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SAATHI OFF-SITE CAMP HELD
AT ASSAM LINGZEY

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TEMI TEA Mr
SIKKIM 2018
MANHUNT
FINALISTS
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SummitTIMES

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

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1,040 graduate from Sikkim Manipal University

GANGTOK, 13 OCT (IPR): The 18th convocation of Sikkim Manipal University (SMU) was held here at the auditorium of Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences (SMIMS), Tadong, today.

On the occasion, degrees were conferred to the 1040 graduating students from SMIMS, Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology (SMIT) and affiliated colleges which included 10 doctoral degrees. Further, gold and silver medals were also awarded to SMIMS students and SMIT students.

Delivering his address Governor of Sikkim and Chancellor, SMU, Ganga Prasad expressed his happiness in being a part of such a prestigious occasion.

He said, "I am very happy to have the opportunity to meet all of you at the prestigious University, especially students



and their proud parents, who received a bachelor's degree by this University, today."

He said that Colleges and universities have an important role in the local, regional and national development. Economic development is integral for economic development of a region and universities play a major and mandatory role in the entire process of overall development he added.

He stated that Sikkim Manipal University

has achieved many milestones since 1995 and has been making steady field progress in the field of education and health treatment. The concept of achieving global leadership in the field of education and healthcare has been primary and as such the University has crossed number of achievements in its development journey.

In this small hill state this university is playing a

meaningful role of higher education and accelerating high economic growth. In order to achieve the goal of socio-economic development in Sikkim and this whole region, Sikkim Manipal University has the necessary capacity, knowledge and resources for further betterment he stated.

He also expressed his happiness to know that Manipal University is the first PPP University in the country in high-

er education and health care services. Today Sikkim Manipal University is providing the medical services at low cost to the people of Sikkim with the best quality education in North Eastern states and also has achieved many achievements in the right leadership since its inception and now the University has achieved its prestigious status in the higher education sector of the country.

The highly educated, dedicated faculty members of the university are committed to ensure their participation more and not only enable students to become professional, but also help them in building a holistic personality, he added.

Until 1995, the University was not established in Sikkim State and students had to go out of the state in order

to get higher education. Providing higher education system in own area at a lower cost was an example of how Sikkim Manipal University developed the state.

While addressing the students he said that by getting a bachelor degree all of you are standing on a new threshold of your life today, this convocation is a turning point for you all and I wish all of you a very good luck and a bright future.

Earlier, the Chief Guest on his convocation address Dr. N.S. Rajan, Group CHRO & Group CMO, IDFC Bank & CEO, IDFC Foundation congratulated the University for earning a high distinction and reputation among the higher educational institutions of the nation. He also congratulated the graduates and

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Justice Vijay Kumar Bist to become next Chief Justice of Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 13 OCT:

The senior-most judge of Uttarakhand High Court, Justice Vijay Kumar Bist, is all the set to become the next Chief Justice of Sikkim. The post of Chief Justice had fallen vacant after the superannuation of Justice Satish Kumar Agnihotri on 31 June earlier this year.

The Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, Justice MB Lokur and Justice Kurian Joseph on Tuesday recommended a new Chief Justice of the High Court of Sikkim along with four other Chief Justices including the Uttarakhand High Court, Gauhati High Court, Mumbai High Court and Kolkata High Court.

Justice Bist was born on 17 September 1957 at Lansdowne, District Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand and obtained his Law



Degree from Allahabad University. He enrolled as an Advocate with the Bar Council of Uttar Pradesh in 1984 and started practicing in various segments of litigations and till first week of November 2000 continued practicing at Allahabad High Court.

After creation of Uttarakhand High Court, Justice Bist shifted to Nainital and practiced at Uttarakhand High Court. On 01 July 2004 he was designated as Senior Advocate. On 01 November 2008 was elevated as Judge of the Uttarakhand High Court.

Taekwondo World Dojang organises belt promotion examination

SUMMIT REPORT

KALIMPONG, 13 OCT:

Taekwondo World Dojang organised belt promotion examination at SUMI Gym hall, Kalimpong today.

Twenty-five Taekwondo players from Loretto Convent Loyal, Surjay Daya Gyanpith Loyal, Bud Nursery School Pudung, Sangsay Taekwondo Dojang, SAS, SUMI, Saptasri Gyanpith, Rock Vale Academy Kalimpong had appeared for yellow belt to blue belt promotion.

Kyorugi (Sparring) Poomsae, Kicking, blocking, punching skill, stretching, offence and defence techniques were examined in this belt promotion examination.

The examination was conducted by Trilok Subba 7th Dan (chief coach), Rabin Rai (2nd Dan) Assistant Chief Coach, A. Arohan Rai 3rd Dan (Coach).

Chief guest in this belt examination was Principal SUMI, Dr. Jagat Rai. While addressing the players he expressed that, "Taekwondo can build strong society and players are lucky to get training under Trilok Subba who is an international figure in Taekwondo."

Chief guest Dr. Jagat Rai distributed certificates to the qualified players.

TNA wins 1st Interschool U-16 SAATHI Futsal Tournament

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 13 OCT:

The grand finale of the 1st Inter School U-16 SAATHI Futsal Tournament 2018 was held on 12 Oct wherein Modern Senior Secondary School took on the favourites Tashi Namgyal Academy.

TNA emerged victorious with a narrow 1-0 win when King Lepcha scored with a clever free kick that left the goal keeper stumped, informs a press release. Emotions were running high and the supporters of both the teams cheered on with full enthusiasm until the final whistle was blown. The spirit of true sportsmanship prevailed over all rivalry when players of both the teams hugged and congratulated each



other after which the winning team gave a victory lap and gave thanks to all its supporters.

The 1st Inter School U-16 SAATHI Futsal

Tournament was organised by the SAATHI team of Enchey Senior Secondary School under the aegis of its parent body SAATHI, in association

with the Futsal Association of Sikkim.

Twelve schools from East District participated in the tournament which had kicked off on

08 Oct. The chief guest for the day was Jigme Lachungpa [Divisional Engineer of Power Deptt], an ardent footballer

turn to pg02

Sikkim Media Awards 2018, six journalists awarded

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 13 OCT:

Six journalists of Sikkim were awarded with Sikkim Media Awards 2018 here today at Janta Bhawan. The award function was organised by Media Federation of India in collaboration with Press Club of Sikkim.

Rebyna Rana [Summit Times], KK Chhetri [Nayuma Samachar], Ambar Gurung [Himalaya Darpan], Madhu Sharma [Hamro Prajashakti], Samir Hang Limboo [Sikkim Express] and Jagannath Dahal [Samay Dainik] received awards, shawl and certificates for their contribution towards the society.

Chief guest, TN Sharma [Chairperson Sikkim Commission for Backward Classes] gave away the awards along with special guest, former Gangtok PIB director, CK Dorjee, Media



Federation of India [MFI] president, Arun Sharma and PCS president, Joseph Lepcha and special guest, Kiran Rasaily.

Mr Sharma congratulated all the awardees. He said that media's role is very necessary and important in today's era.

CK Dorjee informed that Sikkimese media has played a great role as a

watchdog and is working hard to provide real information to the people.

Journalism has grown and will keep growing in the State, he said. He also expressed his sadness over the lack of importance given to Sikkim's achievements by the national media.

Joseph Lepcha said that this year has been

a great year of achievements for the journalists of Sikkim. The future of the journalists is bright here but sustainability is difficult and we all have to work on this issue seriously, he added. He stressed that pension system is a must for media persons.

Arun Sharma declared Dilliram Dulal as the State

president of MFI and also announced Rs 1 lakh health insurance to all the journalists of Sikkim.

"Media Federation of India is not a union but a family. We work in synergy with different media houses and journalists," said MFI national president, Arun Sharma. He highlighted the initiatives taken by the Federation for the welfare of the journalists in India. So far, the MFI has its presence in 22 Indian States.

Dilliram Dulal expressed his gratitude to MFI and assured to work for the betterment of journalists and the organisation.

On behalf of all the awardees, KK Chhetri also thanked MFI for acknowledging the journalists with the awards. He said this will surely encourage them to work even harder in future.

Sikkimese singing duo win at Nepal's Annual Tuborg Image Awards



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 13 OCT:

Poojan Lohagan and Anupama Pradhan, husband-wife singing duo from Jorethang, have won Best vocal perfor-

mance by a group award at the recently held 20th Annual Tuborg Image Awards held at Kathmandu, Nepal. The duo won the award for their song "Hawa Gharaima".

#MeToo: Journalists protest in Delhi, say sexual harassment at workplace non-negotiable

NEW DELHI, OCT 13 (PTI):

As the #MeToo movement intensifies in the country, a group of journalists Saturday held a protest here expressing solidarity with their women colleagues who have come out and demanded proper implementation of the prevention of sexual harassment act to ensure dignity at workplace. The protesting journalists also sought immediate action against those facing allegations of sexual misconduct.

They also demanded the removal of Union Minister M J Akbar, who has been accused of sexual harassment by a number of women journalists, when he was an editor of several publications, a few years ago.

The scribes also held placards bearing messages that sexual harassment at workplace was not acceptable and said "accountability begins from the top" with protesting journalists raising slogans seeking removal of Akbar.

The group of journalists also passed a joint res-

olution seeking justice for the victims.

"Sexual harassment at workplace is non-negotiable. We salute those women who have come out and shared their trauma. It is not easy to speak out and takes a lot of courage to speak up about such incidents," senior journalist and IWPC president T K Rajalakshmi said.

Besides members of the Indian Women's Press Corps (IWPC), journalists from some print and electronic media assembled in front of the Free School Church on Parliament Street and raised slogans, demanding proper implementation of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act.

"We, the assembled journalists today express our complete solidarity with all those who have come out and spoken courageously against the harassment they have faced by colleagues and superiors," the resolution said.

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SLSA organizes training for counsellors of De-Addiction Centres

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 13 OCT:

The Sikkim State Legal Services Authority under the direction and guidance of Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, the Acting Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim and Executive Chairperson, Sikkim SLSA organized the "Second Phase of One Day Training Programme on Managing Substance Use Disorders: An Overview" for the Counselors of Rehabilitation and De-Addiction Centres of Sikkim today in the Training Hall of Sikkim State Legal Services Authority, Development Area, Gangtok.

A press release in-



forms that the Resource Persons for the said programme were Shalinta Rai [Clinical Psychologist, Psychiatry Department, S.T.N.M Hospital, Government of Sikkim] who conducted Pre Test for assessing the level of existing

knowledge of the participants regarding substance (alcohol, tobacco and other drugs) use and substance related problems and its management.

She also spoke on Mental Status Examination of Individuals with

Substance use Disorders, Case History taking of Substance Use Disorders. Post Assessment for assessing the level of knowledge regarding substance use and substance related problems and its management was

also conducted by Ms. Rai after the end of all the technical sessions.

Nancy Chankapa [Clinical Psychologist, Psychiatry Department, S.T.N.M Hospital, Government of Sikkim] conducted an Informal Quiz/Information on Substance use Disorders, Epidemiology and its Management and also spoke on Motivation and Treatment in Substance use Disorders and Co-Morbidities of Substance use Disorders.

The welcome address was given by Suraj Chettri [Member Secretary, Sikkim SLSA] while the Vote of Thanks was proposed by Bikash

Sharma [Deputy Secretary, Sikkim SLSA].

Eighteen Counselors from various Rehabilitation and De-addiction Centres of Sikkim attended the said programme.

The First Phase of the said programme was held on 06 Oct in the Training Hall of Sikkim State Legal Services Authority, Development Area, Gangtok, wherein the Resource Persons were Shalinta Rai and Nancy Chankapa, Clinical Psychologists, Psychiatry Department, S.T.N.M Hospital, Government of Sikkim and the Third Phase is scheduled to be held on 27 Oct, the release informs.

