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# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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## EAST ZONE YUVA FOGSI-18 BEGINS AT SMIMS

### Strong mechanisms required towards gyenocology and obstetrics in treatment of cancer: Gov'nor

**GANGTOK, 22 NOV [IPR]:** The East Zone Yuva FOGSI [Federation of Obstetrics & Gynecological Societies of India] 2018, organised by Gangtok Obstetrics & Gynaecological Society [GOGS], was inaugurated by Governor Ganga Prasad at Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Science [SMIMS] in Tadong this evening accompanied by Minister for Health Care Human Services & Family Welfare Department, Arjun Kumar Ghatani, as guest of honour.

Addressing the gathering of gyenocologists and dignitaries from various States of India and abroad who are here for the 3-day event, the Governor underlined issues of maternal and child health as one of the significant subjects to be stressed upon for safe motherhood.

"Declining indicators



of Maternal and Infant Mortality Rates indicate the developing stage of a country and it has become a major challenge in the health scenario of the nation. Subjects like

education and health are co-related to each other so people can be educated, sensitized through education about health services," the Governor said.

He further suggest-

ed a strong mechanism towards gyenocology and obstetrics particularly in treatment of cancer. Technology can be framed for health hazards with new research

and contemplation of specialists and experts, he added.

In his concluding remarks, the Governor urged healthcare professionals to continue sav-

ing lives with patience and dedicate their services in the interest of the nation.

Health Minister Mr Ghatani, in his address, emphasised on the notable initiatives of HPV vaccine administered to girls of 09-14 years of age in the entire State of Sikkim as a preventive measure under the leadership of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling.

He also informed the delegates about VIA test being one of the components of CATCH programme organised at every doorstep that helps diagnose cervical cases at an early stage.

He further highlighted the recently launched emergency number 102 for Ambulance Service for emergency check up during delivery, immunisation and medical complications related to neo-natal baby in West district of Sikkim.

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### Farmers march to Mumbai's Azad Maidan for land rights, drought relief

**MUMBAI, Nov 22 (PTI):** Thousands of farmers demanding compensation for drought and transfer of forest rights to tribals Thursday reached Azad Maidan in south Mumbai, eight months after a similar protest was held at the venue. The farmers and tribals who began the two-day march from Thane to Mumbai on Wednesday had halted for the night at the Somaia Ground in Mumbai's Sion area, from where they began marching to Azad Maidan Thursday morning.

The morcha traversed through Dadar and the JJ flyover before reaching the Maidan, adjacent to the Mumbai municipal corporation headquarters. Magsaysay award

winner Dr Rajendra Singh, also known as Waterman of India, was among the marchers. He blamed the government for drought, which he termed as "man-made".

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis has invited the morcha leaders for talks Thursday afternoon at the Vidhan Bhawan, where the winter session of the state legislature is underway, a leader of the march said.

The participants are mostly from Thane, Bhusawal and Marathwada regions, he said.

The farmers are demanding implementation of the Swaminathan Committee report, which suggested that farmers must have assured access

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### Training of Master Trainers on Flying 8 Loom concludes at DHH



**ARPAN PRADHAN**

**GANGTOK, 22 NOV:**

The valedictory function of 50-day training for Master Trainers on Flying 8 Loom was held at Directorate of Handloom & Handicrafts [DHH] here today. The training was held under a project on Climate Change Adaptation North Eastern Region coordinated by the State Science & Technology

Department in association with DHH.

The trained Master Trainers will be training other weavers on Flying 8 Loom introduced by German International Cooperation.

Additional Chief Secretary, Dr Jai Kumar was the chief guest of today's function while Director, German Corporation for International Cooperation, (GIZ),

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### SKM raises concern over rising road accidents, blames poor road conditions

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 22 NOV:**

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has raised concerns over rising incidents of road accidents in the State and blamed bad road conditions for the same.

In an SKM press release, the party has alleged that roads are sanctioned and completed in the State with little focus on quality or existing norms of construction.

After closely monitoring the situation, the party has deduced that the existing contractor-bureaucrat and Government nexus is the primary reason for such discrepancies.

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### Sikkim Himalayan SC all set for U-18 Youth I-League

**REBYNA RANA**

**GANGTOK, 22 NOV:**

A 28-member team of Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club [SHSC] is all set to participate in the Under-18 Youth I-League 2018 slated to kick off on 28 Nov at Imphal Stadium in Manipur. The league will conclude on 02 Dec.

The U-18 Youth I-League is being organised by All India Football Federation [AIFF]. This is SHSC's second time at the league. The first was in 2015-16 here at Paljor Stadium in Gangtok.

The team is being led by two coaches, Pushpa Gurung & Pranay Subba, accompanied by manager, Sonam Dadul Denzongpa. The squad will leave for Manipur on 23 Nov from the State.

Founder, SHSC, Tenzing Lamtha, has extended his best wishes to the squad for the league.

"The SHSC team is



prepared to give its best in the league. I am confident that they will lift the champion's title by beating other opponent teams," said Mr Lamtha.

Coach Pushpa Gurung informed that the players have trained for the league

rigorously while expressing hope for their win.

"The team management is without any doubt the best. This Youth I-League is important for the players because through this league, they have a great-

er chance to switch to big national tournaments," expressed Mr Gurung.

It may be mentioned here, the first match of SHSC is scheduled for 28 Nov against Trau FC [Manipur].

The Zonal round on 28 Nov has four teams

playing namely Aizawl FC [Manipur], SHSC [Sikkim], Trau FC [Manipur] and Nerola FC [Manipur]. The winner of this round will proceed to next round, the date of which has not been finalized yet.

### Hashimpura massacre: Court issues NBW against 12 convicted ex-policemen after they fail to surrender

**NEW DELHI, NOV 22 (PTI):** A Delhi court on Thursday issued non-bailable warrants (NBW) against 12 ex-policemen of Uttar Pradesh after they failed to surrender before it to serve life term awarded to them for the killing 42 people of a minority community in Hashimpura locality of Meerut in 1987.

The Delhi High Court had awarded life imprisonment to 16 ex-policemen, all of whom have retired, and had directed them to surrender on or before November 22.

Additional Sessions Judge Smita Garg sent the remaining four convicts to Tihar central jail after they surrendered before the court as per October

31 directions of the High Court. The convicts -- Jaipal Singh, Mahesh Pratap Singh, Sami Ullal Khan and Niranjana Lal -- were taken into custody after they surrendered before the court.

"Since the remaining 12 convicts have failed to surrender in compliance of the order dated October 31, passed by the High Court, let NBW (non-bailable warrant) be issued against them and notice to their respective sureties," the court said.

The HC had on October 31 sentenced the 16 former Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) personnel to life imprisonment in the case, reversing a

trial court's verdict which had acquitted the accused.

They were convicted for murder, kidnapping, criminal conspiracy and destruction of evidence under the Indian Penal Code.

The high court had on September 6 reserved its verdict on the appeals filed by Uttar Pradesh, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and some private parties including a survivor of the massacre, Zulfiqar Nasir.

It had also reserved its judgement on BJP leader Subramanian Swamy's plea seeking further probe to ascertain the alleged role of the then Minister of State for Home P

Chidambaram in the case.

The court had on February 17, 2016, tagged Swamy's plea with the other petitions in the matter. On March 21, 2015, a trial court here had acquitted the 16 former PAC personnel giving them benefit of doubt, saying their identification could not be established due to lack of evidence.

Nineteen people were named as accused and charges were framed against 17 of them for offences of murder, attempt to murder, tampering with evidence and conspiracy, by the court here in 2006. The case was transferred to Delhi on a Supreme Court direction in September 2002 following a

petition by the families of the massacre victims and survivors.

Of the 17 accused, the trial court had acquitted 16, while one died during the trial.

The NHRC had intervened in the matter seeking further probe into the massacre in the Hashimpura locality of Meerut in Uttar Pradesh.

A trial court had on March 8, 2013, dismissed Swamy's plea for further probe to ascertain the role of Chidambaram, saying he has no locus standi and it is only the police which can move an application for further probe. Thereafter, Swamy had approached the high court with the appeal.

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*SDF conducts Block level meet in Chungthang*

## People must choose between 'shanti and kranti': TW Lepcha

WANGCHUK BHUTIA

MANGAN, 22 Nov:

Sikkim Democratic Front organized a Block level coordination meeting at Panchayat Ghar in Chungthang, North Sikkim, today in the presence of Minister for Forest, Mines & Geology cum Area MLA, Tshering Wangdi Lepcha, as chief guest.

Mr Lepcha was accompanied by Panchayat president, Chung Chung Lepcha, Zilla member, Tshering Ongmu Lepcha, Panchayat president, Singhik, PT Lepcha, Ward Panchayats, senior citizens and the general public.

The Panchayat president, in his address, informed that 90% of the public of Chungthang Block support SDF and representatives from every house are attending the meet.

"There is no doubt that Chungthang people are in support of SDF and its party president. The public here have been provided several schemes, development funds and grants and all must be thankful towards the government and its policies which is why full support should go to SDF instead of any other political party," he added.

He also informed that SDF government has provided government jobs to 21 people from the area.

The Singhik Panchayat president spoke about developmental works initiated by the SDF government in his GPU.

In an open interaction, public representative, Kalzang Ongdi Bhutia, thanked and congratulated the Chief Minister of the State who is also the SDF president for starting an organic revolution.

He also informed

that Chungthang and areas above it are rich in Trout fish which is why net fishing should not be allowed.

"Angling should be promoted for tourism and permission should be granted for this purpose," he added.

He further placed various demands including deployment of one safai karmachari and one night guard for Chungthang, provision of street light between Pegong and Chungthang, extension of unmarried certificate validity to at least five months, extension of fire extinguisher renewal process to at least three years and awareness programmes on alcohol and substance abuse.

The chief guest, in his address, stressed on hoisting of SDF flags in every house without fear.

"It is up to the public to decide whether they want 'shanti governance or kranti governance' in the coming days," he stated.

He further informed that the long pending land acquisition compensation amounting to Rs 230 crore has been sanctioned. For tourism development, infrastructure of Rs 80 crore has also been sanctioned by the State Government including construction of jhora, protection of wall at Theng and Mani Lakhang, Toong Ward.

He also requested all Ward Panchayats to prepare proper and genuine lists of beneficiaries for CMRHM scheme, Janta Mela and One family-One job scheme.

He also announced provision of garbage vehicle for Chungthang and Mangan.

### Farmers march to...

and control over resources such as land and water. They are also demanding an increase in the minimum support price and a judicial system to ensure its implementation. The farmers, struggling to cope with the agrarian crisis, are demanding proper implementation of the loan waiver package announced by the BJP-led government in the state last year; land rights for farmers and compensation for farm labourers.

