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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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SKM holds coordination meet for Chumbung

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 23 NOV: Sikkim Krantikari Morcha held a coordination meeting for party workers of Chumbung village in West Sikkim today. The meeting was chaired by former Panchayat, Dal Bahadur Rai and former Panchayat vice-president, Deo Kumar Rai, a press release informs.

The meeting discussed setting up of ward-level committees for remaining wards of Chumbung and door-to-door campaigning.

The meeting has decided to constitute ward-level committees on 25 and 26 Nov and door-to-door campaigning from 28 Nov to 04 Dec in Chumbung block. It is added that the review meeting of door-to-door campaigning will be carried out on 05 Dec along with discussion on the Sankalp Yatra of SKM president PS Tamang [Go-lay] under Chumbung.

The release informs that a public meeting of the party was also convened in Gangtok zone 1. The objective of the meeting was to review the party programmes held in zone 1 and on the upcoming youth and women convention in December.

The release also informs that the ward-level committee for Upper Kamling under Rinchenpong constituency in West Sikkim was formed today.

Sotheby's India MD proceeds on leave after 'MeToo' charges

MUMBAI, NOV 23 (PTI): The Managing Director of Sotheby's India, Gaurav Bhatia, has proceeded on leave after a series of sexual harassment allegations against him on social media.

A statement by the auction house Friday said Bhatia has taken a "leave of absence" pending a probe into the allegations.

"In light of recent anonymous allegations that have surfaced on social media, Gaurav Bhatia has agreed to take a leave of absence while a formal inquiry continues," the statement said.

"Harassment of any type has no place at Sotheby's and we will thoroughly investigate these allegations with Gaurav's full cooperation," it said.

According to complaints posted on Instagram, Bhatia touched the 'victims' inappropriately and forcibly trying to kiss them.

Bhatia, who has been

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State level Panchayat & Organic Growers' Sammelan held

Sikkim will be self-sufficient in dairy and vegetables by 2020: CM

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 23 NOV:

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling today said that Sikkim will be

vegetables by 2020. He was speaking as the chief guest during the State level Panchayat & Organic Growers' Sammelan

CM ANNOUNCES...

- All private barren lands will now be converted into aggro-forestry. CM directs concerned Departments to submit proposal in fifteen days.
- 100 varieties of Rhododendron will be planted in Sikkim and the state will become a research laboratory. Forest department to submit proposal within fifteen days.
- 10,000 species of Orchids will be planted and preserved in Sikkim and the state will become a repository for the world where all varieties of Orchids can be found.
- 4000 varieties of potatoes to be brought and made into seed banks.
- All types of varieties of rice to be cultivated in Sikkim.
- 17,000 youths will be employed in the first phase as per the 'One Family One Job' programme of the Government.
- All Ad-hoc and MR workers will be regularized phase wise. Government will give priority to ad-hoc teachers in any interview based on their experience and other criteria.

self-sufficient in dairy products and perishable was organised jointly by the Agriculture, Horticulture and Rural Management departments today at Saramsa Garden.

The Sammelan was attended by farmers,

agri-entrepreneurs, panchayats, Government officials, public representatives and all stakeholders of Sikkim Organic Mission.

The highlight of the programme was the distribution of grants and pension to farmers by the Chief Minister. The pension pol-

icy of the Government to farmers above fifty years was officially rolled out today with the Chief Minister handing over token

pension benefit to farmers. Over 1000 farmers received token benefits in the programme.

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Forest Min's escort in hit-and-run



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 23 NOV:

Forest Minister, TW Lepcha's escort vehicle was reportedly involved in a hit-and-run case at Labi near Kabi

Lungchuk, North Sikkim, this morning. The Minister was travelling from Mangan when his police escort vehicle hit an Alto car with students in it.

Neither the escort,

nor the Minister stopped after the mishap.

After the intervention of the public and Kabi Police Outpost, the Minister reportedly agreed to pay for the repairs.

SKM defends letter to BJP in 2015, attacks former SKM MLAs

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 23 NOV:

Reacting to the news report of seven Sikkim Krantikari Morcha MLAs writing to BJP headquarters expressing their desire to join BJP back in 2015, SKM MLAs, Kunga Nima Lepcha and Sonam Lama today said that this is another tactic of the Sikkim Democratic Front to malign SKM.

It may be mentioned that SummitTimes had carried the news report with the headline 'Letter reveals SKM MLAs were in talks with BJP headquarters' on 22 Nov 2018.

Addressing a press meet today, Sonam Lama hinted at a former SKM MLA who is now with SDF of being the one who leaked the letter to the press. The party also has similar documentary evidence to battle such attempts at lowering the dignity and integrity of SKM, he warned.

"Aru lai hilo chhepyo bhane ahfo lai pani lagcha hai," he stated.

Those who leaked the letter have made clear who the defectors are, said Mr Lama further adding that those MLAs were quick to join SDF when BJP did not respond. This, he said, clearly shows that their intention was not to serve the people of Sikkim but themselves.

turn to pg02

Sonia joins Mary Kom in final, Simranjit settles for bronze

PHILEM DIPAK SINGH

NEW DELHI, NOV 23

(PTI): Unheralded Sonia Chahal stormed into the finals of Women's World Boxing Championships by outclassing her North Korean opponent Jo Son Hwa but Simranjit Kaur had to settle for a bronze after losing the semifinal bout here Friday.

The 21-year-old Sonia, who began competing at the senior level

only since 2016, registered a unanimous 5-0 win over her more fancied North Korean opponent, a silver medallist in the Jakrata Asian Games, in the 57kg semifinals to reach the final in her debut World Championships.

The rookie boxer joins Mary Kom (48kg) in Saturday's finals. Simranjit lost to fleet-footed Chinese Dan Dou,

turn to pg02

17 CCCT students picked up by Mphasis at placement drive

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 23 NOV:

Seventeen students from CCCT's Computer Science, Electrical & Electronics and Electronics and Communication Departments secured job placement with Mphasis, an IT services company based in Bangalore, at an On/Pool Campus Recruitment Drive held at Surendra Institute of Engineering & Management (SIEM), Siliguri on 17 Nov.

The 17 have been selected for the Pune and Bangalore offices with a package of ₹ 1,74,000 per annum, a press communique from the CCCT Principal, Praveen Pradhan, and the placement office informs. They will be reporting there as



soon as they complete their Diploma course in June 2019.

"Our students have proven themselves in all spheres with great placement records during this session as well. We

Placement Officer, CCCT.

A number of other final year trainees have been sitting for interviews in companies from all over the country, the release adds.

"The statistics are a testament to the skills of the students that have been enhanced by the industry-focused quality curriculum. The institute would like to congratulate all the selected trainees and would like to wish them all the best. CCCT as a premier Government Polytechnic of Sikkim has its Vision set to 'Tech Education for Global Competence' of which this placement is yet another achievement towards," the release conveys.

Mphasis was ranked #7 among Indian IT companies and

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**CAREER COUNSELLING
and STUDY ABROAD**
with Mindscan Education, Noida

04-06 Dec, 2018
Hotel Rendezvous, Gangtok

**Mindscan specialises in Career
Counselling and offering Overseas
Education guidance to students –
and has helped more than 15,000
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addition, there is a range of online
programmes, which can help
college students develop skills
which are required by industry.**

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HC directs reconstitution of study committee to examine condition of prisons

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 23 NOV:**

In a move to examine the condition of prisons in Sikkim, the High Court, after hearing a PIL, has directed the State Government to notify the proposed study committee afresh after including members suggested by the High Court.

On 27 October, the Home Department had constituted a six-member committee headed by Law Remembrancer/ Secretary as Chairperson in compliance with the order of the Court.

During the hearing

of the PIL, the successful implementation of Open Air Jail facility in Himachal Pradesh and the modalities of its functioning were mooted by Sudesh Joshi, Amicus Curiae, and adoption of a similar programme here with a view to bring convicts back into society after serving their jail-term suggested.

In light of this proposal, the State Government nominated Senior Superintendent of Police, State Central Prison, Rongyek, as Member Secretary, Deputy Superintendent of Prison, District Prison, Namchi, Assistant

Superintendent of Prison, State Central Prison, Rongyek, Assistant Superintendent of Prison, District Prison, Namchi and IK Basnet, (Retd.) Senior Superintendent of Prison as members of the study committee. The division bench headed by Chief Justice Vijai Kumar Bist and Justice Bhaskar Raj Prahan observed that except one of the members, Legal Remembrancer/ Secretary, Law Department, all are from Police Department and some more members should also be added in the committee.

The Court said that

after discussion with the learned Amicus Curiae and the learned State Counsel, the court decided to direct the State to include counsel Tashi Rapden Barfungpa, Advocate Zola Megi, Advocate and Anita Nirola, Senior Journalist in the committee.

The court directed the committee to submit its report within three months.

The court also directed the State Respondents to pay a sum of Rs 50,000 each to all the three persons suggested by the court and also to former Senior Superintendent of Prison.

Hissey convenes meeting of North dist party functionaries



**WANGCHUK BHUTIA
MANGAN, 23 NOV:**

Rajya Sabha MP, Hissey Lachungpa, who is also an SDF Senior Vice-President, chaired a party meeting at the zonal party office here on 22 November accompanied by SDF general secretary (publicity, North), Krishna Lepcha.

The meeting was also

attended by district president, vice-president, Zilla Adhyaksha, CLC presidents and members of all the district working committees of the SDF.

The meeting discussed and formed the election campaign committees for the three constituencies.

The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss

how social media could be leverage to convey the achievements of the party, highlights the vision of the party president and avoid groupism.

The meeting also discussed issues of reinforcing party principles and directives and also urged the party functionaries to be more active.

What is Career Counselling?

**MANDEEP SINGH
BACHHER**

What do we measure with career assessments:-

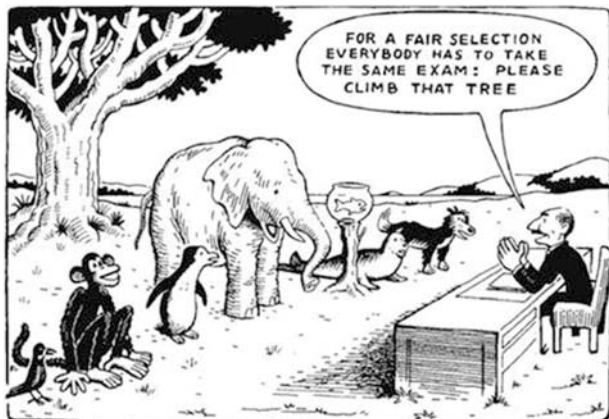
1. Interests- regardless of skill
2. Personality - who you are & how you interact with the world around you.
3. Aptitude- what you are good at & what your natural talents are.

