



**HUGE LEAK REVEALS THE PLOT FOR THE BIGGEST MARVEL MOVIE COMING IN MCU PHASE 4**  
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**'THE WALL' CEMENTED PINK FLOYD'S FAME – BUT DESTROYED THE BAND**

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**BEN AFFLECK AND JENNIFER GARNER APPEAR TO ENGAGE IN TENSE CONVERSATION AFTER EXES SPENT THANKSGIVING TOGETHER WITH THEIR KIDS**

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# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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## 170 Run for Reeya in Gangtok



**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 30 NOV:**

A total of 170 runners came forward for a noble initiative, Run for Reeya, held here this morning. This charity run was initiated by a Gangtok-based journalist, Dichen Ongmu to raise funds for ailing national footballer from Sikkim, Reeya Lepcha, who has been suffering from brain tumour.

Reeya Lepcha hails from West Sikkim and the collected amount from the initiative will be transferred to her parents as financial assistance for her treatment. She is undergoing treatment at New Delhi after a surgery at Central Referral Hospital, Tadong, in East Sikkim.

The run was flagged off by Marathon Man of Sikkim, Amar Subba from Titanic Park and followed the route from Titanic Park to Tibet Road, High Court of Sikkim road, Hospital Dara and then to Paljor Stadium Road and finally ended at Paljor Stadium.

Marathoners, sports enthusiasts, footballers, journalists and students came forward to support the initiative with their participation. The run ended with the distribution of certificates to all participants.

Speaking to media, Ms Ongmu thanked her father Jeewan Lama, Marathon Man, Amar Subba, active runner, Bharati Gurung and every individual for their support. She also thanked all well-wishers, participants and donors for their contributions towards the cause.

She also appealed to the sports organisations who extended their support to Reeya Lepcha.

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 30 NOV:**

Lok Sabha MP from Sikkim, Indra Hang Subba, is among the group of 12 Members of Parliament from the NE Region who signed a joint-representation yesterday seeking that the eight Northeastern states be left out of the purview of the Citizenship Amendment Bill.

Speaking to Summit-Times over the phone from New Delhi on Saturday, Mr Subba informed that most of the MPs from the North East, except those from the BJP, met yesterday and resolved to write to the Home Minister seeking the exemption for the region.

CAB, which is expected to be moved in the Parliament by the Home Minister next week, has triggered widespread protest in the northeastern states which fear dilution of local protection by the Bill.



The proposed amendment to the Citizenship Act seeks to extend citizenship to Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Parsis and Christian refugees from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan. Noticeably, the amendment extends religion-specific citizenship and leaves out Muslims from its purview, but that is not why the

NER is protesting it. The Bill also relaxes the residence period in India from the current 11 years to 6 years. NE States fear that if refugees are made citizens, interests of the local populations will be harmed.

The Bill was first introduced in the Lok Sabha on 19 July, 2016. It was then referred to the Joint Parliamentary Committee and eventually passed by the Lok Sabha on 08 January 2019. Since it did not pass the Rajya Sabha in time, it had lapsed. It is now being re-introduced in the Lok Sabha.

By the government's own admission to the Joint Parliamentary Committee set up in 2016, the total number of such "persecuted persons" was around 31,313 among whom Hindus constituted the largest chunk at 25,447, followed by Sikhs at 5,807, Christians at 56, and Buddhists and Parsis numbering only two each.

## Sikkim MP in group of 12 NE MPs wanting region to be kept out of CAB

## Sikkim participates in Destination North-East Festival

**GANGTOK, 30 NOV [IPR]:** Four-day "Destination North East Festival" showcasing art, culture, cuisine, handicrafts and handlooms of North Eastern region of India was held in the city of Varanasi from 23-26 Nov, 2019.

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Dr. Jitendra Singh, inaugurated the "Destination North East Festival" at IIT-BHU grounds in Varanasi.

A press release informs that the idea of organizing such events is to bring the rest of India closer to North East and to have experience of rich culture of the North East region of India.



The "Destination North East 2019" was aimed at providing live

experience to the audience. All eight States from the North East participated in the festival showcasing their handicrafts, handloom, organic products and cultural troupes.

The event also held a special presentation

of art and craft, textiles, ethnic products, tourism promotion, etc of the eight northeastern States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.

The opening day of the festival was also attended by Chief Minister of Mizoram, P.U. Zoramthanga, Secretary (DoNER), Dr. Inderjit Singh, and Secretary (NEC), K. Moses Chalai, Cricketer, R.P. Singh, BHU Vice Chancellor, Prof. Rakesh Bhatnagar, DG (Assam Rifles), Lt. Gen Sukhdeep Sangwan, NEC Member, Biman Dutta, along with Bollywood actors, Zeenat Aman and Govinda and others.

## EPCS wins Sikkim United Cup 2019



ish George Rai doubled the lead of EPCS in the 64th minute to seal the 2-0 victory of the team. ABYF fought hard but could not convert some good opportunities.

The chief guest and guests of honour gave away trophies and cash prizes to its winners. The winning team received the cash prize of Rs 1.5 lakh along with trophies, while cash prize of Rs 50,000 was awarded to the runners-up team.

**SAGAR CHETTRI**  
**GANGTOK, 30 NOV:**

Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Sikkim (EPCS), Namchi, emerged as the champion of Sikkim United Cup 2019, an Inter Church Football Tournament, played here at Paljor Stadium. In the contesting final match played on Saturday, EPCS outplayed ABYF Baptist Church, Sikkim 2-0 to lift the champion's trophy.

The 8th edition of Inter-Church Football Tournament was organized by Sikkim Christian Sports Association [SCSA] on the theme 'Play for Glory'. A total of 29 teams from all four districts of Sikkim and one team from Darjeeling had participated in the tournament. The tournament is an annual event of SCSA since its establishment in 2012.

The final match of the tournament had Administrative Advisor to the Chief Minister, MP Subba as the chief guest, who was accompanied by Gangtok MLA, YT Lepcha as the guest of honour among other dignitaries.

From the start, both teams maintained good pressure on each other in the final match. However, players of both teams missed some good chances to take the lead.

Finally, Kunjman Thapa gave a breakthrough to EPCS with his goal in the 30th minute

to end the first half with 1-0 lead.

The second half was again full of attacks and counter-attacks. As ABYF struggled to come back into the match, Dewash-

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**WORLD AIDS DAY**  
**1st DEC 2019**

**"COMMUNITIES MAKE THE DIFFERENCE"**



## MYM makes record number of organ donation pledges

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 30 NOV:**

All India Marwari Yuva Manch has been recorded in India Book of Records for coordinating maximum pledge forms for Organ Donation in a single day, a press release informs. This was an initiative of All India Marwari Yuva Manch to create awareness on the



topic "Organ Donation".

On Organ Donation Day i.e 27 Nov, pledge forms started coming in from more than 700 branches of the Manch from across the country. By the end of the day, 25387 pledge forms were received, a record number by any organisation in a single day, the release informs.

West Bengal and Sik-

kim contributed around 1000 pledge forms.

Smita Singh from India Book of Records was present in the AIMYM Headquarter New Delhi for authentication and after verification India Book of Records presented a certificate for collecting highest number of pledge forms in a single day.

All the forms will be presented to the office of National Organ and Tissue Transparent Organisation (NOTTO), the registered organisation for this project by Government of India.

After formalities all the Organ Donors shall receive appreciation certificate, donor card and pin.

## 28 died in Assam detention camps, 3 of them from B'desh

**GUWAHATI, Nov 30 (PTI):** Only three of the 28 people who died of various illness so far at detention camps in Assam had their addresses in Bangladesh, the state Assembly was informed on Saturday.

The state government also said it has sent a proposal to the Centre to set up more detention centres in addition to the existing six, while construction for another is going on in Goalpara district.

In reply to a query by AGP MLA Utpal Dutta, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary said a total of 28 persons have expired in the detention camps "due to illness" till November 21.

Out of them, only three persons -- Basudev Biswas, Nagen Das and Dulal Miya -- had given their addresses in Bangladesh, while the recorded addresses of the



remaining 25 were different districts of Assam, he said.

In a separate query by AIUDF member Aminul Islam on the addresses where the bodies have been sent, the minister said information is being collected from the superintendents of police of different districts.

When Congress MLA Durga Bhumi asked if

any compensation has been paid to the family members of the deceased, Patowary said there is no such provision.

On Wednesday, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai said in Rajya Sabha that there were no deaths of inmates in detention centres due to fear or lack

of medicines and all deaths were caused by some diseases.

On behalf of Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, who holds the Home portfolio, Patowary said a total of 988 people are now lodged in the six detention camps, of which 957 were declared as foreigners and 31 are their children.

Currently, 317 inmates are in Tezpur centre, 222 in Goalpara, 195 in Jorhat, 142 in Kokrajhar, 72 in Silchar and 40 in Dibrugarh, the parliamentary affairs minister said.

On the other hand, the government has released 935 foreigners from the detention camps and they include 86 people waiting for their deportation. The Supreme Court has an order that says a detainee has to be conditionally released after three years of stay in a centre, he added.

Patowary informed the House that Rs 4.74 crore have been spent on maintaining the six detention centres since the establishment of the first one in 2009-10.

The minister said 12 tea tribe people have been declared as foreigners by the Foreigners Tribunal and the state government will take steps as per the law.