Tathangchen School Interact Club organizes Food Festival

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 13 OCT:

The Interact Club of Tathangchen Secondary School organized a 'Sikkimese Traditional Food Festival' with an objective to sensitize the youth on the importance of their culture and tradition. The festival was held on 08 Oct in their school premises, a press release informs.

The event comprised cultural programme, fashion parade of junior students, traditional dress presentation of the three ethnic communities of Sikkim, and the main attraction of the event, Traditional Food Stalls.

The participating schools displayed a variety of cuisines, from Lepcha dish to Newari Achaars, which were put up for sale as well. An exhibition of handmade bamboo lamp shades by Echo Stream was also one of the special attractions. Senior alumni, Panchayat, officials, locality elders, parents, former Headmistress and teachers, parents and well wishers visited the event.

Riverine Elementary School students visit offices in Rongli

SUMMIT REPORT
SINGTAM, 23 OCT:

Riverine Elementary School, Rongli, organised an educational tour for students from classes two to seven on 12 October.

They visited different government offices in and around Rongli to get familiarised to how the offices functioned. The students, accompanied by their teachers, interacted with the officials at the respective offices.

The places of visit included Rongli PHC, SDM Office and the Post Office.

Dr. Tshewang Sherpa was present at the Rongli PHC and greeted the students and teachers. He talked about the role of healthcare and the importance of a hospital. Raju Pradhan, hospital staff, briefed them about the functions of different departments.

Thereafter, the group arrived at the SDM Office, Rongli where the SDM, AB Gurung, briefed them about the different personnel and functions of his office.

The students then went to the Post Office at Rongli bazaar and learned how letters and other materials are posted. Staff at the Post Office explained the function of a post office.

The daylong tour was organised by Sita Sharma, teacher RES, and accompanied by Bikki Rai, Principal, Bimla Giri and Indira Pradhan, teachers.

SAATHI off-site camp held at Assam Linzey

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 13 OCT:

An off-site training of three and a half days was conducted by Sikkim Against Addiction towards Healthy India [SAATHI] at SICUN, for 50 students from different Government schools of Sikkim namely Kewzing Senior Secondary School, Middlecamp Secondary School and Kamrang Secondary School, a press release informs. The camp was held from 09 to 12 Oct at SICUN, Assam Linzey, East Sikkim.

The students learned various technical skills and motivational sessions were held on substance



abuse. They were kept engaged in various fun filled sports and adventure activities. The students also shared their experiences as peer educators and the activities they have

conducted at schools, the release mentions.

The training program started with life skills session by Ashis Bangdel (Motivational Speaker), followed by basics

of counseling by Sonimit Lepcha (Trained Teacher Coordinator from Dikling Sr Sec School).

The Sharing of Experience session was conducted by Udai C Rai (Se-

renity Home, Gangtok), Peer pressure session was done by Tshering Chekey Bhutia (Teacher Coordinator from Middle Camp Sec School), Legal aspects of Drugs was covered by Srawan Gurung (SI, Sadar police station), Medical aspects of Drugs was given by Pranith Thapa (Teacher Coordinator Namcheybong Sr Sec School), Communication Skills sessions was done by Tshering Chekey Bhutia (Teacher coordinator Middle Camp Sec School).

The camp concluded with confession round, feedback, badging and pledging sessions.

SCERT organises Master Trainers dev prog on Nai Talim

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 13 OCT:

Master Trainers Development Programme on Gandhiji's Nai Talim, Experiential Learning and Work Education, organised by the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) in collaboration with Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education (MGNCRE), Hyderabad, concluded at SCERT here at Lower Burtuk on 12 October.

The programme, which was exclusively designed for teachers and

teacher educators, had K Ashwin Kumar as the resource person who singlehandedly conducted the five-day training programme. The prime objective of the training was to orient teachers and teacher educators on Gandhiji's Nai Talim and prepare them as Master Trainers to train other teachers.

Sessions were designed to be fun-filled and joyful and saw participants actively engaged in group work, pair work and presentations.

Participants visited Sichey Secondary School

and nearby village as part of the training and interacted with students, teachers and villagers.

The training involved 21 participants, including teacher educators from SCERT, DIETs, Harkamaya College of Education and teachers from Schools.

The valedictory session in the forenoon of 12 October 2018 had Director, SCERT, Dr Rabin Chhetri, Principal DIET Gangtok, Tshering Lhamu Bhutia, Officials and Faculty of SCERT and DIETs, Resource Person

from MGNCRE Mr Kumar among others.

Participants shared their reflections of the workshop.

Mr Kumar, in his valedictory address, requested in-service and pre-service teacher education institutes of the state like SCERT, DIETs and B.Ed Colleges to take forward the programmes and activities of Nai Talim and integrate it into the curriculum of school and teacher education.

Director SCERT, Dr Chhetri, who was the chief guest for the valedictory

session, in his address, highlighted the need and significance of Gandhiji's Nai Talim which advocates education of head, heart and hands and dignity of labour.

He said that Nai Talim is all the more important in present context as the erosion of values system in our society is on the rise.

The Programme, co-ordinated and conducted by deputy director SCERT Dr Shanti Ram Adhikari, concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Obediya Rai State Programme coordinator for MGNCRE.

TNA wins 1st Interschool U-16 SAATHI Futsal...

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thusiast, who spoke on the importance of sports and how sports can channelize the energy of the youth in the right direction and bring discipline and good health.

President of SAATHI, Tempo Bhutia, spoke on the birth and emergence of the SAATHI movement and how it has reached 100 schools and benefited students and the society. He further congratulated the Enchey Tempa SAATHI team for starting the SAATHI sports movement in Sikkim. The Principal, Lamkila Bhutia too gave a fiery and motivational speech with a clear message 'Choose to Refuse'. Heads of Institutions of different feeder schools along with 10 each representatives of SAATHI also witnessed the finale.

Also present was Phurba Sherpa (chief co-

ordinator of Sikkim Football Association) and other members of the Enchey Alumni.

The SAATHI team of Enchey presented the audience with a silent placard rally and a grand cultural show, a beautifully directed short skit with a strong message against substance abuse also generated a very good response from the crowd, the release mentions.

Various clubs of the school put up different food, fun and games stalls for all visitors

Trophies and certificates were presented to all participants and individuals who excelled in the tournament.

Man of the match (finals) went to Puran Ramal of West Point SSS, Most Promising Player to Rinchen Bhutia of Enchey SSS, Best Goalkeeper to Abhijit Subba of

West Point SSS, Golden boot to King Lepcha of TNA (19 goals), Man of the tournament to King Lepcha of TNA, Decisive goal to King Lepcha of TNA and Fair play trophy to Tashi Namgyal SSS.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Karma Tempo (SAATHI member) who thanked everyone for their contribution and specially to the Member of Parliament, P.D Rai for granting them the permission to host the first ever sporting ac-

tivity under SAATHI.

He also thanked the Futsal Association of Sikkim for providing all the technical assistance. The Photography Club of Sikkim for covering the event every day. He also stated on how the Futsal pitch was Made in Enchey, dug out and made of international size with the help of the teachers and some of the students who worked together overtime for the success of the five-day Futsal Tournament.

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IITTM organizes seminar on Swachh Bharat Swachh Paryatan

GANGTOK, 13 OCT (IPR): Indian Institute of Tourism & Travel Management (IITTM) organised a seminar under Swachh Bharat Swachh Paryatan with the Tourism Stakeholders at a local hotel today. The theme of the seminar was "Swachhta Action Plan".

PK Dong, Former Director Tourism, STDC was the chief guest. Utam Rai (Faculty of Sikkim University), Manoj Chettri (Tourist Officer in Tourism Department) along with tourism stakeholders were present.

PK Dong, chief guest, said that the main focus of the programme is about maintaining the tourist spots and to make this a mass movement, we should involve all the people in the initiative and be known as "Beautifier of Sikkim". He stated that it is below our human dignity

to live in unhealthy atmosphere so therefore Swachhta Programme should be a continuous process.

The main objectives about the programme is to create an awareness amongst tourist about sanitation and cleanliness at the tourist destinations, pilgrimage areas and the stakeholders should educate, motivate tourist about Swachhta.

IITTM an Autonomous Body under Government of India has been entrusted with an important responsibility of organizing a stakeholder's workshop/seminar at different destination to create awareness about basic sanitation and hygiene amongst tourist, stakeholders and school students.

The programme was headed by Dr. Rinzing Lama, Assistant professor and Sunil Kumar Chobe.

CME on newer drugs to treat TB at Singtam District Hospital



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 13 OCT:

The Doctors Academic Society of Singtam District Hospital (DASSH) organized a monthly Continued Medical Education [CME] at Singtam District Hospital as part of "Run With Doctors for TB Free Sikkim" campaign, as per a press release.

Dr Jyotsna Sharma (Dental surgeon) said that DASSH was established in 2015 consisting of Allopathic, AYUSH, Dental & physiotherapy doctors for promotion of continued medical education with an intention to upgrade clinical skills as per recent medical advances.

Dr. Tshering Laden (CMO) spoke about the on-going registration under 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana', one of the facets of 'Ayushman Bharat Scheme', in which patients in the BPL

category can avail free treatment and admission from government and private hospitals.

Dr. J. K. Shani (chest specialist, Delhi) from National Institute of TB and respiratory diseases Delhi highlighted recent treatment regime on TB and on newer drugs used in TB treatment followed by an interactive session where a couple of doctors actively questioned and gained from this discussion.

Dr Shani also contributed Rs 5000 for "Run With Doctors for TB Free Sikkim" campaign scheduled on 25 Nov 2018. He appreciated the Government of Sikkim for monthly financial assistance of Rs 3000 to patients suffering with Tuberculosis.

The program was attended by the doctors and nursing officers of Singtam District Hospital.

Internshala seminar at SMIT



SUMMIT REPORT
RANGPO, 13 OCT:

With an aim to change the ad-hoc culture of internships in India, and believing that internships can make a positive difference to students, employer and the society at large, "Internshala" organized a seminar at Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology to provide exposure to the students about the same.

With around 30-40 participants, the presentations were mainly done by Rishab Agarwal,

Internshala Student Partner, SMIT, who explained about Internshala being the world's No.1 Internship and Training Platform offering internships in almost every field.

He highlighted that the platform was completely free and even provides a stipend and certificates.

The students showed great interest in the seminar and have expressed their willingness to opt for Internshala not only for internships but also for training courses, a press release informs.

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Temi Tea Mr Sikkim 2018 Manhunt finalists

Gangtok on Sunday, 14 Oct

Temp: 25°C/10°C
Forecast: Sun and clouds; a morning thundershower in parts of the area, then a couple of showers.
Sunrise: 05:33 AM
Sunset: 5:12 PM

Golay greets people on Dasain

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 13 OCT: Sikkim Krantikari Morcha president, PS Tamang [Golay], has conveyed his best wishes and Dasain greetings to the people of Sikkim. He has expressed hope that this festival further reinforces the unity and harmony of the people of Sikkim and strengthens brotherhood. He further prayed for the progress, development and security of the State.

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NITESH R PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 13 OCT: The 22 finalists of the Temi Tea Mr Sikkim 2018 Manhunt are vying for the coveted subtitle Summit Times Mr Multimedia presented by the official print partner Summit Times.

This subtitle is decided by the audience on total number of likes their pictures get on social networking sites Facebook and Instagram on Mr Sikkim Manhunt page.