Choosing a career is not a serious affair, for many parents & students - until 12th grade. Once you are done with 12th, it is necessary to choose a definite career and decide a career goal - unfortunately, in many cases, it's too late by then.

Choosing the right career option, while keeping the market in mind is necessary. In addition to this, selecting the right education institution is equally important. Unfortunately, not many students are able to discover their potentials and interests at the stage and this is when pressure starts building.

Seeking the help of an experienced and qualified career counsellor becomes necessary who can assist in discovering your potential and aptitude and accordingly suggest the right course.

Career counsellor



usually employ through testing of three factors - aptitude, interest and personality.

These aspects help these counsellors in narrowing-down to the right career path for a student. With an increase in the number of opportunities in the market, the importance of career counselling has also increased manifold. People have begun to realize the fact that not all can become engineers or doctors and started exploring other fields depending on their talent and interest in alternate domains.

Benefits of career counselling

Approaching a career counsellor is essential

when you are not sure about choosing a suitable career option. Selecting a career option determines your course of life. While a good decision at the right point of time can make your life pleasant, a wrong one can ruin it.

Remember that these decisions are irreversible. In case of dilemma, it is also better to take professional help. Career counselling is probably the best option in this case. Benefits of career counselling is as follows-

1. Helps in determining a student's true potential: There are students who are clear as to what they want to become. On the other hand, there are others who are either confused or have

no idea about their career preferences. Regular aptitude tests and counselling sessions conduct by career counsellors can help students in finding out the right career options and the fields that interest them. On the basis on these counselling results, students make the right choice regarding what course they want to enroll into in order to accomplish their career goals.

2. Clear doubts: Despite having a clear idea of what they want to achieve in life, some students do not know the career path they need to follow to have the requisite academic qualification to join a particular course. Career counselling can

help students clear these doubts by giving them a clear cut view of what they can expect from various educational courses. Some students might also have preconceived beliefs about certain fields. Career counselling also helps students overcome these by knowing the true facts.

3. Support and motivation: A career counsellor also provides essential support and boosts the morale of a student by understanding the kind of requirements. Building the motivational level of a student is necessary for long term success. This aids in improving overall performance of a student. In addition to this, career counselling also teaches how to expand your network which in turn enhances emotional support. To conclude, the crux of career counselling is to provide the necessary guidance that would help the student in making the right choice regarding their career.

[the writer is Director, Institutional Services. He will be conducting a series of workshops and seminars on career counseling and options for studying abroad at Hotel Rendezvous, Gangtok, from 04 to 06 December, 2018]

Diabetes awareness camp begins at Rangpo

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 23 NOV:**

Weeklong Diabetes cum check-up camp for Rangpo and surrounding areas by Lions Club of Rangpo began today, a press release informs.

Dr Dixaa Poudyal mentioned that Lions Club International 322 F has decided to organise Diabetes awareness cum check up camp in different parts of North Bengal, South Bengal, Darjeeling Hills, Siliguri, Dooars, Bhutan and Sikkim under one district one project mission.

Today the camp started with the screening



camp at Rangpo Upper Bazaar and on 24 Nov the screening camp will be held at Rangpo Mandi Bazaar, the re-

lease informs. Cashier of Rangpo Lions, Sneha Jain supported Dr Poudyal in the camp.

UCWSS conducts motorcycle prayer tour



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 23 NOV:**

United Christian Welfare Society of Sikkim [UCWSS] conducted a motorcycle prayer tour from 20 to 23 Nov in the State. The four-day prayer tour started on 20 Nov from Titanic Park in MG Marg and concluded this evening at Tadong after covering different parts of the State. A total of 12 bikers participated in this tour which was led by president, Elder Patrus Gurung and general secretary, Rev Peter Samsher. A UCWSS press release informs that the main objective of the initiative was to pray for Sikkim, the well-being of Sikkimese people and further to pray for the protection of Sikkim from natural calamities and other unnatural incidents like accidents and suicides.

It is added that the team carried out prayers in different churches of the State during the four-day tour and prayed for the State along with members of the churches.

Sikkim will be...

The Chief Minister was felicitated by officers of Forest Department led by Minister, Tshering Wangdi Lepcha and members of Ranikhola Farmers Producers Organization.

The Chief Minister in his address stated that people must come out of their comfort zone and start taking ownership and responsibility of the State.

He congratulated the farmers, officers and all stakeholders for the establishment of Sikkim as a pioneer in Organic Farming and getting global recognition. Sikkim is the first State to start Krishi Pension, and shared that 78 farmers received Krishi Pension today.

He announced that by 2025, Sikkim will be made self-sufficient in Agriculture and food grains. Terminating agriculture and allied industries as 'super industry', he urged the youth to come forward and embrace the field.

Sikkim will benefit immensely if we work towards organic seed and seedling production, said the CM. He explained that there will be huge demand for these in the future.

He urged the youth to use the Start-Up Scheme of the Government in the field of agriculture entrepreneurship and allied sectors. He explained that there is high demand and no risk in these sectors.

He informed that 28 vehicles have been provided by the Government to transport the organic produce of the farmers to the closest market. He informed that South Korea is keen on importing vegetables, especially cabbages, from Sikkim. He said that with the incentives and support provided by the Government, farmers should be able to bring out adequate production.

The programme was also addressed by Secretary RM&DD, CS Rao who highlighted the major initiatives of the Government in rural development.

Secretary, Agriculture Department, Khorlo Bhutia gave a brief introduction about the journey of Organic Sikkim, the present status and future interventions.

Farmers Producers Organization Member from Soreng, West Sikkim, Mahendra Dahal shared the initiatives taken by the FPO in encouraging farmers and community members in organic farming and sustaining the Mission. He placed two demands before the Government - one refrigerated railway coach from NJP to various States, and Crop Insurance Policy as a solution to wildlife menace.

Retired Government employee and progressive farmer from Assam Lingzey, JP Rai shared his experiences and Panchayat President, Kitam Manpur GPU, South Sikkim, Sabitri Chettri also shared the initiatives taken by the GPU in propagating Organic farming through convergence and various other resources.

Panchayat President Samlik Marchak GPU, Bijay Pradhan, in his address shared that the GPU aims to become Adarsh Gram by 2020, and is taking steady leaps in the direction. He also shared that the GPU is working towards becoming a completely wet-garbage free GPU.

Progressive farmers from all parts of the State had also displayed organic products at the venue.

Sonia joins Mary Kom...

a silver medallist in the Asian Championships last year, on a split 4-1 decision in the 64kg semifinals. The 23-year-old Simranjit was also participating in her first World Championships.

Sonia now faces Wahner Ornella Gabriele of Germany in the final on Saturday. The Haryana boxer can fancy her chances as Gabriele does not have a big reputation.

Seeking a historic sixth gold, Mary Mom will take on Ukraine's Hanna Okhota in the 48kg summit bout on Saturday. Assam boxer Lovlina Borgohain had won a bronze in 69kg after losing her semifinal bout on Thursday.

For Sonia, who hails from Bhiwani district in Haryana, it was a stupendous achievement to reach the World Championships final with little experience under her belt.

She began her boxing career in 2011 when she was 14 and rose through the ranks by competing at the school and sub-junior levels.

She first won a senior level medal in 2016. Last year, she won a gold in Serbia Cup and bagged a bronze in the Ahmet Comert tournament in Turkey earlier this year.

With two bronze medals already won and two gold medal round bouts yet to come, India has produced its best ever show since the 2008 edition when the country won 1 gold, 1 silver and 2 bronze.

That time also, two Indians were in the final and two were beaten in the semifinals.

India can beat this 2008 performance if both Mary Kom and Sonia win a gold each on Saturday.

SKM defends letter...

KN Lepcha said that the contents in the letter are self-explanatory, adding that they wrote the letter to Amit Shah because they wanted to address the issue of rampant corruption in the State.

SKM was ready to lend its full support including a merger with BJP, Mr Lepcha justified.

Whosoever made the letter public with a motive to defame the SKM MLAs has been unsuccessful and they themselves have been exposed, he further stated.

The two SKM MLAs also spoke about the Janta Mela to be held in Jan wherein he urged party workers to keep a close watch on the selection process of beneficiaries so that the deserving people get the benefits.



Singtam celebrates Sai Baba's birth anniv

SINGTAM, 03 NOV: A large caravan of devotees took out a rally through Singtam singing bhajan to commemorate a birth anniversary of Sai Baba today.

Sotheby's India MD...

with Sotheby's since 2016, has worked with the luxury brand LVMH for over a decade before joining the auction house.

The development comes at a crucial time for Sotheby's, which is slated to conduct its maiden art auction here next week.

A company website says Bhatia heads the south Asia operation and calls him as the "driving force" behind the inaugural auction in Mumbai.

The company statement said its employees under the leadership of Edward Gibbs, the chairman for Middle East and India, and Yamini Mehta, international head of Indian and South Asian Art, are "fully focused" on the auction.

17 CCCT students...

overall #165 by Fortune India 500 in 2011 and has more than 30 offices in 19 countries with delivery centres in India, Sri Lanka, China, Australia, Japan, North America and Europe. In India it has presence with centers in Bangalore, Raipur, Chennai, Pune, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Vadodara, Indore, Puducherry, Ahmedabad, and Mangalore.

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Gangtok on Saturday, 24Nov

Temp: 22°C/05°C
Forecast: Sunny to partly cloudy with a little rain in the evening, then a shower in spots

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

Indonesia wraps up Lion Air crash victim identification

JAKARTA, NOV 23 (AFP): Indonesia on Friday wrapped up the grim task of identifying Lion Air jet crash victims from recovered body parts, with a preliminary report on the cause of the accident that killed 189 people due next week. The Boeing 737 Max jet -- one of the world's newest and most advanced commercial planes -- plunged into the Java Sea on October 29 shortly after taking off from capital Jakarta to Pangkal Pinang city, killing all on board.

Since then, investigators have been doing DNA testing on recovered body parts. As of Friday, 125 people have been identified after testing on human remains that filled some 200 body bags, said Arthur Tampi, head of the national police medical centre.

CP Joshi apologises after Rahul Gandhi slams him for casteist remarks

NEW DELHI/JAIPUR, NOV 23 (PTI): Senior Congress leader from Rajasthan C P Joshi Friday apologised for his casteist remarks after party chief Rahul Gandhi disapproved his comments and asked him to express regret.