"We have been consistently asking the state government to fulfil our long-standing demands, but the response has been lukewarm. We are forced to launch this agitation," said Pratibha Shinde, general secretary of Lok Sangharsh Morcha, which is organising the protest.

In March, thousands of farmers, led by the Left-affiliated All India Kisan Sabha, took out a 180-km long march from Nashik to Mumbai in March to press for their demands. That protest saw a sea of red, formed by farmers in red caps, converge in Mumbai from across Maharashtra.

### Training of Master...

Climate Change Adaptation-North Eastern Region, Peter Ross was the guest of honour.

Dr J. Kumar and Peter Ross gave away certificates to 10 Master Trainers who completed the training.

Addressing the gathering of German delegates, State Government officers and weavers, the chief guest said, "The weavers have been equipped and empowered through GiZ. The weavers can get start up Looms. PM Modi has announced a scheme under which only within 59 minutes loan is sanctioned if the feasibility report is there."

Director, GiZ, CCA-NER Project said that the project is designed by Government of India and Government of Germany. It was launched in Meghalaya earlier and now it is being launched in Sikkim, he added.

The project aims to help the villagers with additional income through weaving and help secure them against the impact of Climate Change, he informed.

Two of the Master Trainers shared their experience and expressed happiness on getting such a useful loom and training. Sonam Gyaltsen Bhutia of Echostream said that he will be taking the project ahead involving 4 aspiring artisans soon.

Director DHH, JM Rai, congratulated the trainees, DHH and GiZ for completing the 50-day training successfully and expressed hope that it will be very useful. She informed that the Master Trainers would be granted stipend for the training period and the amount will be transferred online once they submit their bank account numbers to DHH.

# ATMA East conducts training on mushroom cultivation

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 22 Nov:

Agriculture Technology Management Agency [ATMA], East, under Food Security & Agriculture Development Department today conducted capacity building programme for Women Farmer Interest Groups at Saureney in Gangtok, a press release informs.

The programme included exposure visit to the farm of progressive farmer and entrepreneur, Arjun Subba, wherein he imparted training on oyster mushroom cultivation.

It may be mentioned here, Mr Subba has been involved in mushroom cultivation since last



three years and owns around 400 mushroom blocks today.

Women Self Help Groups from Gangtok, Khamdong, Rakdong

Tintek, Parakha and Martam Block also attended the training.

Horticulture Development Officers, Subash Gurung & Laxmi

Chettri, attended the programme along with Block Technology Managers and Assistant Technology Managers of Gangtok Block.

## SDF's recent announcements just to deceive people: BJP

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 22 Nov:

Bharatiya Janata Party Sikkim Pradesh has alleged that the Sikkim Democratic Front government after failing to fulfill people's aspira-

tions in last 25 years has been making series of announcements just to deceive people of the State.

A BJP press release states that the State has been facing financial crunch and the

government has been taking loans from the World Bank and other financial institutions. This will only mean more trouble for future generations, the party has said.

## ICAR-NOFRI hosts training for Maharashtra farmers

GANGTOK, 22 Nov [PIB]:

ICAR-National Organic Farming Research Institute [ICAR-NOFRI], Tadong in collaboration with ATMA-Bhandara, Maharashtra organized three-daylong training programme on organic farming for farmers of Bhandara, Maharashtra from 19-21 Nov. A team of 33 progressive farmers from Bhandara visited ICAR-NOFRI to get equipped with organic farming technologies.

During the programme, Joint Director, ICAR-NOFRI, Dr RK Avasthe, highlighted on the

importance of soil quality in organic farming and informed that farm waste need to be recycled in the farm itself to sustain the fertility of soil.

"Organic farming is a big challenge and we have to identify the market before entering into it. Organic Certification is a must to fetch premium price of the organic produce," said Dr Avasthe.

He also discussed in detail the concept of physico-chemical and microbiological properties of soil and soil health management for organic crop production.

He also distributed extension folders on 'Organic Production Technologies' and certificates to the trainees.

During the training programme, the trainees also visited the ICAR-NOFRI Research Farm and ICAR adopted model village, Timpyem, East Sikkim.

Progressive farmers of Bhandara namely Vasanta Tulshi Ram, Dewanand Mahadevrao, Tanaji Gopal and Devanand Bhanudasji appreciated the efforts of ICAR-NOFRI in organizing the training.

## Kalimpong Shahid Park to get new look

SUMMIT REPORT

KALIMPONG, 22 Nov:

Kalimpong Shahid Park, located at 11th Mile, will soon sport a new look as Kalimpong Municipality has commenced the renovation of the park from today. The park was constructed as a tribute to the people who lost their lives in the Gorkhaland Agitation of 1986.

Chairperson, Kalimpong Municipality, Rabi Pradhan, has informed that Rs 19 lakh [first installment] has



been released for the proposed redecoration which will feature new lights and chairs along with water fountain, musical lights,

ornamental lights and a public toilet. The project funded under Green City Mission is expected to be completed within the next two months.

## Child rights and protection workshop under Mission Jyoti held



NAMCHI, 22 Nov [IPR]:

South District Police in collaboration with Integrated Child Protection Scheme [ICPS], Social Justice, Empowerment & Welfare Department with the support of Namchi Smart City conducted an actionable awareness cum workshop under the banner Mission Jyoti - Flame of fearlessness at Namchi Girls Senior Secondary School in South Sikkim on 21 Nov.

The workshop had the attendance of 350 heads of schools under South district with District Child Protection Officer, South [ICPS, SJE&WD], Roshnila Gurung, Senior Superintendent of Police, South, Shammi Rai, and Assistant SP, South, Linda Palmo, as resource persons.


The programme was organized with the primary objective of creat-

ing awareness on child sexual abuse, POCSO Act 2012 and Juvenile Justice Act 2015.

During the programme, eight Mission Jyoti [MJ] complaint boxes were handed over to eight different schools and 350 MJ pamphlets and booklets on warning signs of child sexual abuse were distributed to the concerned authorities.

Chairperson, Sikkim State Commission for Protection of Child Rights [SCPCR], Deekila Bhutia, attended the event as chief guest accompanied by Chairperson, Child Welfare Committee [CWC], Tshering Choden Bhutia, as guest of honour.

Also present were Deputy Director, Human Resource Development Department, Sagar Moktan, staff and students of the host school.



**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM**  
**SIKKIM STATE TEACHERS' RECRUITMENT BOARD**  
**UPPER SYARI, GANGTOK**

Ref. No. 17 / SSTRB/18

Dated: 20/11/2018

**NOTICE**

On the basis of the Written Examination held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2018, the following candidates in order of Roll Nos. given below are declared qualified for the viva-voce (interview) for selection to the post of Post Graduate Teacher (Language) under Human Resource Development Department.

BHUTIA		LEPCHA		LIMBOO			
SL.NO	ROLL NO.	SL. NO	ROLL NO.	SL. NO	ROLL NO.	SL.NO	ROLL NO.
1	20210011	1	20210145	1	20210236	35	20210318
2	20210017	2	20210147	2	20210237	36	20210319
3	20210018	3	20210154	3	20210238	37	20210320
4	20210026	4	20210156	4	20210242	38	20210331
5	20210027	5	20210164	5	20210245	39	20210332
6	20210029	6	20210168	6	20210254	40	20210333
7	20210030	7	20210171	7	20210263		
8	20210033	8	20210176	8	20210264		
9	20210034	9	20210180	9	20210270		
10	20210039	10	20210181	10	20210272		
11	20210043	11	20210185	11	20210273		
12	20210045	12	20210186	12	20210276		
13	20210046	13	20210187	13	20210278		
14	20210047	14	20210190	14	20210282		
15	20210048	15	20210191	15	20210285		
16	20210049	16	20210195	16	20210287		
17	20210051	17	20210198	17	20210288		
18	20210059	18	20210199	18	20210290		
19	20210064	19	20210200	19	20210291		
20	20210068	20	20210201	20	20210293		
21	20210080	21	20210212	21	20210294		
22	20210089	22	20210214	22	20210295		
23	20210090	23	20210218	23	20210297		
24	20210092	24	20210220	24	20210298		
25	20210093	25	20210221	25	20210301		
26	20210095	26	20210223	26	20210302		
27	20210096	27	20210225	27	20210304		
28	20210097	28	20210226	28	20210306		
29	20210099	29	20210227	29	20210309		
30	20210100	30	20210339	30	20210310		
31	20210101			31	20210313		
32	20210102			32	20210314		
33	20210107			33	20210315		
34	20210112			34	20210317		

The selected candidates are requested to appear for the classroom demonstration and viva-voce (interview) on the following dates at the Conference Hall of SSTRB, Upper Syari, Gangtok.

28.11.2018 – Sl. No. 1 to 34, Bhutia Language

29.11.2018 – Sl. No. 1 to 30, Lepcha Language

30.11.2018 – Sl.No. 1 to 40, Limboo Language

Sd/-

**(Mrs. Annapurna Alley, SCS)**

Secretary- cum-Controller of Examinations,  
**Sikkim State Teachers Recruitment Board**

R.O. No. 486/ipr/pub/classi./18-19

Date: 20.11.18

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM HEALTH CARE, HUMAN SERVICES & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT GANGTOK			
HC, HS & FW Department is conducting walk-in-interview of twenty (20) post as per job vacancy Notice No 894/HC,HS & FW, published in Sikkim Express and SummitTimes dated 25/10/2018.			
All applicants are requested to attend the walk-in-interview on the under mentioned dates along with the original documents.			
Date for Walk-in-Interview			
Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Venue	Date & Time
1.	Receptionist	Conference Hall, Health Secretariat	28.11.2018/ 9:30 am onwards.
2.	Hospital Administrator	Conference Hall, Health Secretariat	29.11.2018/ 9:30 am onwards.
3.	Electrician	Conference Hall, Health Secretariat	29.11.2018/ 9:30 am onwards.
4	Plumber	Conference Hall, Health Secretariat	29.11.2018/ 9:30 am onwards.
5	Carpenter	Conference Hall, Health Secretariat	29.11.2018/ 9:30 am onwards.
R.O. No. 490/IPR/PUB/Classi./18-19 dt. 21.11.18.			



**Gangtok on Friday, 23 Nov**  
**Temp:** 22°C/05°C  
**Forecast:** Sunny to partly cloudy with a little rain in the evening, then a shower in spots

**Sunrise:** 06:02 AM  
**Sunset:** 04:42 PM

## Inter-Departmental Football tourney update

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 22 NOV:**  
 Transport Department outplayed Human Resource Development Department 2-1 in its first league match of the ongoing 6th Inter-Departmental Football Tournament 2018 here at Paljor Stadium today.