Get to know the contestants with these short bios:
Name: **ARPAN PRADHAN**
Father's name: Navin Pradhan
Mother's name: Beena Pradhan
Address: Rhenock Bazaar
Hobbies: singing, playing guitar, basketball, swimming and traveling

Q) Why Mr. Sikkim 18 manhunt?

I've always wanted to be a part of show business, right from my childhood and was and am deeply fascinated by it, be it foreign or Indian. Showbiz with its flashes and vibrant colors gives a platform to the artist to self-express and show what the artists is all about, and thus Mr. Sikkim gives me the stage to express myself and be a part of something bigger than me.

Q) What are the qualities that make you stand out in the crowd?

The one quality that makes me stand out is that once I make up my mind to do something, no matter the odds and the forces against me, I do it to such an extent that I end up being satisfied with the outcome. I am also humble in vic-



tory and in defeat which gives me an attitude that always makes me strive to learn more and more with each coming day and event.

Q) What if you win or lose the competition of Mr. Sikkim 2018 man hunt?

If I win the competition it will give me motivation and better confidence to pursue my goals in this field to achieve greater success on bigger platforms. It will motivate me further to work harder to achieve bigger things.

If I lose, the setback will not hold me down and it will still motivate me to work and strive harder while at the same time focus on my weak points to be a better man than the one I was the previous day.

Q) What is the one thing that can unite humanity?

Music is one thing that can unite humanity no matter the language, genre or the instrument good music always speaks to the listener like nothing else can.

Define yourself:

I am a person who takes responsibility for my own actions and when things go wrong I don't look to outside forces to blame rather I am someone who looks at where I can improve upon the next time around and do better.

Your message/appeal

My message is that no matter; where you come from, your family background, your race, your level of education and talents. Hard work and perseverance trumps everything else and they are the most important traits that guide one on the highway to success.

Name: **AMIT PRASAD GUPTA**
Father's name: Nageshwar Prasad
Mother's name: Gita Devi
Residential address: Tadong, Gangtok

Hobbies/Interests: Fitness, travelling, swimming
Q) Why Mr Sikkim 2018 Manhunt?

Because as we all know this pageant is being held for the first time in Sikkim. Before this there were no platforms like this in Sikkim where men can participate. These platforms help a person to improve their personality and the way they show themselves to the World. It helps in building self-confidence, I have learned many new things here, I have met people having the same interest as mine, it provides many opportunities, encourages community involvement, and gives us a chance to groom ourselves to be the best.

Q) What are the qualities that make you stand out in the crowd?

I find it easy for me to get involve with a wide variety of people. This is one of the reasons I really thrive in a team environment.

I am a self-motivated learner, and I always welcome new task, experience and learning skills.

Q) What if you win or lose the competition of Mr. Sikkim 2018 Manhunt?

If I win the competition in am sure I will feel like I am the most blessed and happiest person in the world. I will also take it as a responsibility as I will then be in a platform where I will have the privilege to be heard by everyone, I will make sure I contribute towards the benefit of society and also to the people who have given me this opportu-

nity and privilege to be called as Mr. Sikkim Manhunt.

And if I lose then I know I am gonna feel very very bad... but at the same time I will not be in any loss as I have learned a lot of things since day 1 of the competition and expecting to come across many more things during our grooming session

Q) What are the qualities that make you stand out in the crowd?

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Q) Define Yourself
A fun loving person. I am on my way to achieve my goals. I choose things in which I am interested in, and my interest always pushes me to get the



excellence, I will say myself as a quick learner and hard worker as I learn new things quick and doesn't hesitate to work hard to improve. I fear being in the same place for a long time that's what motivates me to work hard to move forward.

Q) What is that one thing that can unite humanity?

Love and respect for each other can unite humanity.

Q) Your message:

To the people i would like to say that do not define your limits. Just go for anything that attracts you, if you feel it is right. As long as you are trapped with what people will think you will never discover yourself and your potential. We can achieve anything in life but for that we need to start first.

FIELDWORKREFLECTIONS

Living in a Dokemo Lee

RONGNYOO LEPCHA

Going to the field is exciting every time. The innervation of a new adventure in new places and meeting new people always excites me. But it is not always fun, sometimes we have to face difficulties as we go along. But nonetheless learning from our experiences allows us to predict our actions and move onwards towards a feasible direction.

The last time I visited Lungsyol was about a year ago. It was for my M.Phil fieldwork which was on Pano Gaebou Achyuk –the last king of Lepchas. As the story goes, Lungsyol was the birth place of the king, therefore I had to visit the place. It is a village in Kalimpong, about 82 km away from the main town. The name Lungsyol comes from the Lepcha word Long meaning rock and syol meaning to spread. As the name suggests the place has abundance of rocks.

It was already dark when I reached Lungsyol. I got down from the vehicle and my friend and field guide Ambrose anum was already there to pick me up. Lungsyol was love at first sight for me; even though it was a dark night, the whole sky was lit with millions of stars I couldn't keep my eyes off. I could see the Milky Way- a sight I miss from my childhood days as it can be hardly seen from my home anymore. It felt like the sky was breathing through the stars twinkling turn by turn as I could see colors scattered above me. It was magical. I was taken to a Dokemoo lee –a traditional Lepcha house. I was very excited as it was my first time seeing one and staying in one.

Dokemoo lee has big wooden pillars with stone foundations to hold the house. We climbed a few wooden stairs and got to a huge wooden door which had to be slid to open the door that led to a kitchen a hearth of mud and stone raised just few inches from the wooden floor where dinner was ready. The first night I met the family with whom I would be staying, they were all warm and welcoming. There were total seven family members but only four members were presently

living in the house, the other three were students perusing higher studies outside the village.

I was given a room with a bed and a table. It was a little hard to get used to opening and closing the door there were no latches but it was heavy to lift and it took all my might to open the door. The kitchen was one of the important rooms in the house, it was where the whole family would gather to eat and discuss matters of interest. The hearth was divided into two parts the lower part occupied by three stones put in a triangle shape for cooking the upper part used as a store to store fire woods dried and also meats to be smoke dried.

The house was a traditional Lepcha house but with a modern twist. The roof was layered with thatch grass which allowed the free filter of smoke from inside and prevented rain and clod from entering the house. The walls were layered with bamboo and mud which kept the house warm the floors and the posts were made of wood, a whole tree used for each post those the Lepchas did not use nails for building their traditional houses this being a relatively new one had used some nails. The space below the house was used to store thatch grass for further usage. The house was also being installed with a western toilet for the convenience of guests who visited the place. It was in fact good to see the continuation of traditional ways with modern touch.

Earlier there was no electricity in the village. They had just installed the electricity poles just two months back. Despite all the development going on some parts of the world seems to be developing at a much slower rate due to the issues with availability of resources, and somehow is does not seem strange at all. In fact, I have been to many villages which has not received electricity till recently. In Lungsyol they used generators for electricity, it have electricity maximum till an hour or two just to charge your mobile and I also charged my camera. There was no network, only certain places received network.

As I spent more time in the field, I grew fond of this house. It

had altogether three five rooms the kitchen being the biggest. It also serves as a homestay -an alternative means of earning for the family other than agriculture. People in Lungsyol depend on agricultural products –cardamom being their primary cash crop followed by chilly and tiger plant or broom plant. There were other agricultural products also which they sent to Gorubathan the nearest town. I was accompanied by my field guide Ambrose anum since I did not know the area well and some parts of the village was harder to access and we had to walk really hard. Ambrose anum was used to the terrain but for me it was a challenge though I used to walk back home I had lost touch coming to Sikkim and getting used to the comfort of taxi. So I tried my best walking by the time the day ended my feet would be numb and sleep embrace be like a warm blanket on winter nights. When in the field we are required to write field journals, record each days event and the thought processes as we analyze each details, but due to the intensive walking I did each day sometimes I couldn't write at all I would just drop dead to sleep.

After all the walking I expected to lose some weight but the opposite happened, as people there would work hard in the fields the whole day and have a good protein and carbohydrate diet to regain energy. So it was huge amount of rice and meat, usually I do have a heavy diet but this was something else and I couldn't even refuse as they had worked so hard to make it. So I tried my best to eat everything. Going around the village and talking with the people I learned many things the population was assorted, Tamang, Chettri, Lepcha, Rai were the communities but the village was somehow divided into the Lepchas and the non-Lepchas. But all the communities knew all the languages spoken in the area; the Tamang could speak Lepcha and the Lepchas could speak Tamang language which showed that these communities have been living together for quite a long period of time.

I spent a lot of time walking around the village with Ambrose



anum to collect information and we would always see a few dried trees. When I inquired they were hit by lightning, people in Lungsyol were terrified of lightning. Taking the whole Lepcha community into consideration we do have a fear for lightning we are not permitted to laugh at animals or insects for fear that lightning would strike us, but with time beliefs fade, now this is not much in practice rather than in villages or people who are bound by the old practice like me I still do follow it or even if I happen to laugh I do not forget to say "thooth" a word which is believed to protect us from being hit.

I remember a particular day I



decided to take rest from field as my feet were really swollen from all the walking, anum and myself started making puri and allu dum for lunch for the whole family, it suddenly there was a thunder storm and I was instructed to close all the windows and doors and to remain inside, we did not open the doors till the rain had totally subsided, people in Lungsyol were that fearful of thunder. Time passed swiftly as

I was engrossed in the field often I would also help in the field to pick up chilies to be sent to the market.

Living in a Dokemoo Lee was the highlight of my field work in Lungsyol. It was one of the reasons I got interested in continuing my studies on the Materials Culture of the Lepchas.

[the writer is Research Scholar, Department of Anthropology, Sikkim University]

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Establishing Age

How many have been punished for employing minors?

When a ban was imposed in October 2006 under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, against employment of under-14 year olds in any kind of work, one expected it to clear out the grey areas that continued to put children at risk. The Act had been in place for 20 years before employment of minors even as domestic servants or helpers in restaurants and tea shops was banned.

Unfortunately, the Act was never implemented in the earnest and thus one is left with a situation where even the twelve year old latest ban remains a real deterrent only on paper. While most of the focus on child labour, in Sikkim at least, has revolved around their employment as domestic servants, fact remains that many minors continue to work hazardous and much more strenuous occupations. Children who do not look more than 12 years old, and many, who appear to be borderline 14 year olds, can be seen employed at work sites, some even government sanctioned projects. The bonded-labour tendencies of the employers or their selfish intent to maximise profits by employing minors [since they can be paid less and fired at will], are not the only reasons why child labour continues to confront Sikkim at home and outside; a larger share of the blame lies with whichever authority it is that is shouldered with the responsibility to inform the people and enforce the ban.

No genuine attempt has been made to educate and police against the continued abuse of the law has been taken. Had such an attempt been made, "files" would have started moving to find out on whom the onus of establishing the age of an employee rests. When it comes to children who choose a depressing workplace over school, it is too much to expect them to circulate their CVs with their birth certificates attached. It will also be impractical to expect employers to prove the lawful age of their workers. So who does it then? And how? One could theorise on this aspect here, but the best people to work out an implementable guideline would be those who have worked at enforcing the ban. Only they would know the limitations of the existing rules, provided of course, they have worked at implementing it.

Children continue to fall through the gaps which can only get plugged once some hands-on experience is on call. There does not appear to be much of that available. Such a scenario decades since the Act was promulgated and then expanded is not how childhood can be saved.

IMF chief 'horrified' by Khashoggi case, still plans Saudi trip

NUSA DUA, OCT 13 (AFP): IMF chief Christine Lagarde said Saturday she was "horrified" by reports about the fate of Saudi dissident Jamal Khashoggi but still plans to attend an economic meeting in Riyadh this month.