## Screening camps for differently-abled across Sikkim



**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 30 NOV:**

Kalpataru Pratisthan, an NGO based in Samdong Kambal, East District, Sikkim, organised a screening and assessment camp for the differently-abled at seven different centres in collaboration with Health Department, Social Welfare Department and Education Department from 13 to 26 Nov, 2019.

The programme was funded by Samagra Siksha, Education Depart-

ment. Doctors, specialists and support medical staff required for the programme were arranged by the Health Department from different hospitals of the state, a press release informs.

Provision for issue of Disability Certificate and UDID were arranged by Social Justice and Welfare Department.

The camps in Mangang, STNM Hospital, Rangpo, Ravangla, Namchi, Gyalshing and Soreng were attended by 934

persons.

The NGO has thanked the Education Department, Health and Family Welfare Department, Social Justice and Welfare department and members of the District administration, Health Administration, Power Department, Forest Department, Pan-chayats, Resource Teachers, Anganwadi workers, retired government employees, other volunteers and well-wishers.

## First night trial of Agni-III missile held



**BALASORE (ODISHA),**

**Nov 30 (PTI):** The first night trial of the nuclear capable Agni-III surface-to-surface ballistic missile was carried out from a mobile launcher at the Integrated Test Range at the APJ Abdul Kalam Island off Odisha coast on Saturday, Defence sources said.

The trajectory of the missile is being monitored and the outcome of the trial is awaited, the sources said.

The flight test of the intermediate range missile, which has a strike range of over 3,500 km, was part of a user trial by the Army, the sources said.

The missile, which has a length of 17 m, diameter of 2 m and launch weight of around 50 tonnes, has been already inducted into the armed forces, the Defence sources said.

The trial was carried out by the Strategic Forces Command of the Indian Army with logistic support from the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) at launch complex-4 of the ITR at about 1920 hrs, the sources said.

"It was the fourth user trial in the Agni-III series carried out to establish the repeatability of the missile's perfor-

mance. For the first time the test was conducted during night time," a DRDO source said.

It is powered by a two-stage solid propellant system and is capable of carrying a warhead of 1.5 tonnes which is protected by carbon all composite heat shield, they said.

Agni-III is equipped with hybrid navigation, guidance and control systems along with advanced on-board computer.

The electronic systems are hardened for higher vibration, thermal and acoustic effects, a DRDO scientist said.

## Centre determined to implement all Central Acts in J&K and Ladakh: Singh

**JAMMU, Nov 30 (PTI):** The "prophets of doom" predicting "volcanos" in Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 have "fallen silent" and the Centre is committed to implement all central laws in the Union territories of J&K and Ladakh, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Saturday.

Urging people to cooperate with the government in the implementation of the Central laws, Singh sought to assure them that all central laws are "citizen friendly" and meant to "benefit the last man in the queue" and "liberate the lower strata of society from the exploitation by the vested interests".

"Let each one of us understand and keep reminding ourselves and those around us that the Article 370 is gone and gone forever. It is not going to come back. Even the prophets of doom who were talking of eruption of volcanos and occurrence of earthquakes have fallen silent," Singh said inaugurating a two-day regional conference here.

The conference 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' with focus on 'jal shakti' and disaster management was organised by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances in collaboration with the governments of Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Singh, who also released a special issue of e-magazine, 'Minimum Government Maximum Governance' based on successful innovations in the governance in J&K and Ladakh, said Article 370 has "gone as a whole and not in pieces".

"With the abrogation of Article 370 and the creation of the two UTs, it is the resolve of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah that we

have to implement all central acts over here.

"There are 854 Central acts which need to be implemented here. We just have less than 200 of them. We have to make up for all the lapses of the last seven decades because these are all citizen-friendly acts which are meant to reach the last man in the queue and to liberate the lowest strata of the society from the exploitation at the hands of the vested interests," the minister of state in the Prime Minister's office said.

He said some laws, like the Prevention of Corruption Act, have already been implemented to facilitate the settlement of corruption cases within two years and the rest are in the pipeline.

Singh said the Centre has taken a very important responsibility at hand and "we are going to take it forward. The Lt Governor has a mandate to do so. These acts are being notified one after the other. Rest assured it is going to happen sooner than later".

"As patriotic, right thinking and responsible citizens, it is our responsibility to cooperate with the government and the lieutenant governor and his administration.

"I will also tell you whether you cooperate or not, this is going to happen. We have made the commitment because we have no right to deprive the common people of J&K and Ladakh of these citizen-friendly laws," he said.

Referring to the demands raised by different sections including the lawyers who are on indefinite strike since November 1 against the government's decision to divest judicial courts of its powers to register various documents by creating a new department, he said, "We are not

going to succumb because there will be no end to it if one demand is met.

"You have a strange kind of fringe elements, representing vested interests and raising voices. Let us be very clear about it, we have to swallow the bitter pill," Singh said.

"We should feel happy that Article 370 was abrogated after 70 years of struggle. This government has gone beyond the imagination of the masses who had actually buried these aspirations," said Singh.

Referring to the Fundamental Right to Free Education under Article 21A of the Constitution and a slew of other central laws like the Dowry Act, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences, the Minimum Wages Act, the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents Act, vigilance law, the Central Administrative Tribunal, the Information Commission Act, Singh said, "We do not have the majority in the Rajya Sabha. I am personally sitting with the Opposition to convince them to get these amendments through."

"We will have to sacrifice our petty interests for the bigger purpose which the prime minister has created for us... we should be celebrating the new set up that has happened after October 31 and feel proud that we are the part of this and we have contributed to it," he said.

The government of India allocated Rs 8,227 per citizen in the country last fiscal but J&K citizens were allocated Rs 27,358, which was nearly four times the average allocation for the citizens in the rest of the country, said Singh, adding "but we still are weeping".

"In Fact we should be feeling guilty why we could not make use of it," he said.

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### EPSC wins Sikkim United Cup 2019....

Omega Church, Gangtok, received the Fair Play Trophy, while Biman Bhujel of ABYF Baptist Church was adjudged Man of the Match.

Man of the Tournament trophy was awarded to Vivek Bhutia of EPSC Namchi and Ajay Subba of ABYF Baptist Church received the High Scorer trophy for his 11 goals in the tournament. Goalkeeper of Gitang Dagbari was adjudged Best Goalkeeper of the tournament.

### Sikkim participates in Destination...

Renowned band Shillong Chamber Choir, singers Papon, Sourabhee Debbarma, Borkung Hrangkhaw and Rekha Bhardwaj were some of the lending voices who performed at the festival.

Minister for DoNER in his address said, "Development of North East is on government's priority after Narendra Modi took charge as Prime Minister. The PM himself has visited NE more than 30 times during his first term. The development of all peripheral states is important for India to grow in a harmonious manner. Young entrepreneurs are also travelling to northeast to explore new avenues."

The Minister also mentioned about venture fund for start-ups and Bamboo Park being set up in Assam.

A business-to-business session was scheduled during the event for people of business communities to explore opportunities in NE States.

Indigenous games were performed by the States where visitors actively participated. Live kitchens with recipes from NE and Uttar Pradesh served ethnic delicacies throughout the event.

Visitors to this festival had live experience of the artisans and artistes from the Northeast working on their looms and crafts, performing their songs and dances in the open stage, the release informs.

A delegation from Sikkim was led by Additional Director, Tourism & Civil Aviation Department, Madan Kumar Pradhan, and representatives from Culture & Heritage Affairs Department, Commerce & Industries Department and stakeholders from Sikkim. The Sikkim Tourism stall was decked in a traditional style which gained huge appreciation from the visitors.

The Minister for DoNER, Jitendra Singh, and other dignitaries were accorded with warm welcome at Sikkim stall with the offering of khadas and brochures. The visitors uttered huge words of appreciation about Sikkim and expressed their keen desire to visit Sikkim.

The Yak dance and Singhi dance from Sikkim drew huge applause and attention of the visitors and co-exhibitors during the festival. Visitors threw their feet on stage out of ecstasy when cultural team from Sikkim put up their shows.

The final day of the event concluded with a colorful cultural show at IIT-BHU ground on 26 Nov. The closing ceremony was attended by Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries, Rameshwar Tel. The previous edition of Destination North-East was held in Delhi and Chandigarh.

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**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



## Amit Shah holds meet with NE CMs, political leaders, civil society on CAB



**NEW DELHI, NOV 30 (PTI):** Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday held discussions with leaders of political parties, students bodies and civil society groups of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya on the contours of the proposed Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB), sources said.

The meetings were attended by chief ministers of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya Sarbananda Sonowal, Pema Khandu and Conrad Sangma respectively, Union minister Kiren Rijiju and several MPs among others.

Assam minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday said Shah met political parties and civil society members of Tripura and Mizoram for four hours on Friday night and things were moving in the right direction.

“Union Home Minister Sri @AmitShah on Friday consulted political parties and civil society organisations of Tripura & Mizoram for over 4 hrs on proposed #CAB. Today he will discuss it with delegations from Assam, Meghalaya & Arunachal Pradesh. Things are moving in

right direction,” Sarma tweeted.

The bill seeks to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955, in order to grant Indian nationality to Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians, who come to India due to religious persecution in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan even if they don't possess proper documents.

The home minister is holding the series of meetings on Friday, Saturday and on December 3 in the wake of strong protests in the Northeast against the CAB.

## Turncoats take centrestage in Jharkhand polls

**RANCHI, NOV 30 (PTI):** At least 18 political leaders with significant clout in their respective constituencies have switched parties after being denied Assembly poll tickets in Jharkhand - a record in the state's 19-year history.

