



**BONG JOON HO WON'T DIRECT
A SUPERHERO MOVIE AS
COSTUMES ARE TOO TIGHT**
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**HONG KONG: VIOLENCE AT UNIVERSITIES
TESTS MODERATE SUPPORT FOR
MORE RADICAL PROTESTERS**

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**KANYE WEST AND DR. DRE JOIN
FORCES FOR 'JESUS IS KING PART
II' PROJECT: 'COMING SOON'**

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SummitTIMES

Vol 04 | Issue 306 | Gangtok | Thursday | 21 November 2019

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5

*Sewon Rai
is among 10
winners of
Abir's First
Take 2019*



**REBYNA RANA
GANGTOK, 20 NOV:**

Sikkimese artist, Sewon Rai, was declared one of the 10 winners of the fourth edition of Abir's First Take, 2019 exhibition & award ceremony held at LP Hutheesing Art Centre, Ahmedabad, on Tuesday evening.

First Take 2019 is organized every year by Abir, a charitable trust based in Ahmedabad which helps connect artists with patrons, and provides platform for emerging artists. First

turn to pg 06

Cooperative movement to be revived, CM makes series of announcements for SICUN



ASSAM LINGZEY, 20 NOV [IPR]: Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang (Goday) made it loud and clear that the cooperative movement in the state will be revived and people in the grassroots level will be empowered through the movement.

He was addressing the concluding session of the 66th All India Cooperative Week Celebration organized by Sikkim State Cooperative Union

[SICUN] in collaboration with Cooperation Department at SICUN, Assam Lingzey, today.

The main theme of the week-long celebration was, 'Role of Cooperatives in New India'.

The Chief Minister suggested that each constituency be manned by one Cooperative Inspector to ensure that every cooperative society receives individual attention and starts performing.

He said that the Government would provide adequate financial and technical assistance to ensure the revival of all the cooperative societies and urged members of all cooperative societies in the State to reciprocate the support from the government by working hard and thus creating their own resource pool and ample employment opportunities.

He reiterated that the

One of the highlights of the programme was the presentation of awards by apex societies to primary cooperatives. The following awards were presented on the occasion by the Hon'ble Chief Minister:

A. UNDER SIKKIM MILK UNION

1. Luing MPCs Ltd, East Sikkim, was awarded the best performing milk producers cooperative society for record highest milk production in the year 2018-19.

2. Shri Nar Bir Tamang of Melli Dara Ward No. 2, South Sikkim, was awarded the Best Performing Individual Member (Gwala) for record highest milk production in the year 2018-19.

B. UNDER DENZONG AGRICULTURE COOPERATIVE SOCIETY

1. Upper Payong Labour Cooperative Society for marketing of local broiler chicken. In the year 2018-19, the Cooperative Society supplied a total quantity of 3,65,526 kilo grams of broiler chicken worth Rs. 3.64 Crore to the Denzong Agriculture Cooperative Society.

C. UNDER SISCO BANK

1. Luing Perbing MPCs Ltd in the field of credit.
2. Luing Perbing MPCs for paying highest share dividend to the Government through SISCO Bank. On the occasion, the dividend amounting to Rs. 27.68 lakhs was presented to the Chief Minister by the Members of the MPCs in the presence of officials of SISCO Bank.

cooperative sector was a key area of development as it is directly linked with the rural masses. Responding to demands turn to pg 06

Workshop deliberates Challenges and Opportunities in NSS



**SAGAR CHHETRI
GANGTOK, 20 NOV:**

A state-level workshop on Challenges and Opportunities in National Service Scheme [NSS] was inaugurated by the Minister for Sports & Youth Affairs Department, Kunga Nima Lepcha here on Wednesday.

The two-day workshop is being organized by the Sikkim State NSS Cell in collaboration with the Department of Youth Affairs, Guwahati, under Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.

100 programme officers and programme coordinators of NSS from different schools, colleges and universities in the State are attending the workshop.

In his inaugural ad-

dress, the Minister expressed that NSS has been playing an important role in society and in leading youth on a productive path and positive manner.

He stressed upon the need to discuss and deliberate on issues related to environment and its conservation and expressed that despite being a small State, Sikkim can play the lead role in environment conservation in the country.

Mr Lepcha stressed that everyone needs to be concerned and serious about conservation.

On the same, he urged the programme officers and NSS volunteers to reach out to the people with awareness and messages

turn to pg 06

Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
Government of India



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- Knowledge sessions & exploring business opportunities
- Hands on learning through Demo Workshops
- Dissemination of information on Government incentives & schemes especially designed for the region
- Mentoring Opportunities
- Business Meetings
- Vendor Development Program with PSEs
- Inspiring business journeys of successful Women Entrepreneurs

Focus Sectors



**Agro and Food
Processing**



**Piggery
Sector**



**Handloom and
Handicraft**



**Tourism &
Hospitality**



**Medicinal and
Aromatic Plants**



**Beverages-Tea & Coffee
Processing and other
traditional drinks**



**Bamboo and
Cane products**

BJP making India's best organisations hollow, selling them: Priyanka

NEW DELHI, Nov 20 (PTI): Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Wednesday hit out at the government over Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's reported remarks that Air India and Bharat Petroleum Corporation could be sold by March, alleging the BJP is making India's best organisations hollow and then selling them.

Her attack comes days after Sitharaman reportedly said the government was looking to wrap up the sale of state-run Air India and oil refiner and marketer BPCL by March 2020.

"Our organisations are our pride. These are our 'golden birds'," Priyanka Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi.

"The BJP had promised to build the country, but they are working to make India's best organisations hollow and sell them. Sad," the Congress general secretary said.

First Hindi daily launched in Arunachal Pradesh

ITANAGAR, Nov 20 (PTI): Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Wednesday hailed Hindi, as the only language that has kept the states people as one besides connecting with people from outside and personnel of the Indian Armed Forces. Hindi language is the bond that unites the diverse ethnic tribes of the state who speak different dialects, the chief minister said at the launch programme of 'Aruna Bhoomi' the first Hindi daily in the north-eastern state.

He lauded the initiative to start a newspaper in Hindi in the state, saying it would strengthen the bond between the people. The chief minister hoped that the major population of the country, who speak and read Hindi, would get easy access to news, information and knowledge about Arunachal Pradesh.

Hindi was born in India so it is our responsibility to promote and protect it, he said.

"Hindi was born in India. It's our property, therefore, it's our responsibility to promote and protect it. As Arunachalees we are proud that we have protected it in our own way," Khandu said adding that the typical Hindi spoken in Arunachal Pradesh defies rules of grammar.

The chief minister said that on the request of the states press fraternity, the Arunachal Pradesh government would soon review its advertisement policy that would also benefit the newly launched daily.

CORRIGENDUM:-

An advertisement published in Summittimes dt. 16.11.2019 & 18.11.2019 vide IPR R.O. No. 256/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20 dt. 15.11.2019 under Caption "NOTICE" by Education Department, Govt. of Sikkim under SL.No. 2 for the post of Lecturer (Chemistry), under remarks column should have read as "Written Test on relevant subject of 85 Marks and Viva Voce for 15 Marks" has been mistakenly typed as "Written Test on Civil Engineering of 85 Marks and Viva Voce for 15 Marks". The corrected/ rectified advt is published in today edition. Error is highly regretted. - ED.

NISHTHA training begins at Phodong School

WANGCHUK BHUTIA MANGAN, 20 Nov:

The third batch of National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA) under Kabi BAC started training on 18 Nov at Phodong Senior Secondary School in North Sikkim under the District Office.

A total of 150 teachers and principals of primary and elementary government schools will undergo a five-day training programme to learn innovative teaching methods, the use of art and technology in the classroom and basic counselling techniques.

The training was launched by Deputy Director HRDD, Kabi BAC, David Gyamtsho.

The training has 5 key resource persons and one State resource person. The State resource person is Tseten Lhamu



Lepcha (HM/Gor SS) and key resource persons are Manorath Dahal, (HOD Social Science, SCERT), Dhiraj Rai [GTM], Phodong SSS, Sangay Doma Bhutia (PGT/Chemistry) Mangan SSS, Diki Dolkar (PGT/English) Mangan SSS and Chakochoen V.A (PGT/History).

Earlier, training for

the first and second batches was conducted at Mangan Sr. Secondary School which was launched by Deputy Director Education Department Mangan, Sajan Sabastian.

The trainees had to register themselves online with NISHTHA and had to do pre-test online

on the opening day. The trainees were divided into four groups by the State resource person.

The last two days had Head of Institutions doing sessions with State Resource Person (SRP) on leadership and other key areas like pre-school education, prevocational education, etc, as well as

sharing of ideas.

The participants were trained in various key modules to make learning fun and joyful for students learning through activity. The last day of the training had content based activity as well as post-test for trainees online and valedictory with best activity of the training by trainees, feedback by trainees, key resource person and distribution of certificates to the participants.

It may be mentioned here that the Human Resource Development Ministry had launched the National Initiative for School Heads' and teachers' Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA) to train the teachers, calling it 'the world's largest teacher training programme covering more than 42 lakh teachers across the country, it is learnt.

East District Advisory Committee for Food Safety meets



GANGTOK, 20 Nov (IPR): The first district-level meeting for East District Advisory Committee for Food Safety was conducted at DAC Gangtok under the chairmanship of ADC Gangtok, Bharani Kumar.

The meeting was also attended by the Chief Medical Officer along with other senior officials.

The agenda for the meeting was developing human resources and institutional data, licensing and enforcement activities, action point to improve rating of State in scoring norms, tests currently being conducted in lab, FSSAI initiatives and a close coordination and combined inspection between Horticulture,

Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, PHE, Education and Municipal bodies which can be proved beneficial for the state.

During the meeting a brief introduction to Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 was presented by DO, Niraj Thapa, (FS, H&FWD) through Power Point Presentation.

RPL training for Bariakhop farmers



GANGTOK, 20 Nov (PIB): A three-day training programme under the project, "Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) for empowerment of farmers engaged in spices cultivation" was conducted at Gram Panchayat Hall, Bariakhop, West Sikkim, from 13-15 Nov, 2019.

The training was or-

ganized under Prime Minister's Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, in the qualification pack - 'Organic Grower'.

A total of 48 farmers participated in the training programme. State Engagement Officer (North Eastern States), Shailadi-

tya Sarkar, NSDC, attended and interacted with the participants.

An external training agency, 'Aspiring Mind' assessed the farmers using Tab based knowledge and skill test, practical and viva etc. The training programme was supervised by Certified Trainer, Phurba Tshering Lepcha.