As questions swirl over the fate of Khashoggi -- a Saudi critic who has not been seen since he walked into the kingdom's consulate in Istanbul on October 2 -- some big business names and media outlets have pulled out of the Kingdom's second Future Investment Initiative.

But Lagarde said her plans were unchanged for now, despite international uproar over the case.

"Human rights, freedom of information are essential rights and horrifying things have been reported and I am horrified," she told reporters in Bali where the IMF is holding annual meetings.

"But I have to conduct the business of the IMF in all corners in the world and with many governments." "When I visit a country, I always speak my mind... So at this point of time my intention is to not change my plans and to be very attentive to the information that is coming out in the next few days."

Her comments came shortly after US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said he also still planned to attend the October 23-25 meeting, dubbed "Davos in the Desert."

"The answer is for now I am" still going, Mnuchin said.

"If more information comes out over the next

week, I will obviously take that into account." "Obviously I want to express concern for Mr Khashoggi and his family," he added.

"We look forward to getting results of this investigation."

Riyadh on Saturday dismissed accusations that authorities there had ordered Khashoggi be murdered by a hit squad inside its Istanbul consulate as "lies and baseless allegations".

But the row has intensified with the Washington Post reporting that Turkish officials have recordings made from inside the building that allegedly prove their claims Khashoggi was tortured and killed at the consulate.

Bloomberg, the Financial Times, The Economist and The New York Times have withdrawn as media sponsors from the event amid questions about the missing man's fate.

The CEO of ride-hailing app Uber, Dara Khosrowshahi, said that he will no longer be attending the event unless "a substantially different set of facts emerges".

British entrepreneur Richard Branson said he would suspend two directorships linked to tourism projects in Saudi Arabia over the issue.

Amnesty International demanded the Saudi authorities reveal what happened to Khashoggi as it said Riyadh was "responsible at a minimum for enforced disappearance".

ROBERT MORRISON
theconversation.com

Jane Austen is not an obvious ally of today's feminist movement. All six of her novels are now more than two centuries old. All six centre on a tale of provincial domesticity and romantic courtship. And all six are full of twists and witty turns that move inexorably toward a gratifyingly happy ending.

Yet below their glittering surfaces and rose-coloured tales of well-matched couples falling deeply in love, Austen's novels vigorously critique the patriarchal structures of her day. They bristle with anger and a deep sense of injustice. Many of her plots and sub-plots about men and power — and women's resilience in the face of that power — sound like stories we are hearing today.

Austen wrote in the early 1800s, when life for most women involved submerging their individual identities in their responsibilities as daughters, wives and mothers. Women were considered politically, economically, socially and artistically subordinate to men. It was a life that condemned many women to half-lives of humiliation, loneliness and abuse.

The novelist and short story writer Carol Shields has concisely summarized the complicated nature of Austen's artistry and appeal. Austen, declares Shields, exploits "an arch, incontrovertible amiability" to conceal "a ferocious and persistent moral anger."

FAIRY TALES MEET SOCIAL CRITIQUE

Mr. Darcy's first marriage proposal to Elizabeth Bennet in *Pride and Prejudice* (1813) is the most famous moment in Austen's most famous novel. It is also the most telling example of Austen's remarkable ability to combine wish fulfilment with social realism, and fairy-tale romance with biting cultural critique.

On one level, the scene between the two would-be lovers is a world removed from harrowing accounts of sexual harassment and assault. Darcy is proposing marriage to Elizabeth, not sex, and in his eyes at least, it is a very romantic offer.

He knows that her social standing is far below his own, and that in asking for her hand he is going against the wishes of his family and his own better judgment. But, as he patiently and politely explains, his love for her has overpowered him, and he wants her to become his wife.



On a more fundamental level, though, the exchange between the two is full of irony and dark anxieties.

Darcy is a wealthy and well-connected man who enjoys great freedom, and who moves assertively through a world of elegance and opportunity. Elizabeth is a younger and much more vulnerable woman who can already see poverty and spinsterhood out of the corner of her eye, and who can only obtain a place in the higher echelons of society through marriage to a man like Darcy.

Asserting strength and independence

The stark power imbalance between them fills Darcy with certainty that Elizabeth will be delighted to learn that she has been singled out by a man

of his influence and social standing, and that she will eagerly consent to the match. To be sure, as he outlines his plans for their future, he expresses his "hope" that she will accept him.

But this is an empty gesture. Elizabeth "could easily see that he had no doubt of a favourable answer. He spoke of apprehension and anxiety, but his countenance expressed real security."

When Darcy concludes his offer and Elizabeth is finally given the chance to speak, she rejects him with an eloquence and a decisiveness that make her among the most admired women in English fiction. Her character gives passionate expression to the anger she (and Austen) felt at patriarchal presumption and authority.

DEMANDING RESPECT

Darcy is utterly confounded by her refusal, but what Elizabeth objects to in his behaviour is what millions of women from her day to ours have objected to. Operating from a position of much greater social and financial power, Darcy wants Elizabeth to agree to an arrangement that suits him, but not her. He presumes that he knows what she wants. He devalues her. He objectifies her. He pressures her.

Elizabeth is having none of this. She may be well below Darcy on the social ladder, but she towers above him in terms of her understanding of sexual politics and gender relations. Darcy expects deference and gratitude from her. She demands respect from him. They spar constantly.

Finally, she lashes out at him for his "arrogance," his "conceit" and his "selfish disdain of the feelings of others." No one — let alone a socially inferior woman — will have ever spoken to him in those terms.

Having imposed himself on Elizabeth, Darcy does not like it when she pushes back at him. "His complexion became pale with anger, and the disturbance of his mind was visible in every feature."

Safely ensconced within the conventions of romance, Elizabeth does not have to worry about Darcy's anger boiling over into violence. Indeed, after bidding her a civil farewell, his love for her quickly reasserts itself, and then steadily transforms him into a partner who is worthy of her.

A LONG-TERM FIGHT

Austen occupies a key position in the long continuum of modern feminist thought. As the great novelist and literary critic, Virginia Woolf, observed almost a century ago, "Austen is...mistress of much deeper emotion than appears

upon the surface."

Elizabeth Bennet is her most sparkling character, and she plays the lead role in one of the most compelling love stories of the last 200 years.

But she is also a woman whose bravery, anger, and intelligence enable her to expose the patriarchal assumptions of Darcy, and to refuse him because of them.

Austen's novels contain insightful contemporary critiques of patriarchy. They also throw searching light on the ways in which those same injustices continue to inflict widespread and long-term damage now.

Ultimately, Austen is about love and mutual respect. Her life was diminished by the same patriarchal structures that damaged the lives of so many women in her era, and far beyond. But Austen can inspire us now because she fought back in her life — and especially in her art.

[the writer is Professor of English Language and Literature, Queen's University, Ontario]

Trauma 101 in the aftermath of the Ford-Kavanaugh saga

DILLON THOMAS BROWNE
theconversation.com

Brett Kavanaugh is now a United States Supreme Court justice. His contentious confirmation followed emotionally charged testimony to a U.S. Senate committee from the judge and Christine Blasey Ford after she came forward to allege he'd sexually assaulted her while they were in high school.

As the dust begins to settle, it's important to remember everything we learned from the gripping events — in particular the causes and the impact of trauma.

Here are six of the biggest lessons on traumatology, or the scientific study of trauma, that were illuminated by the testimony of both Ford and Kavanaugh.

Lesson 1: TRAUMA HAS A NEUROBIOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT

In a harrowing account of the assault, Ford described vivid imagery of Kavanaugh's alleged behaviour. At other times, she said she did not remember all of the details.

This disparity in memory is due to the interaction of brain structures known as the hippocampus (which stores our processed and time-stamped memories) and the amygdala (which stores emotional memories). Ford herself explained to senators how it worked:

"Indelible in the hippocampus is the laughter; the uproarious laughter between the two. And their having fun at my expense."

Under extremely traumatic conditions, stress neurotransmitter levels become too overwhelming for the hippocampus, and prevent it from pro-

cessing and storing sequential details.

However, the same processes increase sensory memory encoding in the amygdala, resulting in vivid traumatic memories. For this reason, Ford could recall certain aspects of her alleged assault in great detail and other aspects only vaguely.

Lesson 2: TRAUMA IS RELATED TO SUBSTANCE USE

The drinking mentioned in both Ford's and Kavanaugh's testimonies illustrate the gender differences in sexual assault victimization and perpetration, particularly when intoxicating substances are present.

It's been estimated that more than half of the sexual assaults on college campuses involve alcohol consumption by the victim, perpetrator or both.

Of course, as articulated by the U.S. National Institutes on Drug Abuse (NIDA), drinking does not cause sexual assault, but it is a "major contributing factor." Any serious initiative to curb sexual assault must also take a close look at binge-drinking culture.

Lesson 3: TRAUMA CAUSES BLAME, VICTIMIZATION

NIDA notes that it's imperative to end stigma and victim-blaming around assaults that involve alcohol.

Towards the end of her opening statement, Ford discussed the vile comments and threats hurled at her, and the victim-blaming she faced after coming forward.

This is a classic representation of "secondary victimization," or the systematic re-traumatization of victims via behaviours of others that damage the recovery process and compromise psychological well-being.

Research has demonstrated that

re-victimization perpetuates the psychological consequences of trauma and also prevents victims from disclosing their trauma or seeking help.

Lesson 4: TRAUMA EXTENDS TO FAMILIES, OVER TIME

Both Ford and Kavanaugh are parents and spouses. Ford's family is still receiving death threats. Kavanaugh lamented that he will no longer be able to coach his daughter's sports team.

For victims and perpetrators, trauma produces a ripple effect that emanates across the family and flows across generations. The research evidence in this area is also clear.

Children of parents who have experienced high levels of trauma are more likely to experience trauma themselves, largely due to family disruptions and stress. As is often the case, children are caught up in complex social tragedies that invariably infiltrate the family system.

Lesson 5: TRAUMA OFTEN INVOLVES BETRAYAL

Before his confirmation, Kavanaugh was a circuit judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C. For many, seeing him further elevated to the highest court in the land represents a failure of the legislative process.

This highlights two important ideas in traumatology.

The first is betrayal trauma, which occurs when a perpetrator is trusted by the victim — perhaps the accused is a sports coach, a local civil servant, a close friend or family member.

The second concept is institutional betrayal, whereby civic institutions systematically perpetuate the traumatization of a particular group. Examples here include the killing of young Black men by police, residen-

tial schools for First Nations children, and the historical treatment of women by male-dominated legislative bodies and by men in positions of authority.

Lesson 6: TRAUMA HURTS WOMEN, MEN DIFFERENTLY

This final point will surprise no one in the era of #MeToo.

Decades of research has demonstrated that, at the population level, women are more likely to meet diagnostic criteria for post-traumatic stress disorder. They are more likely to be victims of sexual abuse and child abuse, and have higher levels of trauma symptoms in relation to any particular traumatic event.

That being said, this same research demonstrates that men are more likely to experience certain types of trauma, including accidents, non-sexual assaults, injury or death, from disasters or fires and combat or war.

Research on the idea of male "victim-perpetrators" suggests that males who have experienced trauma (including child abuse), are more likely to perpetrate in later life.

The Ford-Kavanaugh saga clearly highlighted several lessons from traumatology and the complex consequences of traumatic events across society.

One final lesson, however, is that when dealing with trauma we must "speak the unspeakable," raising our voices to have these difficult conversations.

Whatever happens in the months or years to come to Justice Kavanaugh, Ford should be lauded for raising her voice.

[the writer is Assistant Professor, University of Waterloo]

4 injured in Guwahati Pan Bazar explosion

GUWAHATI, OCT 13 (PTI): At least four people were injured in an explosion in the Sukleswar ghat area in Guwahati Saturday, police said.