Putting behind their political ideologies, several leaders including three former state Congress chiefs have switched over to rival camps in the run-up to the polls.

While Pradeep Kumar Balmachu joined the AJSU Party, which nominated him from Ghatshila seat, Sukhdeo Bhagat moved to the BJP and secured a ticket from Lohardaga. Another ex-Congress chief, Sarfaraz Ahmad, is contesting the polls from Gandey segment on a JMM ticket.

Former BJP chief whip Radhakrishna Kishore took everyone by surprise when he joined the AJSU Party to contest the polls from Chhatrapur, which he had won in 2014.

Terming the cross-overs as “politics of self-ishness”, state Congress spokesperson Alok Kumar Dubey said, “These leaders have betrayed common people. They are worse than chameleons. No morality, no principles, no ethics... Their only objective is to get tickets to satisfy their lust for power.”

His BJP counterpart Pratul Shahdeo said the saffron party maintained “checks and balances”

before taking any leader in its fold and allotting tickets.

“Our agenda is nationalism and development. And not all leaders have been given tickets. Former ministers Samresh Singh (who had his own party-Jharkhand Vananchal Congress) and Girinath Singh (ex-RJD member) joined the BJP, but were not given tickets.

“Just coming to the party does not guarantee a ticket,” Shahdeo emphasised.

Among others who deserted their parties are ex-RJD MLA Janardhan Paswan, who secured the saffron party's nomination from Chatra seat, and JMM MLA Jai Prakash Bhai Patel, who is in the fray from Mandu on a BJP ticket.

Former health minister and Independent MLA Bhanu Pratap Sahi has also joined the BJP to contest the polls on the party's ticket from his sitting constituency Bhananathpur.

JMM General Secretary Suprio Bhattacharya said the “defectors lacked discipline and ideology”.

“What matters to them is personal aspiration and not political ideology. The parties they have joined should think twice before nominating them for assembly polls,” he said.

Those that quit the saffron party, include former minister Baidnath Ram, who pocketed the JMM ticket from Latehar, and sit-

ting MLAs Tala Marandi and Phoolchand Mandal.

Marandi quit the saffron party a few days ago to join the AJSU party, which promptly gave him its ticket to contest from the Borio seat, while Mandal secured his JMM nomination from Sindri constituency.

Kushwaha Shiv Pujan Mehta, who won the Husainabad segment as a BSP candidate in 2014, is fighting from the seat on an AJSU Party ticket.

Deosharan Bhagat, the chief spokesperson of AJSU Party, said leaders often gave in to pressure from their “support base” and switch sides.

“This (switching parties) is against the country's democratic ideals. However, some of them take the plunge owing to pressure from their support base. It remains to be seen if will be able to enjoy the same clout having switched parties,” he added.

Meanwhile, around 11.02 per cent polling was recorded till 9 am on Saturday in the first of the five-phase elections that began in 13 Jharkhand assembly constituencies.

The voting commenced at 7 am and will end at 3 pm, Election Commission officials said.

## Book analyses after-effects of militancy in Punjab

**NEW DELHI, NOV 30 (PTI):** A new book details how militancy in Punjab affected judiciary by delaying trials, how it influenced the popular culture and how the youth today are still responding to conditions in the northern state.

“The Legacy of Militancy in Punjab: Long Road to Normalcy” by civil rights activist Inderjit Singh Jaijee and journalist Dona Suri also aims at holding up a mirror to developments in post-militancy Punjab regarding politics, government policies, and functioning of po-

lice and courts among other things.

Militancy convulsed Punjab from roughly 1984 to 1994. The authors say that afterwards, politicians, government spokespersons and assorted intellectuals declared that Khalistan' was gone and the state was returning to normalcy' as though the state would suddenly find itself in some pleasant place of bygone era.

But that is far from the truth. In reality, when the gunfire ceased, 10 years of turmoil left lasting scars and chronic af-

flictions, Jaijee and Suri argue.

Reduced accountability warped administrative and executive culture' and threat perception coloured the attitude of the judiciary for years. Victimisation at the hands of both police and insurgents created risk-averse citizens who prioritised personal safety above all, while policies pertaining to state debt and industry impacted economic development, they say.

On resolution of cases they write, For those who think that by now Punjab's trou-

bles are long forgotten, it would be reasonable to suppose that over the past 35 years all the cases would be cleared up one way or the other.

But that is not the case and several cases are pending, they say in the book, published by SAGE.

They also claim that instead of curbing lawlessness, the political masters and administrators excused it.

As the crackle of gunfire subsided in Punjab, the quiet murmur of graft took over. Chasing around from village to village elim-

inating all suspicious Sikhs' through extrajudicial executions can be, at best, a fleeting thrill. More lasting satisfaction comes through making money, the book says.

Moreover, making money is a pursuit that is open to officers of all departments, not just the police. As Punjab entered the post-militancy years, concerns about legality had long since been tossed out of the window and even the naturally timid officer was emboldened by the realisation that everybody is doing it, it says.

## BJP MPs repeat offenders in praising Godse: Scindia

**GWALIOR (MP), NOV 30 (PTI):** Senior Congress leader Jyotiraditya Scindia on Saturday said BJP leaders are repeat offenders when it came to praising Mahatma Gandhi's assassin Nathuram Godse.

The row began after BJP Bhopal MP Pragya Thakur called Godse a patriot during a discussion on SPG (Amendment) Bill on November 27, though she denied using the term in a statement made in the Lok Sabha on November 29.

Speaking to reporters after paying tribute at the Mahatma's statue in the Phool Bagh area here, Scindia said, “A mistake happens once but BJP MPs are doing this repeatedly. A BJP MP in 2014 had described Mahatma Gandhi's assassin as a patriot. Now another MP has said this.”

“At that time (2014), the House was adjourned and the MP was asked by the then government to apologise,”

## 140 held for drunken driving in 24 hours in Odisha

**BHUBANESWAR, NOV 30 (PTI):** The Odisha Police has arrested at least 140 people from various places of the state in a span of 24 hours for driving after consuming alcohol, a senior police officer on Saturday. The drive started at 4pm on Friday, the interim Director General of Police (DGP) of Odisha, Satyajit Mohanty, said.

Out of them, 27 people were arrested in Ganjam district, Mohanty said.

“Our drive against drunken driving will continue. In the last 24 hours 140 drivers have been arrested for drunken driving in the state,” the interim DGP said, adding, the of-

he said, adding that the BJP speaks of discipline but its leaders continued to show disrespect to the country (with such statements).

He called recent attempts by the Hindu Mahasabha to “worship” Godse as “condemnable”, going on to add that “it is inappropriate to even utter the name of the person who killed Gandhiji”.

Speaking on a recent change in his Twitter bio, Scindia said it was done a month back but someone started spreading rumours on it recently.

“I am a Congress worker and such rumours (on his future plans outside the party) should now stop,” he stressed.

Scindia, who was chairperson of the screening committee during the Maharashtra Assembly polls, expressed confidence the coalition government in that state, formed by Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress, would “create history”.

fenders have been fined Rs 10,000 each under the provisions of the MV Act, 2019.

Meanwhile, Commissioner of Police (CP) of Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Police Commissionerate, Sudhanshu Sarangi, said it has been decided to impose monetary penalty as per the provisions of the MV Act, 2019 on any person found violating traffic rules, including drunken driving.

“If anyone violates traffic rules, fines would be slapped through challan. We have instructed the traffic personnel not to argue with the rule violators,” Sarangi said.

## Rangpo-Rorathang road repaired



### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 30 NOV:**

Carpeting of Rangpo-Rorathang road has been completed and will be open for all types of vehicles from 01 Dec, DC East has informed. Portions of the road had collapsed during the monsoons this year.

**WANDERING SOULS OF SIKKIM**  
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**MUMBAI, NOV 30 (PTI):** The NCP on Saturday accused the BJP of running away from the House after the opposition party staged a walkout before the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi government faced a floor test.

The Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress alliance government passed the floor test with 169 votes in favour. The BJP's 105 MLAs walked out before head count began in the 288-member

House.

BJP MLAs objected to convening of the session and also NCP leader Dilip Walse Patil's appointment as protem Speaker in place of BJP's Kalidas Kolambkar before walking out.

The NCP's chief spokesperson Nawab Malik said Walse Patil was appointed as protem Speaker with Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari's consent. The session too was convened after Koshyari's approval, he said.

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## About HIV and AIDS

### *Since World AIDS Day is here again*

Talk about HIV and AIDS has become so routine and commonplace that many groups do not even blink when someone suggests that World AIDS Day be 'celebrated'. There is nothing celebratory about HIV or AIDS, but people get injured too easily nowadays and this Virus, although it is still as lethal and communicable as it was in 1986, when the first case in the world was detected, the statistics or the conditions of the HIV+ve or AIDS patients do not seem to evoke much genuine response despite the three decades that have passed since. It appears that before any genuine understanding on the challenge, its impact and risks could be fully understood, AIDS awareness in the country has taken a backseat, the concerned agencies preferring to gloat over the fact that the number of new infections has started scaling down. And then there is now a not-all-there dispensation in power at the Centre which is still in its infancy when it comes to understanding real issues beyond the superficialities of faith or beliefs or even ground realities. But neither the nation as a whole nor Sikkim in particular can afford to let its guard down on HIV. And it is no longer only about first generation infections, there is also now the issue of children being born HIV+ve.