Gandhi also asked other party leaders to refrain from making such statements which hurt any segment of society.

The BJP, however, rejected Joshi's apology, saying the remarks "insulted" Indian culture and the Hindu religion, and dared Gandhi to expel him from the Congress.

Addressing a poll meeting in poll-bound Rajasthan on Thursday, Joshi had reportedly said Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP MP Uma Bharti and Hindu activist Sadhvi Ritambhara are from "lower castes" and know nothing of Hinduism.

He had said it is the Brahmins who are learned and know of Hinduism.

"Respecting the principles of the Congress party and the sentiments of party workers, I feel sorry if my statement has hurt the feelings of any section of society," Joshi said in a tweet in Hindi.

Thursday night, he had posted his speech on Twitter and Facebook, saying, "I strongly condemn the fabricated use of my statement by BJP. To put all the speculation to rest, here is enclosed the clipping of the speech."

Gandhi disapproved the Congress leader's comments in a tweet, saying Joshi's remarks do not reflect, and are contrary, to the ideals of the Congress party, and urged party lead-

Inter-Departmental Football Tournament 2018



SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 23 Nov:

Social Welfare Department registered an easy victory in the ongoing 6th Inter-Departmental Football Tournament 2018 here at Paljor Stadium

Delhi government launches portal for spotting location of cluster buses

NEW DELHI, NOV 23 (PTI): Delhi bus commuters will now be able to spot locations of cluster buses at intervals of 10 seconds with the help of open transit data (OTD) which will be shared on a dedicated portal launched by the Delhi government Friday. Delhi becomes the first city in the country to open up transit data of city buses, that will provide static and real time data through the website -- www.otd.delhi.gov.in -- includ-

ing geo-coordinates of bus stops, route maps, timetables, and real time GPS feeds of bus locations every 10 seconds, said a government statement. "This initiative will provide a lot of useful information at the fingertips of citizen and encourage more and more people to switch to public transport, thereby impacting pollution," Delhi Transport minister Kailash Gahlot said. In the beta version launched Friday, re-

al-time data of around 1,700 buses operating under the Cluster scheme will be provided. Data on DTC and Delhi Metro feeder buses is also expected to be added shortly, the statement said. The OTD portal will incorporate multi-modal transport data feed in future, including those of Metro trains and last mile connectivity vehicles, it said. The portal will also enable the government to instal real-time

Passenger Information Systems (PIS) or display boards at bus stops and terminals to let commuters know of arrival time of various buses. The open transit data will also enable app-builders to provide transit related services like Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA) at any bus stop, position of the vehicle, alert and diversion messages among others. Gahlot said that the transport department studied similar initia-

tives by Singapore and London to come out with the portal. "The Delhi government is making rapid strides towards transforming the city's public transportation system in to a world class one and the launch of Open Transit Data portal is a major step in that direction," he asserted. The portal was designed and developed by IIIT-Delhi.

Major facelift for Jallianwala Bagh in offering as govt to mark centenary of massacre in 2019

NEW DELHI, NOV 23 (PTI): The Jallianwala Bagh memorial will be given a facelift as part of government's plans to mark the centenary year of the 1919 massacre, Culture Minister Mahesh Sharma said Friday.

The government has prepared a blueprint for the year-long commemoration of the massacre that took place on April 13, 1919 as part of its efforts to mark the lives of eminent personalities and events of historical importance, said Sharma who visited the site Friday. The Tourism Ministry along with the Culture Ministry will renovate this historical site by creating suitable infrastructure for providing basic amenities for tourists, he said. "We will also have an interpretation centre, a musical fountain. While the Tourism Ministry has already earmarked Rs eight crore for the project, the Culture Ministry will provide additional funds.

On the harvest festival of Baisakhi, about 15,000 civilians had

gathered at Jallianwala Bagh near the Golden Temple for a peaceful protest against the arrest and deportation of two national leaders, Satya Pal and Saifuddin Kitchlew. Around 50 troops of the British Indian Army, under the command of Colonel Reginald Dyer, fired on the crowd. A number of people had jumped into a well on the premises to save themselves from the firing. Later, 120 bodies were recovered from the well.

The government is also planning to issue commemorative coins, postage stamps and will organise 'kavi sammelans', exhibition, seminars around the Jallianwala Bagh memorial.

"As we prepare for remembrance of the '100 years of Jallianwala Bagh Massacre' in 2019, it shall undergo necessary redevelopment and upgradation. Jallianwala Bagh shall continue to remind the young generation about the sacrifices made in freedom struggle," Sharma tweeted.

འཇམ་དཔལ་འོད་ཀྱི་ཤེས་རིག་ཙམས་ཐིབ་ཁང་།

Namgyal Institute of Tibetology
Gangtok, Sikkim
Ph : (03592) 281525 / 280822

NOTICE

SUBJECT – SIX-WEEK INTENSIVE SHORT COURSE ON UMA ZHIGYA PA (BODHISATTAVA DEEDS)

The Namgyal Institute of Tibetology will be conducting a six-week intensive short term course in English on UMA ZHIGYA PA (BODHISATTAVA DEEDS) by Dr. Jigme Losal with effect from 7th January, 2019 to 16th February, 2019.

All interested candidates who are registered college students or graduates in any discipline may submit their application to the Joint Director, Namgyal Institute of Tibetology on or before 17th December, 2018 paying the requisite registration fee of Rs.700/-. The application must be accompanied by authentic documents to prove their qualifications for the course. Online application will also be accepted subject to submission of scanned copies of their qualification certificates and on payment of registration fee in the office of the Joint Director prior to taking admission. This is also open to devotees and other individuals who are interested in the course and have the requisite qualification to attend the classes.

Uma Zhigya pa deals mainly with Bodhisattava deeds on virtuous practices. The literal meaning of Uma is middle and as the book contains 400 stanzas it is referred to as Uma Zhigypa. The main contents of the text concerns abandonment of belief in permanence, pleasure, cleanliness etc.

For syllabus content and application form, kindly see the 'latest news' on the homepage of the NIT website www.tibetology.net.

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GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
DIRECTORATE OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Ref No: GOS/HRDD/2018/297/376

Date: 23.11.2018

TENDER INVITING NOTICE

Online tenders are invited from qualified bidders for supply of laptops to be distributed to the students of Government Institutions. For details and subsequent communication please visit website: <http://www.sikkimtender.gov.in>.

Sd/-
Director
Director of Technical Education,
Human Resource Development Department
Government of Sikkim.

R.O. No. 498/IPR/PUB/Classi./18-19
Date: 23/11/2018

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT

Memo no: 24/GOS/UD&HD/ACE(SW)/EC/2018

Date: 22/11/2018

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

On behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Additional Chief Engineer (S&W), Urban Development and Housing Department, Government of Sikkim invites bids through e-procurement for the works listed below from eligible contractors of appropriate class. All tender details shall be uploaded on the website www.sikkimtender.gov.in on 26.11.2018 and all bids should be submitted online through the website.

Package no.	Name of Works	Bid Security 2.5% of the bid value. (Rs. In Lakhs)	Bid Value. (Rs. In Lakhs)	Cost of Tender/ bid form (Rs in Lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5
1	Construction of Kisan Bazaar cum Parking Plaza at Gyalshing in West Sikkim.	8.20	327.92	0.50
2.	Construction of Parking Plaza at Lower Pelling.	15.64	625.31	0.50

For all details on the bid, please visit www.sikkimtender.gov.in.

Sd/-

R.O. No. 495/IPR/Pub/Classi./18-19
Date: 23.11.18

Additional Chief Engineer (S&W).
Urban Dev. And Housing Deptt.

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
SPORTS AND YOUTH AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
GANGTOK

No: 168/SYA/EC/2018/244

Dated: 21/11/2018

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

On behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Assistant Engineer (W), Sports and Youth Affairs Department, Government of Sikkim, Gangtok, invites sealed tenders as per the Government Notification No: 584/R&B/PWD/Secy, Dated: 8th October, 2018.

Sl. No.	Name of works	Bid Value	Bid security 2.5% of the bid value	Cost of tender form	Completion period.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Extension and Development of Ground at Begha Secondary School under Maneybung Dentam Constituency, West Sikkim.	88,71,336.00	221784/-	5000.00	9 Months.

The dates of tender are as under:

i)	Sale of tender documents	: 17 th December, 2018 within working hours.
ii)	Submission of completed tender documents	: 20 th December, 2018 up to 1200 Hrs.
	Date of opening of Tenders	: 20 th December, 2018 up to 1400 Hrs.
iv)	Place for obtaining tender documents	: Office of the GPU.
v)	Place for submission of completed tender documents	: Office of the GPU.
vi)	Place of opening of tenders	: Office of the GPU.

TDR should be drawn in favour of Sr. Accounts Officer, Sports and Youth Affairs Department, Government of Sikkim, Gangtok and the Tender form cost should be paid in the name of the GPU.

Note: All other details including conditions of contractors are included in the tender documents.

Sd/-

Assistant Engineer
Sports and Youth Affairs Department

R.O. No. 497/IPR/Pub/Classi./18-19
Date: 23.11.2018

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Meet the Other

Insularity is unfortunately a national malaise. Address it

Identity, as in the perceptions of the outside, is a touchy issue among the marginalized communities. The ill-informed clichés, the pedantic, and almost always offensive generalizations remain sore points for the offended communities, and we live in a region that has lived with such broad-brush impoliteness for ever since we started interacting with the plains. And the brush paints both ways, one may add here.

While it is easy to take affront and fine to draft fresh introductions to correct the offending perceptions, it is definitely not okay to allow the chip on the shoulder to burden any heavier than is healthy. The more this perceived slight is allowed to fester, the more it diverts energy from pursuits that take communities forward. One refers to a “perceived slight” here because the clichés that hurt are products of ignorance and one should not really allow ignorance of others to justify withdrawals into cocoons by the othered. And defensive shells are not the best habitations from which to plan ahead because they keep thoughts and ideas rooted in a past that has lost its relevance for everyone except those who swoon in its fermented confusion. Also, while so enclosed, one fails to recognize changes elsewhere.