The explosion took place at a construction material dump in the Pan Bazar area when the four passersby, including a woman, were injured around 11.45 am, the sources said.

"We don't suspect it to be a bomb explosion as there were no splinters found and the injuries were due to stones hitting them," said DCP Ranjan Bhuyan who is at the site.

"We don't suspect it to be a sabotage or terrorist activity from the nature of the blast. It happened in a dump of sand kept for road-side drain construction. It may have had an unexploded shell which went off today," the DCP said.

An expert bomb squad would be arriving soon, he added.

The four injured suffered minor wounds and they were being provided medical care at the MMC Civil Hospital nearby, the police official said.

Militant arrested at Indo-Myanmar border town

IMPHAL, OCT 13 (PTI): A militant belonging to a proscribed outfit was arrested Saturday by police from the Indo-Myanmar border town of Moreh, located 110 km east of state capital Imphal, police said.

The 25-year-old W Kishankumar was apprehended at around 8.30 am during an operation conducted at the International Gate No 2, under the supervision of S Ibomcha, SP Tengenpual told PTI.

The arrested militant belonged to the Meeyamgi Fingang Lanmi faction of the banned Manipur-based outfit Kangleipak Communist Party, the SP said.

No weapons were recovered from the militant and further investigation is on, he said.

Major avalanche hits Nepal peak; 5 South Koreans among 9 killed

SHIRISH B PRADHAN

KATHMANDU, OCT 13 (PTI): At least nine climbers including five South Korean nationals have been killed in a massive avalanche which devastated their camp on Nepal's Mount Gurja, the expedition organiser said Saturday.

The unexpected vi-

olent snowstorm buried the climbers at the base camp at an altitude of 3,500 metres near the south face of Mount Dhaulagiri in western Nepal's Myagdi district on Friday evening, said Wangchu Sherpa, the Managing Director at Trekking Camp Nepal.

Five South Korean

climbers including team leader Kim Chang-ho from 'Koreanway Gurja Himal Expedition 2018' were killed along with their four Nepali support staff in the incident, Sherpa said.

Other deceased South Koreans have been identified as Lee Jaehun, Rim Il-jin, Yoo Youngjik, and Jeong Joon-mo, The Hi-

malayan Times reported.

They had gone to scale the mountain from Gurja Village on October 7.

A heavy snowstorm followed by a landslide buried the base camp at an altitude of 3,500 metres when the climbers were awaiting for a fair weather to move towards higher camps, he said.

Their bodies were spotted among the wreckage of the camp by a rescue team.

Team leader Kim was the first South Korean national to summit 14 peaks above 8,000 metres without using supplemental oxygen. However, the identities of others killed in the incident were not immedi-

ately known.

A rescue helicopter was dispatched towards the incident site Saturday morning.

The mountain Mount Gurja, with a 7,193-metre peak, is in western Nepal.

Mountaineering is a major source of income for Nepal.

Falling from cliffs and

mountains are among the most common causes of death during expeditions.

In 2015, an avalanche triggered by a powerful earthquake killed 19 climbers and injured 61 others. A year before, 16 sherpa guides were killed in an avalanche.

12 feared dead, four missing in landslide in Titli-hit Odisha



BHUBANESWAR, OCT 13 (PTI): At least 12 people were feared dead and four missing in a landslide triggered by heavy rain after cyclone Titli in Odisha's Gajapati district, Special Relief Commissioner B P Sethi said Saturday.

The incident occurred when some villagers took shelter in a cave structure following very heavy rainfall Friday evening, he said.

"There are reports about death of 12 people in a landslide caused by heavy rains in Baraghara village under Rayagada block in Gajapati district. We are verifying them," Sethi said.

Four people were missing and they were feared trapped under the debris, he said.

The district collector of Gajapati was asked to visit the spot to ascertain the situation and give a detailed report, he said.

After getting the report, financial assistance will be provided to the affected people as per

government provisions, Sethi said.

He said the area where the landslide took place was remote and the roads to location were blocked by uprooted trees.

A rescue team, including personnel of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), rushed to the area which was ravaged by incessant rainfall. The cyclone had made a landfall on Thursday southwest of Gopalpur near Palasa, said an official.

Meanwhile, rescue

and relief operation gained momentum as water has started receding in other areas, officials said.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, who was reviewing the situation, was slated to undertake an aerial survey of some of the affected areas, including Ganjam, Gajapati and Rayagada districts.

As many as 1,27,262 people were sheltered in 963 relief centres Friday, while the NDRF and the Orissa Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) were deployed to speed up

rescue and relief operations, Sethi said.

Ganjam, Gajapati, Rayagada, Puri, Kandhamal and Kendrapara districts were affected by floods, he said, adding Ganjam was categorised as the "worst-affected".

Two helicopters requisitioned from the Indian Navy are being engaged in air dropping operation in Ganjam district, said officials.

The chief minister has directed Finance Minister Sashi Bhushan Behera and SC-ST Development Minister Ra-

Assam Police officer conferred Kirti Chakra posthumously

NEW DELHI, OCT 13 (PTI): An officer of the Assam Police has been conferred with the Kirti Chakra posthumously for displaying indomitable courage and exemplary leadership in fighting ULFA militants, Home Ministry official said.

Inspector Lohit Sonowal laid down his life in Tinsukia district of Assam on April 19, 2013 in an encounter with ULFA militants in which two extremists were also killed.

The police officer displayed indomitable courage, exemplary leadership dedication to duty and laid down his life for which he was conferred

with the Kirti Chakra posthumously, a home ministry official said.

On the fateful day, upon receiving the information that a group of suspected ULFA cadres were taking shelter in the general area of Kordoiguri village of Tinsukia district, a joint operation was launched by the police and the CRPF.

During the search operation, one police team led by Sonowal noticed some unusual movements in a house and they cordoned the nearby area and waited for the first light.

As the operation party approached the suspected house, a woman

with two children came out of the house and on seeing police presence, she immediately warned the extremists taking shelter inside the house, the official said.

Immediately, the armed extremists came out of the house and started firing indiscriminately aiming at the police party.

Though the police inspector was under direct line of firing, disregarding his personal safety, he single handedly first managed to rescue the woman along with two children, who were caught in between the gunfire and quickly ducked himself behind

the nearby trees for taking cover and retaliated the fire.

The extremists continued firing aiming towards Sonowal and tried to escape by taking cover of the tea bushes nearby and civilians.

During the exchange of fire, one hardcore ULFA militant was killed.

Another extremist re-entered into the house and others fled taking advantage of thick tea bushes.

The ULFA militant who re-entered the house opened indiscriminate fire and lobbed grenades towards Sonowal.

During the cross fire, Sonowal sustained bullet

injuries, but eliminated two extremists in direct exchange of fire. However, Sonowal succumbed to his injuries later, another official said.

The Kirti Chakra is the country's military award for valour, courage action and self-sacrifice. It is second in order of precedence of peacetime gallantry awards after the Ashoka Chakra.

WB well prepared to handle natural disaster: Mamata

KOLKATA, OCT 13 (PTI): West Bengal is well prepared to tackle natural disasters and has already built flood shelters and relief godowns in the districts, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said Saturday.

The state government

has also devised an SMS-based early warning system to alert people during any natural calamity, she said in a Twitter post.

"Today is International Day for Disaster Reduction.

Our govt has devel-

oped an SMS-based early warning system for alerting people of the State regarding the advent of natural calamities. Flood shelters & relief godowns have been constructed at district, subdivision and block levels," Banerjee

said in the tweet.

International Day for Disaster Reduction is observed worldwide on this day to raise awareness among the people about disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness.

Shuttlers win two more gold as India ends with 72 podium finishes

JAKARTA, OCT 13 (PTI): India recorded its best-ever showing by adding two more gold, a few silver and some bronze medals for a total of 72 podium finishes as the 2018 Asian Para Games drew to a close here Saturday.

With 15 gold, 24 silver and 33 bronze medals, India was placed ninth in the overall tally.

In the last edition in 2014, India won 33 medals (3 gold, 14 silver, 16 bronze).

In men's singles SL3 class badminton, India's Pramod Bhagat defeated Ukun Rukaendi of Indonesia 21-19 15-21 21-14 to clinch the gold medal.

Athletes in the SL3 category generally have impairment in one or both lower limbs and poor walking or running balance. Athletes with cerebral palsy, bilateral polio or loss of both legs below the knee compete in half-court (lengthwise) to minimise the impact of their impairment.

Para shuttler Tarun added another gold for India on the final day of the event by beating Yuyang Gao of China 21-16 21-6 in the men's singles SL4 class.

The SL4 class athletes have a lesser impairment compared to SL3 and play full-court. Players with impairment in one or both lower limbs, unilateral polio or mild cerebral palsy fall in SL4 category.

Earlier Friday, Paralympic medalist Deepa Malik bagged her second bronze.

K Jennitha Anto clinched the gold in women's individual rapid P1 chess event after beating Manurung Roslinda of Indonesia 1-0 in the final round, while Kishan Gangolli got the better of Majid Bagheri in the men's individual rapid VI - B2/B3 event to claim the top spot.

Think of NE as global market: Sonowal to industry captains

GUWAHATI, OCT 12 (PTI): Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Friday urged industry captains to take advantage of North East's geographical proximity to South East Asian countries and invest in the region.

"The entire North

East and South East Asian countries have a collective market of 800 million population and it is imperative that the region, which has huge potential, must be viewed in an investment friendly manner," Sonowal said during a panel discussion organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry's (CII) 'India@75' conclave here.

He said the North East is now absolutely peaceful and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiative to ensure connectivity under the 'Act East Policy' will help create a presence for the region in the global market.

"Earlier, Assam was known for violence, flood and erosion but the prime minister, who has visited the region 29 times during the last five years, has changed the narrative.

Guwahati was earlier the gateway of North East, but now it is destined to be the gateway to South East Asia," he added.

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu said that his state is the largest in the region with the richest diversity and immense potentialities but connectivity was a sore issue which is being successfully addressed by both the Union and state gov-

ernments.

"We are ready to make tailor-made policies and the investors can judiciously use the resources to generate employment and income for the young generation and help in creating a new India," he said.

Referring to hydel projects, Khandu said that clearance for them takes 5-7 years and the local population have to taken into confidence as they are extremely attached to the environment.

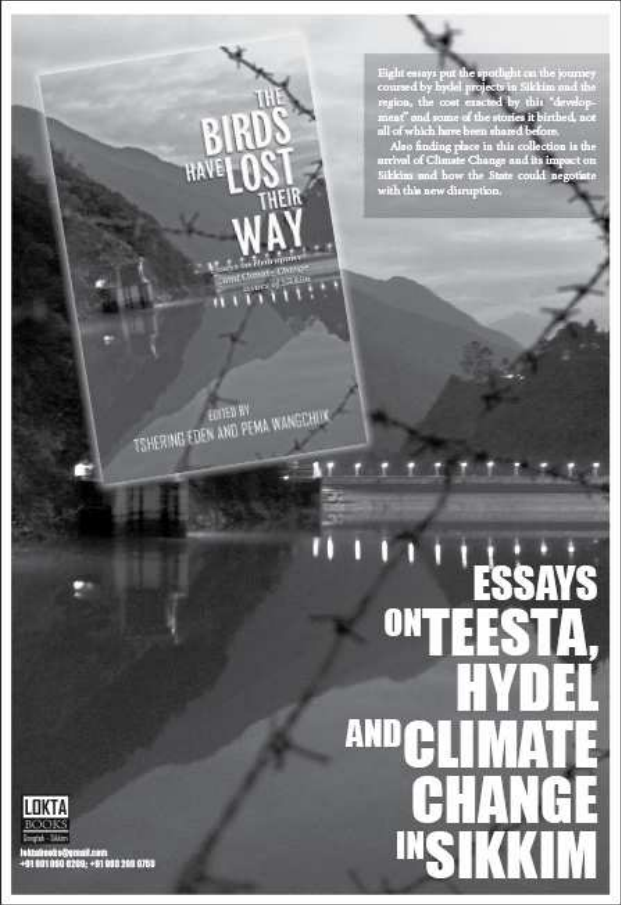
Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma said hydro electric generation is a tedious process and the investors should look into smaller projects with better technology.