A quick primer of HIV in Sikkim is perhaps required here. The first HIV+ve case in Sikkim was detected in the year 1995, nearly a decade after the Virus arrived in India. It broke the 3-figure mark sometime in the year 2008. When the country failed to adequately address the problem, it preferred to bury its head in the sand. The latest official record of HIV and AIDS prevalence in the country is of 31 March 2014 vintage. This leave of statistics is problematic since one would have instead preferred real-time data updates for a problem as staggering as HIV-AIDS, but is clearly not important for the policy-makers who, of late, have been disturbingly uninterested in this problem. How do they plan to "get to zero" if they do not know where they currently stand?

In Sikkim, there were 593 People Living with HIV/ AIDS (as of 31 March 2014, the latest figures updated by the National AIDS Control Organisation). As per NACO records, there are also 19 children living with HIV in Sikkim, having been born with the Virus. These, one must qualify are numbers projected by NACO. As far as the State AIDS Control Society is concerned, the number, as of 30 Nov 2019, stands at 480. This past year, 33 new persons were detected with the virus in Sikkim. The numbers might appear inconsequentially low when compared to what other parts of the country and the world are suffering, but one must bear in mind that these detections are from the voluntary testing centres and the compulsory HIV screening of expecting mothers. This is a very small pool, and one must add that given the small size of the State, many people fearing that they might have contracted the virus would prefer to get themselves tested in the more assured anonymity of testing centres outside Sikkim. Should their tests come back positive, they will get counted in States where they got themselves tested and not here. That said, the snow-balling effect of the Virus is already palpable. Against the 6 cases where people living with HIV collapsed into full-blown AIDS between 1995 and 2006, in 2007, 12 HIV+ve people developed AIDS. The first case of AIDS in Sikkim was detected in 2005.

The reason why these figures are detailed here is to drive home the point that AIDS Awareness demands fresh direction in Sikkim. The still low numbers can be misleading and that is because of the national policy on how "official" data is collected and confirmed. Then, the pool from which these cases have been detected might not be as inclusive of segments in high risk as required. These are the limitations of operating in a small state with models drafted for larger states. What Sikkim has to realise is that HIV prevalence can still explode if awareness and education is not delivered coherently. And real awareness can happen only if the national models are customised for local target groups, local developments and future situations. The fact that the HIV+ve in Sikkim includes teenagers demands that awareness in schools and among teen peers groups be more than token processions on World AIDS Day. The Red Ribbon Clubs were a positive effort towards addressing this target audience. It is time that their impact is studied in deeper detail and fine-tuned to ensure even more effectiveness. The entire awareness exercise has to be more earnest, more involved. HIV and AIDS are no longer dirty little secrets Sikkim can afford to sweep under the carpet and ignore. A generation which has lived ignoring issues like substance abuse cannot afford to ignore this disease which has the propensity to grow into an epidemic before a community has even realised that it is in its midst.



# 'The Wall' cemented Pink Floyd's fame – but destroyed the band

MARK E. PERRY  
THECONVERSATION.COM

Forty years ago, on Nov. 30, 1979, the English progressive rock band Pink Floyd released its 11th studio album, "The Wall." Featuring 26 tracks, two records and an opera-esque story line, the concept album would go on to become the number two bestselling double album in history. But it would also mark the last time Pink Floyd's core members – Roger Waters, David Gilmour, Nick Mason and Richard Wright – would record an album together.

Years of touring and financial stress had taken their toll. The egomania of one member, Waters, during the recording of "The Wall" would be the tipping point.

#### TENSIONS MOUNT

The unchecked egos of band members can often be difficult to rein in, and often lead to acrimony – to the point where the band breakup has almost become a cliché.

Tensions between the four members of The Beatles – John Lennon and Paul McCartney, in particular – famously led to the band's breakup in 1970. Conflict between guitarist Johnny Marr and vocalist Morrissey triggered Marr's decision to leave The Smiths. And let's not forget The Eagles, which broke up on such bad terms that drummer and vocalist Don Henley said the band would reunite "when hell freezes over."

By the time Pink Floyd started recording "The Wall" in January 1979, tensions had been simmering for years.

"The Dark Side of the Moon," released in 1973, had catapulted Pink Floyd to superstardom. But the band members struggled over how to build off the success of "Dark Side" and make another hit album.

They had already fought among themselves when recording their follow-up albums, 1975's "Wish You Were Here" and 1977's "Animals."

Roger Waters, the band's bassist and co-lead singer, took charge for "Wish You Were Here." He decided which tracks would appear and essentially dictated the album's conceptual themes, which included alienation, a critique of the music industry and a tribute to former bandmate Syd Barrett, who had left the band in 1968 due to mental health struggles.

In the process, Waters ended up cutting the

songs "Raving and Drooling" and "Gotta be Crazy" against guitarist and co-vocalist David Gilmour's wishes.

"Dave was always clear that he wanted to do the other two songs," Waters recalled. "He never quite copped what I was talking about. But Rick did and Nicky did, and he was outvoted so we went on."

Perhaps feeling suffocated by Waters, Richard Wright and David Gilmour took a stab at solo albums in 1978, with Wright releasing "Wet Dream" and Gilmour debuting the self-titled "David Gilmour."

Reflecting on his first solo album, Gilmour said, it "was important to me in terms of self respect. At first I didn't think my name was big enough to carry it. Being in a group for so long can be a bit claustrophobic, and I needed to step out from behind Floyd's shadow."

#### THE SHADOW OF 'THE WALL'

"The Wall" would be the band's next project – and, again, Waters asserted control.

Waters was partly inspired by an infamous incident that took place during the In the Flesh tour, which promoted the album "Animals." Annoyed by the sound of firecrackers – and feeling as if the crowd wasn't listening to their music or lyrics – Waters spat on the audience. He later mused about building a wall between him and his fans. The seed for "The Wall" was planted.

In July 1978, he presented a 90-minute demo to the rest of the band, proposing two concepts for the next album: "Bricks in the Wall" and "The Pros and Cons of Hitch Hiking."

The band members agreed to make an album focused on the first of the two. It would be about the struggles and isolation of rock stardom, and its central character would be named Pink Floyd.

The name of the character belied the fact that this would largely be a one-man show. As musicologist Allan F. Moore observed, "Waters' growing megalomania, much in evidence on 'The Wall,' became harder to handle."

The fact that the album's central story was semi-autobiographical, based on Waters and former band member Syd Barrett, probably didn't help matters. The motif of walls symbolized the defense mechanisms Waters had built up against those who might hurt him – parents, teachers, wives and lovers. Some lyr-

ics deal with the death of his father, others with infidelity.

If David Gilmour had ideas for ways to contribute to Waters' vision, they were barely incorporated. Waters did include fragments from demos associated with Gilmour's solo projects. But in the end, Gilmour only received three co-writing credits – for "Run Like Hell," "Young Lust" and "Comfortably Numb." Drummer Nick Mason and keyboardist Richard Wright didn't receive any at all.

On the track "Mother," Waters even brought in Toto drummer and session percussionist Jeff Porcaro to replace Mason. On Mason's limited drumming abilities, Roger Waters recalled:

"It's got 5/4 bars in it. Nick, to his great credit, has no pretense about that, it was clear that he could not play it. He said 'I can't play that.' Or maybe somebody said to him, 'Nick, maybe you should get somebody else to play this because you're struggling.'"

#### THE AFTERMATH

Today, "The Wall" is considered by many to be one of the best albums in rock history. But it marked the last time the four members of the band would record an album together.

Keyboardist Richard Wright left, only to return later as a salaried sideman during Pink Floyd's tours in 1980 and 1981. Pink Floyd – minus Wright – went on to record its 1983 album, "The Final Cut." Waters eventually quit Pink Floyd in 1985 and sued members Gilmour and Mason in an attempt to stop them from using the band name, arguing that Pink Floyd was "a spent force creatively."

Waters lost, and Gilmour and Mason went on to record three more albums under the name Pink Floyd: 1987's "A Momentary Lapse of Reason," 1994's "The Division Bell" and 2014's "The Endless River."

None would match the critical or commercial success of "The Wall."

The making of "The Wall" reflects a common experience faced by many other rock bands – how creative tension and competing visions can deteriorate relations between band members.

Luckily, Pink Floyd was able to keep it all together to record one final masterpiece.

*[the writer is Director of Music Industry Program & Assistant Professor of Musicology, Oklahoma State University]*

# How to pick the 'right' amount to spend on holiday gifts – according to an economist

JAY L. ZAGORSKY  
theconversation.com

Gift giving is a big deal this time of year.

To find the "perfect" gift, Americans will spend about 15 hours shopping. Women will do about twice as much as men. And they'll shell out about US\$1 trillion on gifts.

While retailers relish the holiday shopping season as a time when consumers open their purses or wallets, for many consumers – especially those who do not like shopping – these days are filled with dread. They mark moments when shoppers clog malls, websites become overloaded and delivery trucks block streets. The entire process generates untold amounts of stress and anxiety.

One source of stress is just how much to spend on gifts. Spending too much can put you in financial distress. Spending too little may make you look cheap.

How do you decide what's the "right" amount to spend on gifts?

As an economist, I study holidays and gift giving because a large fraction of retail shopping is driven by seasonal events like Black Friday, Cyber Monday and Super Saturday – also and more appropriately known as Panic Saturday – which is the last Saturday before Christmas.

#### 'DEAD WEIGHT LOSS'

Gift giving is stressful because nobody wants to buy what they think is a perfect gift only to discover it is a dud.

The long lines of people returning items after the holidays seem evidence enough for that.