Petition demanding disqualification of 7 SKM MLAs from last term disposed

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 20 Nov:

Speaker, Sikkim Legislative Assembly, LB Das, has disposed the disqualification petition filed by Pahalman Subba and others against the seven legislators of Sikkim Krantikari Morcha who had switched sides to SDF in the last term. The case was disposed without a comment on the defection because the pending case had become 'infructuous'.

While passing the order on 11 November, the Assembly explained, "Since the incumbent Speaker has no jurisdiction pertaining to matters of the Ninth Vidhan Sabha, the matter raised in the petition for disqualification under the 10th Schedule and to the Rules made there under pertains to the previous Vidhan Sabha and with dissolution of the Ninth Vidhan Sabha the petition has been rendered infructuous."

Mr Subba and others had filed a petition demanding the disqualification of the 7 MLAs for having defected to SDF in the last 2014-19 Assembly. The case had been pending with the Assembly secretariat since 2017.

Office inaugurated for 3 SHGs at Rongneck



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 20 Nov:

An office for three self help groups of Rongneck Gumpa village in Rongneck-Tathangchen GPU under Shyari constituency of East Sikkim was inaugurated by Zilla Panchayat, PT Lepcha, on Wednesday.

This is the joint of-

fice of Pragati SHG, Evergreen SHG and Guransh SHG of.

The inaugural function at Rongneck-Tathangchen gram prashasan kendra was also attended by panchayats Rinzing Dorjee Bhutia and Shankar Chetri,

GP staff, SHG members and residents of the area.

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New kindergarten class rooms inaugurated at Modern School

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 20 Nov:

Newly constructed kindergarten class rooms at Modern Senior Secondary School were inaugurated today by Education Minister, KN Lepcha in the presence of Forest Minister, Karma Loday Bhutia, and Additional Chief Secretary, GP Upadhyaya.

The kindergarten class rooms were designed and furnished by the Alumni Association of Modern Sr Sec School, a press release informs.

Principal, Mala Jigdel gave her report on the construction of the building.

President, Budha Limboo also addressed the function and gave his report on the kindergarten classes.

The School felicitated Alumni members for their contribution towards the school. Modernite family felicitated Sandhya Thapa for her dedication and hard work in making the kindergarten classes beautiful and child friendly. Mr Chogyal and Mr Chitiz were also felicitated.

Modernite family has thanked all those who extended support in the construction of the kindergarten class rooms.



Word of Life and United Christian in Sikkim United Cup semis



SAGAR CHHETRI

GANGTOK, 20 Nov:

Word of Life Church has entered the quarter-final round of the ongoing Sikkim United Cup 2019 here at Paljor Stadium. In the first pre-quarter final match of the tournament on Wednesday afternoon, Word of Life Church edged past Agape Church 3-2 to secure its berth in the quarter-final round of the tournament. Vivek Rai of Word of Life Church was adjudged Man of the Match.

In another match of the tournament, United Christian outplayed

HCPC Bojoghari 2-0. Gan-ga Ram Sunar of United Christian was awarded Man of the Match. Now, United Christian will take on Shiloh Lower Martam in the pre-quarter final match on 22 November.

On Thursday, the first match will be played between Word of Life Church, Lingding and EPCS, Sang at 11.00am and then IEC Sakyong will take on ABYF Baptist Church, Sikkim in the second match of the day at 1.00pm. The last match of the day will be played between Wok XI and EPCS Namchi at 2.30pm.

Delhi to host its first queer lit fest

NEW DELHI, Nov 20 (PTI):

In a bid to go beyond binaries and bringing together different identities and sections of the society, Delhi will host its first ever queer literary festival on December 7-8.

"The Rainbow Lit Fest - Queer & Inclusive", conceptualised by author Sharif D Rangnekar, was conceived on the belief that "literature and art should speak for as many as possible, particularly those who aren't usually heard". It will see participation from over 75 exponents of prose, poetry, art, music, dance and cinema.

"The lit fest essentially aims to engage with the truths of identity and diversity, and while drawing on the distinctions, we wish to address the common ground of humanity. There is no better way than literature, art, poetry, music and talk to bring such topics to life!" said festival director Rangnekar, who is also the author of "Straight To Normal- My Life As A Gay Man".

The festival will be held at the Gulmohar Park Club here. The venue is significant as it saw the early risings of the gay movement in 2001 at the office of the Naz Foundation, an NGO that has been at the forefront of the battle against Section 377.

Some of the participating speakers will include authors Devdutt Pattanaik and Nemat Sa-

dat, and filmmakers Nandita Das and Onir, who will share stories and ideas seeking to stitch together a more informed narrative of diversity, existence and co-existence.

Panel discussions and talks will be interspersed with screenings of iconic films like "U for Usha" by Rohan Kanwade, the Konkona Sen-starrer, "Monsoon Date" by Tanuja Chandra, "I Am Sanjo" by Jijo Kuriakose and the most-awarded silent LGBT silent film, "Sisak" by Faraz Ansari.

Also part of the lineup are dance performances, a puppet show, a drag act and three music performances by the traditional Nizami Brothers, the 12-member Manzil Mystics and one of the most diverse rock bands in the country - "The Original Knock-Offs".

The fest is backed by an eight-member advisory committee -- Anjali Gopalan (Founder, Naz Foundation), Apurva Asrani (National Award-winning filmmaker, film editor and screenwriter), Maya Sharma (author and activist), Parmesh Shahani (Founder, Godrej India Culture Lab), Saleem Kidwai (historian and queer activist), Saif Mahmood (author, activist and lawyer), Vivek Mansukhani (educationist and theatre personality), and Zainab Patel (Manager, D&I, KPMG).

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

For details contact: 9083826462

FLAT FOR RENT/LEASE

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

For more details: 9083826462 /9832556698

GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

General land 30X40 (3 Plots) available for sale at Tadong 6th Mile next to Harka Maya College. Flat Land no cutting required. Price 30 Lakhs (negotiable).

Contact: 9800201335

LAND FOR SALE

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

Strict guidelines to protect Darjeeling Tea: Minister
GANGTOK, 20 Nov (PIB): For protection of Darjeeling Tea from cheap tea of other regions, Tea Board has put in place Darjeeling Trade Chain Integrity System wherein permission from Tea Board is required for deal/sale of Darjeeling Tea. As on date, each packet sold as Darjeeling Tea has to mandatorily source 100% teas from Darjeeling only. Additionally, Tea Board has issued labeling guidelines for packers who intend to sell Darjeeling Tea.

This information was given by the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Pi-yush Goyal, in a written reply in the Lok Sabha today.

SU Dean selected for ICIMOD Mountain Chair title

GANGTOK, 20 Nov (PIB): Dean, School of Life Sciences, Sikkim University, Professor, Jyoti Prakash Tamang has been selected for the ICIMOD Mountain Chair title for the year 2019-21. It is an honorary title that is conferred to a prominent scholar with excellent track record and substantial experience on mountain issues in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region.

The objective of this title is to promote inter-university cooperation to enhance institutional capacities through knowledge sharing and collaborative research and training for sustainable mountain development in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region. Through a rigorous review of academic profiles and proposals and virtual interviews by an international panel of senior experts, the Selection Committee highly appreciated the outstanding achievements of Prof. Tamang in microbiological studies of fermented foods of ethnic people in the Eastern Himalayas.

It also recognized the inspiring role model that Prof. Tamang has advanced as a scholar who has passionately devoted his career for the documentation and promotion of indigenous knowledge and well-being.

Prof Jyoti Prakash Tamang is a renowned food microbiologist and has been awarded the gourmand World Cookbook Award, Paris in 2010, National Bio-Science Award of Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India in 2005 and the United Nations University Women Association Award, Tokyo in 1996.

Prof. Tamang's area of specialization has been in Microbiology of fermented foods and beverages for the last 32 years focusing on culture-dependent and culture-independent techniques of microbial diversity including metagenomics, functionality and health-promoting benefits.

Professor, Jyoti Prakash Tamang will be conferred with ICIMOD Mountain Chair title for the year 2019-21 at a formal function to be held at Kathmandu on 06 Dec, 2019.

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Minister chairs meeting with organic farming Service Providers



GANGTOK, 20 Nov (IPR): Minister for Agriculture, Lok Nath Sharma chaired a coordination meeting with the Service Provider Agencies and Certification Bodies in the presence of Principal Secretary Agriculture and Horticulture Departments, R Telang, Secretary Agriculture, Rinzing C Bhutia and Secretary Horticulture, MT Sherpa, at the conference hall of Krishi Bhawan, Gangtok, today.

The meeting was attended by seven Service Provider Agencies including International Panacea Ltd (IPL), New Delhi; MR Morarka, GDC Rural Research Foundation, Rajasthan; Mevedir Gangtok; Sresta Natural Bioproducts Pvt Ltd, Hyderabad; Organic Sikkim, Gangtok; SIMFED Gangtok, CONCEDE Tadong, Gangtok and three Certification Agencies including Onecert International Pvt Ltd Jaipur; Lacon Quality Certification Pvt Ltd Kerala and Sikkim State Organic Certification Agency (SSO-CA) Gangtok.

While interacting with the Service Providers and Certification Agencies during their presentations of ICS activities, Minister Sharma asked questions on vari-

ous subjects incorporated in the signed agreement and enquired on the activities being taken up practically in the field.

The Minister took stock of cross matching of volume of certified land in documents and availability of productive land in the field, conduct of orientation training programme for farmers and ICS field functionaries and Maintenance of Farmers diary.

He urged Service Providers to focus on marketing of certified products for the benefit of the farmers. He also asked service providers to inform farmers about the commodities and location of their respective outlets in the State.

Addressing the house, Minister, Lok Nath Sharma, urged Service Providers and Certifying Agencies to visit individual farmers to verify cultivated land to fulfill all the commitments made in signed agreement. He also asked participants to be more serious and proactive in following the guidelines and directives in practice covering every component and element of their responsibilities.

He also directed Service providers to present brand of Sikkim Organic

and Green Economy in the product and to work for marketing of the produce extensively so as to achieve the goal of multiplying farmers' income.

Minister Sharma emphasised on planning and programmes of the State Government under the leadership of Chief Minister, PS Tamang.

He also asked them to present authentic field report and urged everyone to address the existing issues.

Principal Secretary Agriculture & Horticulture, R Telang, in his address, stressed on ensuring additional income of farmers on account of certification. He urged participants to seek out a mechanism with appropriate ways and means to make the process meaningful and sustainable and stressed for plan of action to strengthen FPOs.

Secretary Agriculture, Rinzing C Bhutia also addressed the house while the meeting was co-ordinated by the Principal Director, MK Pradhan.

Earlier, all the Service Provider Agencies including IPL, Morarka, Mevedir, Sresta, Organic Sikkim, SIMFED, CONCEDE and Certifying Agencies presented their activities in details.

