do a version of ‘Mughal-e-Azam’ would be considered sacrilege. The expectations were rather low with it.

“With ‘Romeo and Juliet’ I think it is different because there have been so many versions in different media, but being a classic, it continues to affect the

audience. It’s more challenging because there are so many versions. In all that, I am trying to put my hand up and say, ‘Look, I too have a version of ‘Romeo and Juliet’ and it is important,” he said.

The musical will see the team of “Mughal-e-Azam” reunite with the script and original lyrics by Iqbal Raj, costumes by fashion designer Manish Malhotra, and choreography by Mayuri Upadhyia.

With about 30 artistes including dancers and actors, the play has a total of 11 songs including two original compositions.

While the character of Jassi is played by Neha Sargam, actors Omkar Patil and Mahendra Singh Pal will take turns to play Raunaq.

Taking traditional Punjabi music and mixing them with some original lyrics, the play expects to deliver a “robust and powerful” musical experience.

Just like Khan’s “Mughal-e-Azam”, “Raunaq and Jassi” too has a strong female lead, the director said.

“This play is Jassi’s play, a very strong female voice. Wherever men fight, they fight without understanding the consequences. In every conflict, the consequences are borne by women and so here is Jassi who is standing up to that,” Khan said.

Following its premiere in Mumbai, the show, produced by BookMyShow, will also travel to New Delhi, Pune, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru and Hyderabad.

ARIES: You’ve lost a battle, not the war. Aries, you are in this for the long run, and victory will require more than just your physical strength. So detach yourself from the material plane of existence and turn inwards to find that reserve of resilience. Remember, the weather doesn’t have to be gloomy if you don’t want it to. Exercise kindness and compassion towards yourself. Tip: Find that reserve of resilience.

TAURUS: What do you do when faced with injustice? Do you stoop down to their level of do you let the gods of karma intervene on your behalf? Taurus, the less you do, the more you will gain. Continue to live conscientiously and get ready to watch poetic justice unfold. Taureans who have been working themselves to the bone, consider taking some time off to recalibrate. Tip: Watch poetic justice unfold.

GEMINI: Physical exhaustion is one thing; mental, quite another. If you feel like the stress is getting to you, give in to your need for solitude. Sometimes, you just need to put your phone on flight mode and get eight

hours of uninterrupted sleep. To turn things around, the cards are also encouraging you to spend time with in the company of children. Tip: Spend time in the company of those who make you forget your troubles.

CANCER: To quote the most commonly used self-help affirmation: change is the only constant. What you’ve displayed this week is courage at its best. Give yourself a pat on the back, Cancer. At the same time, let go of the need to be okay or make things okay immediately. You need time to process the learnings and adjust to a new way of life. Be patient with yourself. Tip: You are coping with the changes. Be patient with yourself.

LEO: When you focus all your energy on doing what you love, you become a magnet for joy and abundance. As a result, wealth flows freely into your life. Keep this in mind when you are faced with choices today. Opt for the path that ignites your passion and brings you joy. Just because you are taking a risk does not mean things will manifest immediately. Remember to be patient with the

Universe and yourself.

Tip: Pour your energy into what brings you joy.

VIRGO: Use words by GB Shaw, “The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place.” Do not let yourself fall into this trap. Remember, we are still in retrograde season. Make sure what you have said and what others have understood is exactly the same. When it comes to professional matters, it’s best to put everything on paper. If you’re the one faced with a contract, approach an expert on the subject. Tip: Keep your communication clear and direct.

LIBRA: In a world that glorifies the busy, understand the importance of rest and rejuvenation. Libra, you’ve dealt with some major changes in the past few days. Your body deserves some downtime to process it all. Word for the wise: schedule that spa appointment or aromatherapy session pronto! Some of you may be recovering from a betrayal of sorts. Tip: Take time off from your schedule.

SCORPIO: Nothing will go back to being

the same. Such is the cycle of life. Understand and embrace this, Scorpio. You have the strength and flexibility required to adapt to the given changes. Trust that everything is ultimately transpiring for your highest good. Today also brings with itself the reminder that your body is a sacred shrine that houses your soul. Tip: Change is the only constant.

SAGITTARIUS: You may or may not have the entire road map in front of you. What matters is that you know the next step. Pay attention to your intuition. Be cognizant of the signs and symbols. Trust that you are already on the right track. Some of you are being asked to level up at this point. Sagittarius, you have the power to make the changes you are being guided to. Tip: Pay heed to your inner voice.

CAPRICORN: Teamwork divides the task and multiplies the success. Today, make a conscious effort to work with rather than against people. A dream team, united by common goals, is sure to achieve the required targets much faster than expected. Remember, as a leader, you are also respon-

sible for turning rocks into diamonds and reminding others of their true potential. Tip: You’re working with a team that understands you perfectly.

AQUARIUS: There is a reason why you have hired talent, Aquarius, so that you do not have to do all the work by yourself! You are no longer a one (wo)man army. There is no need for you to carry the load of the entire company on your shoulders. Burdening yourself with mundane tasks is actually taking you away from your sacred purpose. Today, you’re being asked to work smart (not hard) and delegate responsibilities with a smile. Tip: Focus on the bigger tasks.

PISCES: Look at you resolving conflicts, restoring peace, and exiting volatile situations with grace and poise. You deserve a pat on the back for being the light. As such, interpersonal relationships of all kinds will take centre stage today. Be the catalyst of change, Pisces. Initiate conversations outside of the workplace. Some of you may be presented with the opportunity. Tip: Be the light.