In the other match of the day, Roads & Bridges Department held Finance Department to a 1-1 draw with both teams sharing a point each.

Social Welfare Department will take on Home Department in its first match of the league round on 23 Nov followed by Sports & Youth Affairs Department going up against Bar [Law].

## 80-feet Buddha statue planned in Gujarat

**AHMEDABAD, Nov 22 (PTI):** After the 182-meter tall 'Statue of Unity' of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Gujarat may get a gigantic Buddha statue.

Sanghakaya Foundation, a non-profit Buddhist organisation, said Thursday that it has demanded land from the government for installing an 80-feet high statue of Lord Buddha in Gandhinagar district. It has roped in Ram Sutar, the sculptor behind the Statue of Unity, for the project, it said.

"We are expecting to get land soon," president of the foundation Bhante Prashil Ratna told reporters here. The Statue of Unity, inaugurated in Narmada district of the state on October 31, is the tallest statue in the world. Bhante Prashil Ratna also said that the foundation is planning to set up a Buddhist University in Gujarat.

"Contrary to the belief that ancient Buddhist sites exist only in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and further to the north, Gujarat too has been blessed with such sites," he said.

"Like Nalanda and Takshashila, records of Chinese traveller Xuanzang mention that there was a big Buddhist university called Vallabhi at Bhavnagar in Gujarat," he said. "As (ancient) Nalanda university has been revived, we wish to revive Vallabhi university here," he said. "The state government has given us land in Gandhinagar where we are planning to start a university on Buddhism," he said.

The foundation also plans to build a grand monument at Dev Ni Mori, a Buddhist archaeological site in Sabarkantha district of north Gujarat, he said. "During the excavation at Dev Ni Mori, two km from temple town of Shamlaji, they found ashes of Lord Buddha.

## MANDEEP SINGH BACHHER OF MINDSCAN

# Helping students understand their strengths

Mandeep Singh Bachher is the Founding Director of MindScan Education Pvt Ltd -which offers Higher Education solutions for Professionals & Students.

He is an Army-kid, born and brought-up in Chandigarh and travelled the world. He is an alumnus of Yadavindra Public School, Hansraj College, and Amity Business School.

He started his career with GE Capital and has worked with top compa-



nies like Citibank, ICICI, & Tata AIG, in a career spanning over 12 years, before starting Mind-

Scan. Ishmeet - his wife & partner at work, and Mandeep have over 20 years of experience in Education.

During this time they have interacted with over 15,000 students & realised that many students were not aware of the benefits of Career Counselling - which can help them better understand their own interests & strength's.

Thus, their target at MindScan is to help & guide 5,000 students

every year through Career Counselling workshops & assist them in pursuing their dreams of Higher Education.

Mandeep used to be a very active sports-person - representing Chandigarh in Basketball & Winner of U-17 Chandigarh Open in Squash.

He is a firm believer in the Power of Collaboration and is a member of BNI - the world's largest business networking and business referral organization.

## Business & Mind Booster Series with Dr Amit Maheshwari to be held in Gangtok



**SAGAR CHETTRI**  
**GANGTOK, 22 NOV:**

Sikkim Maheshwari Sabha [SMS] and Sikkim Maheshwari Mahila Mandal [SMMM] are jointly organising a Business & Mind Booster Series with Dr Amit Maheshwari for the first time in Sikkim.

Dr Maheshwari is a Delhi-based international business trainer and motivational speaker. He is scheduled to take two sessions at Gangtok, first on 28 Nov at Chintan Bhawan which will be open for all and second on 29 Nov at Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Scienc-

es auditorium for students.

Addressing a press conference here today, SMS president, Ramesh Periwal, mentioned that Dr Maheshwari has already given more than 1500 speeches and seminars so far. He added that it is a good opportunity mainly for youth and students to plan better for their future. He assured to organise more programmes in the future if a good response is received from this event.

Mr Periwal also thanked the State Government for its support for this first-of-its-kind initiative in the State.

He added that the event also includes interaction, and question & answer sessions which will be beneficial for youth and students. He welcomed youth, students, intellectuals and general public to take advantage of this opportunity. The event is free and open for all.

It is informed that the organisation has been working since 2001 in the State and has been engaged in preserving and promoting culture and tradition of Maheshwari community and social works especially in the field of education and for the underprivileged.

## Zoom Salghari MLA visits Jorethang, scouts sites for setting up SDM office



**JORETHANG, 22 NOV [IPR]:** Health Minister cum MLA of Zoom Salghari constituency, AK Ghatani, inspected various locations in and around Jorethang in South Sikkim today.

The Minister was accompanied by Sub Divisional Magistrate, Jorethang, Tshering Bhutia, Nayabazaar Jorethang Municipal Council Chairperson, Tika Gurung, Superintending Engineer, Buildings & Housing Department, Sonam P Bhutia, Divisional Engineer, Urban Development & Housing Department, Santosh Rai, Sub Divisional Police Officer, Jorethang, Sonam Wangdi, Range Officer [Territorial], Forest Department, Benu K Rai, Surveyor, Land Revenue & Disaster Management Department, DB Rasaily, alongside contractors, Junior Engineers, staff and field functionaries of concerned departments.

At the onset of the inspection, the team led by Mr Ghatani visited the Sai Mandir premises at Dara Gaon in Jorethang where he handed over grant-in-aid certificate to the managing committee of Sai Mandir.

It may be mentioned here, the Minister had handed over sanction order of financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh to the managing committee of Sai Mandir and sanction order of Rs 2 lakh each to eight different religious institutions on 21 Nov.

The financial assistance of Rs 2 lakh was sanctioned in the form of Grant-in-Aid to each centre located in his constituency. The proposals were submitted to Chief Minister Pawan Chamling during his 32-day Jana Samparka-Jana Samman Abhiyan earlier this year.

While interacting with the members of the Sai Mandir committee today, Mr Ghatani said that the sanctioned money should be widely utilised for the construction, upkeep and development of Bal Vikash Centre.

Shortly after, Mr Ghatani visited Gairi Gaon area, hospital premises, warehouse of Food Department, bus & truck terminus, power guest house and various sites of Government quarters in and around Jorethang Bazaar.

Thereafter, the inspection team including the

## Sanskrit Speaking Course commences in Kanchi Kamakothi Mandir



**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 22 NOV:**

Ten-day Sanskrit Speaking Course commenced on 21 Nov at Kanchi Kamakothi Mandir complex in Jalipool, East Sikkim in the presence of Vice Chancellor, Sikkim State University, Professor GK Niroula, as chief guest, a press release informs.

Professor Niroula inaugurated the programme by lighting the lamp in the presence of Secretary, Sports & Youth Affairs, SD Dhakal, President, Vishwa Hindu Parishad [Acharya Smaran Chaitanya, Acharya Chin-

maya Mission-Sikkim Centre], CB Giri, members of Chinmaya Mission, Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Sanskrit Bharati Uttar Purvanchal along with the local gentry.

In his address, chief guest Professor Niroula urged all to come forward and learn the ancient language and inculcate an interest in speaking the language.

The release informs that the training programme will continue till 30 Nov every evening from 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm. It will be conducted by Sanskrit scholar from Sanskar Bharati, Fanindra Gautam.

## 1 killed, several injured in suspected militant attack

**GUWAHATI, Nov 22 (PTI):** Suspected ULFA(I) militants carried out a grenade attack, killing one person and injuring several others, in Assam's Sibsagar district on Thursday evening, police said.

The grenade exploded at a hardware shop in the district's Demow area, the police said, adding that the owner of the

shop was critically injured in the blast.

The deceased was yet to be identified, a police officer said.

Several others were injured in the explosion that was suspected to be the handiwork of ULFA (Independent) militants, the police officer said.

Senior police officials went to the spot immediately after the explosion.

### Strong mechanisms...

He also spoke on the role of healthcare professionals towards ensuring institutional delivery even at far flung areas and ASHAs' honorarium that has been doubled by the State Government from Rs 3000 to Rs 6000.

Mr Ghatani also touched upon Proud Mother Scheme to enhance the State's Fertility Rate and Mukhya Mantri Jeevan Raksha Kosh to provide tertiary healthcare outside the State.

Further, he highlighted the strong efforts of the State Government to ensure the best healthcare services in all health centres and about the upcoming 1,000-bed Multi-Speciality Hospital at Sichey as a historic achievement in the health sector of Sikkim.

Vice Chancellor, SMIMS, Dr MD Venkatesh, expressed his happiness over organising the event. He highlighted the enormous development seen in the last three decades in the field of Obstetrics and Gynecology and thanked the organising committee for the initiatives.

During the programme, a souvenir for East Zone Yuva FOGSI 2018 was also released.

The function also featured cultural programmes presented by representatives of various States.

Earlier, Organising Secretary, Dr Hafizur Rahman, presented the welcome address while the vote of thanks was proposed by Organising Chairperson, Dr RN Deokota.

### SKM raises concern...

The release further mentions that people of Sikkim are paying the highest amount of road/transport taxes in the country with zero transparency in place to account for them.

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# SummitTIMES

## Contemplating Suicide

*We notice the problem, but are not addressing it*

Sikkim is no stranger to suicides; and neither is this section. How could it be, given that Sikkim, apart from several positives, is also among the leaders when it comes to suicide rates in the country. The latest official data available on suicide rates is for 2014, and on that list, Sikkim ranks second with a suicide rate of 38.4. This figure, compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau, means that Sikkim recorded 38.4 suicides per lakh of its population in 2014, second only to Puducherry which had the highest suicide rate in the country at 40.4. The national average for the year was 10.6 suicides per lakh people. Although the suicide rate in Sikkim for 2014 was higher than the 29.1 it recorded in 2012 to become, for the second time, that nation-topper in suicide rate, it is also thankfully much lower than the suicide rate of 48.2 it had notched in 2010 to dislodge Kerala as the suicide capital of the country for the first time.

A study of data over ten years, 20014 to 2014, showed that out of 1,604 suicide cases recorded through these ten years, 65.5% were males and 34.5% females. As per this data, suicide was found to be common among the age group of 21–30 years (24.4%) and that 94.8% of the suicides were by hanging. Over these ten years, the number of suicides increased nearly 16%.

None of this is new news. And the worry for Sikkim is that this news and such data are already becoming stale news without any real efforts deployed to either address the challenge or even understand the problem. These attitudes notwithstanding, suicides remain a worry.