He said that his government has adopted the vision 'Meghalaya@50 in 2022' as the state will be half-a-century-old then and entrepreneurs are being promoted to utilise the huge potential in varied fields.

He also called for promoting North East as a brand with a focus on infrastructural connectivity with ASEAN and BIMSTEC countries.

Tripura Deputy Chief Minister Biplab Deb said that earlier adhocism was the rule but now a holistic understanding of the region is being adopted.

Tripura has a very high literacy rate, human capital, surplus power which it sells to Bangladesh and the neighbouring country has agreed to give access to the Chittagong port soon which will lead to great economic change, he said.



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How many world-class players does the Premier League actually have?

Harry Kane? Eden Hazard? Mo Salah? England's top division is unmatched for riches but our definition of world class suggests few of its players are of the very highest standard

PAUL WILSON

This time about a year ago, before Mohamed Salah at Liverpool began to push his way to the front of the queue for the nation's attention, a debate was taking place over whether the increasingly reliable Harry Kane was good enough to be regarded as genuinely world class. Now the same thing is happening in reverse to Alexis Sánchez. By the time the Chilean left Barcelona for Arsenal his credentials as one of the world's elite were impeccable. Last month a journalist in Santiago made contact asking for information on why Sánchez was failing so badly at Manchester United.

Genuinely world class. The first word ought to be superfluous, though in football discussions it never is. No one quite knows the parameters here. Some would argue you have to be good enough to hold down a place in a notional World XI, to take part in a pan-galactic match against Planet Zog. Others think that might be a bit harsh, and suggest any pan-galactic contest would surely be organised along World Cup lines and would therefore require a squad of

23 players, perhaps even a couple more. So you could envisage the criterion as being enough players to form a trial match between the best two sides in the world.

Next Generation 2018: 60 of the best young talents in world footballOr you could dispense with the extraterrestrial stuff altogether and conclude that roughly speaking, most seasons, we already know the best two sides in the world. A simple, working definition of world class might be reduced to this: anyone good enough to attract serious interest from Barcelona or Real Madrid.

With apologies to Bayern Munich, Juventus, Manchester City and anyone else who might feel slighted, that is the definition we will be adopting for the rest of this article. Kane would have made the cut at various times last season – he was certainly on the Spanish giants' radar and his goalscoring feats were being favourably compared with those of Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo – though he did not quite manage enough to boost his standing at the World Cup despite winning the Golden Boot, and he seems to have been suffering a hangover ever since. At his very best Kane might be world class, though since he has been far from his best this season the point is moot.

What is not is that other Premier League luminaries are also struggling to stay at the highest

standard. Sánchez and Mesut Özil both must have been world class once; they not only played for Barcelona and Real Madrid respectively, they both won titles in Spain, not to mention the latter's World Cup win with Germany. Neither is managing to convince at the moment, in fact some of the more strident supporters of Manches-

ter United and Arsenal have been questioning their wages and value to the team.

Class is supposed to be permanent, or at least that is how the saying goes, yet even though the pair are still in their late 20s they would not now be near the top of a list of the world's greatest players. Theoretically yes, both remain remarkable footballers, though some element of consistency is implied in the world-class compliment. It is not enough just to



game, to be around for ages. While one or two seasons of outstanding achievement will certainly claim attention, the stricter judges will demand follow-up.

So looking around the Premier League's elite clubs, who at the moment is demonstrably world class? Perhaps not Kane – until the striker gets back to his best, maybe Christian Eriksen is the most eye-catching player at Spurs and he is out injured. Petr Cech is still capable of impressing but the

36-year-old goalkeeper's brightest days are behind him.

Chelsea have the one player who meets all the tests in Eden Hazard, both in form and in demand. Right at this moment, with Kevin De Bruyne injured, Salah not hitting the heights of last season and N'Golo Kanté deployed in a different role to the one that made him famous, Hazard is unquestionably the Premier League's outstanding player. The Belgian might not have won a World Cup but he is doing far more for his club at the minute than Paul Pogba is doing at Manchester United. Until Pogba sorts out his apparent difficulty with José Mourinho the most reliable aura of greatness at Old Trafford still surrounds David de Gea.

Still in Manchester, De Bruyne's injury robs City of their most conspicuously creative performer, with due respect to the evergreen David Silva, though few would argue that Sergio Agüero fits most people's description of an ideal centre forward. Even Pep Guardiola seems to have changed his mind over the last couple of seasons, with Gabriel Jesus not quite ready to step in just yet, although critics might point out that Agüero has rarely been regarded as first-choice striker for his native Argentina in recent years, never mind the world. At Liverpool, Salah was clearly different class last season but the ultimate accolade depends on wheth-

er he can do it all over again, and while there is still time to weigh in with another stack of improbable goals the early signs are not encouraging.

The list of definites playing in this country at present, then, can be counted on the fingers of a mitten. There is Hazard, with Agüero quite close, and Salah and De Bruyne waiting in reserve. Even if you throw in names such as De Gea, Kane and Kanté it still does not amount to a lot, especially as only one of them is English. Yet barring Spain, which acts as a magnet for top talent from around the globe, the situation is not too dissimilar to that anywhere else.

The Premier League's status as the richest in the world means it will probably continue to attract its share of overpriced flops and Spanish hand-me-downs, though English football cannot be doing too much wrong if it produces players such as Trent Alexander-Arnold, Joe Gomez, Ryan Sessegnon, Marcus Rashford and Kieran Trippier, and showcase talent of the order of Roberto Firmino, Rúben Neves and Wilfried Zaha. Somewhere in there might be the marquee names of the future, not forgetting the bold path to national attention trailblazed by Jadon Sancho in Germany. The future looks promising, which is just as well, since many of the present crop of expensive imports are fading from view.

[the Guardian]

Shuttler Lakshya stumbles in final hurdle, settles for silver in Youth Olympics

BUENOS AIRES, OCT 13 (PTI): Promising Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen settled for a silver medal after he lost the men's singles summit clash against Li Shifeng of China in straight games in the Youth Olympics here.

Sen, the reigning junior Asian champion, lost 15-21 19-21 in a 42-minute final match to bag the silver. He had beaten Shifeng in straight games in the quarterfinals of the Asian Championships in July but on Friday evening, it was the turn of the Chinese to turn the tables on the 17-year-old.

In both the games,



Shifeng led all through and Sen was playing catch-up, eventually failing to succeed. In the first game, Shifeng took an early

lead and raced to 14-5 in no time. Sen made a fine recovery to narrow down the gap to 13-16 but he could not sustain it and Shifeng went ahead 18-13 and then made it 20-14 and then made it 20-14 to have six game points. Though Sen saved one game point, the Chinese won the next one to pocket the first game in 17 minutes.

The second game was a closer fight than the first but the Chinese was leading all the time. Shifeng was ahead 8-7 initially but the gap widened to 12-7 before Sen made it 11-14. The three-point gap remained for some time before the

Chinese made it 18-14 and then 19-14.

Sen made a last-ditch effort to save the match by winning three straight points but Shifeng still made it 20-17 to have three match points.

Sen was still not throwing the towel as he reeled off two straight points to make it 19-20 and just one point away from a deuce. But his Chinese opponent was a hard nut to crack as Shifeng won the final point to clinch the match and the gold.

This was India's fourth silver along with three gold in the ongoing Youth Olympics.

French authorities investigate whether PSG game against Red Star was fixed

PSG expressed "amazement and indignation" and added: "Paris Saint-Germain reiterates its commitment to a fundamental principle of sport, that of the integrity of competitions and therefore refutes any form of practice that could call into question that integrity."

Their statement read: "It was with the greatest stupefaction that Paris Saint-Germain discovered this article on the L'Équipe website regarding suspicions of match-fixing concerning the Champions League game with Red Star Belgrade. The club categorically rejects any and all direct and indirect implication in relation to these suspicions and would like to point out at no moment has Paris Saint-Germain been approached by the National Financial Court in charge of the investigation. PSG remains at the disposal of the investigators and will not tolerate the slightest attack on its reputation nor that of its officials. To that end the club reserves the right to take legal action against any party that makes defamatory statements against the club and/or its officials."

ARJEL, the body in charge of regulating online gambling in France, told L'Équipe it did not notice any suspicious bets on the game.

A Uefa spokesperson said: "Uefa never comments on potential, or the existence of, investigations into alleged match-fixing so as to not compromise the process of such investigations."

"Uefa only communicates on specific cases/matches once disciplinary proceedings have been opened and/or decisions have been taken. Decisions taken by Uefa's disciplinary bodies related to match-fixing are listed here"

Salah scores direct from corner, injured in Egypt romp against eSwatini

JOHANNESBURG, OCT 13 (AFP): Liverpool star Mohamed Salah scored direct from a corner but was later injured as Egypt romped to a 4-1 Africa Cup of Nations qualifying win over eSwatini.

The striker went down holding his leg as the Group J match drew to a close in Cairo, resumed after receiving treatment, and was almost immediately withdrawn.

Speaking after the match, Egypt assistant coach Hany Ramzy told BeIN Sports: "The initial diagnosis, according to the team doctor, is a strong muscle strain. It is not a tear, I think it is not serious."

After scoring 44 goals in all competitions during his first season at Anfield, the striker has netted only three this term, with just one since August.

Salah netted twice and missed two penalties when record seven-time



African champions Egypt hammered Niger 6-0 last month in another qualifier.

With eSwatini (formerly Swaziland) ranked even lower than Niger, there were expectations that Salah could get back on the goal trail at the Al Salam Stadium in the Egyptian capital.

He blasted a shot wide with Egypt three goals ahead before curling a corner into the net on the stroke of half-time.

Salah fluffed a chance to net again by missing from inside the box during the second half after combining with Arsenal midfielder Mohamed Elneny.

Captain Ahmed Elmohamady, Amr Warda and Mahmoud Hassan also scored for Egypt and Sibonginkosi Gamedze snatched a late eSwatini consolation goal.

Tunisia, who host Niger Saturday, and Egypt have six points each in a mini-league they seem certain to qualify for the 2019 Cup of Nations in Cameroon.

- Home teams dominated -

Ivory Coast and Angola also scored four goals on a day when home teams dominated with seven of the first eight matches delivering maximum points to them.

Jonathan Kodjia, Manchester United defender Eric Bailly, Cheick Doucoure and Maxwel Cornet scored for the Ivorians as they crushed the Central African Republic 4-0 in Bouake.

In the other Group H match, Guinea defeated Rwanda 2-0 in Conakry through goals from Francois Kamano and Ibrahima Cisse to stay three points ahead of the Ivorians.

Angola ended the perfect two-victory Group I record of Mauritania by recovering from conceding a third-minute goal to triumph 4-1 in Luanda.

Captain Mateus da Costa turned the tide

with goals after 12 and 16 minutes, levelling from a penalty before volleying his team into the lead.

Angola and Mauritania have six points and Burkina Faso can join them if they win at home to bottom team Botswana Saturday.

An Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting goal gave Cameroon a laboured 1-0 Group B win over Malawi in Yaounde, and Dutch coach Clarence Seedorf his first success as 'Indomitable Lions' coach.