This has led some economists to argue there's a "dead weight loss" to Christmas presents that "destroys" as much as a third of their actual value. A 2018 study estimated Americans spend \$13 billion a year on unwanted gifts.

Other economists, however, have resisted this Scrooge-like view of gift giving and point to evi-



dence that a present can actually have more value to the recipient than the price the giver paid. In other words, a gift, even when technically unwanted, could have more value simply because someone else bought it for you.

#### SETTING A BUDGET

So if you're dead set on buying some gifts, how much should you budget for it?

Since gifting is a social act, it makes sense to consider how much other people typically spend.

There are a number of surveys run each year that ask people during the fall to estimate what they plan on spending for holiday gifts. The National Retail Federation's annual survey of holiday spending estimates the typical American will spend \$659 on gifts for family, friends and co-workers in 2019. On the high end, Gallup puts the average at \$942, with more than a third of respondents expecting to spend over \$1,000 on gifts.

But these figures aren't that helpful for an individual since \$659 means something different to

someone making \$40,000 a year versus \$200,000.

That's where the Consumer Expenditure Survey comes in. It's a large survey run by the Bureau of Labor Statistics that tracks the spending habits of 12,000 to 15,000 families each year. The government uses the survey to determine the cost of living and inflation rates for the typical family.

The survey follows gift giving very precisely. It has categories for common holiday presents like electronics, books and clothes, as well as gifts that typically aren't associated with the season such as housing and transportation.

After removing these non-holiday gifts, the typical U.S. family spends about 1% of its annual take-home pay on gifts. So whatever you earn, you could multiply it by 1% to get a figure that is in the ballpark of what the average American spends – but won't break the bank.

#### MAKING THE HOLIDAYS MEMORABLE

While calculating a gift budget is one way to take the stress out of how much to spend on gifts, my family has another: Only give gifts to children.

Adults get wrapped boxes filled with paper. After the real gifts are opened and the young children are safely moved out of the way, we crumple up the paper and throw it at each other in our annual paper fight.

That keeps the cost down while making the kids feel special. It also ensures the kids don't feel left out when their friends talk about the gifts they received. Other families follow their own methods for controlling expenses, such as secret Santa gifts or by focusing attention more on togetherness than on the stuff received.

Whether you have a paper fight or follow another family tradition, my main message is that it doesn't take very much money to make the winter holidays memorable.

*[the writer is Senior Lecturer, Questrom School of Business, Boston University]*



## Kolkata police nabs 3 Jharkhand men for online fraud



**KOLKATA, Nov 30 (PTI):** Sleuths of the Kolkata Police cyber cell have arrested three persons from Jharkhand's Jamtara district for allegedly duping customers of a city restaurant while booking tables online.

In a complaint lodged earlier this month, authorities of the restaurant alleged that unknown persons had added a mobile number to the online advertisement of the eatery, a police officer said.

Customers contacting the number were asked to pay Rs 10 for every booking but large sums

were deducted from their accounts when the payments were made online, he said.

A case was registered with the Cyber police station on November 23.

Examining the call records of the mobile number and online transactions led to the nabbing of the trio from Jamtara, the investigating officer said.

Five mobile phones, SIM cards and bank documents were seized from their possession, the officer said.

The accused were brought to the city on transit remand, he added.

## MP goof-up: Dead cop's name appears in transfer list

**BHOPAL/AGAR MALWA, Nov 30 (PTI):** In an embarrassment for the Madhya Pradesh government, the name of a policeman, who died over two weeks back, appeared in the transfer order issued recently.

Sub-inspector Chhotelal Tomar, who was posted in Soyatkala police station of Agar Malwa, died on November 12 following a prolonged illness.

On November 28, the state police headquarters issued a list for the transfer of sub-inspectors, as per which Tomar was transferred to Gwalior from Agar Malwa.

However, after the transfer order went viral on the social media and sparked ridicule, the police department blamed Tomar's kin for informing them late about his death.

Opposition BJP, which has been frequently accusing the Kamal Nath government of running a "transfer industry" in the state, said, "The state government has made an unprecedented progress in the field of transfers."

"It's incredible. The

greed of notes is such that they even transferred a late police officer. The state government has made an unprecedented progress in the field of transfers but not in other areas," BJP national vice president Shivraj Singh Chouhan said in a tweet, which also carried the copy of the transfer order.

However, Agar Malwa's Superintendent of Police Savita Sohne said that Tomar's family had applied for his transfer to Gwalior due to his illness.

"Tomar had gone on leave on August 18 following his illness. Later, his family had applied for his transfer to Gwalior. The application had been sent to Bhopal after the recommendation," Sohne said.

"But information about his death was received but not confirmed by the family members. Tomar's death certificate was given by his son on Thursday, which was forwarded to a senior officer. But the transfer list must have been prepared earlier, so his name was figured in the list," the SP added.

## Fish species discovered in Meghalaya

**Shillong, Nov 30 (PTI):** A fish species has been discovered in Meghalaya's West Khasi Hills district, officials said on Saturday.

The fish species, that has a scientific name *Schistura syngkai*, was discovered at Twahdidoh stream, a tributary of Wabhlai river, by a team of scientists led by Prof Khlor Mukhim of Shillong's Lady Keane College, they said.

Mukhim said both sexes of the fish have

golden-brown bodies with blackish lateral stripes and slightly emarginate tail fins.

The specimens of the fish have been sent to Zoological Survey of India in Kolkata and Gauhati University Museum of Fishes in Guwahati, he said.

Mukhim had earlier discovered a blind fish species that lives 1,600 feet inside a limestone cave in East Jaintia Hills district of the state.

# Kerala Bar Assn protests recent HC guideline on MACT award

**KOCHI, Nov 30 (PTI):** A Bar Association in Kerala has protested against a recent guideline of the Kerala High Court, directing the Motor Accident Claims Tribunals to award amount payment to claimants by insurance firms through electronic mode, saying it would "adversely affect" lawyers' interests.

Protesting against the High Court's directive, the Trivandrum Bar Association has directed its members to "abstain from adalaths" held on Saturdays.

"The Managing Committee has held serious discussion on the issue and received comments



from senior members. As the measure would adversely affect our rights, it has been resolved to abstain from adalaths", the Trivandrum Bar Association has said in a resolution.

The Association of office bearers said the resolution would be communicated to the Bar Council Chairman, the Chief Justice of Kerala and the judge in charge of the Trivandrum Judicial District.

Till recently, MACT in Kerala directed insurance firms found liable to deposit the award amount by way of cheques or crossed Demand Drafts drawn in

the name of the claimant, before it, for being passed on to claimants after entries in their registers, as proof of payment of the amount.

To ensure that payments are done in a swift and transparent manner and in consonance with changes in the banking sector, the High Court had in October decided to switch over to the electronic mode for payment of award amounts.

The High Court had issued the guidelines after considering the large number of complaints of exploitation of accident victims by some agents.

## RS productivity 84 pc in week 2 of winter session

**NEW DELHI, Nov 30 (PTI):** The Rajya Sabha has recorded productivity of 84 per cent during the second week of the ongoing winter session, with disruptions related to government formation in Maharashtra bringing down the efficiency of the House.

The Upper House, however, turned out important business during the week leading Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu and members of the House complimenting each other for the good work done.

During the second week, members of Rajya Sabha availed a total of 22 hours and 15 minutes transacting business of different kinds, the RS Secretariat said.

Of the scheduled available time of 26 hours and 29 minutes, it said 5 hours and 45 minutes were lost on the first working day of the second week to disruptions in the House due to the political developments in Maharashtra. The Members however, made up 1.31 hours by sitting beyond the scheduled time.

During the week, all listed 15 starred questions were orally answered twice, setting up a new record. Of the total 60 starred questions listed for four working days, a total of 43 ac-



counting for 71.66 per cent of the total were orally answered.

The Question Hour on the first day of the week could not be taken up as the House had to be adjourned by the Chairman with the opposition insisting on a discussion on the Maharashtra Governor's actions even as Chairman Naidu gave a detailed ruling on Rules and earlier rulings of the Chair not permitting the same.

The Question Hour was not scheduled on the second day of the week on account of a Joint Sitting of Members of both Houses to commemorate the 70th anniversary of adoption of the Constitution of India.

Members of the Rajya Sabha also made a record 51 Zero Hour submissions and 30

Special Mentions on various issues of public importance. All the admitted Zero Hour and Special Mentions were made on the last working day of the week with the Members complimenting the Chairman for the same, the secretariat of the Upper House said in a statement.

The House also discussed the economic situation in the country for four and a half hours, though, as per Rules only two and a half hour discussion is allowed under the instrument of Short Duration Discussion.

Keeping in view the importance of the issue and request of opposition leaders for more time, Chairman Naidu allowed more time.

In a meeting of leaders, Naidu complimented the spirited discussion and the reply by

the Finance Minister even as he urged the opposition not to disturb any Minister during the reply.

The House also took up the Pegasus spyware issue under Calling Attention Notice.

During the second week of the winter session, Rajya Sabha passed two Bills viz., The Transgender (Protection of Rights) Bill and The Chit Funds (Amendment) Bill. Discussion on the Bill seeking to replace the Ordinance banning e-cigarettes remained inconclusive.

The Upper House is likely to take up next week the Special Protection Group (Amendment) Bill, the Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu Mergers Bill and the National Capital Territory of Delhi (Recognition of Property Rights of Residents

in Unauthorised Colonies) Bill, all passed by the Lok Sabha.

At the end of the first half of the ongoing winter session, Rajya Sabha has reported productivity of 89 per cent for the first two weeks combined.