Suicides have been a worrying social challenge for a while now in Sikkim and the ignominy of becoming the State with the second-highest suicide rate should now reinforce the resolve to approach the problem from two sides – understanding and prevention. It is unfortunate that despite having such a high suicide rate, there is still no scientifically established explanation for it. Previous NCRB reports have informed that no one committed suicide in Sikkim due to either poverty or bankruptcy. Illness, drug abuse and family problems were some of the main reasons recorded for suicides in Sikkim. These of course are based on police reports on the suicide cases and would be superficial. All that is available by way of any reliable explanation is that suicide cases result from untreated psychiatric conditions. Even this is too simplistic and attracts the immediate deduction that the way to contain this is to make mental healthcare more accessible. Of course there are also the politically-laced insinuations, which, apart from being irrational, are also extremely insensitive towards the memory of lives lost to suicide, to be even discussed with any seriousness beyond the coteries in which they are voiced.

Meanwhile, what is missing in Sikkim's approach towards tackling suicides thus far is any genuine effort to understand the triggers which are spiking mental illnesses to a level where the State reports almost two suicides every three days on average [and many suicides are not even reported]. Access to mental healthcare is undoubtedly necessary, but for long-term solutions, the State needs to first unravel what is compromising the psychiatric health of the people so extensively. This is important, because only then can adequate solutions be fashioned. It is obvious that the State Government would be keen to implement policy decisions if they help prevent suicides; but that would require the experts to first explain the reasons behind suicides in Sikkim.

While on the topic, one wonders what happened of the State Government initiative of 2010 when a conference of the leading minds from the fields of Science & Spirituality was held in Gangtok. Inaugurated by the Dalai Lama, the conference was projected to lay the foundations for a more complete education of the young, ensuring a more stable rooting in morality and ethics which will also imbibe them with a more positive outlook and reinforce them better against the complications and vicissitudes of modern lifestyles; something which present day classrooms, with the pressure of completing syllabuses and recommending tuitions, cannot ensure.

The young, if introduced through a scientific and structured curriculum to the strength of moral and ethical virtues and how these reinforce each other, will stand a better chance of growing up with better emotional regulation, improved attention, increased calm and resilience, better stress management and coping skills and with refined compassion and empathy. Won't these have been welcome attributes in these disquieting times of runaway addiction, suicides and other social maladjustment issues among the young?

# We need to learn from the men who rape

LUCIA O'SULLIVAN  
*theconversation.com*

Approximately five times more women than men are victims of sexual assault and young adults are at especially high risk.

The impact on young people's psychological and physical health can be devastating, especially given that this developmental period is when young people should be developing and refining intimacy skills in close relationships.

What is striking about sexual assault is that, despite decades of research and public health interventions, there has been little change in rates since we first began studying it in earnest during the 1980s and 1990s.

This is a time when the discourse around sexual harassment and assault is garnering more headlines and dominating more dinner table conversations than ever before — spurred in no small part by sexual assault charges against high profile figures such as Harvey Weinstein and Bill Cosby, the misogyny spewed by the U.S. President Donald Trump and the unleashed fury of so many women (and men) who want real accountability at long last for these crimes.

As a researcher, my instincts are to turn again to the scientific literature and assess what we know — to look for solutions or at least a clear way forward.

### ENOUGH FOCUS ON THE FEMALE VICTIM

Here's a thumbnail sketch. An extraordinary amount of research on sexual violence — a concept that encompasses sexual harassment, assault and coercion — focuses on victims' experiences. It asks how many have experienced violence, what factors put them at risk and how they adjusted afterwards.

This focus on female victims leaves one with the strong impression that they are the protagonists in this story, as I have long argued.

The lessons that these studies propagate are: women should avoid alcohol and drugs at parties, women should never wear tight or revealing clothes, women should essentially live a life avoiding young men because, well, young men.

What is staggering to me is how little we know about the men who knowingly assault. What little we do know comes mostly from studies of incarcerated men. But, given how few incidents of sexual violence are even reported to the police and how

few of those even make it to a conviction, these crimes and the men who perpetrate them are likely very different beasts altogether from most crimes of sexual assault.

Other studies have examined perpetration indirectly. We have studies of "proclivity" to commit assault and these usually measure responses to questions such as: "How likely would you be to commit

from men of late who regret blithely disregarding a woman's lack of consent, assuming a power differential that gives them licence to do what they want.

But the consent education perpetuates to some degree a view that women (as gatekeepers) give consent and men (as agents) secure it, and that if communication of consent is clear, assault will likely be averted.



rape if you know you would not be caught?"

We also have delved deeply into rape myth acceptance and related constructs, such as sympathy for a rape victim and the perceived guilt of a rape perpetrator.

What we need are studies of non-incarcerated men who knowingly rape. These are the men who work to inebriate and isolate women, for example, often soliciting the help of friends.

There are certainly studies that have assessed behaviours among undetected perpetrators but most of these have relied on university samples receiving course credit for participating.

Who really are the men who will divulge how they plan and enact a crime that is in the news each day, without some assurance that they won't be identified?

### TIME TO STUDY MEN WHO ASSAULT

I am certainly encouraged by the work on consent and efforts to ensure that young people learn to distinguish whether a potential sexual partner has given clear and free consent to proceed.

I am even more heartened by the accounts

To date, we have a situation in which one of our most effective approaches to the prevention of assault relies on the willingness of bystanders to intervene on a target's behalf.

This writing constitutes a call for researchers to dig deeper. We need to hear from the men who assault. Yes, we can reach them. No, we should not assume that they are vested in helping eliminate sexual assault.

However, one feature that emerges from the few studies that we do have in hand is that men who knowingly assault tend to do so repeatedly. They often have well-formulated strategies and, with the vanity of the con artist and bully combined, can be induced in some contexts to tell all. Or tell alot. And we need that information in order to make a difference.

Let's stop surveying women about their experiences as victims; it's time to really zero in on the men who perpetrate these crimes at long last.

*[the writer is Professor of Psychology, University of New Brunswick]*

# Study sheds light on scourge of “fake” news in Africa

HERMAN WASSERMAN & DANI MADRID-MORALES  
*theconversation.com*

Concerns about “fake news” have dominated discussions about the relationship between the media and politics in the developed world in recent years. The extraordinary amount of attention paid in scholarship and in public debates to questions around truth, veracity and deception can be connected to the role of “fake news” in the 2016 US presidential election, and US President Donald Trump's use of the term to dismiss his critics.

The term “fake news” itself is controversial because it's poorly defined.

The panic created by the spread of misinformation in general has led to introspection by journalists and a reassertion of professional values and standards.

The rise of false information has complex cultural and social reasons. Until now, though, the phenomenon has been studied mostly as it happens in the US and Europe, with relatively little attention to the situation in African countries.

This is despite the fact that disinformation on the continent has often taken the form of extreme speech inciting violence or has spread racist, misogynous, xenophobic messages, often on mobile phone platforms such as WhatsApp.

To fill the gap in information about “fake news” in sub-Saharan Africa, we conducted an online survey in Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa earlier this year. Our study had three goals: to measure the prevalence of disinformation, to learn who people believe is responsible for stopping fake news, and to understand the relationship between disinformation and media trust.

Our survey, in which 755 people took part, reused questions from another study on the topic conducted in 2016 by the US-based Pew Research Centre. In this way we are able to compare our results with those in the US.

Our findings suggest that African audiences have low levels of trust in the media, experience a high degree of exposure to misinformation, and contribute — often knowingly — to its spread.

### FINDINGS

There are five takeaways from our

study. First, media consumers in Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa perceive that they are exposed to “fake news” about politics on a fairly regular basis. Almost half of Kenyan respondents said they often encounter news

the lowest level of overall trust in the media of the three countries. On a scale from 0 to 100, average values were consistently below 50.

Declining levels of media trust are not exclusive to sub-Saharan Africa,

tions. While we tried to sample different segments of society, because data was collected online, it is more likely to represent the point of view of urban middle classes, than those living in rural areas or with lower income



stories about politics that they think are completely made up. More alarmingly, only a small fraction (ranging from 1 to 3%) say they have never come across fabricated news. In the US, that figure is much higher (12%).

Second, surveyed Africans said they shared “fake news” with a much higher frequency than Americans do: 38% Kenyans, 28% Nigerians and 35% South Africans acknowledged having shared stories which turned out to be made up. In the US only 16% did so. When asked whether they had shared stories that they knew were made up, one-in-five South Africans and one-in-four Kenyans and Nigerians said “yes”.

Third, the public is seen as bearing the largest responsibility in stopping the spread of misinformation. More than two-thirds of respondents in all three countries said members of the public have a lot or a great deal of responsibility. Next came social media companies and, in last place, the government.

Fourth, we found that Nigeria has

but are a trend across the globe.

By type of news organisation, Nigerian and Kenyan audiences said they trust international media more than any other. In South Africa, local media are the most trusted. A consistent pattern across countries is the lowest degree of trust in social media.

Fifth, we found that those respondents who believe they are exposed to “fake news” more regularly, have lower levels of trust in the media. Because misinformation and disinformation appear to be contributing to the erosion of media trust, it is important that strategies to address the fake news phenomenon look beyond media literacy.

### REBUILDING TRUST IN MEDIA

Educating audiences about the dangers of fake news is not enough. Media literacy should form part of a larger, multi-pronged approach to restore trust in the media. The findings suggest that media organisations would have to work hard at rebuilding relationships with audiences.

Our data comes with some limita-

levels – or both.

The results of this study, which is the first to explore misinformation and disinformation in multiple African countries, provide some initial evidence that can be used in designing strategies to limit the spread of fake news, and to mitigate the declining trust in the media.

In sub-Saharan Africa, mainstream media have long struggled to gain their independence and freedom. State control, either through ownership or suppression, over media remains strong. The high levels of perceived exposure to misinformation and disinformation, if left unaddressed, could further undermine the precarious foothold of independent media on the continent.

*[Herman Wasserman is Professor of Media Studies and Director of the Centre for Film and Media Studies, University of Cape Town; Dani Madrid-Morales is Assistant Professor in Journalism at the Jack J. Valenti School of Communication, University of Houston]*



## US adventure sports enthusiast killed in Andamans violated laws; not a preacher: MHA officials

**NEW DELHI, Nov 22 (PTI):** An American national, who was killed allegedly by members of a protected tribe in the Andamans, appeared to be more of an adventure sports enthusiast rather than an evangelist and violated local laws to reach the highly- restricted island, officials said Thursday.