That said, it is important that the ignorance which has degenerated into disdain, mutual suspicion and distasteful stereotyping is lifted. One could argue that perceived slights are by nature pointless obsessions since they are born out of, well, perceptions which cannot really be tackled because, well again, they rest in perceptions and those are more difficult to address than actual instances of discrimination. They do, however, become worries when the perceptions start manifesting as actual attacks, like ones which triggered the exodus of NE people from the metros or the lynching which occurred in Nagaland a few years ago. And then there is the continuing parochialism everywhere else in the country and the reprehensible attempts at justifying such targeted attacks born out of Hate seeded in prejudices and stereotypes. These will repeat unless this country makes some earnest efforts at celebrating its much-vaunted diversity. 71 years as one nation and the citizens still don’t behave as One People! This obviously needs to change, and the Supreme Court recently cracked the whip with its slew of directions, including the setting up of a three-member panel to “enhance the sense of security and inclusion of the people from the north-eastern states who faced violence and hate crimes”. The SC directive is the first step, an acceptance of sorts of a problem that exists. For it to be of any real consequence, wider, more collaborative initiatives will need to be taken.

The students provide the best opportunity to build the bridges which can span the chasms of mutual ignorance which feeds insularity among us. A simple and easily achieved course would be for the community/ state representative organisations of the students to become mediums which link communities, not strive to make them self-ensconced unit of self conscious groups. Take the freshers’ welcome parties for instance. Instead of each community, each state or region hosting a welcome party for its own kind, they should use the funds to introduce the freshers to ‘others’ in the student community. Host the parties for ‘your own’ but invite guests from all other groups. Make celebrations the medium to proffer more congenial introductions and strike new friendships. Use the organisations to speak more often about the concerns of other groups and engage more earnestly in issues and challenges which face other communities. This openness is possible only with the idealism of youth, but is currently being stifled because student groups remain obsessively insular.

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



Israel-Gaza brinkmanship slips over the brink

MICHAEL J. ARMSTRONG
theconversation.com

The Israeli-Gazan conflict flared up dramatically recently when Gaza militants fired more than 460 rockets and mortar shells into Israel. Iron Dome interceptors shot down about 100 of the projectiles, while most of the rest landed in open fields. But 30 hit populated areas, killing one civilian and injuring 55 more.

The barrage was the largest since 2014. It brought Gaza’s year-to-date total to 1,124 rockets and shells fired.

Israel responded by bombing 172 Hamas and Islamic Jihad targets in Gaza. About 15 Palestinians died and several buildings were flattened.

The exchange of blows was surprising in one sense: thanks to Egyptian mediators, the two sides had seemed close to negotiating a truce. That’s despite their seemingly incompatible demands regarding military security, economic activity, and prisoner exchanges.

But in another sense, the abrupt switch from ceasefire to gunfire was predictable. Both Israel and Gaza have been relying on brinkmanship in dealing with each other. And that bargaining strategy always poses risks that the situation can slip out of control.

BRINKMANSHIP HITS AND MISSES
Brinkmanship is a powerful but risky strategy for resolving disputes. The United States used it successfully during the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis. It forced the U.S.S.R. to back down and avoided a nuclear war. But

not before the Soviets shot down an American spy plane and nearly torpedoed a warship.

The strategy was less successful during America’s 1981 air traffic controller strike. During that labour dispute, neither the controllers’ union nor President Ronald Reagan would give in. When Reagan ultimately fired the strikers, 11,000 lost their jobs and airline flights were disrupted for months.

MUTUAL THREATS

The Israel-Gaza situation similarly involves each side using brinkmanship to pressure the other. Like the historical examples above, this one displays several key features.

First, if the two sides don’t eventually reach agreement, they’ll suffer a disaster both wish to avoid.

Regarding Israel and Gaza, both want to avoid a full-blown war like 2014’s Operation Protective Edge. If one erupted, Israel’s interceptors and civil defences would limit its casualties from Gaza’s estimated 20,000 rockets and shells. But such a conflict would still cost its economy several billion dollars, like Protective Edge did.

Israeli airstrikes and artillery would meanwhile devastate Gaza’s already-weak infrastructure. A ground invasion might even topple the Hamas government.

INCHING TOWARD DISASTER

A second feature of brinkmanship is both sides deliberately inch toward that mutual disaster. Each proclaims its determination and willingness to approach the brink. Each hopes the other will concede first.

Gaza firepower escalations demonstrate this progression. Militants there began using to burn Israeli crops in April. In May, they fired 188 rockets and shells, the first significant barrage since 2014.

Explosives-laden balloons joined the fire-carrying ones in June. In July, sniper fire killed the first Israeli soldier near the border in four years. More rockets have since followed.

Israel’s responses intensified correspondingly. It initially dealt with flaming kites by intercepting them. In June it began firing warning shots near the kite-launching teams. It started targeting them directly in July, resulting first in injuries and then a death.

Airstrikes, such as the 50 tons of bombs dropped July 14, were initially used only after rocket attacks. But they became common retaliation for kites too.

LOSING CONTROL

Brinkmanship’s third feature is a growing risk of losing control. Both sides may fully intend to stop short of disaster. But they know it’s increasingly likely they’ll accidentally slip over the brink.

This has happened several times in Gaza. While Hamas rules Gaza, it has limited control over Islamic Jihad and other militant groups. Islamic Jihad reportedly started the May rocket barrage, with Hamas only belatedly joining in. A sniper reportedly affiliated with “rogue” militants wounded an Israeli soldier near the border in July. And in October, an accidentally launched rocket destroyed an Israeli home.

Such risks are amplified by hair-trigger retaliations that allow little room for error. After July’s rogue sniper attack, Israeli forces promptly attacked Hamas installations and killed three Palestinians. Gaza militants responded by firing nine rockets. That triggered seven more Israeli airstrikes. The entire escalation cycle took only a day.

ISRAELI SPIES DISCOVERED

Israel’s control has slipped too. In August an army patrol mistook a Hamas military exercise for a sniper attack. The patrol’s gunfire killed two militants. And last week’s violence began when Israeli spies were discovered during a mission in Gaza; one was shot dead.

Israeli politicians have also stumbled. Facing public frustration with the conflict, Israeli politicians have competed to sound the most belligerent. Even the minister of education has called for war.

Such tough-talk may have seemed like mere posturing. But when the Israeli government agreed to resume the ceasefire last week, the defence minister resigned in protest. (That gave Hamas cause to celebrate.) The country’s coalition government consequently may collapse and trigger early elections.

For the time being, Israel and Gaza have resumed their shaky ceasefire. But absent some miracle, the violent instability seems likely to continue, leaving the two sides only one incident away from war.

[the writer is Associate professor of operations research, Goodman School of Business, Brock University]

Lies, damn lies and post-truth

LEE MCINTYRE
theconversation.com

Most politicians lie. Or do they?

Even if we could find some isolated example of a politician who was scrupulously honest – former President Jimmy Carter, perhaps – the question is how to think about the rest of them.

And if most politicians lie, then why are some Americans so hard on President Donald Trump?

According to The Washington Post, Trump has told 6,420 lies so far in his presidency. In the seven weeks leading up to the midterms, his rate increased to 30 per day.

That’s a lot, but isn’t this a difference in degree and not a difference in kind with other politicians?

From my perspective as a philosopher who studies truth and belief, it doesn’t seem so. And even if most politicians lie, that doesn’t make all lying equal.

Yet the difference in Trump’s prevarication seems to be found not in the quantity or enormity of his lies, but in the way that Trump uses his lies in service to a proto-authoritarian political ideology.

I recently wrote a book, titled “Post-Truth,” about what happens when “alternative facts” replace actual facts, and feelings have more weight than evidence. Looked at from this perspective, calling Trump a

liar fails to capture his key strategic purpose.

Any amateur politician can engage in lying. Trump is engaging in “post-truth.”

BEYOND WORD OF THE YEAR

The Oxford English Dictionary named “post-truth” its word of the year in November 2016, right before the U.S. election.

Citing a 2,000 percent spike in usage – due to Brexit and the American presidential campaign – they defined post-truth as “relating to or denoting circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief.”

Ideology, in other words, takes precedence over reality.

When an individual believes their thoughts can influence reality, we call it “magical thinking” and might worry about their mental health. When a government official uses ideology to trump reality, it’s more like propaganda, and it puts us on the road to fascism.

As Yale philosopher Jason Stanley argues, “The key thing is that fascist politics is about identifying enemies, appealing to the in-group (usually the majority group), and smashing truth and replacing it with power.”

Consider the example of Trump’s recent decision not to cancel two political rallies on the same day as the Pittsburgh massacre. He said that this was based on the fact

that the New York Stock Exchange was open the day after 9/11.

This isn’t true. The stock

exchange stayed closed for six days after 9/11.

So was this a mistake? A lie? Trump didn’t seem to treat it so. In fact, he repeated the falsehood later in the same day.

When a politician gets caught in a lie, there’s usually a bit of sweat, perhaps some shame and the expectation of consequences.

Not for Trump. After many commentators pointed out to him that the stock exchange was in fact closed for several days after 9/11, he merely shrugged it off, never bothering to acknowledge – let alone correct – his error.

Why would he do this?

IDEOLOGY, POST-TRUTH AND POWER

The point of a lie is to convince someone that a falsehood is true. But the point of post-truth is domination. In my analysis, post-truth is an

assertion of power. As journalist Masha Gessen and others have argued, when Trump lies he does so not to get someone to accept what he’s saying as true, but to show that he is powerful enough to say it.

He has asserted, “I’m the President and you’re not,” as if such high political office comes with the prerogative of creating his own reality. This would explain why Trump doesn’t seem to care much if there is videotape or other evidence that contradicts him. When you’re the boss, what does that matter?

Should we be worried about this flight from mere lying to post-truth?

Even if all politicians lie, I believe that post-truth fore-

shadows something more sinister. In his powerful book “On Tyranny,” historian Timothy Snyder writes that

“post-truth is pre-fascism.” It is a tactic seen in “electoral dictatorships” – where a society retains the facade of voting without the institutions or trust to ensure that it is an actual democracy, like those in Putin’s Russia or Erdogan’s Turkey.

In this, Trump is following the authoritarian playbook, characterized by leaders lying, the erosion of public institutions and the consolidation of power. You do not need to convince someone that you are telling the truth when you can simply assert your will over them and dominate their reality.

[the writer is Research Fellow Center for Philosophy and History of Science, Boston University]



Mizoram CM among nine candidates facing criminal cases: Report

AIZAWL, Nov 23 (PTI): Mizoram Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla is among the nine candidates facing criminal cases out of over 200, who are in the fray for the state Assembly election, according to a report by two civil society organisations.

Mizo National Front (MNF) president and former chief minister Zoramthanga is another bigwig fighting criminal charges, the report of the Mizoram Election Watch (MEW) and Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) said.