Of the total available time of 55 hours and 06 minutes, the House availed a total time of 49.15 minutes. A total time of 8 hours and 28 minutes was lost on account of disruptions while the members made up 2 hours and 37 minutes by sitting late resulting in a net total loss of 5 hours and 51 minutes during the first week of this session.

Three Bills including the Jalianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bills were passed during the first half of the winter session.

## Assam govt has no info on people excluded from NRC list: Minister

**GUWAHATI, Nov 30 (PTI):** Two days after senior BJP leader Himanta Biswa Sarma announced to table the figure of Hindu Bengalis excluded from the updated final NRC in the Assembly, the Assam government on Saturday said it has no information of those left out of the controversial document.

In a written reply to a query by Congress MLA Nurul Huda in the Assembly, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary said the Office of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) Coordinator has not shared the data of 19,06,657 excluded people with the state government.

"That is why the government has no information on this issue," the minister said on behalf of Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal who holds the Home portfolio. Once the information is received from the NRC

Coordinator's office, the state government will initiate necessary steps, Patowary said.

Sarma on Thursday told reporters outside the House that the Assam government has decided to table the district-wise figure of Hindu Bengalis excluded from the final NRC list during the ongoing Winter Session of the Assembly which is scheduled to come to an end on December 6.

It has been alleged from various quarters that a large number of Hindus have been excluded from the updated final NRC published on August 31. Union Home Minister Amit Shah had announced in Rajya Sabha on November 20 that the NRC updation process will be carried out afresh in Assam concurrently with the rest of India. On the same day, Sarma said the state government has requested Shah to reject the

NRC in the current form.

Patowary on Saturday also said the Assam government has no information that any person from the state has been harassed in other Northeastern states such as Meghalaya, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram over whether his or her name was included in the NRC.

The state government also does not have any information on reports that 223 Assamese people were expelled from Meghalaya for failing to prove that their names were included in the document.

The Supreme Court-monitored NRC updation exercise, aimed at identifying illegal immigrants, mostly from erstwhile East Pakistan (present-day Bangladesh), was carried out in Assam which has been facing an influx of people from the neighbouring country since the early 20th century.

## Warner hits double century against Pakistan

**ADELAIDE, Nov 30, 2019 (AFP):** Australia opener David Warner hit only the second Test double century of his career on Saturday, punishing poor bowling from a Pakistan attack that rarely threatened him.

The 33-year-old, playing in his 81st Test, began day two of the day-night second Test in Adelaide on 166 and wasted little time in racing to 200.

He reached the mark off 260 balls with a single from Shaheen Afridi, clattering 23 fours along the way.

Warner had been ably supported throughout his innings by Marcus Labuschagne, who was bowled by Afridi for 162 just minutes before he reached the milestone.

Warner's highest Test score is 253 against New Zealand at Perth in 2015.

The opener's heroics in Adelaide followed his 154 in the first Test at Brisbane last week -- his first Test century since a year-long ban for ball-tampering.

It has been a big turnaround for the former Australian vice-captain, who managed just 95 runs in 10 innings during this year's Ashes series in England.

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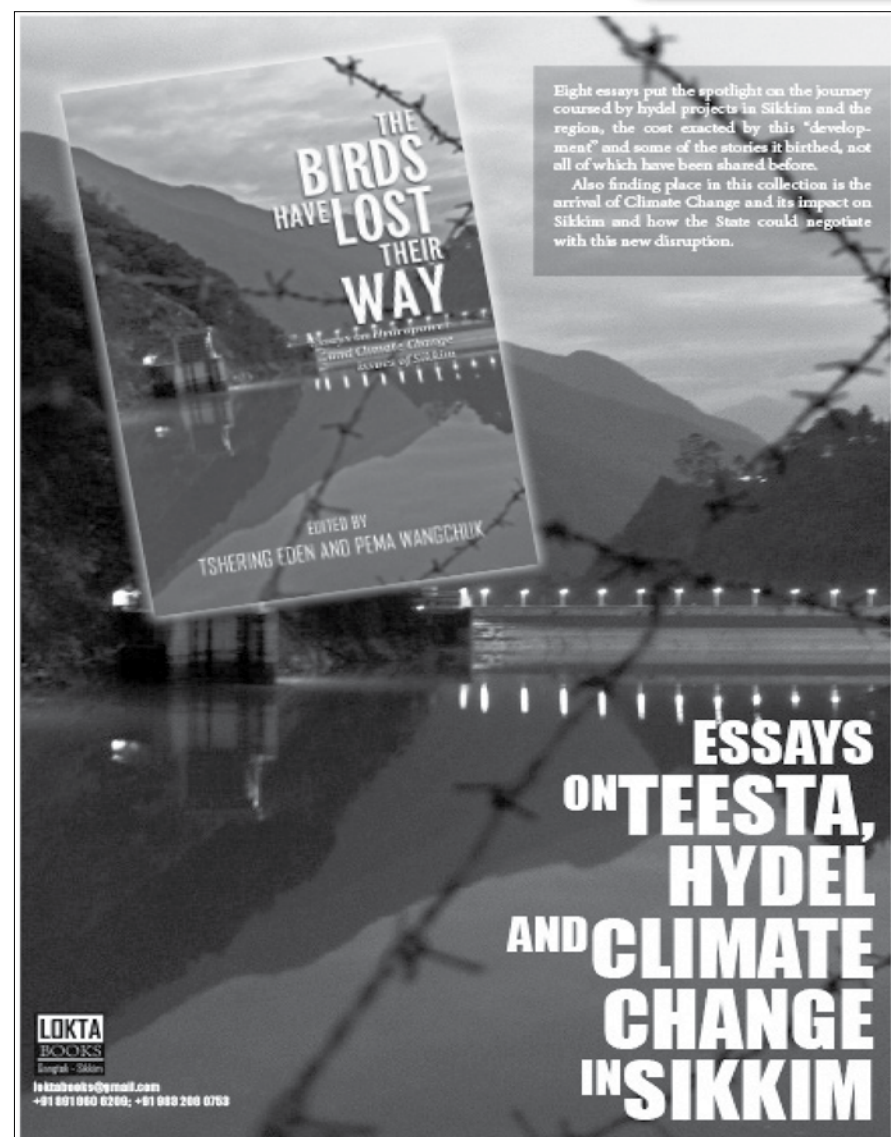
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Eight essays put the spotlight on the journey coarsed by hydel projects in Sikkim and the region, the cost exacted by this "development" and some of the stories it birthed, not all of which have been shared before. Also finding place in this collection is the arrival of Climate Change and its impact on Sikkim and how the State could negotiate with this new disruption.

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# Paes betters Davis Cup record, India secure tie against Pakistan

**NUR-SULTAN, NOV 30 (PTI):** Veteran star Leander Paes bettered his own Davis Cup record by winning his 44th doubles match along with debutant Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan as India took an unassailable 3-0 lead against Pakistan with victory in the third rubber, here on Saturday.

Pakistani teenagers Mohammed Shoaib and Hufaiza Abdul Rehman were no match for the Indian combination of battle-hardened Paes and Jeevan, who needed just 53 minutes to win 6-1 6-3.

Paes last year had become the most successful doubles player in the history of Davis Cup when he won his 43rd doubles match, surpassing Italian great Nicola Pietrangeli during the tie against



China.

Paes had taken 56 ties for his 43rd win while Pietrangeli competed in 66 ties and won 42 doubles matches.

Paes' record of 44 wins is unlikely to be broken anytime soon as

except him, none of the active doubles player feature in the top-10 list.

Belarusian Max Mirnyi, at number three, has 36 wins but has not played on Tour since 2018.

Hufaiza and Shoaib

began with a hold of serve in the opening game of the match but the Indians broke the teenagers in the third game before holding their own for a 3-1 lead.

Paes and Jeevan then took control of the match

with another break of serve in the fifth game. Jeevan served a double fault at 30-15 but the Pakistanis could not put pressure on their rivals as India zoomed to a 5-1 lead.

Serving to stay in the set, Shoaib was down 0-40, giving India three chances to close the opening set. Paes and Jeevan grabbed the second.

The Indians had a few chances to break their rivals early in the second set but the Pakistani duo held its nerves to save them. There was some fight in the second set, which was locked 3-3.

Paes and Jeevan got a break in the eighth game to take a 5-3 lead and the former served out the match in the next.

## Depleted Kerala Blasters face FC Goa in ISL match

**KOCHI, NOV 30 (PTI):** Three points will be the top priority for struggling Kerala Blasters when they take on FC Goa in an Indian Super League match here on Sunday.

Kerala head coach Eelco Schattorie will hope to put an end to his team's woes on the field. The Yellow Army are winless in four games and their only victory this season came against ATK on the opening day.

Schattorie has also lost several key players to injury, especially in defence.

Midfielder Mario Arques is yet to start a match for Kerala Blasters since arriving here and has only recently returned to training following an injury layoff.

Sandesh Jhingan and Jairo Rodriguez had to be replaced due to injuries and the latter's replacement, Macedonian Vlatko Drobárov, remains an unknown quantity to the Kerala Blasters faithful.

Upfront, Bartholomew Ogbeche's brace against ATK re-



mained his only contribution to the score sheet, and having gone goalless for four games, the former NorthEast United striker will expect an improved supply from midfield to come up with more goals.

Sergio Cidoncha is also another player who will be expected to step up and deliver if Kerala Blasters are to create more chances in the attacking third.