John Allen Chau, 27, neither informed the police as is required under the law nor did he take permission from the forest department and the local administration before reaching the North Sentinel Island, where two fishermen were also killed in 2006 by the Sentinelese tribals who are fiercely against any contact with outsiders, they said.

"We even cannot carry out proper census in the island. We can only make an assessment

of the number of people living in the island through aerial survey," a senior home ministry official said.

Interestingly, the North Sentinel Island is one of 29 islands in Andamans where till June foreigners had to take special permission -- the Restricted Area Permit (RAP) -- before being allowed to visit them.

"Even though one filter (RAP) was withdrawn, any foreigner is required to take permission from the forest department and the administration of the island is protected under two other acts -- protection of aboriginal people and forest acts," the official said.

Asked whether the government may consider to reimpose the RAP in the North Sentinel Island in the wake of this incident,

the official said as of now there is no such plan and any decision can be taken only after "due diligence". In a press release issued late Wednesday evening, Andaman and Nicobar Police chief Dependra Pathak said Chau had enlisted the help of local electronics engineer Alexander and a water sports service provider and hired five fishermen to evade the patrolling teams of police, Coast Guard and Navy to approach the island.

For this, the local fishermen were paid around Rs 25,000 by Chau.

"They started on November 14 around 8 PM for the North Sentinel Island and reached there by midnight. The next day, Chau moved to shore using his kayak which he got towed with the fishing boat. After dropping him the fishermen fixed their

timings and place to meet each other between the shoreline and their high sea fishing area.

"In the morning of November 17, they saw a dead person being buried at the shore which from the silhouette of the body, clothing and circumstances appeared to be the body of Chau," the release said clearly defining the circumstances leading to Chau's death, almost five days after the incident.

Subsequently, they returned to Port Blair and narrated the incident to Alexander and handed him the 13 pages of the journal written by Chau.

Alexander informed Bobby Parks, a friend of Chau in the US who in turn informed his mother. His mother informed the US Consulate which in turn alerted the police on November 19.

## WB Assembly passes bill to enable non-elected person to be appointed Mayor

**KOLKATA, Nov 22 (PTI):**

The West Bengal Assembly Thursday approved a bill which paved the way for appointment of a person as Mayor of Kolkata Municipal Corporation along with the existing provision that only elected person could occupy the chair.

The person, however, after being appointed as Mayor has to get elected as a councillor of KMC within six months of the nomination. The Kolkata Municipal Corporation

(Second Amendment) Bill, 2018 was introduced in the state Assembly by Municipal Affairs minister Firhad Hakim. BJP extended support to the Bill which was passed by the voice vote. The Left Front and Congress MLAs were not present in the House as they had earlier decided to boycott the Assembly.

The existing law allowed only elected members of the Municipal council to occupy the post of the Mayor.

The Amendment to the KMC law was carried by the state government to enlarge the ambit of choosing a person on the important post of Mayor of the city's civic body. Following directions from Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to step down from the post of Mayor, incumbent Sovan Chatterjee quit from the post on Thursday.

Chatterjee had earlier resigned from the post of Housing and Fire Services minister on Tuesday.

## 6th Brahmaputra Valley Film Festival to begin from November 28



**GUWAHATI, Nov 22 (PTI):** The sixth edition of the Brahmaputra Valley Film Festival aiming to promote cinema of the Northeastern region will begin here on November 28.

The four-day festival will showcase films from the region and a few from the rest of the country this time besides bringing great story tellers under one roof.

A short film contest has been organised as part of the festival and will be open to filmmakers from the Northeast, films shot in the region or those featuring stories from the region, festival director Tanushree Hazarika told reporters Thursday.

Over 300 short films have been received for the contest out of which the top 15 will be screened at the film festival. Renowned film personalities such as actor Boman Irani, filmmaker Shakun Batra, writer, director and producer

Rajesh Mapuskar are scheduled to attend the film festival, she said.

The festival will also include interactive sessions, film quiz-cinema-scope, panel discussions and the award ceremony.

'Spring Thunder', directed by Sriram Dalton, will be the opening film and Assamese Film 'Bornodi Bhotia', directed by Anupam Kaushik Borah will be the concluding film of the festival.

Some of the films from the region to be screened at the festival include 'Nani Teri Morni' from Nagaland, 'Ralang Road' from Sikkim, 'Chor' from Assam and 'Bornodi Bhotia' from Assam.

Some of the other feature films to be screened at the festival are 'Devil', 'Rockumentary-Evolution of Indian Rock', 'The Lost Idea', 'IYE: The Others' among others.

Assamese film director Pulak Gogoi will be honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award on December 1, she said.

## Brus in North Tripura to vote in Mizoram's Kangmun village

**AIZAWL, Nov 22 (PTI):** Bru voters residing in North Tripura would exercise their franchise at Kanmun village in Mizoram's Mamit district during the Assembly polls, the Election Commission said Thursday.

The EC took a decision in this regard on Wednesday. While 15 polling stations have been set up for them in a playground, six have come up inside the indoor stadium across it, the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Mizoram, Ashish Kundra, said.

Six officers have been deployed there, the CEO said, adding that all sector magistrates and booth-level officers would reach the polling premises by Friday morning.

Strict security arrangements have been

made in the area, he said.

Village leaders and civil societies have pledged that the Bru voters would be welcomed with food and drinks at the polling stations, the CEO said.

A total of 12,037 Bru voters are residing in six relief camps in North Tripura, election officials said. The Brus had fled Mizoram following ethnic clashes in 1997. The place of voting for Bru voters in Tripura relief camps has been a bone of contention, leading to the replacement of the then chief electoral officer, S B Shashank, less than two weeks ahead of the election to the 40-member House.

Shashank had been accused of facilitating voting by Bru voters in the relief camps of Tripura.

## Make disaster expenses public, MNF leader asks Cong govt

**AIZAWL, Nov 22 (PTI):** A senior leader of the opposition Mizo National front (MNF) today demanded that the Congress government in the state provide details of expenses to help the people affected by the natural disaster last year.

At least 13 people were killed, 172 domestic animals perished and over 3,000 houses destroyed in the landslides and flood between May and July 2017, Lalhming Liana, a former Rajya Sabha member, said.

Liana also accused Chief Minister Lalthanhawla of ignoring disaster affected people of his own state while sending Rs 2 crore for

the flood-hit population of Kerala.

"The Centre had released Rs 35.97 crore on March eight, 2018 for the disaster affected people of Mizoram. But how the fund was utilised was never known," Liana, also chairman of MNF's internal vigilance committee, said.

He demanded that the government make public the details of how it has utilised the central fund.

The state government disbursed Rs 2 crore as relief for the Kerala flood victims and 34 ruling legislators were asked to contribute Rs 1 lakh each separately, he said.

But the ruling party

legislators did not immediately pay the amount from their local area development scheme and Rs 34 lakh was sent to Kerala from the account of the state Disaster Management and Rehabilitation department, he claimed.

The Congress government promptly helped people of another state but failed to provide compensation and relief to Mizoram's own people, Liana alleged.

Election to the 40-member Mizoram Assembly will be held on November 28. Mizoram is the only state in the northeastern region where the Congress is in power.

## Elderly sentenced to imprisonment for molesting minor

**KOLKATA, Nov 22 (PTI):** A 72-year-old man was sentenced to three years of rigorous imprisonment by a city court Thursday for molesting a minor girl who worked as a help at his residence.

The retired engineer was accused of molesting the girl and peeping into the bathroom when she was taking bath at his residence in Phoolbagan

area of east Kolkata.

Special judge (POCSO) at Sealdah Court Jimut Bahan Biswas sentenced Tapan Bhattacharyya to three years of rigorous imprisonment and imposed on him a fine of Rs 20,000 for the offence.

The girl had filed the complaint with the Phoolbagan police station on October 31 this year with the help of a local

woman to whom she had narrated her ordeal, special public prosecutor Vivek Sharma said.

The 14-year-old girl had been sent by her family to work as a help at Bhattacharyya's home owing to abject poverty, Sharma said. Bhattacharyya was charged under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.

## HC quashes defamation case against magazine, says can't allow 'mighty' State to 'trample' press

**CHENNAI, Nov 22 (PTI):** If the press is gagged for publishing news, democracy in this country will be in utter peril and India will become a Nazi State, the Madras High Court has observed while quashing a defamation case filed against a magazine by the AIADMK government in 2012.

Justice PN Prakash allowed two petitions filed by the management of India Today Tamil Magazine challenging the prosecution proceedings initiated against it before the Principal Sessions Court, Chennai.

Ruling that the proceedings before the lower court were an abuse of process of law, the judge said the court will be failing in its duty if such attempts by the "mighty State" to "trample the press for no good reason" are not resisted.

The matter relates to an article published by the magazine dated August 8, 2012, in which it was alleged that at the instance of Sasikala the then Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa removed Sengottaiyan as minister, following which the City Public Prosecutor filed a defamation case.

"For publishing a news, if the press is gagged, democracy



in this country will be in utter peril," the court observed.

"India is a vibrant democracy and the fourth estate is indubitably an indispensable part of it. If the voice of the fourth estate is stifled in this manner, India will become a Nazi State and the hard labour of our freedom-fighters and makers of our Constitution will go down the drain. "There may

be some occasional transgressions by the press. However, in the larger interest of sustaining democracy, those aberrations deserve to be ignored," Justice Prakash said.

In his order, the judge said, "On a reading of the aforesaid portions, this court is not able to find even an iota of material to show that there is any imputation intending to harm the

reputation of Jayalalithaa, she then Chief Minister."

The judge refused to accept the arguments of public prosecutor A Natarajan that on reading of the entire article, the public could draw an inference that Sengottaiyan was removed from ministership only at the instance of Sasikala and this would amount to imputation.

"Nobody is invited with platters for coming into public life. Therefore, after voluntarily coming into public life, one cannot be heard to feign sensitivity and trample the press for no good reason.

"This constitutional court will be failing in its duty if such attempts by the mighty state are not resisted," the judge said in his order last week.

Justice Prakash said even on a reading of the entire article, "the court is not able to draw such an inference as argued by the public prosecutor."

"Further, it is not open to this court to strain the language employed in the article or to read between the lines, for arriving at such an inference.

"That apart, for maintaining a complaint of defamation via section 199 (2) to (4) CrPC, the imputation should be in respect of the conduct of the public servant in the discharge of his public functions.

"The impugned paragraphs extracted from the article only refer to the gaining of influence by Sasikala in the party affairs after a brief period of hibernation and coming back into the party fold," the judge said.