It is based on affidavits filed to the Election Commission by the aspirants. The others facing criminal charges are V Malsawmtluanga (Independent), VI Zahawma Chavngthu (BJP), Rasik Mohan Chakma (MNF), Lalduhpuii (BJP), James Thanghmingma-wia (Congress) and R Lalthangliana (MNF).

Out of the nine contestants, only four are facing serious criminal cases, it said. While the Congress and the MNF are contesting all 40 constituencies this time, the BJP is fighting in 39 seats with an aim to open its account for the first time in Mizoram.

The state goes to poll on November 28.

UNICEF appoints Nahid Afrin as 'Youth Advocate' for NE

GUWAHATI, Nov 23 (PTI): Popular singer Nahid Afrin of Assam has been appointed as the first 'Youth Advocate' of the north eastern region by the UNICEF to fight for child rights.

The UNICEF engages 'Youth Advocates' to harness their voice as agents of change in society.

17-year-old Nahid was appointed as 'Youth Advocate' in the North East at an event here Thursday, UNICEF's India representative Yasmin Ali Haque said.

"UNICEF believes that the voice of the young population makes more impact as they have a unique power to galvanise their peers around issues they are passionate about", Haque said.

Nahid made her playback debut in the 2016 Bollywood film 'Akira' starring Sonakshi Sinha in the lead.

She received the best female playback singer award at the Assam state Film Award 2018.

Dumping garbage may cost Kolkata citizens up to Rs 1 lakh

KOLKATA, Nov 23 (PTI): Citizens may have to shell out a maximum fine of Rs 1 lakh for littering in public places, as the West Bengal Assembly passed a Bill to enhance the penalty for offenders.

The penalty has been raised through an amendment to section 338 of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (second amendment) Act which was passed in the Assembly Thursday. The move comes after Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee expressed her displeasure after finding out the newly inaugurated Dakshineswar skywalk was stained with betel juice.

The Bill proposed to impose a minimum fine of Rs 5,000 and a maximum penalty of Rs 1 lakh fine on litterbugs.

The earlier law stipulated that minimum penalty for dumping garbage was Rs 50 and the maximum fine was Rs 5,000.



It also came on a day, state Urban Development Municipal Affairs Minister Firhad Hakim was elected the new mayor of Kolkata after the exit of Sovan Chatterjee, on the directions of

Chief Minister and TMC chief Mamata Banerjee.

Banerjee had formed a 11-member committee on Wednesday to check spitting and littering in public places. Hakim said, he will take up a major

awareness drive to keep the city clean. A senior citizen, who did not wish to be named, said "The city had earlier failed to impose a fine of Rs 50 for littering, I am not sure how effective it will be this time."

ITEC programme vital for promoting human development resources in Nepal: Envoy

SHIRISH B. PRADHAN KATHMANDU, Nov 23 (PTI): The Indian envoy in Nepal has said that the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme has played an important role in the development of human resources in the Himalayan country.

During an event on Thursday to mark the ITEC Day, Indian Ambassador to Nepal Manjeev Singh Puri said senior

Nepalese government officials are trained at premier Indian institutions under the programme.

Training courses under the programme are available in various fields, including engineering, information technology, journalism, banking, and remote sensing. Dozens of Nepali experts are pursuing M. Tech and P.G. Diploma courses in irrigation water management and

water resources development at the Indian Institute of Technology in Roorkee. Till date, 1,353 participants have attended training courses under the programme.

Nearly 150 ITEC alumni and senior officials of the Nepal government attended the event, where Nepal's Minister for Education, Science and Technology, Giriraj Mani Pokharel, was the chief guest. During the

event, the 130th birth anniversary of 'Bharat Ratna' Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad was also celebrated. Azad, as the first education minister of India, oversaw the establishment of the IITs and the University Grants Commission.

Students of Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Embassy of India, Kathmandu, presented a cultural performance during the event.

Water conflicts on the rise in Maharashtra, say experts

MUMBAI, Nov 23 (PTI): Issues of unequal distribution, lack of planning, political interference and growing demand for water were giving rise to disputes among the different regions of Maharashtra, according to experts on the subject. Maharashtra received inadequate rainfall this monsoon and the government recently declared drought in 151 out of the 353 talukas in the state.

Citing lack of a state-level policy for water distribution and storage, Sanjay Lakhe Patil, president of the Marathwada Backlog Removal and Development Forum, blamed politicians.

"They have always invested heavily in their own areas.

Maximum dams have been constructed per hectare area, resulting in water imbalance and conflicts between different regions, talukas and districts," he said.

"Our water policy has always remained flawed. Needs of the region were never considered while sanctioning irrigation projects. Political leaders only thought about regions of their influence," Lakhe Patil claimed. Giving an example, Lakhe Patil said the huge expenditure on Krishna Valley irrigation projects resulted in water disparity in western Maharashtra.

While Baramati, Kolhapur, parts of Satara, Sangli and Pune

benefited, other areas like Sangola, Maan, parts of Satara, Sangli, Pune, Solapur and Atpadi remained without water, he said.

Lakhe Patil said the Tembhur-Takari irrigation project in Sangole in western Maharashtra, a perennially drought-prone area, is incomplete due to lack of funds.

Similarly, additional water storage capacity dams were built in the upper catchment areas of Jayakwadi Dam which, he said, went against irrigation rules. "Additional storage capacity breaks the catchment water which is meant for Jayakwadi in Marathwada. The conflict started because Jayakwadi does not get enough water," he claimed.

In 2016, the Bombay High Court passed a historical judgement regarding equitable distribution of water and held that water is owned by the state and not any particular district, region, person or personality, he said. The Mendhegiri Committee set up by the state government laid down a formula on distribution of water from the upper catchment area dams in Ahmednagar and Nashik districts as and when Jayakwadi Dam faced scarcity, he added.

The Vithalrao Vikhe Patil Sugar Factory and Mula Sugar Factory moved the Supreme Court against the release of water from

these dams to Jayakwadi Dam but their plea was rejected by the apex court, said Lakhe Patil.

Following the SC order, Nashik authorities released water earlier this month into Jayakwadi Dam.

Lakhe Patil added that 90 thousand million cubic feet of water from west-flowing rivers like Damanganga, Aurangiya, Ambika, Nar, Par goes into the Arabian Sea and no efforts had been made to store this water.

He added that Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority, with its chairperson being a retired Indian Administrative Officer with rank equivalent to the state Chief Secretary or a high court justice, had enough powers to tackle water conflicts.

Ratnakar Mahajan, former vice chairman of the Maharashtra Planning Commission said the previous Congress-NCP government formulated a uniform water policy for the state through which it set up the Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority.

But, he said, the authority could not function independently while taking decisions on water distribution for drinking and agricultural purposes due to political interference. Apart from the water conflict related to Jayakwadi Dam, there are other ones too that are coming to the fore in the state.

Tripura CM invites tourists to see vultures in Tripura

AGARTALA, Nov 22 (PTI): Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb Thursday invited prospective tourists to visit the state to see vultures that is becoming extinct in many other areas.

Deb and Union minister of State for Tourism K J Alphons jointly inaugurated the 7th International Tourism Mart here and appealed for investment in the state in the sector.

"Vultures are becoming extinct across the world, but they are seen in abundance here. Elephants move in herds of 20 to 22. You can make vulture points and bring tourists to see them," Deb told a group of foreign and domestic tour operators at the Tourism Mart.

He assured them the support of the state government in setting up tourist lodges.

Alphons described Tripura as "God's own paradise" and appealed for investment in North-East India.

"I felt it is truly God's own paradise. People in Northeast India are hospitable, incredible... They have a legacy of music, tradition, dance, crafts and they are always smiling," the union minister said.

He said that the investors should invest in hotels and suggested revival of a defunct airport at Kailashahar in Unakoti district for access to Unakoti an 8th century rock cut sculpture.

"India registered 19.2

percent increase in foreign tourists visiting last year, which contributed 7 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product and has created 13.92 million jobs in the last 4 years. But we want to double the foot fall of foreign tourists in the country," he said.

A group of 53 foreign tour operators from 18 countries including Australia, Canada, China, France, Bangladesh and Russia and America joined the tourism mart here.

Over 80 delegates from travel and tourism industry from NE region and 200 delegates from Tripura were also present. The 6th International Tourism Mart was organized at Guwahati in December, 2017.

Chai-Chun - Fresh Tea brewing inside Mayfair Kalimpong



SUMMIT REPORT

KALIMPONG, 23 Nov

The 165 variety of tea offered by Chai-Chun Tea Boutique are now available at Kalimpong's Mayfair Hotels & Resorts.

After lot of deliberation, Mayfair chose to join hands with Chai-Chun to provide guests

a quality tea experience from the best gardens at affordable prices, states Dilip Ray, CMD of Mayfair Hotels & Resorts.

Tea-Tasting sessions, Tea Conventions, Tea Festivals etc will be organized from time to time to propagate the tea culture at Mayfair

Hotels & Resorts, it is informed.

The outlet was inaugurated today by Rajeev Baid, Director, Chai Chun. He informed that Chai Chun has tied up with Mayfair and will be opening outlets at Mayfair Darjeeling and Mayfair Gangtok.

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'Heritage Fest' in Chandernagore

KOLKATA, Nov 23 (PTI): A 'Heritage Fest' is being held at the former French colony of Chandernagore, about 35 km from the city, on November 25 by the University of Liverpool, IIT Kharagpur and a local project team.

The fest is the culmination of a two year project which covers the stretch from Bandel in neighbouring Hooghly district to Barrackpore in the fringes of the city in North 24 Parganas and seeks to protect and raise awareness of the rich cultural heritage of the towns along the Hooghly river, an IIT Kharagpur statement said Friday.

The 'Heritage Fest' will bring together participants from schools and colleges of Chandernagore and through an interactive

session sensitise them about the value of the town's heritage, it said.