Conference-cum-International Buyer Seller Meet

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 20 Nov:

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority [APEDA] under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, in collaboration with the Government of Sikkim and Indian Chamber of Commerce is organizing a Conference cum International Buyer Seller Meet in Gangtok from 21-22 Nov, 2019, at Lemon Tree Hotel, Sichey. The event is being organized to showcase the strength of North East Region (NER) and Sikkim in particular, a press release informs.

The Spices Board,

Government of India, and the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) are the operational and logistics partners, respectively.

The major focus organic products are cherry pepper, fruits like kiwi, mandarin orange, orchids, other horticultural products, buckwheat, tea, spices like black Pepper, large cardamom, ginger, turmeric, etc.

The event will witness the participation of 17 buyers from 13 countries viz, France, Switzerland, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Japan, Nepal and Bangladesh. Around 40 major exporters from the

other states of India and NER exporters, 28 FPOs/ FPCs are also participating who will act as the link between the FPOs/ FPCs/ entrepreneurs and international buyers for sourcing organic produce from Sikkim and explore the export potential of these commodities in the International Markets.

The event will be attended and inaugurated by Minister of Agriculture and Horticulture, Lok Nath Sharma, Government of Sikkim along with Government officials from Government of India and Government of Sikkim and other stakeholders.

APEDA and Government of Sikkim are set-

ting up stalls at the exhibition during the event to promote the organic products of Sikkim like Cherry Pepper, fruits like kiwi, mandarin orange, other horticultural products, buckwheat, tea, spices like black Pepper, large cardamom, ginger, turmeric etc.

Other Government agencies like Spices Board, Tea Board, National Horticulture Board, FSSAI, NABARD, TRIFED, Export Import Bank of India are also setting up their stalls to share their support and services towards the production, marketing and exports of these produce from Sikkim.

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GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
TASHILING, GANGTOK- 737103

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

NOTICE

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

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

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

*Contractual /Adhoc appointment for six month as replacement faculty, no extension will be given after expiry.

Other requirements:

- Candidates must be in possession of either Sikkim Subject Certificate or Certificate of Identification issued by the competent authority.
- Candidates should be fluent in English with good communication skills and sound temperament.
- Age limit as per Government of Sikkim norms.
- No Objection Certificate from the present employer, if employed will be required.

Terms and Conditions:

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

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

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

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

After scrutiny of documents, admit cards of the eligible candidates will be sent through email in the id provided in the application form.
 The Directorate of Technical Education, Education Department reserves all rights to the selection procedure and appointments.

Director
 Technical Education
 Education Department, Govt. of Sikkim.

R.O. No. 256/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20
Date: 15.11.2019

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
SIKKIM UNIVERSITY
presents
(OUR VERSION OF)
SHAKESPEARE'S

THE TEMPEST

DATE: 26TH NOVEMBER, 2019
TIME: 3PM ONWARDS
VENUE: MANAN KENDRA AUDITORIUM

Who Looks Out for the Young?

Unfortunately, not enough appear to be doing so

Should cops, already burdened with hectic schedules of occasional law & order tasks, perennial traffic policing responsibilities and pressing VIP duty also be expected to invest time and energy into a mission aimed at protecting children? When they become the only line of defence, one should accept that a real worry is at hand. Sikkim Police, has on occasion, gone beyond their required task of investigations and arrests and also engaged in generating wider awareness as it attempted with Mission Jyoti, aimed at protecting the young from sexual abuse and devising interventions to combat suicides and substance abuse, a couple of years ago. Sikkim has known these to be real concerns for a while, but when the cops, who are invariably the first responders to offences of this nature, get disturbed enough to attempt an intervention it should shake awake everyone else too. Much as it is heartening to see the more humane shade of khaki, the continuing disinterest of the rest of the society creeps up as a major area of concern.

Sexual abuse of minors, suicides among the young (or anyone for that matter) and runaway substance abuse affect everyone. The trauma travels through family members, friends, colleagues/ classmates, neighbours. When it comes to sexual abuse and suicides, the trauma and loss are permanent, and hence the grieving is long. When a death is by suicide or the victim of sexual abuse is a minor, confusion and guilt, even among those who knew the victim only at a very casual level, are added to the already difficult emotion of grief. When the life lost is young, the situation grows extremely complex and a nagging conscience begins gnawing minds already grappling with shock and sorrow and returning to thoughts of whether something could have been done differently, whether the suicide could have been prevented...

These social challenges have been reiterated often, and although these are now universally accepted as major problems, nothing substantial is being done to address them by the wider population. Organisations which one would turn to – the Government for a policy commitment to confront the problem, the health-care sector for the professional intervention required and social and people's organisations to provide the involvement and outreach required – have remained unmoved. Unmoved might be too strong a word to describe the response, the ennui is perhaps because none of these organisations know what to do. This is a worrying situation and the time is now urgent for one of these groups to take a leadership role in talking about the problem more forcefully and with its proactive engagement, inspire others to join forces and help save lives. It is in such a vacuum that one seeks out the arrival of some, any, efforts. What one also hopes for is consistent engagement, with the baton ideally being passed on to agencies which should have picked up the task to begin with. What new-reports about social challenges and the desperation of the cops have done for Sikkim is remind it that these are issues which cannot be addressed in isolation; the involvement will have to extend to all these three major issues, and then extend to other aspects of growing up in Sikkim. Piecemeal measures will not do. Or maybe it is too much to expect the social organizations to get involved now. It they have still not noticed and still not found the collaborations required, they probably never will.

Isn't it ironic that Mission Jyoti was tagged as, "Flame of Fearlessness". The young should ideally be carefree; fearlessness is good, even desirable if it is about dreaming big, not about security. What the sponsors of this initiative clearly want is not for the cops of the society to become more fearless, but for the young to seize the day and look out more forcefully for their interests, for their safety. This they will do by building their own support networks among agencies which can still deliver something in this regard, and by weaving together stronger cushions among themselves because the rest of the society has failed phenomenally in doing anything substantial.

WRITE US:

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



Hong Kong: violence at universities tests moderate support for more radical protesters

CHARLES FUNG & CHUN-WING LEE
theconversation.com

Hundreds of protesters at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) remained barricaded in the university campus on November 19 after days of running battles around the campus between police and the protesters. The day before, police successfully encircled the campus in downtown Hong Kong, making mass arrests, before retreating and then preventing some of those who remained from leaving.

Many were concerned that the clash between protesters and police at PolyU could eventually lead to a massacre similar to what happened in Tiananmen Square in Beijing in 1989 if live ammunition were used against the protesters.

The violent scenes at PolyU were preceded by a standoff at the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) which began on November 11. As researchers based at these two universities, we have witnessed first-hand the continuing clashes between police and protestors.

Many people sympathetic to the ongoing protest movement understood it as a defence of a university campus against the police. This partly reflects the liberal values, such as academic freedom, upheld by many of the protesters. For them, the brief police presence on a university campus was an outright attempt by the government to suppress the freedom of speech in universities.

The standoff at CUHK began as calls for another general strike grew following the death of a university student, Chow Tsz-lok from an injury sustained during a protest. While the cause of Chow's death remains unclear, many anti-government protesters think that the police are responsible.

Amid calls to paralyse Hong Kong during the strike, student protesters at CUHK took a call to disrupt traffic seriously. Under the number 2 bridge at CUHK campus is the Tolo highway which connects northern Hong Kong and the rest of the city. On the morning of November 11, protesters began to throw objects from the bridge down to the highway, hoping to stop the traffic there. The police responded by using force to deter the protesters who then retreated onto the campus.

We saw the clash between protesters and police turn the campus into a battlefield where the riot police fired thousands of tear gas canisters and rubber bullets. They also used a water cannon truck to quell the protesters, who then threw back petrol bombs and used arrows of fire to attack in return. Mild vandalism also happened on the university campus. The clash led the university authority to announce a premature end to the university semester and in the face of such severe confrontation, various foreign consulates urged foreign exchange students, including those from the mainland, to evacuate.

On November 15, a former member of the Independent Police Complaints Council approached

the protesters in CUHK, urging them to reopen Tolo Highway for three days and remove all petrol bombs. In exchange, the police would not enter CUHK for those three days.

In response, the protesters demanded that the Hong Kong government go ahead with district council elections scheduled for November 24, set up an independent commission of inquiry for investigation into alleged police brutality and misconduct, and release protesters arrested during the clash at CUHK. The protesters compromised by partly reopening the blocked Tolo highway and the government announced that the district council elections would continue, though it rejected the other two demands. Still, by November 16, protesters had left the CUHK campus, an occupation which lasted for almost a week.

While PolyU, site of the most recent violence, is a separate university institution, it's also located near a major transport artery, the Cross Harbour Tunnel at Hung Hum, which connects to Kowloon and Hong Kong Island. By blocking the tunnel, the new protests at PolyU imitated what happened a week earlier at CUHK – marking the spread of the protests to other universities in Hong Kong.

STUDENT ROLE IN POLITICS

Although many participants of Hong Kong's protest movement, which was sparked by anger against a new extradition bill, refuse to identify with the Chinese nation, as our ongoing research interviewing protesters is showing, many are likely to be influenced by Chinese historical events, including the May Fourth movement of 1919.

Widely seen as the Chinese Renaissance, the May Fourth movement started when university students protested after the post-World War I Paris Conference, where German interests in Shandong Province were transferred to Japan, instead of being returning to Republican China. After the leaders of the protests were arrested, the then-president of Peking University, Cai Yuanpei, resigned in protest.

Since then, not only have Chinese university students had a special role in Chinese politics, Chinese intellectuals often expect the university administration to protect politically active students or even support their political activism.

Amid the current protests, students in all public universities in Hong Kong have demanded their vice-chancellors condemn the police brutality. On November 15, a joint statement by the heads of universities in Hong Kong called on the government to respond to the protesters' demands and resolve the political deadlock and restore public order.

SPLIT EMERGING

It's been striking that, so far, the escalation of violence and vandalism across Hong Kong has not significantly driven away the support of more moderate protesters. Many moderate protesters have tolerated the violence of the movement's more radical factions.

The underlying logic here is that the more moderate, well-off, middle-class Hong Kong protesters, who are unwilling to bear the political cost

of imprisonment for rioting, have been content to leverage the radical faction's disruptive tactics. Their hope is that the Hong Kong government will agree to compromise and respond to the protest movement's remaining demands: 1) setting up a commission of inquiry to investigate alleged police brutality and misconduct; 2) amnesty for those arrested; 3) democratic reform; 4) removal of the categorisation of protests as "riots", and 5) reform of the police organisation.

It's this relationship between the two factions – moderate and radical – which has been instrumental in the past few weeks. But there are limits to how much violence the moderate faction will accept – and the type of objects being targeted.