# Mary Kom storms into 48kg final, stays on course for sixth gold

**PHILEM DIPAK SINGH**  
**NEW DELHI, Nov 22 (PTI):** MC Mary Kom was the queen and the Indira Gandhi Stadium her queendom as she stormed into final of the Women's World Boxing Championship here Thursday, staying on course for an unprecedented sixth gold.

The Indian pugilist beat North Korea's Kim Hyang Mi to reach the 48kg final. The 35-year-old five-time world champion beat her North Korean opponent in a unanimous decision of the five judges in the semifinals.

By reaching the final, she has already become the most successful woman pugilist in the event's history.

Mary Kom entered the event with a remarkable tally of five gold medals and a silver to her credit. She last won a world championship medal in 2010 -- a 48kg



category gold.

Before this World Championship, the Manipuri was tied with Irish legend Katie Taylor (five gold and a bronze) in the number of medals won.

Taylor now plies her trade in the professional circuit.

If the diminutive Manipuri, also called 'Magnificent Mary', wins a gold on Saturday, she will match Cuban men's

legend Felix Savon as the joint most successful pugilist in the World Championships history.

Savon, who also won three Olympic gold medals during an illustrious

career, won six gold and one silver in heavyweight in the World Championships between 1986 and 1989.

"I have beaten the North Korean opponent in the Asian Champion-

ships last year and that time it was a one-sided bout. But win or lose, every boxer always learn and I think she has learnt (from that bout). At the same time I also have learnt and I came prepared to defend and counter. I am happy that I am in the final," she said after the bout.

"My opponent was taller than me and strong also. Taller boxers can have the advantage, they can get inside immediately and come back again. But once inside the ring, I don't care whether my opponent is tall or not, I play my game and once I know hers, I do my own," she added.

In the final, Mary Kom will face Ukraine's Hanna Okhota whom the Indian had beaten in a tournament in Poland this year.

"I have beaten her in Poland. I will read that bout and plan the strategy. I hope to beat her again."

## Kynan Chenai is new national trap shooting champion

**JAIPUR, Nov 22 (PTI):** Kynan Chenai claimed the men's trap gold medal after getting the better of Asian Games silver winner Lakshay Sheoran at the 62nd National Shooting Championships here on Thursday.

Kynan, representing Telangana, shot 43 out of 50 to pip Haryana's Lakshay, who managed 42. Tamil Nadu's Prithviraj Tondaiman, who had topped the qualification round with a 124 out of 125, won bronze with a final round score of 33 hits.

In a strong men's trap

field, which had the likes of former world champion Manavjit Singh Sandhu among others, Kynan began the day in seventh position, just outside the top six who make it through and needing a solid round. He obliged with a 24 out of 25 for a tally of 118, which placed him fourth in the standings.

In the junior men's trap however, Lakshay won gold with a finals score of 47, while Manavadiya Singh Rathore won silver for Rajasthan with a score of 39.

## World Cup Hockey: It will be privilege to play India in first game, says SA captain Drummond



**BHUBANESWAR, Nov 22 (PTI):** Playing hosts India in the opening match of the World Cup Hockey is the kind of challenge any team awaits, said South African captain Tim Drummond.

South Africa will be playing India in a pool C encounter at the Kalinga Stadium on November 28.

"It will be a privilege to play India in the first match and experience the crowd. I have heard it is going to be very loud with all the cheering," Drummond said.

"Though it's not my first time in India, many of my teammates are travelling here for the first time and they are very excited to be playing in Bhubaneswar, which has great support for hockey," the South African captain added.

He is confident that they will improve from their 10th place finish during the last edition.

"South Africa's best performance in the past was finishing 10th and we will certainly be looking at improving that. Our aim is to give our best and make our coun-

try proud. We played four test matches against France before arriving here so we have had some good match practice ahead of the tournament," he added. The team's have started arriving and Argentina, one of the formidable sides are already in the city.

Argentina's dragflick sensation Gonzalo Peillat said, "It will be a great tournament, playing in Bhubaneswar again in front of a crazy crowd. The entire team is looking forward to it and are very excited to be back."

The Olympic champions have a new chief coach in Germ n Mariano Orozco, who replaced former Chief Coach Carlos Retegui in early 2018 and is a former defender for Argentina having played the Olympic Games in 2000 and 2004.

"I think we have good experience and have played quite a few tournaments in the lead up to the World Cup under new coach Orozco. We have been performing well under him," said a confident Peillat.

## Ramesh's presence has changed our mindset: Harmanpreet on new coach



**NORTH SOUND (ANTI-GUA), Nov 22 (PTI):** India captain Harmanpreet Kaur credited new coach Ramesh Powar for his contribution in team building process which has gone a long way in India's praiseworthy performance in the ongoing ICC Women's World T20, where they have reached semi-finals.

India will meet England in the semi-finals in the early hours of Friday morning (India time).

Powar was appointed after Tushar Arothe's departure under controversial circumstances when some senior members didn't like erstwhile coach's training methods and performance dipped after the high of ODI World Cup.

"We have better plans and we can aim bigger now. The self-belief (is different). I can give credit to Ramesh (Powar), because from the time he joined our team, our mindset and approach has totally changed," Harmanpreet said on the eve of semi-final against England.

The aim will be to carry on with the winning momentum rather than thinking about revenge, said Indian captain.

England had defeated India by nine runs in the in the 50-over World Cup final last year. However, the 'Women in Blue' have had a fantastic run in the T20 tournament so far, beating all three opponents in the group stage including Australia.

"We need to live in

the present. At present, we're doing really well, I think. Other than thinking about the past, we just need to think what we need to do in the next game," she played down on the revenge part.

"We're taking it as another game. We just need to focus on what we have done well in the last league games and those things we need to just continue now," Harmanpreet said on the eve of their semi-final.

England captain Heather Knight insisted Friday's clash will be different to last year's ODI World Cup.

"We take confidence from the fact that we performed in knockout matches before, but I don't think it (the 50-over final) counts for anything with the game tomorrow. It's a different format, different team for India, different captain for them and things like that." "It's all going to be about tomorrow. We know T20 cricket, it's whoever turns up on the day. It's about us going out and putting on a really strong performance, showing the good things that we've done," she added. Knight also said her side has noted and worked on how they intend on scoring runs against India's effective spin attack.

"India have been very effective taking pace off the ball. So we'll also look to that and how we're going to go about playing it and how we are going to have our method to score runs.

## NorthEast keen to break home jinx as Kerala come calling

**GUWAHATI, Nov 22 (PTI):** North-East United FC will look to break their winless jinx at home when they host Kerala Blasters in the Hero Indian Super League here on Friday.

NorthEast have been impressive in the Indian Super League with 11 points from their first six matches. They are just below the top four at the moment, but with a match in hand could quite easily make the jump.

There is one problem though for the Highlanders. They've won three matches so far and all of them have been away from home.

A lot would depend on Bartholomew Ogbeche, who has scored more than 50 per cent of the goals for NorthEast this season. When the Nigerian striker has got on the scoresheet, NorthEast have never lost a game.

Coach Eelco Schattorie has been boosted by the return of defender Mislav Komorski. He, however, did admit that one of his foreign players has suffered a season-ending injury.

"We have one foreigner in-

jured who might not play for the entire season, but I will not name him now as it can be an advantage for the opponents. Barth (Bartholomew Ogbeche) had some injury but he is back. We have some Indian players injured but this is part of football," said Schattorie.

Kerala Blasters haven't won a single game since their opening day victory over ATK. Coach David James has struggled to get his team going and the South Indian side is coming into the game on the back of two home defeats against Bengaluru FC and FC Goa.

Just like every other season for Kerala, they are struggling for goals. They haven't created many goal scoring opportunities either, leaving James to put up a defiant front.

"Our performances have been decent enough except for one match which is the Goa game where we didn't perform well enough. Goa are very good side. You have to accept on some occasions that some teams are better than you.

"In the other six games, including the Bengaluru game, we had decent performances. We always want to win games, want to qualify and win the ISL. We aim for three points," said James.

Anas Edathodika has struggled for minutes this season and although he was brought into the starting line-up against FC Goa, his performance left a lot to be desired. Whether James opts to field an all-Indian defence against the likes of Ogbeche and Federico Gallego remains to be seen.

It will be a homecoming of sorts for Seminlen Doungel and Halicharan Narzary as they line-up against their former side.

"I think they are a very unpredictable team. Their strength is that they are a little opportunistic like they have players like Len Doungel and Halicharan Narzary who were in our team last time.

"They are good with dribbles, they play long balls. Defensively they have some weaknesses which I am not going to address. I studied the team well," said Schattorie.

## 2nd T20 International: Desperate India may look to rejig team composition

**CHETAN NARULA**

**MELBOURNE, Nov 22 (PTI):** Stung by a narrow loss in the opening encounter, India will like to reassess their playing combination while aiming for a swift turn-around when they take on Australia in the second T20I in Melbourne on Friday. The hosts took a 1-0 lead in the three-match series, which comprise three back-to-back matches in a short span of five days.

Having won seven consecutive bilateral T20 series, Kohli and his men will certainly want to make it eight in a row and for that they may be forced to rejig both their batting and bowling combinations.

Bidding for an eighth victory on the bounce now doesn't seem as straightforward a proposition as it looked earlier with the hosts ready to come all guns blazing after their all-round show in the first game.

The Indian batting line-up could see some rejigging in light of KL Rahul's patchy form. Since scoring 101 not out in the first T20I against England at Manchester, Rahul hasn't been able to cross the 30-run mark in next six matches.

The team management has persisted with him at number three, benched Manish Pandey and the skipper demoting himself to number four.

Consistency is need of the hour from Rahul, especially considering that he is also set to be a part of India's top-order in the ensuing Test series.

The team management could also be tempted to have a re-look at the bowling attack.



On a grassy surface, Krunal Pandya was plundered for 55 runs in his four wicketless overs and was hit for as many as half a dozen sixes.

If the MCG is also of Gabba's nature, Kohli might be tempted to bring in leg spinner Yuzvendra Chahal, who boasts of a brilliant wicket-taking record in T20Is. Even then, it remains to be seen if the team management rings in any changes after such a close defeat, especially when the balance is disturbed.

Leaving Pandya out would leave them a batsman short and Kohli might not be keen on taking that gamble. The loss, however narrow, has indeed cast such minute doubts on the Indian team's strategic preparations in a format, which they have dominated since

July 2017. In the lead-up to the first match, skipper Kohli had spoken about the need to cut down on mistakes and regaining an upper hand at crucial junctures of a game.

At Brisbane, the 'Men in Blue' were found slacking in the field and it proved to be the ultimate difference in a see-sawing game.