Defending champions Cameroon are guaranteed a place among the 24 finalists next year as hosts, but opted to compete in the mini-league phase to gain competitive match practice.

They top the group with seven points, four more than Morocco, who should narrow the gap by defeating the Comoros in Casablanca Saturday.

France's judicial prosecutor's office confirmed an investigation had been opened but declined to comment on the report.

Red Star, who drew their opening group game 0-0 at home to Napoli, said: "It is with the greatest anger and resentment that Red Star deny today's report in the French newspaper L'Équipe in connection to doubts about the outcome of the Paris Saint-Germain-Red Star match and the involvement of anyone from Red Star in possible improper actions."

"The allegations from this report can cause great damage to the reputation of our club, and therefore Red Star insists both Uefa and the competent investigating authorities in Serbia and France investigate these doubts to the end and come to the truth."

"Today's technologies and various other mechanisms have progressed so much that it is simply not possible for this case to be left unresolved. Red Star expects that the truth about this must come in as short a time as possible and that any doubt about the involvement of any member of our club in any possible disruptive actions must be removed."

At least 34 die in Uganda mudslides triggered by heavy rains

KAMPALA, OCT 12 (AP): At least 34 people died in mudslides triggered by torrential rains in a mountainous area of eastern Uganda that is prone to such disasters, a Red Cross official said Friday. More victims were likely to be discovered when rescue teams access all the affected areas in the foothills of Mount Elgon, said Red Cross spokeswoman Irene Nakasiita. People were killed by boulders and chunks of mud rolling down hills following a sustained period of heavy rains Thursday afternoon in the district of Bududa. Houses were destroyed in at least three villages, and in some cases only



body parts of the victims have been recovered from the mud, she said. "We expect the death toll to increase as some people are still missing," she said. "It's really bad." A river burst its banks, destroying a bridge and threatening settlements nearby, according to Martin Owor, a government commissioner in charge of disaster management. At least 31 bodies had been recovered and identified, Owor said. It was difficult to establish the number of dead because it had been a busy market day, lawmaker Godfrey Watenga Nabutanyi of Luteshe County told broadcaster NTV. "Bridges are gone. Roads have been cut off." Local official Wilson Wataila estimated that about 100 houses had been swept away. Residents wept over recovered bodies, while men dug into the mud with blunt pieces of wood in desperate efforts to find others.

Hurricane Michael death toll hits 16

MEXICO BEACH (US) OCT 13 (AFP): The death toll from Hurricane Michael rose to at least 16 on Friday amid fears it would continue to climb as search-and-rescue teams scour the debris of the Florida town that bore the brunt of the monster storm. "Mexico Beach is devastated," Florida Governor Rick Scott said of the town where Michael made landfall as a Category 4 storm on Wednesday. "It's like a bomb went off," Scott said as he toured the town of 1,000 people on the Gulf of Mexico. "It's like a war zone." Rescue teams were using sniffer dogs in Mexico Beach on Friday in a search for victims who may be buried under the rubble in the debris-strewn community. Brock Long, head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), warned that he expected the number of deaths to rise. "I hope we don't see it climb dramatically but I have reasons to believe we still haven't got into some of the hardest hit areas," he said.



"What's happening is search and rescue is trying to get into the rubble to make sure that there's nobody covered up, trying to assess if there's additional casualties there," Long added. Dozens of structures in Mexico Beach -- homes, shops and restaurants -- were lifted off their foundations by storm surge and 155-mile per hour (250 kph) winds and moved hundreds of feet inland or smashed to bits. "Very few people live to tell what it's like to experience storm surge," Long said. "Storm surge causes the most amount of loss of life." State officials said Mexico Beach was under mandatory evacuation orders but some residents decided to stay and try to ride out the storm. "You hope that somehow at the last minute a bunch of people got up and left or went somewhere else," Florida Senator Marco Rubio told CNN. But judging from the number of homes reduced to "sticks," he said "my sense is they are going to find more victims." Bob Tenbrunson, a Mexico Beach retiree, rode out the storm at his daughter's house in nearby Panama City and returned to survey the damage to his home. "I was going to stay here until it turned to a Cat 4," he said. "So I followed the mandatory evacuation order and left with my wife. "Luckily we did not get a surge," Tenbrunson said of his home. "I've got two trees on the roof and a couple of holes on the roof. I have been trying to patch it up the best I can." The rest of Mexico Beach did not fare as well, and most of the beachfront homes, restaurants and stores were obliterated by the storm. "I spent my life savings and retirement to stay here so I can't sell it now," Tenbrunson said. "I just have to be hopeful that (the town) will be rebuilt and fixed." Some residents arrived Friday with vans or moving trucks, hoping to recover as many personal effects from their splintered homes as they could. Others came with nothing -- as there was nothing left to save. At least four deaths from the storm have been confirmed in Florida, five in Virginia, one in Georgia and three in North Carolina. US media on Friday quoted authorities in Jackson County, Florida, as reporting three deaths there, bringing Michael's toll to at least 16. The latest two deaths in North Carolina occurred in McDowell County when a car struck a tree that had fallen across a road, officials said. Hundreds of thousands of people remain without electricity in Florida, Georgia and Virginia, and officials say it could be weeks before power is fully restored. President Donald Trump said he planned to visit Florida and Georgia. "People have no idea how hard Hurricane Michael has hit the great state of Georgia," Trump tweeted. "I will be visiting both Florida and Georgia early next week. We are working very hard on every area and every state that was hit -- and we are with you!" Michael was the most intense hurricane to strike the Florida Panhandle since record keeping began in 1851. Many of the damaged Florida buildings were not built to withstand a storm above the strength of a Category 3 hurricane on the five-level Saffir-Simpson scale. About 5,000 US servicemen were deployed to help with relief and recovery efforts, the Pentagon said, using 100 helicopters and 1,800 high-water vehicles. Tyndall Air Force Base, home to the F-22 stealth fighter, suffered extensive damage, according to aerial photos of the coastal facility.

Hackers accessed data of nearly 30 mn Facebook users

WASHINGTON, OCT 13 (PTI): Social media giant Facebook, which has its largest user base in India, said that a recent hacking into its system has affected about 30 million users. Facebook product management vice president Guy Rosen on Friday said the cyber attackers exploited a vulnerability in Facebook's code that existed between July 2017 and September 2018. The vulnerability has now been fixed, but not before the attackers used an automated technique to move from account to account so they could steal the access tokens

of users, their friends, friends of their friends, and so on, totalling about 400,000 people. "The attackers used a portion of these 400,000 people's lists of friends to steal access tokens for about 30 million people. For 15 million people, attackers accessed two sets of information, name and contact details -- phone number, email, or both, depending on what people had on their profiles," Rosen said. For another 14 million people, the attack was potentially more damaging as the hackers accessed both their name and con-

tact details as well as other details like username, gender, location, language, relationship status, religion, hometown, date of birth, device types used to access Facebook, education, work details, places they have recently "checked in" to as visiting, people or pages they follow and the 15 most recent searches. For the remaining one million people whose access token were stolen, the attackers did not access any information, Rosen said. He said users' accounts have already been secured by the Facebook

two weeks ago and they do not need to log out again or change their passwords. The attack did not affect Facebook-owned Messenger, Messenger Kids, Instagram, WhatsApp, Oculus, Workplace, third-party apps, payments, Pages, and advertising or developer accounts, the company said. Asserting that Facebook is still looking at other ways the hackers may have used the platform, Rosen said, "People's credit card information would not have been visible to the attackers, as we do not display full credit card

numbers -- not even to the account holder." "We haven't ruled out the possibility of smaller-scale, low-level access attempts during the time the vulnerability was exposed. Our investigation into that continues," he said. Facebook has been cooperating with the FBI, the US Federal Trade Commission, the Irish Data Protection Commission and other authorities. "We don't have a specific indication of the intention of the attackers. And as we have said, we are cooperating with the FBI in an active investigation. As part of the in-

formation that we will be sharing with users over the coming days, we will be including information as to how they can watch out for any suspicious e-mails or text messages or things of that sort," Rosen said. Responding to a question, he said, the company will be notifying people through Facebook so that they can understand what information was accessed from their account and which group they were part of. "We will also work to contact people who may not be on Facebook any longer," he said.

US wants to prohibit data localisation, top trade official says amid looming RBI directive

WASHINGTON, OCT 13 (PTI): The US wants to prohibit data localisation to ensure that there is a free flow of information across borders, a senior Trump administration official has said, amidst reports that major American IT companies are up in arms against the latest Indian directive which kicks off next week. Data localisation is an act of storing data on any device that is physically pres-

ent within the borders of a particular country where the data was generated. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in a circular in April, said all system providers will have to ensure that the entire data relating to payment systems operated by them are stored in a system only in India. It gave time till October 15 to comply with the mandate. "We want to have prohibitions on data lo-

calisation to ensure that there's free flow of information, free flow of data across borders, disciplines around countries requiring companies to give up their source code, permanent ban on taxation or duties on digital transmissions," Dennis Shea, Deputy US Trade Representative and US Ambassador to the WTO, told a Washington audience on Friday. "And by the way, South Africa and India want to

rethink the current moratorium on those duties," Shea said in response to a question at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), a top American think-tank. American financial companies are believed to have approached the administration against an RBI directive which, beginning October 15, requires them to store in India any payment-related data from transactions

that take place inside the country. India has rejected their request of mirroring. "If implemented, this policy will put an unnecessary burden on American companies and hurt consumers, who will endure higher costs and increased cybersecurity risks," Republican Strategist Andy Surabian, who is also a political adviser to Donald Trump Jr, wrote in Breitbart News this week.

"And they are planning to do all of this in spite of the unprecedented level of economic support the US has provided India over the course of decades. The Trump administration should stand up to these reckless actions, just like they have done in other situations when Americans were getting bullied and pushed around," Surabian demanded.

Trump says will call Saudi King on missing journalist

WASHINGTON, OCT 13 (PTI): US President Donald Trump has said he would call Saudi Arabia's King Salman on missing dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi who is feared killed at the kingdom's consulate in Turkey. Trump's remarks at a campaign event came amidst mounting pressure on him from Congressmen and the media as reports coming out of Turkey suggest that Khashoggi was brutally killed by Saudi officials inside their consulate in Istanbul. Khashoggi, 59, a Washington Post contributor, had gone there to collect some papers for his marriage. "I will be calling at some point King Salman. I'll be speaking to him yes," Trump said. "We're going to find out what happened with respect to the terrible situation in Turkey, having to do Saudi Arabia and the reporter. And nobody knows quite yet. Nobody has been able to put it all together. People are starting to form ideas. And as they're formed, we'll let you know. But it certainly is a terrible thing," Trump said. The President declined to indicate the nature of his conversation with the King. "I can't tell you but I will say that they're looking very hard and fast and not only us, a lot of people are looking to find out because it is potentially a really, really terrible situation. So we'll see what happens," he said.

Meanwhile, House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce and Ranking Member Eliot Engel wrote to Trump urging swift action in the disappearance of Khashoggi. "Mr. President, we value our relations with Saudi Arabia. Yet murder and other blatant violations of international norms and agreements cannot be done with impunity," they wrote. Royce and Engel urged the president to use all pressure necessary to encourage greater Saudi cooperation in the investigation into this incident. "Unless the Saudi government fully discloses what it knows about this disappearance and likely murder, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin should cancel plans to attend the upcoming 'Davos in the Desert' conference. "Participation in this conference is not critical to our economic security and would potentially undermine efforts to show the Saudi government and others around the world that brazen attacks on civilians inside consular facilities are unacceptable," the letter said. Trump told reporters that a final determination has not been made yet. Nearly two dozen influential Democratic Senators, including Indian-origin Senator Kamala Harris, on Friday urged the Trump administration to reassert America's moral leadership in protecting freedom of expression.