Their patience wore thin when some radical protesters in CUHK started sporadically attacking faculty buildings and university facilities. For those moderate protesters on campus, the radicals' attacks were illegitimate because these aren't government properties and so it's meaningless to damage them. Worse still, in the face of these sporadic and unreasonable attacks, the moderate protesters on campus started to worry that the vandalism could become uncontrollable and that the radical faction would turn the campus into its own permanent base.

There was also a concern when the protesters demanded the district council elections go ahead – something which wasn't an agreed demand of the anti-extradition bill movement. All these moves led the moderate protesters on campus to think they had been hijacked. The university authority leveraged on the split to urge the radicals to leave the campus, or else they would ask for external support (probably the police) to quell the radicals, especially those who were not CUHK students.

Nevertheless, it's too soon to declare that the moderate protesters – both inside CUHK and outside it – would side with the Hong Kong government to endorse its repressive attempts to restore law and order. In fact, as long as the government remains unwilling to compromise over the movement's demands – especially the demand to set up a commission of inquiry for investigation into alleged police brutality and misconduct which is popular among the moderate protesters – it's unlikely that the radical factions will lose support from the moderate faction. And as the siege of PolyU continued on November 18, protesters marched towards the campus in a bid to save the protesters from the siege.

The solidarity among the two factions is dependent on the moderates' acquiescence of the radicals' tactics. This means it's also possible that the anti-government movement will start to fade if the moderates withdraw their support.

[Charles Fung is Researcher and Teaching Assistant, Sociology Department, Chinese University of Hong Kong; Chun-wing Lee is Lecturer, Division of Social Sciences, Hong Kong Polytechnic University]

Is There Hope For a Hong Kong Revolution?

PAUL MONOD
theconversation.com

Hong Kong may seem like an unlikely place for a revolution. In this relatively affluent and privileged city, young people might be expected to be more concerned with making money than with protesting in the streets. Yet day after day, demonstrators in Hong Kong risk injury and death confronting security forces backed by the massive power of the Chinese government.

Among their demands are democratic elections for the city's Legislative Council and chief executive. Their desire for fundamental change has mounted, and they increasingly see their own lives as lacking meaning unless circumstances change.

Historians have long argued that revolutions are built not on deep misery but on rising expectations. Since the 18th century, societies, clubs and associations of intellectuals have been seedbeds of radical change in countries throughout the world. They provided leadership for the French Revolution in 1789, the European revolutions of 1848 and the Russian Revolution of 1905.

The situation in Hong Kong is rev-

olutionary, too, although the history of past revolutions may not provide much hope of immediate change.

A LOOK AT HUNGARY

The most compelling parallel to Hong Kong may be the Hungarian Revolution of 1956, which attempted to wrest power from a communist regime. It, too, began with a student uprising in favor of democratic elections.

Within a few days, the communist government resigned and a reformist administration was formed under Imre Nagy, who allowed noncommunists to enter political office. This went too far for communist leaders in the Soviet Union. The USSR invaded Hungary, overthrew Nagy's regime and secretly put him to death.

As with the Hong Kong protests today, the United States gave little official support to the Hungarian Revolution and was unwilling to offer material assistance. Keeping peace in Europe was of vital importance to U.S. policy in 1956, just as good relations with China are now central.

The Hungarian example may provide little solace to the Hong Kong protesters – except, perhaps, if they consider its long-term consequences. In October 1989, with Soviet in-

fluence in Eastern Europe collapsing, the democratic Republic of Hungary was declared on the 33rd anniversary of the 1956 revolution. Those who died during that revolution are now remembered as martyrs.

IN CHINA'S OWN HISTORY

Chinese history supplies a more heartening example of a successful student-led uprising: the Revolution of 1911. It was fomented by young men returning from study abroad, who formed political societies to "revive" their country, often disguised as literary discussion groups.

The 1911 Revolution mobilized networks of intellectuals and students throughout China, but it also drew on other social groups: military officers, merchants, coal miners and farmers. The revolution erupted in many parts of China simultaneously and had various outcomes, from utter failure, to the massacre of ethnic Manchus to declarations of Mongol and Tibetan independence. A provisional government emerged by the end of the year in Nanjing.

The Hong Kong protests, however, are too limited in geographical scope and social support to repeat the success of the 1911 revolutionaries.

The subsequent Chinese revolution in 1949, like the 1917 Russian Revolution, followed Leninist theory and was spearheaded by professional party insiders, not by intellectuals. The communists regarded mass protests as potentially counter-revolutionary and as threats to the new order.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The young protestors in Hong Kong seek to avoid the fate of the student demonstrators of Tiananmen Square in spring 1989. Three decades ago, hundreds, perhaps thousands, of protesters were massacred after the communist government invoked martial law. The pro-democracy agenda of the Tiananmen protesters was vague, and they relied on reformers within the party apparatus, who finally betrayed them.

The Hong Kong crowds are focused on specific changes and lack illusions about the party. They will go down fighting desperately, not standing with faint hope in front of tanks. That may give pause to the forces of repression. As the Communist Party of China and any student of history knows, martyrs are the fuel of future revolutions.

[the writer is Professor of History, Middlebury]

Mobile app to help Assam students improve reading skills

HAILAKANDI (ASSAM), NOV 20 (PTI): The Assam government has installed a voice-based app on the mobile phones of over 100 teachers in southern Hailakandi district to enable them to assist students in improving their reading skills.

'Bolo App' is designed to encourage students to read aloud, giving them feedback even when it is offline, said Additional Deputy Commissioner (in-charge education), R K Dam.

"The app listens to what children read, encourages them when they do well and helps them out when they struggle, just like a real tutor. Children can also play word games and earn in-app awards, helping reading become fun and a daily habit," Dam said.

District Deputy Commissioner Keerthi Jalli had last week launched the app at a programme, in which over 230 educational volunteers took part for improving their Bengali and Mathematics skills, he said.

Programme leader Sadasiva Reddy said the progress of the children can be tracked in the app and difficulty level will increase as per improvement in their reading skills.

Mamata visits village of labourers slain in Kashmir

BAHALNAGAR (WB), NOV 20 (PTI): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday visited the village in Murshidabad district from where five migrant labourers, who were killed by terrorists at Kulgam in Kashmir hailed.

Banerjee, who had earlier announced compensation of Rs five lakh for the families of each of the five killed, went to Bahalnagar village after addressing a public meeting at Sagardighi in Murshidabad district.

"I have come here to meet the families of the labourers killed in Kashmir. I have instructed the district officials to build houses for these families under Bangla Awas Yojana," she told reporters here.

The state government had also provided logistical support to bring back the remaining labourers of the state from Kashmir. On their return to Kolkata each of them were handed over Rs 50,000 in cash to help them start some earning venture.

"Other than us (West Bengal government), nobody has shown any desire to inquire about the plight of these (affected) families. This is very unfortunate," Banerjee added.

Will never allow NRC in Bengal: Mamata

SAGARDIGHI(WB), NOV 20 (PTI): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday challenged the Centre on the contentious NRC issue and iterated that she will never allow the exercise in the state.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said a citizen's register on the lines of the NRC exercise in Assam will be implemented out across the country.

Stating that NRC in Assam was part of Assam Accord signed during the tenure of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, she said the exercise can never be implemented across the country.

"There are a few people who are trying to create disturbance in the state in the name of implementation of NRC. I want to make it very clear that I will never allow NRC in Bengal as long as I am power in the state," she said at a public meeting at Sagardighi in the border district of Murshidabad.

"No one can take away your (people) citizenship and turn you into a refugee. You are and will remain citizens of this country. There can be no division on the basis of religion," Banerjee, who is also the TMC supremo, said.



Claiming that there is a "conspiracy" afoot to divide the state on religious lines, Banerjee said if some one thinks that it will be easy to divide Bengal on communal lines then the person is "living in a fool's paradise".

Bengal shares a long and porous border with Bangladesh and has about 30 per cent Muslim population.

"A total 19 lakh people

have been left out of the Assam NRC list. Those omitted include Hindus, Bengalis, Muslims, Gorkhas and Buddhists. They have been sent to detention centers. In Bengal we (TMC) will never allow any detention center," she said.

Banerjee, who is a strident critic of the BJP, said that the saffron party should answer why 14 lakh Hindus and Bengalis were omitted from the

final NRC list in Assam before it talks about implementing the citizens' register in West Bengal. Stating that there are some people who want to create fissures between people in the Darjeeling Hills, between Rajbanshis and Kamtapuris in north Bengal, between Sikhs, Muslims, Hindus and Bengalis who have lived here for generations, she said those involved in such conspiracies will not

be successful. "If you have one citizenship document that's enough.

Even if you don't need rations that are provided (at a subsidised rate) by the government, ensure that you have digital ration cards. Don't be misguided by people who want to divide communities, pit one against another," she told the gathering.

The proposed implemen-

tation of the National Register of Citizens in Bengal has created panic claiming 11 lives in the state following the omission of about 19.6 lakh names from the final NRC list in Assam.

Referring to the killing of five labourers from Bengal at Kulgam in Kashmir in October, Banerjee criticised the Centre for failing to protect non-Kashmiris in the valley.

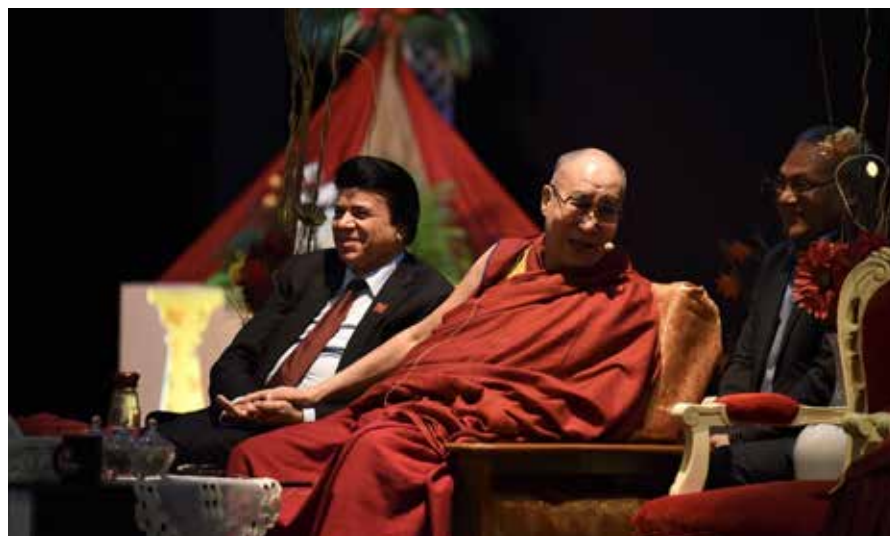
"You will find people from other states working in Bengal but you will never see that they have been beaten up or attacked. Then why are only Bengalis being attacked in Kashmir? We condemn it," she said.