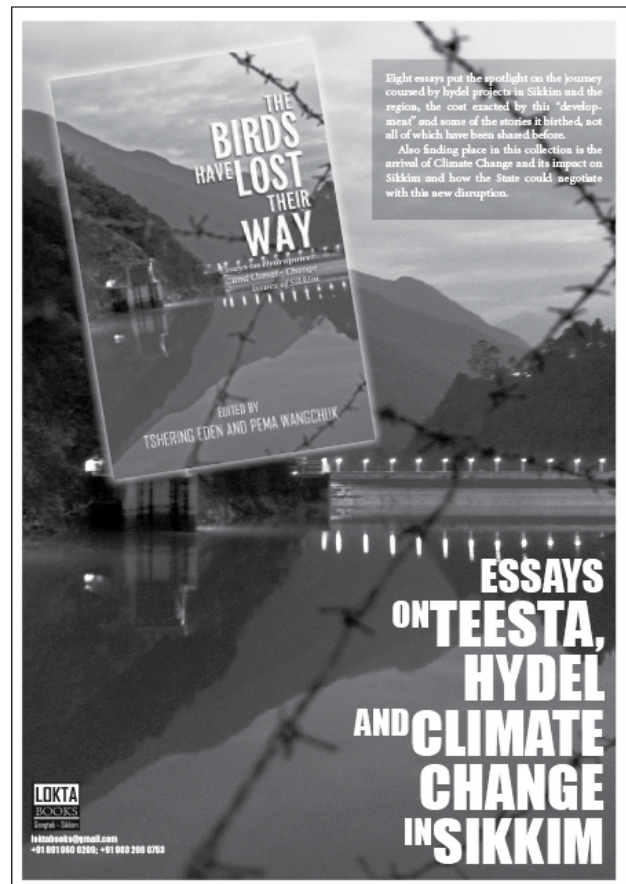
The school children will be taught how to use a custom-made, free smartphone app 'the Hugli River AR App' - specially designed by the University of Liverpool.

The app on the free-to-download platform allows any location-enabled smartphone user in Chandernagore to point his or her camera at important houses and monuments and see, superimposed on the actual real-time image, a historical image taken from the same angle of that place as far back as 120 years ago, the statement said.

The image also carries additional information about the heritage site, it said.

Various competitive events, such as drawing, debate and interactive quiz on Chandernagore would also be held, Jenia Mukherjee, the principal investigator on the part of IIT Kharagpur, said.

IIT Kharagpur director Partha Pratim Chakrabarti said the institution believes in a knowledge economy "where the modern and heritage have a harmonious and caring relationship." The event will also see the launch of a bilingual heritage resource book on Chandernagore, 'Chandernagore mon amour: the Citadel of the Moon', edited by Antara Mukherjee, Assistant Professor, West Bengal Education Services and published by University of Liverpool.



ATK challenge awaits in-form Mumbai City in ISL

MUMBAI, Nov 23 (PTI): In-form Mumbai City FC will look to register its fourth consecutive this season when it takes on former champions ATK in an Indian Super League game here on Saturday.

At present, Mumbai are on the third spot in the standings with four wins, one draw and two losses.

On the other hand, the season has been a mixed bag one for two-time champions ATK, who are on the sixth position with three wins and as many losses and one draw.

After their 0-5 hammering by FC Goa in an away match, Mumbai bounced back in style by registering three consecutive wins against Delhi Dynamos FC (2-0) at home, Chennaiyin



FC (1-0) and North-East United FC (1-0), both away matches.

The coveted ISL title has eluded Mumbai since the first season and head coach Jorge Costa and his men would be

keen to stay among the top four teams.

This season, Mumbai boasts of formidable players both in defense and attack.

With defenders like Romanian Lucian Go-

hain, Congo's Arnold Issoko and Subhasish Bose, it will be a difficult task for the ATK strikers to breach Mumbai's wall.

And for the hosts, the role of custodian Amrinder Singh will be crucial.

Amrinder, one of the experienced goal-keepers in the county, would strive hard to keep a clean slate.

Mumbai also possesses equally good mid-fielders like Modou Sougou

(Senegal), Md Rafique, Sanju Pradhan, Raynier Fernandes among others and forwards like Brazilian striker Rafael Bastos.

ATK also come into the game after their 1-0 victory against Pune City FC in Kolkata and they would be hoping to continue the winning streak.

Uruguayan striker Emiliano Alfaro, who has been brought as a replacement for injured Kalu Uche, will surely boost ATK's chances.

For them, a lot will depend on how the trio of Manuel Lanzarote, Everton Santos and Alfaro team up and attack the Mumbai goal.

The fans can expect an action-packed evening as football returns to the Mumbai Football Arena in suburban Andheri, nearly after a month.

Rain denies India a shot at levelling series



MELBOURNE, Nov 23 (PTI): The second T20 International between India and Australia was called off due to intermittent rain on Friday, undoing the visitors' good work with the ball and denying them an opportunity to level the three-match series. India were naturally disappointed at not getting a go at the target which was revised thrice due to rain. Australia had scored 132 for seven in 19 overs when the first spell of rain arrived at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

India's target was initially revised to 137 runs in 19 overs before more rain made it 90 runs from 11 overs and then 46 from five overs. Nearly 90 minutes were lost due to the fickle weather before the game was eventually called off at 10.02 pm local time.

Rain playing hide and seek was not just frustrating for the players but also for the 60,000 plus crowd gathered at the iconic venue. With the match not producing a result, India now can only level the series in the final game in Sydney on Sunday. Virat Kohli and his team had come into the T20 series after winning six bilateral contests in a row.

The Indians are scheduled to play a four-match Test series followed by a three-match ODI rubber after the T20s. India put up a much improved with the ball on Friday, following the disappointment of the series opener at the Gabba on Wednesday.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar (2-20) and Khaleel Ahmed (2-39) shared four wickets to rock the Australian top-order and reduce them to 41-4 at one stage. This was after India won the toss and opted to bowl. The visitors went in with an unchanged side while Australia made one change, bringing in Nathan Coulter-Nile for Billy Stanlake who picked up an ankle niggle during warm-up.

Kumar then struck with his second delivery, dismissing Aaron Finch (0) caught behind. From there onwards, India exerted themselves on the field and there was never any let up.

But there were hiccups. The swing bowler should have had at least a couple of more wickets, but was twice unlucky in the third over. First, Rishabh Pant spilled a difficult diving catch behind the wickets with D'Arcy Short (14) getting a life on 7. Two balls later, Chris Lynn (13), on nought, should have been caught at fine leg, only for Jasprit Bumrah (1-20) to spill it over the rope and for a six.

Ahmed did strike in the fourth over and pegged Australia back as Lynn was caught in the deep going for another big one. Two overs later, he bowled Short and India's missed chances didn't cost them too much. The longer boundaries further aided India as Bumrah had Marcus Stoinis (4) caught in the deep in the seventh over to put the hosts under more pressure.

Glenn Maxwell (19) and Ben McDermott (32 not out) added 21 runs for the fifth wicket to stem the rot, but Krunal Pandya (1-26) struck to remove danger-man Maxwell. The spinner found some grip and a hint of turn as Maxwell was bowled in the 11th over.

Kuldeep Yadav (1-23) too made his presence felt, chipping in with Alex Carey's (4) dismissal, sending the prominently Indian crowd into raptures. Australia somehow managed to cross the 100-mark in the 16th over, thanks to a 27-run partnership between Nathan Coulter-Nile (18) and McDermott.

Coulter-Nile hit two sixes and a four during his nine-ball stay. McDermott held one end together and put on 31 runs off 20 balls with Andrew Tye (12 not out), providing a little impetus to the innings before rain halted proceedings.

Mane signs new long-term deal with Liverpool

LONDON, Nov 23 (AFP): Liverpool forward Sadio Mane has signed a new long-term contract with the Premier League giants, the club announced on Thursday.

The 26-year-old joined Jurgen Klopp's side from Southampton in June 2016, and has scored 40 goals for Liverpool, forming a deadly frontline alongside Roberto Firmino and Mohamed Salah.

"I am very happy, very happy to extend my time at Liverpool," Mane said.

"It is a great day for me and now I am looking forward to everything -- to helping the team, to helping the club achieve our dreams and, especially, to win trophies.

"For me, I have made the best decision in my career."

The Senegal international scored 10 goals as Liverpool reached



last season's Champions League final, and has started the new campaign strongly, netting six times in 11 Premier League games. He was also named on the 30-man shortlist for the Ballon d'Or last month.

The length of his new deal was not disclosed by Liverpool. "This is a big boost for everyone and

another demonstration of how the players we have at this club are committed, not just to our present but our future also," said Reds manager Klopp.

"I can't think of a single club anywhere in Europe that wouldn't want a player like Sadio available to them, so the fact he wants to remain with us says something about

where we are currently.

"He is a such an important member of our team and squad. He radiates joy and I think this is reflected in his performances and impact on the pitch." The Anfield club put their unbeaten record in the league this term on the line against Watford on Saturday.

Monaco to host 2019 Laureus Awards on February 18

NEW DELHI, Nov 22 (PTI): The 19th edition of the prestigious Laureus World Sports Awards will be held in Monaco on February 18 next year.

Considered the 'Oscars of sports', the Laureus World Sports

Awards celebrate global sporting achievements across the calendar year.

The nominations to honour the sporting achievements of 2018 will start later this month.

Former India cricket captains Kapil Dev, Rahul Dravid and Sachin

Tendulkar are members of the Laureus Academy, which also has big sporting names like Boris Becker, Martina Navratilova, Sergey Bubka, Luis Figo, Michael Johnson, Sebastian Coe, Vivian Richards, Ian Botham, Steve

Waugh among others.

Last year, tennis great Roger Federer won the Laureus Sportsman of the Year award for a record fifth time, while Serena Williams won the Sportswoman of the Year recognition for the fourth time.

IFFI 2018: Between misplaced pride over 'national language' and fear of getting lost in translation

RADHIKA SHARMA

PANAJI, Nov 23 (PTI): There is a reason why IFFI 2018 is International Film Festival of India and not 'Hindi' and the day three of the ongoing movie gala saw the organisers grappling with finding a meeting point for those who know and do not know English.

The bone of contention was that since people and delegates from different countries had come to attend the "international" festival, it was logical that English be used to express one's ideas.

At IFFI 2018's 'Redefining Stories' session on Thursday, one of the audience members objected to the moderator, cinematographer Aseem Bajaj using Hindi as the medium of speech.

To which actor Pankaj Tripathi, who was part of the panel, quickly interjected in Hindi, "Uska kya jisko English nahin aati".

Fellow panellist actor Rahul Bose made light of the discussion and said "I can speak in English, Bengali, Punjabi, Marathi and Hindi. We can take a vote."

This was followed by an audience member saying: "You are known by Hindi films, please talk in Hindi."

The audience member who strongly reacted to Tripathi earlier, dug his heels harder with continuous "No's."

Bajaj asked the man in question if

he understood Hindi, to which the person said "Not so well".