Even Kohli himself was guilty of poor effort on the field on at least two occasions, dropping counterpart Aaron Finch in the fourth over and later involved in a misfielding from the deep.

Australia boasts of bigger grounds than in India, with bigger boundaries of course, and the MCG will prove to be another humongous challenge in that regard. The task is cut out in front of

the team management to work on fielding angles to elevate their efforts in the second T20I. It doesn't help that there is such a short turn-around time during this series, that fielding coach R Sridhar won't be able to work with the players at the MCG. Any improvements in the field will have to be drilled in theoretically in the dressing room. And thus India will also seek to look at other areas where improvements can be made.

The ploy to introduce Adam Zampa as the lone spinner worked wonders for Australia and with an intense fielding effort, Australia were able to make a winning difference.

Things seem very different in the hosts' camp all of a sudden, when they were simply considered second best to the Men in Blue across all departments less than 48 hours ago.

Melbourne is experiencing a stormy spell in the latter half of this week, so there is a slight chance that the second T20I could also be rain-affected.

Teams:

India: Virat Kohli (capt), Shikhar Dhawan, Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul, Manish Pandey, Shreyas Iyer, Dinesh Karthik (wk), Rishabh Pant, Krunal Pandya, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Umesh Yadav, Khaleel Ahmed, Washington Sundar.

Australia: Aaron Finch (capt), Ashton Agar, Jason Behrendorff, Alex Carey, Nathan Coulter-Nile, Chris Lynn, Ben McDermott, Glenn Maxwell, D'Arcy Short, Billy Stanlake, Marcus Stoinis, Andrew Tye, Adam Zampa.



Trump spars with chief justice over their views of judges

WASHINGTON, Nov 22 (AP): President Donald Trump and Chief Justice John Roberts clashed in an extraordinary public dispute over the independence of America's judiciary, with Roberts bluntly rebuking the president for denouncing a judge who rejected his migrant asylum policy as an "Obama judge."

There's no such thing, Roberts declared Wednesday in a strongly worded statement contradicting Trump and defending judicial independence.

Never silent for long, Trump defended his own comment, tweeting defiantly, "Sorry Justice Roberts." The pre-Thanksgiving dustup was the first time that Roberts, the Republican-appointed leader of the federal judiciary, has offered even a hint of criticism of Trump, who has several times blasted federal judges who have ruled against him. Before now, it has been highly unusual for a president to single out judges for personal criticism. And a chief justice's challenge to a president's comments is downright unprecedented in modern times. It seemed a fight that Trump would relish but one that Roberts has taken pains to avoid.

But with Roberts' court feeling the heat over the president's appointment of Justice Brett Kavanaugh, Roberts and several of his colleagues have gone out of their way to rebut perceptions of the court as a political institution divided between five conservative Republicans and four liberal Democrats. Trump's appointments to the Supreme Court and lower federal courts have themselves spurred charges that the courts are becoming more politicised. As the justice widely seen as closest to the court's middle, Roberts could determine the outcome of high-profile cases that split the court.

The new drama began with remarks Trump made Tuesday in which he went after a judge who ruled against his migrant asylum order. The president claimed, not for the first time, that the federal appeals court based in San Francisco was biased against him. Roberts had refused to comment on Trump's earlier attacks on judges, including the chief justice himself. But on Wednesday, after a query by The Associated Press, he spoke up for the independence of the federal judiciary and rejected the notion that judges are loyal to the presidents who appoint them. "We do not have Obama judges or Trump judges, Bush judges or Clinton judges. What we have is an extraordinary group of dedicated judges doing their level best to do equal right to those appearing before them," Roberts said.

On the day before Thanksgiving, he concluded, "The independent judiciary is something we should all be thankful for." Trump hit back from his resort home in Florida, questioning the independence of federal judges appointed by his predecessor and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. He especially criticized judges on California's 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Greenhouse gas levels in atmosphere hit new high: UN

GENEVA, Nov 22 (AFP): The levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, the main driver of climate change, have hit a new record high, the UN said Thursday, warning that the time to act was running out.

Ahead of the COP 24 climate summit in Poland next month, top United Nations officials are again trying to raise the pressure on governments to meet the pledge of limiting warming to the less than two degrees Celsius, enshrined in the 2015 Paris accord.

"Without rapid cuts in CO2 and other greenhouse gases, climate change will have increasingly destructive and irreversible impacts on

life on Earth," the head of the World Meteorological Organisation Petteri Taalas said in a statement.

"The window of opportunity for action is almost closed."

The Greenhouse Gas Bulletin, the UN weather agency's annual flagship report, tracks the content of dangerous gases in the atmosphere since 1750.

This year's report, which covers data for 2017, puts the concentration of CO2 in the atmosphere at 405.5 parts per million (ppm).

That is up from 403.3 ppm in 2016 and 400.1 ppm in 2015.

"The last time the Earth experienced a comparable concentration of CO2 was 3-5 mil-

lion years ago, when the temperature was 2-3C warmer," Taalas said.

Researchers have reliable estimates of CO2 concentrations rates going back 800,000 years using air bubbles preserved in ice in Greenland and Antarctica.

But by studying fossilised material the WMO also has rough CO2 estimates going back up to five million years.

In addition to CO2, the UN agency also highlighted rising levels of methane, nitrous oxide and another powerful ozone depleting gas known as CFC-11.

Emissions are the main factor that determines the amount of greenhouse gas lev-

els, but concentration rates are a measure of what remains after a series of complex interactions between atmosphere, biosphere, lithosphere, cryosphere and the oceans.

Roughly 25 per cent of all emissions are currently absorbed by the oceans and biosphere -- a term that accounts for all ecosystems on Earth.

The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has said that in order to keep warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius, net CO2 emissions must be at net zero, meaning the amount being pumped into the atmosphere must equal the amount being removed, either

though natural absorption or technological innovation.

WMO's deputy chief, Elena Manaenkova, noted that CO2 remains in the atmosphere and oceans for hundreds of years. "There is currently no magic wand to remove all the excess CO2 from the atmosphere," she said. "Every fraction of a degree of global warming matters, and so does every part per million of greenhouse gases," she said.

According to the UN, 17 of the 18 hottest years on record have occurred since 2001, while the cost of climate-related disasters in 2017 topped USD 500 billion (439 billion euros).

Denmark suspends arms sales to Saudi over Khashoggi murder

COPENHAGEN, Nov 22 (AFP): Denmark on Thursday suspended arms sales to Saudi Arabia over the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, the second country to do so after Germany. "The foreign ministry is suspending all sales of weapons and military equipment to Saudi Arabia," Foreign Minister Anders Samuelsen said.

"I hope that the Danish decision can create additional momentum," he added.

A foreign ministry spokesman said Copenhagen was not considering other sanctions for the moment.

On Monday, Germany decided to bar 18 Saudis from entering its territory and Europe's Schengen passport-free zone over their alleged links to the murder. In October, Berlin called for EU countries to follow its lead and suspend

arms sales to Saudi Arabia for the time being, prompting a dismissive response from French President Emmanuel Macron. Khashoggi, a US resident who wrote for The Washington Post and had been critical of Prince Mohammed, was lured to the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on October 2, killed and reportedly dismembered.

After lengthy denials, Saudi authorities admitted responsibility and said 21 people had been taken into custody. However, a CIA analysis leaked to the US media went further, reportedly pointing the finger at the crown prince.

Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir on Wednesday said criticism of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is a "red line", and that calls for him to be held accountable for the grisly killing would not be tolerated.

Drought-fuelled dust storm blankets Sydney



SYDNEY, Nov 22 (AFP): A large dust storm swirled over eastern Australia on Thursday, driven over the coast by a weather front barrelling across the drought-stricken interior.

Authorities warned residents of Sydney and other parts of New South Wales state who had respiratory or cardiovascular conditions to limit their time outdoors until the dust settled.

Adam Morgan of the Bureau of Meteorology said a low pressure

system over South Australia and Victoria states had pushed strong winds across areas of western New South Wales that have experienced one of the worst drought seasons in years.

"This is the typical time of year for dust storms through inland Australia, but it is quite rare for dust to reach the east coast," he said.

Sydneysiders woke to find a haze over the city Thursday, but the air had cleared by the afternoon.

Saudi warns crown prince a 'red line' in Khashoggi probe

LONDON, Nov 22 (AFP): Saudi Arabia has warned criticism of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is a "red line", after Donald Trump heaped praise on the kingdom in defiance of warnings he was giving Riyadh a pass on a journalist's grisly murder.

Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir said on Wednesday that calls for the crown prince to be held accountable for the grisly killing of Jamal Khashoggi would not be tolerated.

His comments came as the US president praised Saudi Arabia for keeping oil prices low -- one strand of his argument against punishing Riyadh even though the CIA reportedly found strong evidence that the crown prince, the de facto Saudi leader, was involved in the murder.

"In Saudi Arabia our leadership is a red line. The custodian of the two holy mosques (King Salman) and the crown prince are a red line," Jubeir told the BBC.

"They represent every Saudi citizen and every Saudi citizen represents them. And we will not tolerate any discussion of anything that is disparaging towards our monarch or our crown prince."

Khashoggi, a US resident who wrote for The Washington Post and had been critical of Prince Mohammed, was lured to the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on October 2, killed and reportedly dismembered.

After lengthy denials, Saudi authorities admitted responsibility and said 21 people had been taken into custody.

However, a CIA analysis leaked to the US media went further, reportedly pointing the finger at the crown prince.

But Trump, on holiday at his Florida Mar-a-Lago Club on Wednesday, doubled down on a statement from Tuesday that he was essentially ignoring the killing of Khashoggi because of what he said were more important US strategic and commercial interest "Oil prices

getting lower.

Great! Like a big Tax Cut for America and the World. Enjoy! USD 54, was just USD 82," he tweeted.

"Thank you to Saudi Arabia, but let's go lower!" Jubeir insisted that Prince Mohammed had not been involved in the killing.

"We have made that very clear. We have investigations ongoing and we will pun-

ish the individuals who are responsible for this," he said.

He called on Turkey to come forward with all its evidence about the slaying and stop leaking out information.

The foreign minister said the murder was a "rogue operation" by intelligence officers.

Jubeir also said any possible US sanctions on Saudi Arabia would be short-sighted.

EU, UK agree draft on 'ambitious' post-Brexit ties

BRUSSELS, Nov 22 (AFP): The European Union and Britain agreed Thursday a draft declaration on their post-Brexit relations that sets out an "ambitious, broad, deep and flexible partnership," officials said.

The two sides have also agreed a draft deal extending the transition period by one or two years beyond the end of 2020, a final sticking point of the divorce deal.