Banerjee said the West Bengal government has provided compensation and other relief to the family members of the five killed in Kashmir, besides making special arrangements to bring back hundreds of Bengali labourers from there.

"We have also provided compensation to the the labourers who have been brought back," she said.

Banerjee met the family members of all the five migrant labourers who were killed by terrorists at Kulgam in Kashmir. Incidentally all of them hailed from Sagardighi area of Murshidabad district.

Dalai Lama to address Global Buddhist meet in Aurangabad



AURANGABAD, NOV 20 (PTI): Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, will deliver two lectures at the three-day Global Buddhist Congregation to be held in Aurangabad from Friday.

The event will take place between November 22 and 24.

"The Dalai Lama will be in Aurangabad for two days and will deliver two sessions at the Buddhist Congregation," monk Sadanand Mahasthivir Mahathero, president of All India Bhikkhu Sangh, told reporters here on Wednesday. "The Dalai

Lama will give a special talk at Chauka in the city on Saturday for monks residing in Lokuttara Mahavihar. On Sunday, he will deliver a lecture at the People's Education Society (PES) ground, which is open for all," he added.

The inaugural ceremony will take place

in the presence of Mahanayaka Thero from Sri Lanka.

Lectures and sessions on various topics related to Buddhism will be held during the event.

Talking to reporters, chief organiser of the event and development commissioner of the state Industries Department, Dr Harshdeep Kamble, said, "Talks on relevance of Buddhism in modern world, Buddhist culture and way of life, revival and strengthening of Buddhism, Buddhism for youth will be held. It will also have other cultural events."

"Buddhist monks and followers of the religion from across the globe will attend the meet. We expect a footfall of 1 lakh people in three days," he added.

Mamata angry as she is afraid of losing minority vote bank: AIMIM Bengal president

KOLKATA, NOV 20 (PTI): Slamming West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for her "minority extremism" comment, AIMIM state president Zameerul Hasan has claimed that his party is gaining ground in the state which has angered the TMC chief "as her politics revolves around minority vote bank". Alleging that the TMC government was not doing anything good for the Muslim community, except practising vote bank politics, Hasan said that the All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul- Muslimeen (AIMIM) will fight the 2021 assembly polls in West Bengal.

"We were ready for the last parliamentary elections but our president Asaduddin Owaisi had asked us not to contest as minority votes might get divided and TMC candidates might loose in minority dominated areas," he told PTI over phone on Tuesday.

Hasan said Banerjee has lost her cool as the AIMIM has been growing by leaps and bounds in Bengal, especially in bordering districts.

Marking a shift in her rhetoric on religious extremism, Banerjee had, at an event in Cooch Behar on Monday, asked people to refrain from listening to "minority extremists" who have their base in Hyderabad, apparently targeting AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi, a Lok Sabha MP from that city.

"Now she is having problem with Asaduddin Owaisi and the AIMIM. During the Nandigram movement in 2007, she herself had called him to Bengal and had sought his support.

"But now as it is due to her policies that the BJP is gaining ground in Bengal, she is having problem with the AIMIM. This is nothing but political hypocrisy," Hasan said.

Temi Tea Mr Sikkim finalist Sonam Zangpo Bhutia

NITESH R PRADHAN GANGTOK, 20 NOV:

Hailing from Assam Lingzey, Sonam Zangpo Bhutia is one of the most hardworking finalists and is determined to win the coveted Temi Tea Mr Sikkim 2019 Manhunt.

Why Mr Sikkim Manhunt?

I choose Mr Sikkim Manhunt because it's my passion and through this field, I want to motivate the upcoming generations.

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

The qualities that make me stand out in a crowd are confidence, and the way I interact with other people.

What if you win or lose the competition?

Winning and losing is a part of life, I would love to win the title, and even if I lose also I won't get disheartened because failure gives you the real meaning of success.

Define yourself.

I am a guy having lots of patience and who believes in hard work.

What is that one thing that can unite humanity?

Only love can unite humanity. Any appeal/message.

Be yourself because it's you who brings the best in you.

Tell us something about yourself.



I am Sonam Zangpo Bhutia from Assam Lingzey, currently residing in Gangtok. I am pursuing my graduation from ICAI University and I love to cook.

Par panel meets to examine WhatsApp snooping issue



NEW DELHI, NOV 20 (PTI): A parliamentary standing committee, headed by Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, met here on Wednesday to examine the WhatsApp snooping issue.

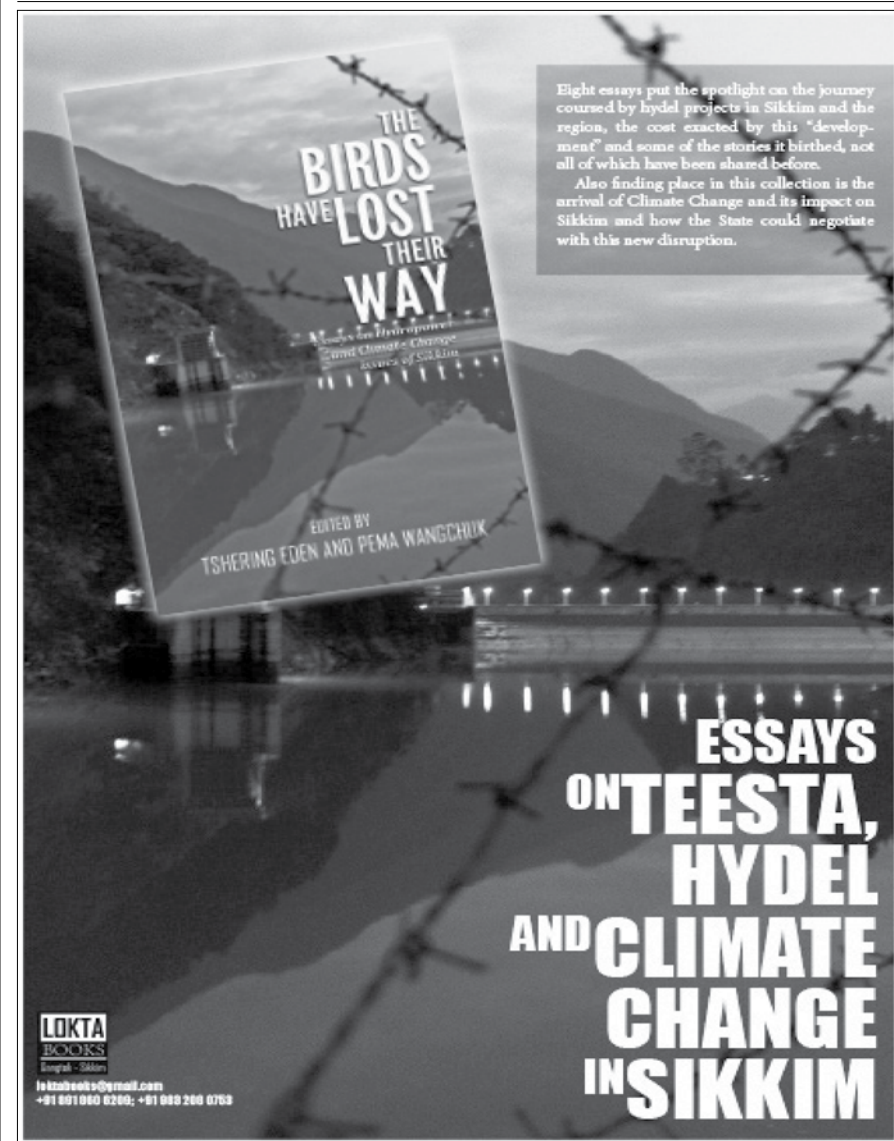
As per the notice issued by the Lok Sabha secretariat for the meeting, the panel will be briefed by representatives of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Ministry of Home Affairs and Department of Atomic Energy on the subject -- "Citizens' data security and privacy". Tharoor, who heads the Parliamen-

tary Standing Committee on Information Technology, had written a letter to the other panel members, saying the alleged use of technology for snooping on Indian citizens was a matter of "grave concern" and it would be discussed at the next meeting of the committee on November 20.

Earlier, Facebook-owned WhatsApp said Indian journalists and human rights activists were among those globally spied upon by unidentified entities, using an Israeli spyware -- Pegasus.

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

email us: news@summittimes.com



Kohli named PETA India's Person of the Year

NEW DELHI, NOV 20 (PTI): India captain Virat Kohli was on Wednesday named People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India's 'Person of the Year for 2019' for his animal advocacy efforts. A vegetarian, Kohli's efforts to improve conditions for animals include sending a letter on PETA India's behalf to officials calling for the release of Malti, an elephant used for rides at Amer Fort, who was reportedly violently beaten by eight men, a PETA India statement said.

The 31-year-old also reportedly visited an animal shelter in Bengaluru to check on injured and formerly neglected dogs there, sending a message to his fans to adopt animals rather than buying them.

"Virat Kohli is a fierce animal rights proponent who never hesitates to run out cruelty to animals any way he can. PETA India encourages everyone to follow his lead and always be an advocate for animals in need." PETA India Director of Celebrity and Public Relations, Sachin Bangera said.

Past recipients of PETA India's Person of the Year award include Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, former Supreme Court Justice KS Panicker Radhakrishnan, and actors Anushka Sharma, Hema Malini, R Madhavan, and Jacqueline Fernandez.

Ramsey double leads Wales to Euro 2020

CARDIFF, NOV 20 (AFP): Aaron Ramsey scored twice to lead Wales to Euro 2020 with a 2-0 victory over Hungary in Cardiff on Tuesday.

The Juventus midfielder struck early in both halves to ensure Ryan Giggs's men secured second place in Group E behind World Cup finalists Croatia.

Wales reached the semi-finals of the European championships in 2016 and while matching that run next year will be a huge ask, there was a glimmer of what they are capable of with Ramsey restored alongside Gareth Bale. Ramsey was making his first start of the qualifying campaign due to a series of injuries.

And he made an immediate impact by charging into the box to meet Bale's inch-perfect cross to settle the home side's nerves on 15 minutes. Wales still needed a moment of magic at the other end of the field as an incredible double save from Wayne Hennessey denied Dominik Szoboszlai and Roland Sallai an equaliser as Hungary threatened before the break.

However, there was no way back for the visitors once Ramsey controlled Kieffer Moore's knockdown to smash home from close range two minutes into the second half. From then on Wales were rampant and could easily have added to their advantage as Bale curled a free-kick inches wide before Daniel James also saw a powerful effort drift just off target.