"Not much has changed regarding injuries. I saw the interview of FC Goa coach saying that we have a team that can play for the title. I don't agree with him. At this stage, we're still getting to the level that we're trying to get to. We're still in the survival mode," said Schattorie.

Sergio Lobera's FC Goa have not hit peak form yet and have just one clean sheet so far,

and it came against Chennaiyin FC in their first game of the season. They have not been able to find the right balance due to a mix of injuries and suspensions and lack a heavy punch without Ferran Corominas leading the line.

The current form and previous meetings between these two teams will please Lobera. FC Goa have won seven of the 10 meetings between

the two teams and have scored a whopping 25 goals. Last season, Goa defeated Kerala Blasters 3-0 at home and 3-1 in Kochi and both were dominant victories.

Lobera praised the atmosphere at Kochi's Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium and hopes that fan groups also recreate similar ambience in their home stadiums.

"It is amazing to play in Kerala. I think all professionals want to play every match in such a beautiful atmosphere. Players get motivated to play in this situation. I want to play every match in this kind of atmosphere," he said.

While FC Goa's defensive frailties and absence of suspended Ahmed Jahouh, Hugo Boumous and Seimenlen Doungel could allow Kerala Blasters to control the midfield better, the real challenge will be for the hosts' depleted defence to stand firm against the visiting side's red-hot attack that has scored 10 goals from five matches this season.

# Guardiola wants to stay at Man City beyond 2021



**MANCHESTER, NOV 30 (AFP):** Pep Guardiola is interested in staying as Manchester City manager beyond the length of his current contract with the Premier League champions, which is due to expire next summer.

The 48-year-old is already on course to make City the longest employer of his managerial career, having spent four years at Barcelona and three in charge of Bayern Munich.

But Guardiola has for the first time indicated that he would be prepared to discuss the prospect of staying beyond the summer of 2021 and into a sixth season in charge at the Etihad.

"I'm open (to staying) yes, I'm so comfortable working with this club," said Guardiola.

"It depends on results. When you are five years it depends on the results. We will see what happens this season and next season."

This season has not gone according to plan for the City manager as he attempted to match the unprecedented efforts of last year when he swept all three domestic titles with the club.

Injuries have played a big role in City, who travel to Newcastle this weekend, falling nine points behind league leaders Liverpool although the manager has

long insisted that he will fulfil his current contract.

The fact his wife Cristina Serra has returned to live in Barcelona has cast doubts over Guardiola's long-term plans in some quarters but the City manager insisted he feels like Manchester has become a second home.

"A little bit yeah," he said.

"But I also knew how tough this league is and I'm comfortable with the players, they're incredible people and it is a joy to train with them.

"We know how well they react when they don't win, they win and they don't play good, want to improve and when you see it it's a dream come true as a manager and that's what we have to continue.

"Any club, any situation, any country is different, I'm older, already I have been in three incredible leagues, it's different.

"In that period (with Barcelona) I was younger and now I'm more experienced. Maybe with the experience I have now I would stayed in Barcelona or Bayern Munich.

"Still, I have 18 months, that's a lot of time in football, that's why the club and myself agree it is not time to talk just play tomorrow do our best, make a good season and after that we see how everything goes.

"That is the best way

I trust a lot the club and they trust me and that is the most important thing. The results and our passion and what we see and decide."

While Guardiola has yet to actively open contract talks, his words will be encouraging to a City hierarchy who saw their club boosted this week by a ?388 million investment from US private equity firm Silver Lake Management, a move that valued the Premier League champions' parent company at nearly ?4 billion.

Before opening serious talks with City management, however, Guardiola also needs to satisfy himself that the club's staff and players remain on the same page.

"It is not the same when the manager is five years as two years (into a job)," he added.

"It is not about what the club wants or not. For me myself I want to see my players and the reaction of my players and everything.

"It is not simple like I want to extend. I want to see the club, I want to see the players, I want to see how still we are working together.

"That is the most important thing after five years together: You have to feel like we can do it together and enjoy to work together. When I feel that that is not worse, we will see with the club the best way.

## Steve Smith becomes fastest man to reach 7,000 Test runs



**ADELAIDE, NOV 30 (AFP):** Steve Smith on Saturday became the fastest man to score 7,000 Test runs, shattering a record that had stood since 1946, while moving past Donald Bradman to become Australia's 11th highest scorer.

The 30-year-old took a single off Muhammad Musa during the second Test against Pakistan in Adelaide to reach the milestone and take possession of a record held for 73 years by English great Wally Hammond.

Hammond reached

the mark in 131 innings, while Smith, who played his first Test nine years ago, made the grade in his 126th.

India's Virender Sehwag is the third fastest in 134 innings.

"The fastest to 7K - you're a star Steve Smith!," tweeted Cricket Australia.

Smith also passed the legendary Bradman's 6,996 Test runs. It took Smith 70 Tests to do so, while Bradman needed only 52.

The 30-year-old's heroics at the Ashes in England this year saw him

widely labelled the best since Bradman, considered Test cricket's greatest ever, when he scored a mammoth 774 runs in just seven innings.

He had the opportunity to pass both Bradman and Hammond in the first Test against Pakistan in Brisbane, but fell for just four in a rare failure.

In an insight into Smith's determination to be the best, he said after missing out in Brisbane that he punishes himself when the runs do not flow.

"I always punish my-

self when I get no runs, just like I reward myself when I score runs with a chocolate bar at the end of the night if I get a hundred," he said.

"So yeah, if I get no runs I always like to have a run or go to the gym or do something just to give myself a bit of a punishment." Smith still has 10 other Australian players above him in total Test runs scored.

Greg Chappell (7,110) is his next target, but he has a mountain to climb to reach Ricky Ponting, who amassed 13,378 runs in his 168 Tests.

## ISL: Chennaiyin and head coach Gregory go separate ways

**CHENNAI, NOV 30 (PTI):** Two-time Indian Super League (ISL) champions Chennaiyin FC on Saturday announced parting ways with head coach John Gregory, who had led the side to title trophy in the 2017-18 season.

The 65-year old Englishman has seen the side endure a nightmarish run in the 2018-19 season when they finished at the bottom of the standings.

The team is having a lacklustre run in the ongoing season as well, managing just one win from six matches. They drew two and lost three games.

"The club would like to sincerely thank John for his services. He led us admirably well and delivered our second Indian Super League title. He thus also made us the first ISL club to qualify for the AFC Cup and oversaw our debut appearance in Asia while also reaching the 2019 Super Cup final. All of us at the club would like to wish John the very best in his future endeavours," the club said in a statement.

Gregory had hinted at quitting after the team lost 0-3 to Bengaluru FC on November 10, saying it was time for somebody else to take over.

"This decision has been taken after a detailed discussion with

to sincerely thank John for his services. He led us admirably well and delivered our second Indian Super League title. He thus also made us the first ISL club to qualify for the AFC Cup and oversaw our debut appearance in Asia while also reaching the 2019 Super Cup final. All of us at the club would like to wish John the very best in his future endeavours," the club said in a statement.

Gregory had hinted at quitting after the team lost 0-3 to Bengaluru FC on November 10, saying it was time for somebody else to take over.

"This decision has been taken after a detailed discussion with



John, and all parties involved believe this will be the right step for everyone associated with the club," the statement added.

In the lead-up to ISL-

6, the Englishman had expressed hope that the team would be able to recover from the poor performances in the previous season and return to winning ways.

## Rituparna loses in semifinals of Syed Modi International

**LUCKNOW, NOV 30 (PTI):** Former national champion Rituparna Das played her heart out before going down to Thailand's Phittayaporn Chaiwan to bow out of the Syed Modi International badminton tournament here on Saturday.

The 23-year-old Indian, who had claimed the Polish Open title in 2016 and 2018, went



down fighting 22-24 15-21 to Chaiwan in a 39-minute women's singles semifinal match.

World No. 40 Rituparna, who had reached the finals of Dubai International this

year, came into the tournament with a 0-1 head-to-head record against her Thai opponent, having lost their only meeting at the Vietnam Open last year.

Rituparna fell behind 1-6 early on but she made an impressive comeback to grab a 14-11 lead at one stage.

Chaiwan then opened up a slender 15-14 lead before moving

neck and neck with the Indian.

The duo fought hard before the Thai player managed to seal the opening game at 24-22.

In the second game, Rituparna was 7-3 up but she once again squandered the lead and allowed Chaiwan to move ahead after trailing 12-15 to seal the contest with nine straight points.



## China bans 'fake news' created with AI, bots

China has issued new rules banning on-line video and audio providers from using artificial intelligence (AI) and virtual reality technologies to produce "fake news."

The regulation published Friday by China's cyberspace authority said that both providers and users of online video news and audio services are "not allowed" to use new technologies such as deep learning and virtual reality to create, distribute and broadcast "fake news."

"Fake news" has been generalised to mean anything from a mistake to a parody or a deliberate misinterpretation of facts.

The rules come into effect on January 1, 2020.

Failure to follow them could be considered a criminal offence, the Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC) said, without offering details on punishments.

The rules require videos and audio tracks produced using AI or virtual reality technologies to carry clear la-

bels warning users.

The regulations particularly stressed the dangers of "deep-fakes," or technology that manipulates videos to appear genuine but which depict events or speech that never happened.

Deepfake technologies could "disrupt social order and violate people's interests, creating political risks and bringing a negative impact to national security and social stability," the cyberspace authority warned.

Concerns over deepfakes have grown since the 2016 US election campaign which saw wide use of online disinformation, according to US investigations.