Soon another audience member got hold of the microphone and she said, "I am from Korea, please speak in English." Then Bajaj declared that the panel will talk in English to make things "easy". Tripathi said, "If I speak in Hindi, someone please translate for those who can't understand."

When he got his chance to speak after others in the end, the actor helplessly said to the man in question that he was unable to speak in English.

The audience member then said, "You are wearing jeans and all, you should be knowing English."

To this Tripathi replied, "The age in which we learn a language, I was not that privileged to be able to wear jeans and do that."

His honest and transparent answer won many hearts.

The actor said his piece in Hindi when he got the chance: "Main yahan baitha hoon apni story sunane 'Redefining Stories' mein. Ye apne aap mein redefining hai ki main baitha hoon aur aap sun rahe hain."

He then said: "Aap mujhe gaur se meri aankhon mein dekhenge na, to saari kahaani aapko pata chal jayegi... Main itna hee filmy hoon."

The actor said language is not a is-

No regrets, decision was for team, says Harmanpreet on Mithali Raj's omission

NORTH SOUND (ANTI-GUA), Nov 23 (PTI): The decision to drop a player of Mithali Raj's calibre backfired during India's humiliating semi-final loss to England in the World T20 but skipper Harmanpreet Kaur said that she has "no regrets" as it was decision taken keeping team's interests in mind. Indian batting collapsed as they managed only 112 with eight wickets falling for 24 runs as the visibly upset veteran's blank stare sitting in the dug-out said it all.

At the toss, Harmanpreet said: "It's not about not selecting Mithali, it's about keeping a winning combination."

The decision was questioned by former England captain Nasser Hussain and former Indian Test player Sanjay Manjrekar on air.

However the Indian skipper defended her decision. "Whatever we decided, we decided for the team. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't, no regrets. I'm proud of the way my girls played through the tournament," Harmanpreet said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

Mithali's strike-rate was always an issue but considering that Taniya Bhatia hasn't been able to accelerate and Veda Krishnamurthy in poor form, the decision to drop a seasoned campaigner boomeranged on India.

The skipper said that she wanted someone to bat in the middle-order as Mithali's preferred position is opening and she didn't want to tinker with the combination that won against Australia. "We did really well against Australia, and that is the reason we just wanted to go with the same combination," she explained at the press conference.

"She (Mithali) opens. We need someone after Smriti (Mandhana) and me who can bat for us. Sometimes you click, sometimes it doesn't click," Harmanpreet agreed that the team was at least 30 runs short of what could possibly have been a winning tar-

get. "Definitely, it was not enough to tell you, but still I had enough faith that, if we could have bowled better, we could've won the game," said Kaur. "But it's part of the game sometimes I think if we had 140-150 then definitely we would have won the game."

The Indian captain termed it as a learning curve for her young team.

"This is a learning for us because we are a young team. Sometimes you have to change your game according to the wicket. England bowled really well, read the wicket really well. It was not an easy total to chase, and our bowlers bowled really well. We stretched the match till the 18th over," Harmanpreet explained. She did admit that mental strength in big games is an issue and her young team needs to garner a bit more of it.

"I think we are a young team and we still need to work on our mental strength. If we can work on how to play under pressure, that will change how we play these games."

England captain Heather Knight said that she was worried during Powerplay overs when Smriti Mandhana had gone on the offensive but lauded her spinner Kirstie Gordon and Sophie Ecclestone for bringing them back in the game.

"The match got away from us a bit in the Powerplay but the spinners bowled really well to bring us back. Kirstie has been outstanding on her first tour. Sophie, young spinner as well, has shown a lot of quality over the last year or so."

Knight said that she wasn't concerned about the form of her top players like Tammy Beaumont and Dani Wyatt because conditions for batting was challenging in St Lucia.

"I think the conditions have been very tricky in St Lucia and when we've come here, No worries at all about (the form of Beaumont and Wyatt). The final (against Australia) is going to be a great game, hopefully we'll have a great atmosphere and a brilliant game of cricket."

drama "Panipat" and the film's team wants to keep it under wraps for obvious reasons, Boney said in Hindi.

He then translated the sentence in English. But he could not fully honour his promise as the session moved ahead.

Jaffery too continued posing questions, mostly in Hindi, with some words of English and Urdu sprinkled here and there. The scales of the entire conversation too ended up tilting Hindi's favour.

At NFDC's Film Bazaar, Knowledge Series 'Badlands & the Gender' however, conversation ran quite as melodiously as some of Vishal Bhardwaj's compositions.

The director was in conversation with London-based documentary filmmaker Nasreen Munni Kabir.

Kabir was asking questions in English and Bhardwaj was answering them in the same language.

In the session, when two members of the audience posed questions to him in Hindi, the director chose to answer in English.

Earlier, when some glimpses of Bhardwaj's films were shown, the director appealed to the organisers to arrange clips with subtitles (in English) so that people from other parts of the country and world do not get lost in translation.

Rajapaksa’s opponents win control of key panel in Lankan Parliament

COLOMBO, NOV 23 (PTI): Ousted Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe’s alliance on Friday won control of a powerful panel in Parliament, dealing a major blow to President Maithripala Sirisena and his prime ministerial appointee Mahinda Rajapaksa.

Sirisena’s party members walked out of Parliament, which resumed its session on Friday after being adjourned on Monday, protesting against Speaker Karu Jayasuriya’s move to appoint five members of the United People’s Freedom Alliance (UPFA) which is led by the President.

The Speaker named five members from the United National Front (UNF) of Wickremesinghe, and one each from the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) and the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP).

This is in continuation of the political unrest plaguing the country since October 26.

Both Wickremesinghe and Rajapaksa claim to be the prime ministers. Wickremesinghe says his dismissal is invalid because he still holds a majority in the 225-member Parliament.

Jayasuriya, at the start of the session, announced that following a



meeting of all party leaders which ended without an agreement over the composition of the committee, he had decided to grant five members each to the UPFA and the UNF.

The committee would comprise 12 members, he said.

Senior UPFA member Dinesh Gunawardena slammed the speaker’s conduct as biased.

“I urge you to recognise us as the government and give us the majority in the select committee.

“We have precedents that even during the minority governments in the past the government had been given majority in the select committee,” he said.

Lakshman Kiriella on behalf of the ousted government said that Jayasuriya has declared the members based on two previous votes that there was no government and the purported government does not exist.

Wimal Weerawansa, another Sirisena backer, said that if Jayasuriya was not recognising the government, they would not recognise Jayasuriya as the Speaker.

“We will leave the chamber allowing you to conduct a meeting of the United National Party,” Weerawansa said and led Sirisena’s side out of the chamber.

Jayasuriya then proceeded to take a vote on his decision on the select

committee composition after a vote was moved by JVP’s Vijitha Herath.

The proposal was adopted with 121 votes for and nothing against. The members of the UNF, Sri Lanka Muslim Congress and the Tamil National Alliance voted in favour.

Sri Lanka is witnessing a political crisis since President Sirisena abruptly sacked Wickremesinghe on October 26.

Sirisena later dissolved Parliament, almost 20 months before its term was to end, and ordered snap election. The Supreme Court overturned Sirisena’s decision to dissolve Parliament and halted the prepa-

rations for snap polls.

Speaker Jayasuriya then ordered a floor test in the 225-member assembly to end the ongoing political crisis, a move which invited the wrath of the government of Rajapaksa.

The UNF has already moved two motions of no trust against Rajapaksa and they are to move a third vote again, perhaps Friday. Rajapaksa, however, has refused to step down.

On Wednesday, Wickremesinghe’s party handed Parliament another motion, demanding suspension of funds of all ministry secretaries whom they claim had been illegally appointed since October 26.

TerrorattackonChineseconsulate in Karachi foiled; 5 killed

KARACHI, NOV 23 (PTI): Three heavily-armed suicide bombers on Friday stormed the Chinese consulate in Pakistan’s largest metropolis Karachi, killing two policemen before being shot dead by security forces which foiled the daring attack in the high-security zone, authorities said.

The consulate, located in the posh Clifton area, came under attack early morning.

Three suspected suicide bombers were killed before they were able to enter the facility as forces successfully foiled the attack, Karachi Police Chief Amir Shaikh said.

Nine hand grenades, Kalashnikov bullets, magazines and explosives were recovered from the possession of the terrorists, Geo news quoted police officials as saying.

“Food supplies and medicines were also recovered from their possession,” officials said.

“We have received two dead bodies of policemen and an injured Chinese security guard who is under treatment,” said Seemi Jamali, the executive director at Jinnah Hospital.

The Sindh government and the Inter-Services Public Relations Wing (ISPR) confirmed that three terrorists were killed in the opera-

tion. The heavily-guarded E-Street neighbourhood, which is considered a red zone, is home to a number of upscale restaurants, diplomatic missions and schools.

The Bilawal House of Pakistan People’s Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is also in the area. Schools and eateries have been locked down until a clearance operation is concluded.

Residents said they first heard firing and explosions around 9.30 AM (local time).

“The terrorists first attacked the checkpoint outside the consulate and detonated a hand grenade in the area,” Shaikh said.

Shaikh said the attackers had parked their vehicle at some distance from the consulate before moving towards it.

Defence analyst and security contractor Ikram Sehgal, whose company’s guards have been posted at the consulate, said that the attackers had first engaged in an exchange of fire with policemen.

After the policemen were killed, he said, the attackers proceeded towards the gate of the consulate. However, the guards were quick to usher civilians with consular business into the building and shut

the gates behind them.

Chinese staff at the mission were taken to the main building, Sehgal said.

The paramilitary rangers than reached the spot and engaged the attackers, leaving three of them killed. Weapons and explosive materials were recovered from the attackers, he said.

Sheikh said that all Chinese staffers “are safe and secure”.

The security situation has been brought under control and all areas will soon be cleared, he said, adding that a team of police has been deployed inside the consulate.

The Foreign Office spokesman said that Islamabad is “in touch with the relevant agencies and will react quickly” to ascertain the facts.

Shaikh said he would be able to provide a clearer account of the attack later.

The area, considered a red zone, is heavily guarded.

Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah contacted the Chinese consul general and assured him that the situation will be taken under control.

Governor of Sindh Imran Ismail has sought a report on the attack from the Sindh inspector general of police.

California fire mostly contained, death toll rises to 84



LOS ANGELES, NOV 23 (AFP): The fire that has ravaged northern California is now almost completely contained, authorities said Thursday as the death toll rose to 84.

Rain fell in the first measurable amounts

in months in the drought-stricken area and this helped put out hot spots and smouldering fires, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said.