Rapinoe and Piqué give Bale a lesson in how to tackle murky world of politics

KEVIN MITCHELL
theGuardian

It is a fair guess that Gareth Bale, everyone's favourite top-knot idiot, did not rush from the pitch after Wales's match against Hungary on Tuesday to inquire how the prime minister got on in his TV debate with Jeremy Corbyn. Or, indeed, bother to ask if we had the same prime minister as last month, when Bale pronounced in an ungarded moment of candour: "I don't even know who the prime minister is any more ... I haven't got a clue ... I follow the golf, that's about it."

That is, indeed, about it. In the rarefied field of 2019 Celebrity Disconnection Bale is neck and neck with Prince "I let the side down" Andrew for the gold medal, with only six weeks left in the season. Others might yet make the podium.

It comes as a surprise, though it shouldn't, that famous people often do not know anything or anyone but their hairdresser or whoever it is looking after their property portfolio. They do not just live in another world; they are not sure the one they are in is real – or, in Bale's case, Real Madrid.

The Spanish media has not been too happy with Bale for a little while now but he managed to up his irritant factor when he let slip that he would rather play for Wales than the people who have made him



ridiculously rich. Admirable loyalty to his roots, some would say – although his fame playing for his country has not spread to Baku, apparently.

When Wales lobbied up in the Azerbaijan capital last week for a Euro 2020 qualifier, the translator assigned to the visiting team's press conferences did a bit of a Bale when she asked the manager, Ryan Giggs, "Who is Gareth Bale?"

Fair question. Who is this man who only football and golf knows? When the eminent Trinidadian Marxist, CLR James, asked the cricketing version of that question in Beyond A Boundary in 1963, he borrowed the famous quote from Rudyard Kipling,

who asked "what should they know of England who only England know"? Or Wales.

The Baku translator got the sack, by the way, on the reasonable grounds that she might struggle to record faithfully anything to do with the Welsh team. Is it unreasonable to wonder if a similar punishment be handed out to Bale: say, refuse to let him vote in case he gets it horribly wrong, with not knowing that Boris Johnson has been squatting in 10 Downing Street for a few months. For those asking, Bale does actually speak Spanish – but he thinks Franco is still in charge.

In Madrid this week a footballer of similar distinction, Gerard Piqué, has put togeth-

er a new version of the Davis Cup, a brave experiment but something one might have expected of someone whose awareness of life away from the pitch has led him to the murky waters of politics more than once. Piqué is as proud of his Catalan heritage as Bale is of his Welshness but a little more in touch with what is going on around him.

As he told the Guardian in 2017 during the turmoil and violence that surrounded the referendum on Catalan independence: "Politics is a drag, but why shouldn't I express myself? I understand those players who don't want to say anything. We're footballers but we're people too. Why can a journalist or a mechanic

express themselves but not a footballer?"

As it happens, Piqué did not say which way he voted, although he does not talk like a separatist. But at least he talks. As does the magnificent Megan Rapinoe, who has helped USA win two World Cups and an Olympic gold medal while simultaneously and fearlessly expressing her disgust for Boris Johnson's fellow fool, Donald Trump.

Her Wikipedia entry is hilarious. Apparently she is "known for her crafty style of play and activism". She speaks out with unfettered enthusiasm on LGBT issues, which ought not be considered unusual for a famous footballer but seems so to be.

In the land of the free there is a home for the brave (sort of), as Rapinoe discovered when she knelt during her national anthem before a match in solidarity with the ostracised quarterback Colin Kaepernick. She has continued to use her position to make her case, most brilliantly with that angled spread of her arms after scoring as USA conquered the world again in France, and declaring that she and her teammates were not inclined to attend a victory reception at the sullied White House.

She is not alone. When the phenomenal Norwegian Ada Hegerberg won the inaugural women's Ballon d'Or last year, she had to contend with the crass intervention of a DJ called Martin Solveig, who asked her to twerk for the gathering. She gave him a polite "no". Empowerment grows as it is watered.

We had at least come a little way forward from the awkward moment at the Australian Open in 2015 when a courtside commentator asked Eugenie Bouchard to "do a little twirl for us" after she had won. She did it, bemused and laughing nervously. But the adverse reaction was widespread and unequivocal.

Athletes, especially women, do get put in boxes. Some of them have the self-awareness to break out. Many do not. But quite a few have at least heard of Boris Johnson, for whatever that is worth.

Bangladesh wary of early sun set



KOLKATA, NOV 20 (PTI): Bangladesh's spin bowling consultant Daniel Vettori conceded that early sunset in Kolkata could pose a massive challenge for his team's batsmen during the "twilight" hours of the upcoming historic Day/Night Test against India starting on Friday.

While a handful of first team players from India have played pink-ball game in domestic cricket, Bangladesh's only experience with the pink ball was a one-off Day/Night four-day match in 2013 but none of the current team players were part of that fixture.

"I think the pink ball is relatively normal in the day, the challenge will be how much of the Test is played under lights. Obviously, the sun sets quite early here. I think 4:30 pm. That will be the time we will see the pink ball come into play," the former New Zealand captain said.

Vettori has not been a part of any Day/Night Test venture but from the experience he feels bat-

ting during twilight period will be challenging.

"My experience is only from watching on TV and it seems to do a little bit more during twilight dusk. So I think that's going to be a big sighting period of the Test match. That'll be the period of the Test the teams will try to do technically a few different things. I think that the final one and a half session would be very interesting."

With the pink ball expected to help seamers more, Indian captain Virat Kohli is expecting complete his 12th straight home series win with ease.

Vettori however said Bangladesh pacers are equally excited with the team boasting leftarm pacer Mustafizur Rahman who sat out in Indore.

"All fast bowlers are really excited. Coming to grips with the balls, I think the SG pink ball is slightly a bit different. Most guys have limited experience of Kookaburra ones. I think there's a lot of excitement and optimism around.

Cooperative...

and representations submitted to him on the occasion, the Chief Minister made the following announcements:

1. The salary component of SICUN which has suffered a reduction in allocation in recent years from Rs 50 lakh to Rs 10 lakh will be enhanced in the upcoming budget session in March 2020.
2. All pending payments to the SICUN contractor would be made immediately after the budget session.
3. Pending liabilities of SICUN to the tune of Rs 3.65 crore will be paid by the Government immediately after the budget session in March 2020.
4. He assured that land related payments to the tune of Rs 22 lakh will be made within the current financial year.
5. Corpus Fund for SICUN would be given due consideration.
6. All Government departments to make use of the infrastructure at SICUN for residential trainings.
7. Government will provide technical and financial support to all Self-Help Groups and Cooperative Societies to help them market their products. He also announced an incentive of Rs 2 lakh each to all the 11 SHGs and Cooperative Societies which had put up stalls at the SICUN premises today.
8. He suggested that Government Departments park fund allocateds for Centrally Sponsored Schemes in SISCO Bank instead of private nationalized banks. He said this in the context of strengthening the State-run Bank.
9. All the roads in Namcheybong constituency to be re-surveyed and report to be submitted to the Government at the earliest.

Further, the Chief Minister stated that the Government would complete pending projects which have been left incomplete by the previous government, provided they are of socio-cultural importance and add to the State's economy.

He said that the Government will cancel all such projects which are merely waste of resources and a burden on the exchequer. He cited the example of two projects namely Thakurbari in Gangtok and Paru Hang temple of the Rai community in Ranka which have

been taken up on priority by the Government and will be completed at the earliest.

Sewon Rai...

Take is about celebrating works of young emerging artists. After a competition amongst 2350 artworks from across India, the jury selected the final 140 emerging artworks for exhibition and 10 emerging artists were shortlisted for awards.

The jury comprised of Brinda Miller, Jayanti Rabadia, Subodh Kerker, Veer Munshi and Umang Hutheesing.

"I am grateful and thankful towards Abir First Take 2019 and Ma'am, Ruby B Jagrut," said Sewon.

He has also thanked his family for supporting him and his pursuit of art.

Workshop deliberates...

on the conservation of environment and water. He also advised NSS programme officers to work on the Fit India campaign.

Additional Chief Secretary, Education Department, GP Upadhyaya, in turn, stated that NSS has been able to inspire school and college students towards social and productive works.

He encouraged NSS programme officers and volunteers to continue with their exemplary work and suggested that proper documentation be maintained of all their activities.

He advised programme officer to create discussion forums in their respective institutions to discuss pertinent issues of the State, nation and the world.

Mr Upadhyaya urged participants to take full advantage of the workshop and disseminate knowledge in their respective institutions.

NSS Regional Director, Deepak Kumar, in turn highlighted that NSS was a platform to give back to the society.

While mentioning that Sikkim has been doing very well in NSS activities, he stated that good work by the State needs to be sustained and said that the workshop will also prepare an action plan for the next five years to further strengthen NSS activities in the State.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Secretary to the Sports & Youth Affairs Department, Kuber Bhandari stressed that enrolment of NSS volunteers needs to be increased in the State.

NSS State Nodal Officer, Doma Tshering Bhutia gave a power-point presentation on various activities of NSS in different educational institutions in the State and detailed the various activities and special camps held by NSS on a regular basis.

The inaugural function also included a presentation on NSS activities at Sikkim Government College, Namchi, by Dr Kamal Poudyal and a presentation of environment-friendly activities in Namchi and other parts of the State by a NSS volunteer of SGC, Namchi, Sanjay Rai, who is also a member of VOICE.

The inaugural function was followed by technical sessions.

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Fake news amplifies fear and confusion in Hong Kong

Murder disguised as suicide. A secret massacre at a subway station. Impending 'terrorist' attacks: false news online is amplifying fear and confusion in Hong Kong as months of pro-democracy unrest turns increasingly violent in the real world.

Using half-truths, carefully-edited video, and selective reporting, both the pro-democracy and pro-Beijing camps push their own protest narrative -- and even fact checking doesn't always help people understand what's going on.

"I just assume everything is fake until I have seen sources from both sides and more than two news agencies I trust are reporting the same," Hong Kong resident Michael Wu, 27, told AFP.

Opposing camps are locked in "echochambers" of misinformation online, said Wu, with genuine, neutral news sources were being drowned out online

"People on each camp only 'fact check' sources within their own echo-chamber," Wu said. "Even when the truth is out, people are also ready to believe in whatever fake news that would advance their cause or ideology."

Local fact checking Facebook page Kauyim Media, which has more than 140,000 followers and posts quick, real-time debunks of viral disinformation, said fake news was "amplifying the fear, hatred and confusion among Hong Kong residents". "The damage



has been done and will take a long time to rectify," Kauyim told AFP.

Disinformation affects Hong Kongers in real ways, said Masato Kajimoto, a fake news expert at the University of Hong Kong, pointing to a recent false press release on school cancellations.