European Council President Donald Tusk said the EU executive, the European Commission, informed him it has agreed the political declaration on the future ties with Britain.

"I have just sent to EU27 a draft Political Declaration on the Future Relationship between EU and UK," said Tusk, who represents the 27 remaining EU member countries.

"The Commission President (Jean-Claude Juncker) has informed me that it has been agreed at negotiators' level and agreed in principle at political level," Tusk tweeted.

He said EU leaders still have to endorse the draft declaration, which is due to accompany a draft of agreed terms for Britain's withdrawal from the

bloc on March 29.

The EU leaders are due to meet at a summit in Brussels on Sunday to endorse both documents.

"The declaration establishes the parameters of an ambitious, broad, deep and flexible partnership across trade and economic cooperation" and other areas, according to a copy of the document seen by AFP.

The other areas cover law enforcement, criminal justice, foreign policy, security and defence and wider areas of cooperation, according to the draft.

In an update of the withdrawal agreement, both sides have agreed to extend the post-Brexit transition period from December 31, 2020 "for up to one or two years."

The transition period is designed to allow governments and businesses to adjust to a new relationship after more than four decades of close ties.

Following the announcement of the draft declaration, the British parliament said Prime Minister Theresa May will make an "emergency statement" to MPs on Thursday.

Downing Street said the prime minister was holding a teleconference with cabinet ministers about the deal.

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

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

THE BIRDS HAVE LOST THEIR WAY

EDITED BY TSHERING EDEN AND PEMA WANGCHUK

LOKTA BOOKS

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ESSAYS ON TEESTA, HYDEL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN SIKKIM





**DIG IN! THE DUCHESS OF SUSSEX, MEGHAN MARKLE, HELPS OUT DURING HER VISIT TO THE HUBB COMMUNITY KITCHEN IN LONDON.**

## Sony sets release dates for two Spider-Man universe projects

**LOS ANGELES, NOV 22 (PTI):** Marvel has announced release dates of two features, hailing from its Spider-Man universe.

According to Variety, one of the Spider-Man spin-offs will hit theatres on July 10, 2020, while an untitled sequel coming out on October 2, 2020.

The studio, however, did not reveal the details of the projects that will be released.

It is being speculated that the first project, coming out July 10, 2020, will be Jared Leto-starrer "Morbius", a spin-off centering on Spider-Man's nemesis Morbius: The Living

Vampire. Daniel Espinosa, director of films such as "Safe House" and "Life", will helm the project for Sony, with a script from Burk Sharpless and Matt Szazama.

The second film slated for release could very well be the sequel to Tom Hardy's "Venom", which bowed out last month.

Despite poor reviews, the film has amassed over USD 570 million worldwide and is still going strong in China.

Hardy is expected to return as journalist Eddie Brock aka Venom in the sequel.

## Rajshri Deshpande to make cameo in Priyanka Chopra's 'The Sky is Pink'

**PANAJI, NOV 22 (PTI):** "Sacred Games" star Rajshri Deshpande says she will be making a cameo appearance in Priyanka Chopra and Farhan Akhtar-starrer "The Sky is Pink".

The actor says the film's director, Shonali Bose, approached for a small role in the film, which is currently in production.

"Shonali is a great friend. She asked me if I would like to do this small role in her next and I jumped at the opportunity. I said 'It's your film, I can't say no'. After 'Sacred Games' this came my way. I really feel hopeful for the future," Deshpande told PTI on the sideline of 2018 International Film Festival of India here.

Deshpande says it is surreal to attend IFFI, where she started her journey as a volunteer, which was followed by her films -- "Angry Indian Goddesses" and last year's controversy-ridden "S Durga".

"I feel that time is like this mountain. You never know who will come up when and who will come down when. Last year, we came in with 'S Durga' but did not succeed. But look today, I was here at a panel where people are listening to me. Last time, we were not heard," she adds.

The actor also shared her views about the #MeToo movement. "Every woman has a story. When we were growing up, we did not have an understanding of what is good or

bad touch. For a long time, we didn't know what abuse means - sexual or mental. The movement is helping create awareness and I want not just men but also women to be sensitised," she says. At IFFI, Deshpande was part of 'Redefining Stories' panel discussion alongside actors Rahul Bose, Divya Dutta, Pankaj



Tripathi and filmmaker Nila Madhab Panda.

On the work front, the actor will be seen alongside Adil Hussain and Sandhya Mridul in Vijay Jayapal's psychological horror drama "Nirvana Inn".

## Ariana Grande hits out at Piers Morgan for criticising her mother, band Little Mix



**Ariana Grande**  
There are other ways to go about making yourself relevant than to criticise young, beautiful, successful women

Picture: Getty Images

**LOS ANGELES, NOV 22 (PTI):** Singer Ariana Grande has slammed journalist Piers Morgan after he criticised UK girl band Little Mix and her mother, Joan.

The journalist went on to Twitter to blast the pop band for their nude promotional photo for their album 'LM5'.

"Hey @LittleMix when are you going to admit you stole this idea from @dixiechicks?" he taunted.

Soon after, Ariana's mother Joan came out in support of the band.

"Honestly what is wrong with you @piersmorgan? Didn't your mother teach you if you have nothing nice to say, don't say it, she wrote.

"You came for @TheEllenShow yesterday, which was disgraceful, she is an angel. @LittleMix today, did you ever hear of paying homage. And... Well never mind," she added.

Morgan hit back at the singer's mum by saying: "Hi Joan, my mother taught me to

speak my mind & never be afraid to express honestly held opinion. Ellen's a hypocrite and as for Little Mix, I'd just prefer they use their talent to sell records rather than their nudity. As your own daughter does..."

His comments attracted a swift response from Ariana.

"Ellen is an incredible & kind human being," she wrote.

"I use my talent and my sexuality all the time because I choose to. Women can be sexual and talented. Naked and Dignified. It's our choice and we will keep fighting till people understand. I say this with all due respect but thank you, next," she added.

In another tweet, the singer asked the journalist to stop criticising "criticize young, beautiful, successful women for everything they do" to feel relevant.

"I think that'll be a beautiful thing for you and your career or what's left of it," she wrote.

## John, Nikkhil Advani, Bhushan Kumar collaborate for six films

**MUMBAI, NOV 22 (PTI):** Three production houses -- John Abraham's JA Entertainment, Bhushan Kumar's T-Series and Nikkhil Advani's Emmay Entertainment -- have joined hands to produce six films together.

The three production houses first came together for "Satyameva Jayate", which featured John in the lead and was co-produced by Advani and T-Series. The trio has decided to develop "more present, meaningful and commercially relevant cinema", a press release issued here said.

John believes the coming together of this

tripartite gives an enhanced and solid platform to showcase talent and technicians, which is a critical way forward to expand the industry.

"Market forces today demand that smart alliances are formed to fulfill audience expectations. Our association thus far has been excellent test bed from which we have all learnt a lot," the actor-producer said. Sharing similar views, Advani said the collaboration will enable them to push the envelope with new stories and formats. Bhushan Kumar said John and Advani are valuable talent assets and he feels privileged to have them in the joint venture.

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**SEPARATE HOSTEL FOR BOYS AND GIRLS.**

**ARIES:** Perhaps you notice some weariness today, Aries. You have been much more active than usual for the past few weeks. You've been meeting new people, having new experiences, attending meetings, and perhaps even taking short trips. In the long run, will any of it further your goals? That's the question you have to answer today.

**TAURUS:** Are you tired, Taurus? It's no wonder. You're so eager to be useful that you've run yourself ragged over the past few weeks. As you may have noticed, the world is so apathetic now that every movement requires enormous effort on your part. Why not settle down and rest today? That would be the wisest and most reasonable thing to do. You will still be needed tomorrow.

**GEMINI:** The planets are mov-

ing you into a new cycle, Gemini. Soon you will be in a new "story." You will have to take stock of what you've learned in previous weeks. Who you are is related to the degree of peace you have in your life and whether or not you've been able to resolve some conflicts. Did you learn your lessons well? Without a doubt, you have a gift for calming tense situations.

**CANCER:** Have you done the cleaning that the planetary configurations asked you to do in recent weeks, Cancer? If this is the case, today you should start to feel less weighed down by the conventions in your life. You've undoubtedly solved some of the problems in your relationships. You will feel as if you're in a kind of renaissance through the next cycle.

**LEO:** The social agitation that has been in your life for the last three weeks is coming to an end, Leo. The celestial energy will help you learn some lessons and prepare for the next cycle. It would be great if you had some success and honors, because this would help you confront the coming weeks. It will be a time of meditation and feeling a little bit disconnected from the world.

**VIRGO:** This is the end of the first stage in your "socialization," Virgo. Are you satisfied with the people you've met? You can usually make the most out of these encounters, but did your political savvy let you down? Did it lead you in directions you didn't want to go? Take advantage of this pause to catch your breath and figure out where you are today and

where you want to be tomorrow.

**LIBRA:** This is the end of the voyage you've been on over the past few weeks, Libra. You undoubtedly saw some interesting sights. Whether you were on an inner or outer voyage, the cosmic energy will bring you to a safe harbor. Unpack your bags carefully, as they're filled with treasures and souvenirs. You will want to put them around the house as happy reminders of how much you've grown.

**SCORPIO:** After the events of the last few weeks, do you still want to continue acting like the same person? This is always a good question to ask with a celestial atmosphere like today's. People generally feel that they have a chance to get out of old systems and relationships. But people al-

ways hesitate to do this because of a fear of the future. Don't waver. Take the next steps!

**SAGITTARIUS:** The day ahead should give you an opportunity to analyze the events of the past three weeks, Sagittarius. You will draw many important conclusions about your love life. You may conclude that matters have evolved little, if at all. This is discouraging, to be sure, but don't place too much trust in appearances. Remember, things aren't always as they seem.

**CAPRICORN:** If you feel as though you aren't making sufficient progress toward your goals, use this day to correct your aim. Are you disappointed with your love life? You may have devoted a great deal of energy to it lately without seeing much payoff. Wait a few more days before you make

any drastic decisions about the future, Capricorn.

**AQUARIUS:** Are you feeling somewhat annoyed today? This is hardly surprising since the day inspires you to take a long, hard look at what's happening with your life. It's as though you suddenly realize that decisions you make may have impacts that reach far and wide. But don't let that stop you from committing yourself to a course of action, Aquarius. Be adventurous!

**PISCES:** Are you feeling scattered, Pisces? It's possible that you're wondering about a million different things today. Are you strong enough to assume your family duties? Are you attractive? Are you important? Of course, all these questions simply distract you from your anxiety. Don't worry.