It said the so-called Camp Fire is now 95 per

cent contained.

The number of people listed as unaccounted for in the deadliest and most destructive fire in state history stands at 563.

Previously the death toll had been put at 83.

Another three people

died in a second major blaze that struck Malibu in southern California.

In the north, the Camp Fire has scorched 153,000 acres of land and destroyed more than 13,600 homes since it broke out on November 8.

Swindler impersonates former S. Korea first lady

SEOUL, NOV 23 (AFP): A woman pretending to be a former South Korean first lady was arrested Friday on suspicion of swindling a politician out of nearly USD 400,000, a report said. Claiming to be late president Roh Moo-hyun’s widow Kwon Yang-sook, the fraudster allegedly persuaded the then mayor of Gwangju to transfer her 450 million won (USD 398,000), saying she needed it for her daughter and promising to repay it quickly.

At the time Yoon Jang-hyun, a member of the Democratic party of both Roh and current President Moon Jae-in, was seeking the organisation’s nomination for a second term as leader of the southern city. Corruption allega-

tions are commonplace in South Korean politics, and its last two presidents Lee Myung-bak and Park Geun-hye are both serving prison sentences for graft.

Roh himself committed suicide by jumping off a cliff in 2009 after he was questioned over a corruption case involving Kwon.

Her alleged impersonator texted around 10 prominent figures in Gwangju in December but Yoon was the only one to pay out, Yonhap news agency reported.

In the event he did not secure the mayoral nomination and has left the political scene. Friday’s arrest came after a man was held earlier this week on charges of pretending to be close to a presidential aide in charge of managing Moon’s supposed slush funds.

25 killed, 35 injured in powerful blast in Pak’s northwest

PESHAWAR, NOV 23 (PTI): A powerful bomb blast ripped through a busy market outside a religious seminary in Pakistan’s restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Friday, killing at least 25 people and injuring over 35 others, officials said.

The explosive material was planted in the Friday Market (Juma Bazar) near an imambargah, a Shia religious place, in Aurakzai tribal district’s Kalaya area outside.

At least 25 people were killed while more than 35 others injured, Geo news quoted district administration officials as saying. Officials said

that most of the victims were minority Shia Muslims.

The area has been cordoned off and investigation into the incident is under way.

An emergency has been declared in the region’s hospitals to handle the situation.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police are on high alert following the Orakzai blast and a separate attack on the Chinese Consulate in Karachi on Friday morning.

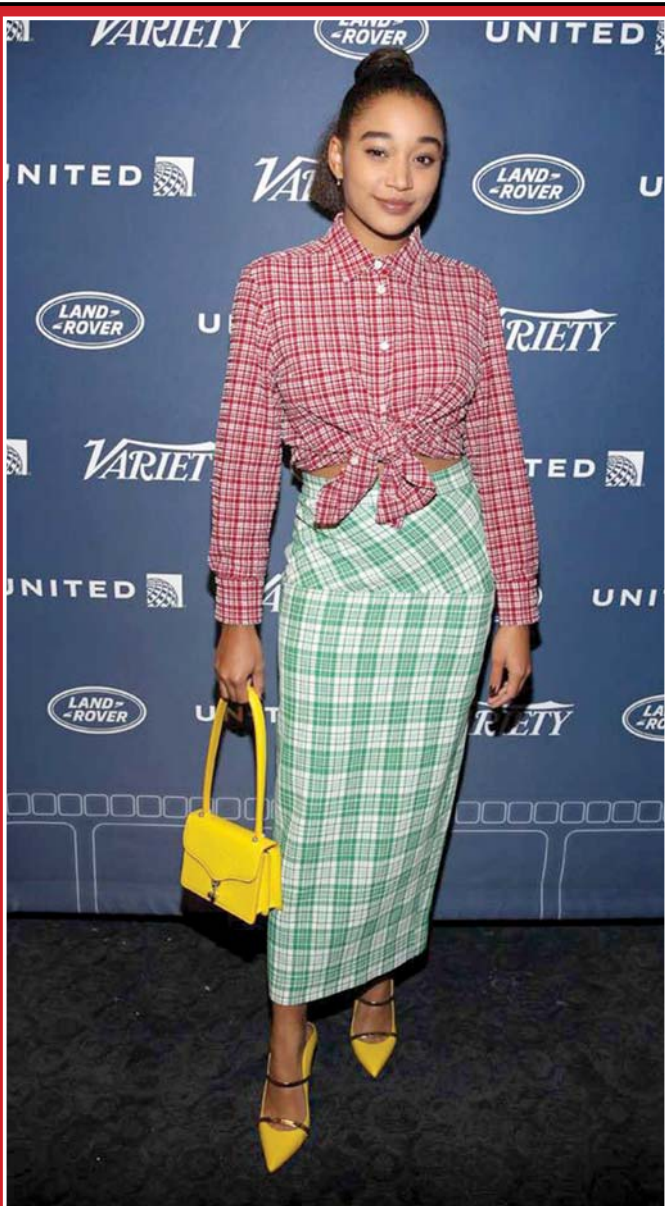
“Our enemies are not happy with peace in the province,” provincial Chief Minister Mehmood Khan said after the attack.

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

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

ESSAYS ON TEESTA, HYDEL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN SIKKIM

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CHECKMATE! Amandla Stenberg sports a plaid red shirt and green skirt complemented with a bright yellow purse and shoes at a screening of *The Hate U Give* in L.A.

Daniel Radcliffe reveals why he wouldn't watch 'Harry Potter' play

LOS ANGELES, NOV 23 (PTI): Daniel Radcliffe says the reason he would not go and watch the Broadway play "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child" because rather than the act, audiences would look at him for his reaction. During his appearance on "Late Night with Seth Meyers", the 29-year-old actor said his decision was not based on the possibility that the play would throw him "into some existential crisis".

"I always give a really boring, terrible answer. I'm probably not going to see it, I don't have plans to. Not because I think it would throw me into some sort of existential crisis of like, 'Oh, is that what happened?'," he told Meyers.

Radcliffe said he believes it would not be a "relaxing" experience for him if he goes to watch the play. "I feel like I would be being

watched for my reaction. And maybe that is completely conceited and egotistical and people wouldn't care, but I do feel if I was just surrounded by 'Harry Potter' fans, it



would be a little odd," he added. Meyers then asked him if he considered going in disguise, to which Radcliffe said, "The thing about a disguise is that if it stops working, then you're just a dude who wore a disguise."

JUSTIN RAO

MUMBAI, Nov 23 (PTI): Thirty five years and several blockbusters later, actor Sunny Deol says his process of working in a film is purely "instinctive" where he is more interested in listening to the storyteller than reading scripts.

For Sunny, it is a matter of choice that he avoids reading scripts as he believes he might look at them with a "certain mindset" and hence prefers to hear them straight from the writers.

"I am a very instinctive person. I hear an idea, a thought and if it is good and I like it, I just jump for it. I don't go into the details of it. Right now, you need to do that but back then filmmaking was different. I never read scripts," Sunny told PTI.

"I just hear the idea from the director and go for it. I have always interacted with the story writer and heard the subject because that's what is going to eventually come over on screen," he adds.

Since his debut in 1983 with "Betaab", Sunny has featured in some strong content driven films like "Ghayal", "Damini", "Darr" and "Gaddar Ek Prem Katha", among others.

A process of not reading scripts can be considered risky but Sunny still goes by his instincts while giving nod to a film.

"One never takes it as gamble. I do it because I love it and I'm enjoying the story. Obviously sometimes in the journey you realise the production, the director, writer, or some things are going here and there but you don't disown it. You don't run away because it's everyone's baby," he says.

The actor is seen in "Bhaijaan Superhit", which also features Priyanka Zinta and Arshad Warsi.



The film is set in Sunny's familiar territory, action-comedy, but the actor says it does not mean he goes to the sets thinking it will be a cakewalk.

"I don't think I have ever worked with the attitude that 'This is easy I can do it.' Hats off to those who say and do it. For me, I need to enjoy it. You can't be nervous while performing a scene because then you wouldn't be able to," he says.

The 62-year-old actor, however, is aware that to stay relevant, he has to pick up roles which move according to times.

"I cannot be a teenager in films. You move accordingly and your experience makes you do certain subjects which you wouldn't have done when you were younger. As the time goes, you interact and become more aware of certain things."

"It'll be stupid if I still want to play a college boy. Besides that nobody would want to make it also. It's only when the filmmakers know that this actor can pull it off, is when they approach you," he adds.

Directed by Neeraj Pathak and produced by Chirag Dhariwal, "Bhaijaan Superhit" releases on Friday.

Keira Knightley, Keeley Hawes to star in 'Misbehaviour'

LONDON, NOV 23 (PTI): Actors Keira Knightley and Keeley Hawes are all set to play the lead in the drama, "Misbehaviour".

The film is a retelling of the fascinating true story about Women's Liberation Movement's activists who stormed the 1970 Miss World pageant in protest, reported DigitalSpy.

The feature, to be helmed by Philippa Lowthorpe, will examine the movement and the global prominence that came from crashing Miss World.

Knightley, 33, and actor Jessie Buckley will play members of the Women's Liberation Movement.

Hawes, 42, who most recently featured alongside Richard Madden in "Bodyguard", will take on the role of Miss World pageant executive Julia Morley.

Gugu Mbatha-Raw, the star of "San Junipero" episode of



"Black Mirror", will play Miss Grenada.

The 1970 pageant was also famed for being the first to be won by a black woman, which caused further controversy, as suspicions were raised over the judges' voting system.

Keanu Reeves has a mystery role in 'Toy Story 4'

Los Angeles, Nov 23 (PTI): Actor Tim Allen has revealed that "John Wick" star Keanu Reeves is playing an "edgy" mystery role in upcoming "Toy Story 4".

During his appearance on "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon", Allen, who lends his voice to Buzz Lightyear, said Reeves got a "great part" in the much-awaited film.

"Keanu Reeves has got a great part. Actually, a little inside story, even (Reeves) said gentle, wonderful guy that he is 'This sounds too much like Buzz Lightyear'," Allen said.

"And his character does have an edge to that. And the guy said, 'So we calmed him down a little bit,' and they reminded me his toy is only that big," he added.

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SEPARATE HOSTEL FOR BOYS AND GIRLS.

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

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

GEMINI: The planets are moving

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

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

LEO: The social agitation that

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

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

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

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

ture. Don't waver. Take the next steps!

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

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

Capricorn.

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

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