The Education Bureau said the purported release was "entirely a fabrication" but Kajimoto said that even so, "this type of false information is confusing and has a direct impact on how people plan their daily lives".

- Deep distrust -

A deep distrust of police and authorities may fuel the spread of rumours among protesters, with outlandish claims and conspiracies taking root, despite repeated official denials.

This is partly because, one protester told AFP, people see videos of police or suspected triads attacking protesters online but no disciplinary

actions or prosecutions, further undermining trust. "Police are the law now," they said.

In this febrile atmosphere, people seem more inclined to uncritically accept information they see that supports their viewpoint and "fake news passed on from person to person" can take on a life of its own.

"As violent action on both sides escalates and people become more galvanised in their beliefs... disinformation that confirms previous beliefs (is) widely shared," Nathan Ruser, a researcher with the Australian Strategic Policy Institute's International Cyber Policy Centre, told AFP.

When the naked body of a 15-year-old girl was pulled from Hong Kong harbour, it triggered a frenzy of online speculation that her death was connected to the protests -- despite police ruling the death "not suspicious" and the girl's

mother saying it was suicide. In November, the death of Chow Tsz-lok, a 22-year-old student, triggered a major escalation of protests as online rumours -- including tweets from politicians -- claimed Chow had been pushed from a car park by police, despite official denials that officers were in the area at the time.

Hong Kong's new police commissioner said this week that fake news could "undermine the credibility of the police force".

"We have to rebut those false accusation," Chris Tang Ping-keung said.

- Curated violence - On the other side, Chinese state media and troll armies running what Facebook and Twitter have called "organised disinformation campaigns" have used edited footage and carefully-curated images to highlight protester violence.

In one example fact

checked by AFP, a video showing an old lady remonstrating with police was edited to make it appear that protesters threatened the woman. The misleading footage was shared on Weibo by the Communist Party Youth League.

"The editing was very convincing and that's how harmful fake news is," the Australia-based Chinese artist Badiucuo told AFP.

Chinese-controlled platforms including major news channels on WeChat are dominated by fake news, he said, and "content is manipulated to paint a misleading picture about Hong Kong protesters".

When protesters at Hong Kong Polytechnic University set a police vehicle ablaze this week, photographs purporting to show the badly-burned police officer at the wheel were circulating online within hours.

But the claims were false, an AFP fact check found. The photo of the badly-burned man was an old image from Malaysia.

"A lot of things that you receive you can't tell if it's real or fake," one 60-year-old retiree told AFP, adding she was bombarded with protest news on social media and in chat groups.

"You can't trust any one source right now... There's too much (information) and it's all jammed in your brain, this is not very good for your health."

Former UK consulate worker says Chinese police tortured him

A former employee of Britain's consulate in Hong Kong said Wednesday that Chinese secret police tortured and interrogated him about London's role in protests in the semi-autonomous city.

Simon Cheng, a Hong Kong citizen, claimed he was shackled to a steel "tiger chair," hung spread-eagled on a "steep X-Cross" and beaten while he was detained for 15 days in August.

British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said Cheng's allegations are credible and that the treatment "amounts to torture".

Raab told BBC radio that he summoned the Chinese ambassador to denounce the "disgraceful" and "outrageous behaviour from the authorities in China" which violate international law.

Cheng was placed in administrative detention after visiting the neighbouring southern Chinese city of Shenzhen in August.

He said in a statement on Facebook that he had taken a high-speed train to Hong Kong's West Kowloon station, where he was stopped by mainland police and sent back to Shenzhen.

Cheng said police tied him to a steel "tiger chair," accused him of being a British spy and forced to do "extreme strength exercise" for hours, beating him whenever he failed to complete it.

He was also shackled to an X-shaped frame that kept his hands aloft for "hours after hours," Cheng wrote.

"It felt extremely painful."

Cheng said he was asked if he knew anyone who worked for British intelligence agencies, what part he had played in protests and what he knew about mainland citizens who had joined the demonstrations.

China has repeatedly accused

Washington and London of condoning violence in Hong Kong.

The former British colony was handed back to Beijing in 1997 under a 50-year agreement that gave Hong Kong special rights unseen on the mainland, including freedom of speech and an independent judiciary. The protests started as a response to a now-scrapped extradition bill but has since expanded to include broader demands for democracy and investigations into police violence.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang on Wednesday said that Shenzhen police had "guaranteed" Cheng's "legitimate rights and interests in accordance with the law."

Geng said that he was unaware of any statements from London on Cheng's situation, but that China expressed "strong indignation at the recent series mistakes and deeds of the British side on the Hong Kong issue."

Police in Shenzhen declined to comment on Cheng's statement when contacted by AFP.

- Filmed confession -

Cheng said he had monitored the protests as part of his work at the British consulate in Hong Kong, "in order to evaluate travel alerts" and whether British citizens were involved.

Outside of work, he supported the movement and had joined the protests.

The longest round of interrogations by a team of police officers lasted 48 hours with no break, Cheng said.

Police expected Cheng to confess that the "UK instigates the riots in Hong Kong by donating money, materials and equipment," and that he was paying the bail for mainlanders arrested by Hong Kong police using money from the

UK government, Cheng said.

Shenzhen police had said in August that Cheng was detained for "violating the law of the People's Republic of China on public safety management."

The Global Times, a state-run tabloid, said cited police as saying that Cheng had been held for "soliciting prostitutes".

Cheng said he felt he had no choice but to make a filmed confession to "soliciting prostitution," a charge that he said was offered by police as an alternative to "indefinite criminal detention."

- 'Fight for human rights' -

Cheng said he was asked during his detention by police to provide information on members of protest-related Telegram chat groups.

Police also wanted to know why protesters were becoming increasingly violent by late summer, and challenged Cheng's belief in democracy, calling him a traitor to China. He said he had complied with some of their demands and drawn up an "organisational chart" of one Telegram group.

Cheng was asked if he had safeguarded the "Lennon Wall" in Hong Kong's Jordan neighbourhood, where protesters had put up messages and posters, and shown a photograph of the wall.

"That photo is not from my mobile phone, I suspect they have eyes and ears for gathering information in Hong Kong," Cheng wrote.

Cheng said has resigned from the British consulate and fled to an unnamed third place and intends to seek asylum.

"I won't give up the fight for human rights, peace, freedom and democracy for the rest of my life, no matter the danger, discrimination and retaliation I will face, and no matter how my reputation will be stained," he wrote.



FARMER'S TRAINING PROGRAMME: Today a GPU level farmer's training on organic agriculture management was held at Mellidara Paiong, South Sikkim on pest & Management. Programme was attended by Pan-chayat Member, CEO Melli Dara, FIG President, ICS Staff & Progressive farmers.

Impeachment sham completely debunked, says WH after third public hearing

BY LALIT K JHA

WASHINGTON, Nov 20

(PTI): US President Donald Trump has claimed victory as the Democratic Party-controlled House of Representatives concluded its third public hearing on the impeachment proceedings against him for allegedly abusing his office for political gain in the run up to the 2020 presidential election.

The impeachment hearings are an effort by Democrats to establish whether Trump withheld US military aid to Ukraine to pressure the country's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy into announcing a corruption inquiry into Joe Biden, Trump's leading Democratic rival in the poll.

The Democrats are alleging that Trump's call with his Ukrainian counterpart was irregular and inappropriate and abuse of his office for political gain. "A great day for Republicans, a great day for our Country! In the end we will win and save our Country from certain destruction, Trump tweeted soon after the House Select Committee on Intelligence concluded its third public impeachment hearings on Tuesday.

In the morning, Democratic lawmakers grilled Lt Col Alexander Vindman, a Ukraine specialist on the National Security Council (NSC), and Jennifer Williams, a top national security aide to Vice President Pence on Trump's July 25 phone call with Ukrainian President Zelenskyy.

Later in the day, Kurt Volker, former special envoy to Kyiv, and Tim Morrison, another top NSC aide, testified before the powerful House Committee. The White House called the impeachment process a sham. "To-

day's second hearing is over, and the Democrats' central allegation in this impeachment sham has again been completely debunked," White House Press Secretary Stephanie Grisham said at the conclusion of the testimonies.

Specifically, Ambassador Volker confirmed under oath that he had no indication whatsoever of anything that resembled a quid-pro-quo, corroborating his previous deposition testimony that there was no linkage like that," she said.

Grisham urged the American public not to tolerate the pretence of the Democrats.

With the Democrats' poll-tested quid-pro-quo and bribery narratives in shambles, the American public should not be forced to endure this charade for one more second, Grisham said.

We have learned nothing new in today's illegitimate impeachment proceedings. However, buried among the witnesses' personal opinions and conjecture about a call the White House long ago released to the public, both witnesses testified the July 25 transcript was accurate and nothing President Trump has done or said amounts to bribery or any other crime, she added.

Grisham also accused the Democrats of being blinded by their hatred for President Trump.

Today's hearing only further exposes that Chairman Schiff and the Democrats are simply blinded by their hatred for Donald Trump and rabid desire to overturn the outcome of a free and fair election, Grisham said. However, both Vindman and Williams told lawmakers that Trump's request to

Ukrainian president to investigate Democratic rivals was inappropriate.

Volker and Morrison said that the call with Zelenskyy were not in line with American national security goals. Frankly I couldn't believe what I was hearing. It was probably an element of shock that may be in certain regards my worst fear of how our Ukraine policy could play out was playing out and how this was likely to have significant implications for US national security, Vindman said.

Williams said the phone call was unusual and inappropriate.

I believe what I found unusual or different about this call was the president's reference to specific investigations. That struck me as different than other calls I had listened to, she said.

I thought that the references to specific individuals and investigations such as former Vice President Biden and his son struck me as political in nature given that former Vice President is a political opponent of the president, Williams said.

I can't speak to what the president's motivation was in referencing it, but I just noted that the reference to Biden sounded political to me, she said in response to a question.

During the later hearing, Volker said that he does not think that raising 2016 elections or Vice President Biden or these things that he considers to be conspiracy theories that have been circulated by the Ukrainians, particularly the former prosecutor general, are they're not things that one should be pursuing as part of the national security strategy with Ukraine.

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Israel strikes military sites in Syria: army

JERUSALEM, Nov 20 (AFP): The Israeli army confirmed it carried out strikes on Syrian and Iranian "terror targets" near Damascus on Wednesday, in response to fire from Syria the day before.