US warns against any effort to undermine Maldivian people's will

LALIT K JHA WASHINGTON, OCT 13 (PTI): The US will consider undertaking "appropriate measures" against anyone who undermines a peaceful transfer of power in the Maldives, a top State Department official has said, expressing concern over the "troubling actions" taken by outgoing president Abdullah Yameen. Pro-China incumbent Yameen was trounced by opposition leader Ibrahim Mohamed Solih in the parliamentary elections held in the Maldives last month. Solih is widely regarded as a pro-India leader. Yameen's party has filed a legal petition challenging his landslide election defeat despite major international pressure for him to step down. The important statement by America comes days after Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Alice Wells met President-elect Solih. "The US is concerned by troubling actions by outgoing President Yameen that threaten to undermine the will of the Maldivian people, and will consider appropriate measures against anyone who undermines democracy, rule of law or free and fair electoral process of the Maldives," Paladino said. During her meeting with Solih, Wells emphasised that the US is willing to extend cooperation to his government and to assist the Maldives in its return to the democratic path. "The United States urges all parties to respect the will of the Maldivian people and to ensure smooth and peaceful transition," Paladino added. Yameen's shock defeat was widely reported as a blow to China, which financed his administration's flagship infrastructure projects with loans in excess of a billion dollars, drawing accusations of a debt trap from the main opposition party. The election commis-

sion of the Maldives has certified the results of the presidential elections, he said. Paladino said the US is concerned by troubling actions by outgoing President Yameen that threaten to undermine the will of the Maldivian people after he approached the Supreme Court contesting the election results. There have been reports of serious threats against members of the election commission. "The United States and the international community would view with great concern any attempt that undermines the democratic process including any delay in the inauguration scheduled for November 17. "The United States will consider appropriate measures against anyone who undermines democracy, rule of law or free and fair electoral process of the Maldives," Paladino said. During her meeting with Solih, Wells emphasised that the US is willing to extend cooperation to his government and to assist the Maldives in its return to the democratic path. "The United States urges all parties to respect the will of the Maldivian people and to ensure smooth and peaceful transition," Paladino added. Yameen's shock defeat was widely reported as a blow to China, which financed his administration's flagship infrastructure projects with loans in excess of a billion dollars, drawing accusations of a debt trap from the main opposition party. The election commis-



Actress Jenna Dewan is seen wearing a beige sweatshirt, cool pointed-toe boots, round sunglasses and a Gucci belt in Los Angeles.

Beyonce Showcases Sparkling Angelic Look at City of Hope Gala

A week after wrapping up her and Jay-Z's On the Run II tour, Beyoncé channeled a sparkling angel as she took the stage again, this time at the City of Hope Spirit of Life gala on Thursday.

Wearing a rose gold, feathered, off-the-shoulder Ralph and Russo fall 2018 couture gown with a built in cape, the singer performed songs such as her hit "Halo," "XO" and "Ava Maria." Jay-Z presented Warner/Chappell Music Publishing CEO Jon Platt with the Spirit of Life award for his humanitarian work.

Platt had praised Beyoncé before she took the stage. He said that after the On the Run II tour, he was "was reminded even when you're the biggest talent in world, it still comes down to hard work."

"She leads by example," he said, according to USA Today. "She shows all of us how to dream big."

Beyoncé's friend and fellow Destiny's Child band member Kelly Rowland also



attended the event, as did Pharrell Williams, Dr. Dre, Wiz Khalifa, Bebe Rexha and Rita Ora.

The gala raised more than

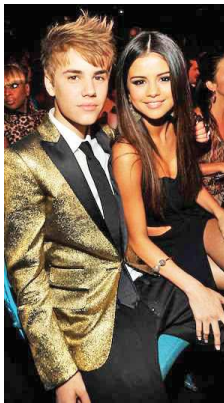
\$6 million for City of Hope, a research and treatment center for cancer, diabetes and other life-threatening diseases, reports said.

Justin Bieber Feels "Remorse" for Selena Gomez as She Continues Treatment

It's been two days since news first broke of Selena Gomez entering a treatment facility to help address ongoing issues related to anxiety and depression.

"Selena has been trying really hard recently to remain focused, and not let her health affect her," a source told E! News earlier this week. "She has been actively writing new music, and moved to Orange County for a change of pace and a fresh breath of air. Ultimately, with all of her arising health issues, Selena started to feel super overwhelmed."

TMZ reported Wednesday that the 26-year-old "Wolves" singer suffered an apparent "emotional breakdown" following two recent hospital-



izations related to her Lupus and her kidney transplant in 2017. According to the outlet, Gomez received medical attention at Cedars-Sinai in

Los Angeles after her white blood cell count became increasingly low.

As for how Gomez is doing now, a source told E! News Thursday, "She is getting the help that she needs. She is already feeling better than she did last week."

E! News has also learned how Gomez's ex Justin Bieber is reacting to her health news.

"Justin and Selena are not in touch but him hearing the news about Selena definitely upsets him," a source tells E! News about the duo, who decided to take some space in March after rekindling their romance. "He feels sad and remorse for Selena and knows how it is to go through a difficult time. Justin also

feels guilty. He wants to help everyone. He truly wants Selena to be happy, and it's upsetting to know she's battling health issues."

Following his split with Gomez, Bieber went on to rekindle his romance with Hailey Baldwin. In July, the 24-year-old "Baby" singer proposed to the 21-year-old model while on vacation in the Bahamas. Last month, news broke that the couple had officially tied the knot.

"It has been overwhelming for him since they tied the knot and he's not good at handling his emotions," the insider says of Bieber. "He's been very emotional, but he always means well and is coming from a good place."

Here's Why The Internet Is Convinced Meghan Markle Is Pregnant

First comes love, then comes marriage, here's why the internet thinks Prince Harry and Meghan Markle have a baby in the baby carriage.

The internet is abuzz following Princess Eugenie's fairytale at Windsor Castle on Friday and it's all because of the Duchess of Sussex's outfit choice. For the star-studded nuptials, the newlywed opted to wear a chic piece designed by the same British designer who created her wedding dress. The Givenchy dress, designed by Claire Weight Keller, was navy blue, but royal watchers were unfortunately unable to see the gown since it was covered by a matching coat, which Meghan kept buttoned up even when she entered



the church.

Of course, speculation abounded after seeing her modest choice of outfit, but the suspicion about a possible bun in the oven only increased after it was revealed the Duchess might not be visiting Fiji during her royal

tour. Apparently, a local tour guide in the region accidentally let it slip that only Harry would be visiting the area. As Australian magazine New Idea reports, there is worry that the Zika virus might be spreading in the country, which can be harmful to

pregnant woman and their unborn child.

Shortly after the pair announced their engagement last year, Harry told the BBC, "I think one step at a time and hopefully we'll start a family in the near future."

Since then, the duo adopted a dog together, just after their May wedding. Little is known of the royal pup, except that it is a female Labrador that enjoys long walks with its parents.

And, asides from practicing their parenting skills with the yet-to-be-named pup, the newlyweds also get plenty of one-on-one time with Prince William and Kate Middleton's kiddos, Prince George, Princess Charlotte and Prince Louis.

Life-Size 2 Has a Premiere Date, Amazing Eve Fashions for Tyra Banks

Get ready to shine brighter and farther than ever before. Freeform has made it official: Life-Size 2 will debut on Sunday, Dec. 2 as part of the network's 25 Days of Christmas programming block. And that's not all! The original Life-Size (you know, the one with Lindsay Lohan) will air as part of Freeform's Kickoff to Christmas programming in November.

In Life-Size 2, Eve (Tyra Banks) returns to help out a struggling toy executive, Grace (Francina Raisa). Grace is now the CEO of the toy company that produced the Eve doll, and she's going through a quarter-life crisis. She's in over her head as the new CEO, and she's leaning on her wild-child antics, which is causing the company's stock to plummet. That's where Eve comes in.

With the help of her younger next-door neighbor, Grace's old Eve dolls magically awakens to help Grace get back on track and take the reins of her life and company.

In addition to Banks and Raisa, Life-Size 2 also stars Gavin Stenhouse, Shanica Knowles, Hank Chen and Alison Fernandez.



ARIES: Too much partying could have you feeling a little under the weather. The food and drink may have been great, but today you'd better eat plain but nourishing food. You may not be inclined to exercise, but a brisk walk or yoga class might be just what you need. It will also clear your head. You should be yourself again by midafternoon.

TAURUS: Friends and lovers alike may take unfair advantage of your good nature. Some may want you to do them favors. Others might want to use you as a sounding board for their problems. You won't want to turn them away. If you can't avoid them, you should learn to say, "I'll help you later!" You can only be in one place at a time, and there are only 24 hours in a day.

GEMINI: Family members might

have too much on their minds today and ask you for more help than you're prepared to give. Make sure you stay calm and focused so you can decide which difficulties are most urgent and need to be handled first. Don't be afraid to tell others your decision. When possible, give advice rather than help. Sometimes that's all people really need.

CANCER: Today you might spend time helping a sibling or neighbor prepare for a trip. Or more than one person could ask you for advice on business matters, legal papers, investments, homework, or other intellectual concerns. Try not to spread yourself too thin or you won't be much use to anybody, least of all you. If it doesn't all get done today, there's always tomorrow.

LEO: Someone may approach you

talking about investments. This person may make whatever he's pushing sound like a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Remember the adage, "If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is!" If you're interested in what this person has to say, wait a few days and then check with an unbiased source. It always pays to be cautious!

VIRGO: Today you may feel like you're brimming over with physical energy. You have a lot of energy, but it isn't a good idea to go climbing mountains, running marathons, or swimming long distances right now. If you don't pace yourself, you could be exhausted by midafternoon. You may be temporarily operating on nervous energy and limited stamina.

LIBRA: Responsibilities may be

weighing on your mind today. Perhaps you've promised someone help but don't have the time and energy to come through right now. Don't be afraid to tell the person. Between the two of you, you can work something out that creates a win/win situation so your friend gets the needed help and you don't tire yourself out. A little ingenuity is all it takes!

SCORPIO: A tremendous burst of creative energy regarding a cherished project could hit today. Inspiration could strike, and you'll want to turn as much of that into physical reality as possible. Don't be disappointed if your insights are exhausted quickly and you hit a roadblock. Don't try to force it. Stop working for now and take it up later. The inspiration will come again!

SAGITTARIUS: Today you could

be in the public eye in some way. Perhaps you're teaching a class, giving a lecture, or leading a discussion group. Whatever it is, don't be surprised if you alternate between inspired and free-flowing articulation and total mental block. When the latter happens, ask for questions. That'll give them a chance to speak and get your brain going again.

CAPRICORN: Too many errands to run? Too many calls to make? Don't be surprised if you feel like you're running in circles. You might be trying to juggle career concerns while making plans for a journey of some kind. Take time to relax. Go to a movie and forget everything for a while. It isn't worth making yourself crazy.

AQUARIUS: Unexpected expenses,

perhaps for house repairs, might require some budgetary juggling. You might have to rob Peter to pay Paul. This will probably offend your practicality, but it's only temporary. With your sound financial sense, you'll be able to balance your budget again soon. Your diet over the next few days may include a lot of peanut butter sandwiches.

PISCES: Surliness on the part of a partner could catapult you into a gloomy mood. Your friend isn't communicating very well, and you probably wonder if it's something you said or did. Chances are it's not. All signs indicate that it's business. Don't try to force your partner to share these concerns with you, as this will only cause further retreat. Your friend will talk when the time's right.