The Israel Defense Forces, who blamed Tuesday's rockets on "an Iranian force", said it holds Damascus responsible for attacks launched from Syria into its territory. Syria's state media earlier said Syrian anti-aircraft defences intercepted a "heavy attack" by Israeli warplanes over the capital in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

Israel has carried out frequent air and missile strikes against Iranian targets inside Syria since the country descended into civil war in 2011, but rarely comments on them. "We just carried out wide-scale strikes of Iranian Quds Force & Syrian Armed Forces targets in Syria in response to the rockets fired at Israel by an Iranian force in Syria last night," the Israel Defense Forces tweeted.

During the attack the Syrian government's defence missile was fired "despite clear warnings to refrain from such fire", it added. As a result, a number of Syrian aerial defense batteries were destroyed. "We hold the Syrian regime responsible for the actions that take place in Syrian territory and warn them against allowing further attacks against Israel," the army said.



GOOD VIBES! The singer, Camila Cabello steps out for lunch with her mom and friends in Los Angeles while rocking a Romance shirt to promote her latest album.

'The Kelly Clarkson Show' gets season two order from NBC

LOS ANGELES, NOV 20 (PTI): NBC has renewed singer Kelly Clarkson's talk show "The Kelly Clarkson Show" for a second season.

The daytime talk show has become immensely popular among the audiences and has been garnering great ratings for the network, reported Deadline.

"The Kelly Clarkson Show" is connecting with viewers in a unique way and we are so happy to build on that momentum, bringing Kelly's brand of humour, heart, and, of course, the incredible Kellyoke, to stations for a second season, Tracie Wilson, EVP, creative affairs, NBCUniversal Television Distribution, said.

"It is a privilege to be in business with Kelly and our production team, led by Alex Duda, who have a clear creative vision and a talent for storytelling and creating quality enter-

tainment that invites you in for a good time and leaves you feeling happy," she added.

Alex Duda serves as the executive produc-



er and showrunner on the show. Clarkson and Brandon Blackstock are also attached to executive produce.

The show is taped in front of a live studio audience on the Universal Studios lot in Universal City, California.

Bong Joon Ho won't direct a superhero movie as costumes are too tight

LOS ANGELES, NOV 20 (PTI): Filmmaker Bong Joon-Ho has an affinity for superhero films but he would still like to maintain a distance from them as he just can't stand people in tight-fitting clothes.

The South Korean director, who is raking in all the critical acclaim for his recent feature "Parasite", told Variety that he understands the concerns of veteran filmmaker Martin Scorsese and his contemporaries like Francis Ford Coppola but he does like certain superhero films.

"I have so much respect for Scorsese and Coppola, and I grew up studying their films. So I fully understand the context of their comments and I respect their opinion.

"But on the other hand, if I look at the films individually, I enjoyed 'Guardians of the Galaxy', James Mangold's 'Logan' and 'Winter Soldier' by the Russo Brothers. There are great cinematic moments in those films," Joon-Ho said.

Scorsese had recently created a storm after he labelled superhero films as "theme park experience" and "not

cinema". He was joined by Coppola, Pedro Almodovar and Ken Loach in his criticism of the Marvel movies.

Joon-Ho, however, would not willing be so willing to helm a superhero film as he has a "personal problem" with the genre.



"I have a personal problem. I respect the creativity that goes into superhero films, but in real life and in movies, I can't stand people wearing tight-fitting clothes. I'll never wear something like that, and just seeing someone in tight clothes is mentally difficult.

"I don't know where to look, and I

feel suffocated. Most superheroes wear tight suits, so I can never direct one. I don't think anyone will offer the project to me either. If there is a superhero who has a very boxy costume, maybe I can try," Joon-Ho said.

The 50-year-old filmmaker's latest

Kanye West and Dr. Dre Join Forces for 'Jesus Is King Part II' Project: 'Coming Soon'



The hip-hop titans shared the news on social media with a picture of themselves posing in front of a recording desk.

Kanye West and Dre. Dre have announced they are working on a sequel to West's latest album: Jesus Is King Part II.

The hip-hop titans shared the news on social media with a picture of themselves posing in front of a recording desk, saying only that the project would be "coming soon."

At this stage is is not known what exactly the pair are working on but, given their monumental musical impact, it can be assumed that it will be a sequel album to West's gospel-inspired Jesus Is King, released last month.

Both West and Dre have worked with

other huge names in hip-hop including JAY-Z and Nas but have not together so closely before.

Ye has made his admiration clear for Dre in the past. In a 2010 Rolling Stone article he recalled how overwhelmed he was when he met the Californian rapper/producer.

"I first met Dre in December of 2003. He asked me to produce a track for The Game," West said. "At first I was star-struck, but within 30 minutes I was begging him to mix my next album. He's the definition of a true talent: Dre feels like God placed him here to make music, and no matter what forces are aligned against him, he always ends up on the mountaintop."

Noah Hawley to direct 'Star Trek 4' for Paramount

LOS ANGELES, NOV 20 (PTI): Paramount's "Star Trek 4" is finally moving forward with " Fargo" creator Noah Hawley coming on board as director.

The future of the fourth installment was thrown into uncertainty after the talks between actor Chris Hemsworth and the studio broke down. Paramount wanted the "Avengers: Endgame" star to reprise his role of George Kirk in the new movie.

The film, however, is now back on track. The core cast of Chris Pine, Zachary Quinto, Karl Urban and Zoe Saldana are

all expected to return for the film, reported Variety. Hawley, who recently made his feature directorial debut with Natalie Portman-starrer "Lucy in the Sky", will also produce the project through his banner 26 Keys.

Filmmaker JJ Abrams, who kickstarted the franchise with 2009 "Star Trek", will produce through his Bad Robot production house.

Besides "Star Trek 4", Paramount is also in talks with filmmaker Quentin Tarantino for another film which will be written by Mark L. Smith.

Rapper Tyga to perform in Mumbai for first time

MUMBAI, NOV 20 (PTI): American rapper Tyga is set to perform in Mumbai for the first time.

The 30-year-old rapper, known for hits like "Rack City", "Faded", "Far Away", "Still Got It", "Make It Nasty" and others, will be performing for the Sunburn Arena on November 29 at MMRDA, BKC.

In 2018, Tyga made his India debut after he performed for a luxury pop-up in New Delhi.

"I had a great experience in New Delhi last year. But I always wanted to tour Mumbai. I've heard the hip hop music industry is one to watch out for. I'm really excited to attend the arena concert curated by Sunburn and meet all my fans out there," the rapper said in a statement.

For his Sunburn Arena performance, he is expected to play tracks like "AYO", "Rack City", "Still Got It", "Make It Nasty" and "Temperature".

Karan Singh, COO at Percept Live, said, "After seeing the phenomenal response we garnered from the Wiz Khalifa Sunburn Arena tour we realised the demand for the hip hop genre in India is quite awesome but remains largely unexploited. As a brand we believe in catering to the growing appetite of the fans.

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ARIES: "There is a passion inside you, a unique talent that gives meaning to your days and drives you to share the best of yourself until the very end. If you don't know what your ikigai is yet, as Viktor Frankl says, your mission is to discover it." Here's some new-age wisdom for you to consider, Aries. Your journey right now involves awakening to your inner child and discovering the many gifts you have buried inside. Today also brings with itself the reminder that your mind is an incubator.

Tip: Awaken to your many gifts.

TAURUS: Autumn is the season of the soul, Taurus, a second spring when every leaf is a flower. When Albert Camus wrote these words, he was thinking about the wonderful harvest we reap right before winters to keep our souls warm.

Tip: This is a big breakthrough moment for your soul.

GEMINI: Change isn't always easy to cope with. Give yourself a gold star for getting to the other side. You have done a wonderful job of overcoming your challenges and are

now ready to open the door to joy, love, and abundance. Your energy is infectious, Gemini! This is also a time to up the manifestation game. Tip: You are the reason the room is radiating with light.

CANCER: Cancer, you are slowly realigning with your soul purpose. Is this what it feels like to live your ikigai? Enlighten us, wild one. For some this is a time of entering a successful partnership, one that has the potential to blossom outside of the workplace. This can be a tricky situation. Be aware of what you are getting into before you cross any lines.

Tip: You are living your ikigai.

LEO: You are your most sociable self this week, and you're taking some of that goodness into the workplace with you. There's a reason the room lights up when you're around, Leo. The current climate is favourable for networking, expanding your circle and committing to a collaboration of a lifetime.

Tip: Make the most of your social opportunities.

VIRGO: Your career may be fulfilling your material needs but is it satisfying you on a spiritual and emotional level? Something to

think upon as you sip on your morning tea. The answer does not lie in making drastic changes. All you need to do is get out of the rut you have found yourself in and consciously realign.

Tip: Realign with your passion.

LIBRA: While new opportunities are being offered to you by the dozen, it is important to stay grounded and not get caught up in the excitement. Things might look great on paper, Libra, but you won't know if it's worth your time and effort unless you do some research. Remember to make decisions in alignment with your long-term goals. Have you been thinking about taking the start-up route? Tip: Be open to the new but do not make any hasty decisions.

SCORPIO: We can talk about peace and positivity all you want but the truth is, we live in a dog-eat-dog world. There is no reason for anybody to upgrade your ticket to business class or give you a promotion unless you prove your mettle and ask for what you deserve. Be your own brand ambassador, Scorpio. Make sure your work is visible

and that your voice is heard. The Universe is giving you a chance to level up—now!

Tip: Ask for what you deserve.

SAGITTARIUS: Toxic work environments can be a hazard to your mental and emotional well-being. Is your workplace supporting your growth or triggering fear and anxiety? The truth is, you have bills to pay and loans to clear. You can't run away, even if you really want to. See how you can bring about a positive change in your circumstances.

Tip: If it is causing you more harm than good, let it go.

CAPRICORN: Benjamin Mays said that the tragedy of life is not found in failure, but complacency. When we start living below our capacity, doing only the bare minimum to survive, we are setting ourselves up to receive less than what we deserve. Capricorn, you have been doing things in a certain way for far too long, which is working for you. However, it is also limiting your growth and keeping you from moving to the next level. We're not suggesting you make drastic changes or challenge the status quo. We are

asking you to work within the system while doing one thing—every single day—that scares the living daylight out of you.

Tip: Be open to letting go of old patterns and adopting a new way of life.

AQUARIUS: Aquarius, you are a powerhouse of ideas—one who is constantly innovating and challenging the world to see things differently. This day brings with itself the reminder that there are certain plans that need to be put into action. Don't shy away from taking the required action.

Tip: Well done is better than well said.

PISCES: An Esther Hicks quote to swear by: "the only true measure of success is the amount of joy we are feeling." Pisces, you have created a lush and abundant life for yourself, one that is providing you with the kind of comforts that were once a distant dream. But is it evoking a feeling of joy within you? Is it inspiring you to follow your ikigai and look at the world in a different light? The Universe wants you to go find that missing spark, baby!

Tip: Break out of that rut.