China's top legislative body said earlier this year it was considering making deepfake technology illegal.

A Chinese face-swapping app Zao, which allows users to convincingly superimpose their own likeness over characters in movies or TV shows, led to a heated debate on the abuses of deepfake technologies in September.

## Iraqis keep up anti-regime demos despite PM's vow to quit

Iraqis kept up anti-government protests in Baghdad and the south on Saturday, unsatisfied with the premier's vowed resignation and insisting on the overhaul of a system they say is corrupt and beholden to foreign powers.

Protesters have hit the streets since early October in the largest grassroots movement Iraq has seen in decades, sparked by fury at poor public services, lack of jobs and endemic government graft.

The decentralised demonstrations were met with violence from security forces and armed groups, leaving more than 420 people dead and 15,000 wounded according to an AFP tally compiled from medics and an Iraqi rights commission.

The toll spiked dramatically this week, when a crackdown by security forces left dozens dead in Baghdad, the Shiite shrine city of Najaf and the southern hotspot of Nasiriyah -- the birthplace of Prime Minister Adel Abdel Mahdi. Facing pressure from the street and the country's top Shiite cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani, Abdel Mahdi announced on Friday that he would submit his resignation to parliament, due to meet on Sunday.

But demonstrations have not subsided, with crowds in the capital and across the Shiite-majority south sticking to their weeks-long demand of complete regime change.

"We'll keep up this movement," said one protester in the southern hotspot of Diwaniyah, where thousands turned out early on Saturday.

"Abdel Mahdi's resignation is only the first step, and now all corrupt figures must be removed and judged," he said.

- Top court announces probe -

Hundreds converged in the main protest camp in Nasiriyah's city centre

and set tyres ablaze on three bridges spanning the Euphrates River, according to AFP's correspondent.

Iraq's second holy city Karbala was rocked by overnight clashes with young protesters and security forces trading fire bombs until the early hours of the morning.

Najaf was relatively calm on Saturday, according to AFP's correspondent, but protests there usually swell in the afternoon and evening.

This week's stunning turnaround was set off when protesters stormed and burned the Iranian consulate in Najaf late Wednesday, accusing Iraq's neighbour of propping up the Baghdad government. Tehran demanded Iraq take decisive action against the protesters and hours later, Abdel Mahdi ordered military chiefs to "impose security and restore order".

Men in civilian clothes opened fire on demonstrators and tribal fighters deployed in the streets to defend them in standoffs that sparked fears of open clashes.

Over two days, 42 people were shot dead in Nasiriyah, 22 in Najaf and three in Baghdad.

Iraq's Supreme Judicial Council announced Saturday it had formed a committee to investigate the events, pledging to "punish those who attacked protesters".

The chief justice, Faeq Zeidan, is among a list of names circulated as possible replacements for Abdel Mahdi.

- Sistani's switch -

The rising death toll sparked a dramatic intervention from Sistani, the 89-year-old spiritual leader of many of Iraq's Shiites.

He had called for restraint and urged parties to get "serious" about reform for weeks but ramped up his rhetoric on Friday, calling on parliament to drop its support for the government.

# 'Black Friday' becoming a shadow of its former self in US

The US holiday shopping season officially opened with a deluge of "Black Friday" promotions but the frenzied crowds of the past have thinned out with the rise of e-commerce.

Companies in the retail, entertainment and tourism industries once again tried to entice shoppers after Thanksgiving with a bevy of offers on a day synonymous with American consumer culture and notorious "doorbuster" sales that start at the crack of dawn.

But US consumers aren't buying Black Friday the way they once did.

Only 36 percent of US consumers plan to shop this year on Black Friday, down one percent from last year and a decline of 23 percent from 2015, according to a PricewaterhouseCoopers survey.

"Just a few years ago, Black Friday had the aura of a FOMO (fear of missing out) event," PWC said. "Now it seems more symbolic than significant in the pantheon of retail holidays."

Black Friday will be followed in three days by "Cyber Monday," a second highpoint of spending early in the season.

Friday's sales have prompted copycat ver-

sions throughout Europe, an effort that has generated no small amount of friction.

This year's events prompted protest in parts of France, Germany and the Netherlands that included environmentalist rallies outside Amazon distribution centers and human chains blocking malls.

There has been little sign of that sort of subversiveness in the United States. Rather, the bigger emerging challenge for Black Friday has been shifting consumer patterns.

The PWC survey said that for the first time in 2019 more consumers (54 percent) said they'll do more of their shopping online than in stores.

- Higher sales expected -

Economists and retail industry insiders are broadly confident about the outlook for the 2019 season, owing to a strong labor market.

Consumer spending accounts for about 70 percent of US economic growth and has stayed strong throughout 2019 even as manufacturing has stagnated and business investment has been lackluster.

"Consumers are in



good financial shape and willing to spend a little more on gifts for the special people in their lives this holiday season," said Matthew Shay, Chief Executive of the National Retail Federation.

The NRF has projected that US consumers will spend an average of \$1,048 this year, up about four percent they said they would spend last year.

But increasingly more of those sales are migrating online.

This trend includes Amazon of course, but also traditional brick-and-mortar chains like Walmart and Macy's that have evolved into "multichannel" retailers, as well as companies and organizations

hawking everything from pet food to hotel stays to political merchandise.

President Donald Trump's "Make America Great Again" merchandise was being once again discounted on the US president's political website at 35 percent off.

Democratic presidential candidate Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts was offering 25 percent off merchandise orders of \$75 or more.

Due to the lateness of Thanksgiving, this year's holiday shopping season is about six days shorter than last year, prompting more retailers to push up promotions even earlier in the season than usual, according to analysts.

Online consumer spending on Thanksgiv-

ing day came in this year at \$4.2 billion, up 14.5 percent from a year ago and the first time above \$4 billion, according to Adobe Analytics.

Jason Woosley, a vice president with Adobe, said preliminary data showed Black Friday was also on track to top its performance from last year by almost 19 percent, with promotions for sporting goods and appliances especially popular.

The data suggested the Thanksgiving day shopping spree hasn't "stolen any traffic from Black Friday," he said, adding that about 20 percent of the overall online sales for the season are expected between Thanksgiving and Cyber Monday.

## Germany's far-right AfD elects new leaders as radicals rise

Germany's far-right AfD party will elect new leaders on Saturday, with its increasingly influential radical wing seeking to tighten its grip on the group after a series of electoral victories.

The anti-migrant party's extremists have the upper hand following a series of electoral gains in eastern regions in September and October that have caused widespread domestic and international consternation.

Underlining the polarising effect the party has on Germany, up to 12,000 protesters are expected to gather outside the congress hall in the city of Braunschweig to demonstrate against what they call a racist party.

On Friday night around a thousand protesters, all dressed in black, marched through the center of the city, heeding the call of an anti-fascist group.

Volkswagen, whose name is on the hall used by the AfD, has requested for its logo to be covered up.

Within the hall, tensions are also set to run high as 78-year-old Alexander Gauland is expected to step down from his co-chairman role, while 58-year-old Joerg Meuthen is set to defend his seat against a challenge from party radicals.

Bjoern Hoecke, the leader of the radical Fluegel ("Wing"), has not directly put forward his name for Gauland's spot.

But anyone seeking the post would have to get the backing of his faction, which is known for its criticism of Germany's



culture of remembrance.

One likely candidate who might please all sides is Tino Chrupalla, a 44-year-old MP and former house-painter from the eastern state of Saxony.

Chrupalla, who met with former Donald Trump advisor Steve Bannon in Berlin earlier this year, can count on the support of Hoecke's Fluegel.

At the same time, Gauland has also tacitly given him his backing by pledging to stand aside if Chrupalla went for his post.

- Compromise candidate -

The AfD, which was only established six years ago, is riven with personal and ideological rivalries.

Yet Chrupalla is widely seen as the compromise candidate, palatable to the party's moderates and radicals alike.

His main challenger will be fellow AfD MP Gottfried Curio, a fiery orator whose parliamentary speeches have made him a far-right social media star.

Chrupalla has presented himself as a more

serious candidate, but he too has prompted outrage with his rhetoric.

Last month, he was booed in parliament after accusing Chancellor Angela Merkel of treating her voters as "underlings" with "micro-aggressions against everything German".

He has also called the "Islamisation of the West" a "reality", saying that one could qualify it as a replacement of the population.

Unlike most German MPs, Chrupalla does not hold a doctorate, and has railed against perceived intellectual snobbery in Germany's political class.

He is also seen as a representative of the former East Germany, where the AfD took over 20 percent of the vote in three recent state elections.

Hoecke recently described Chrupalla as "one of the AfD's great representatives in the East".

Meanwhile one of the Fluegel's number, 49-year-old MP Nicole Hoechst, is now also plotting to unseat co-leader Joerg Meuthen, according to reports in the Welt and Taz newspapers.

ly anti-migrant and opposed to Merkel after the chancellor welcomed around one million asylum-seekers in 2015 and 2016.

Mainstream parties have refused to work with the AfD and therefore prevented it from holding executive power on a national or regional level.

"The Wing" in particular has drawn scrutiny as it has attacked one of the foundation stones of Germany's post-war political culture -- atonement for its Nazi past.

Hoecke notoriously described Berlin's Holocaust Memorial as a "memorial of shame", while his colleague Andreas Kalbitz has been accused of association with neo-Nazi organisations.

Such accusations have failed to frighten off voters, but they have drawn the attention of the secret services to the party's activities.

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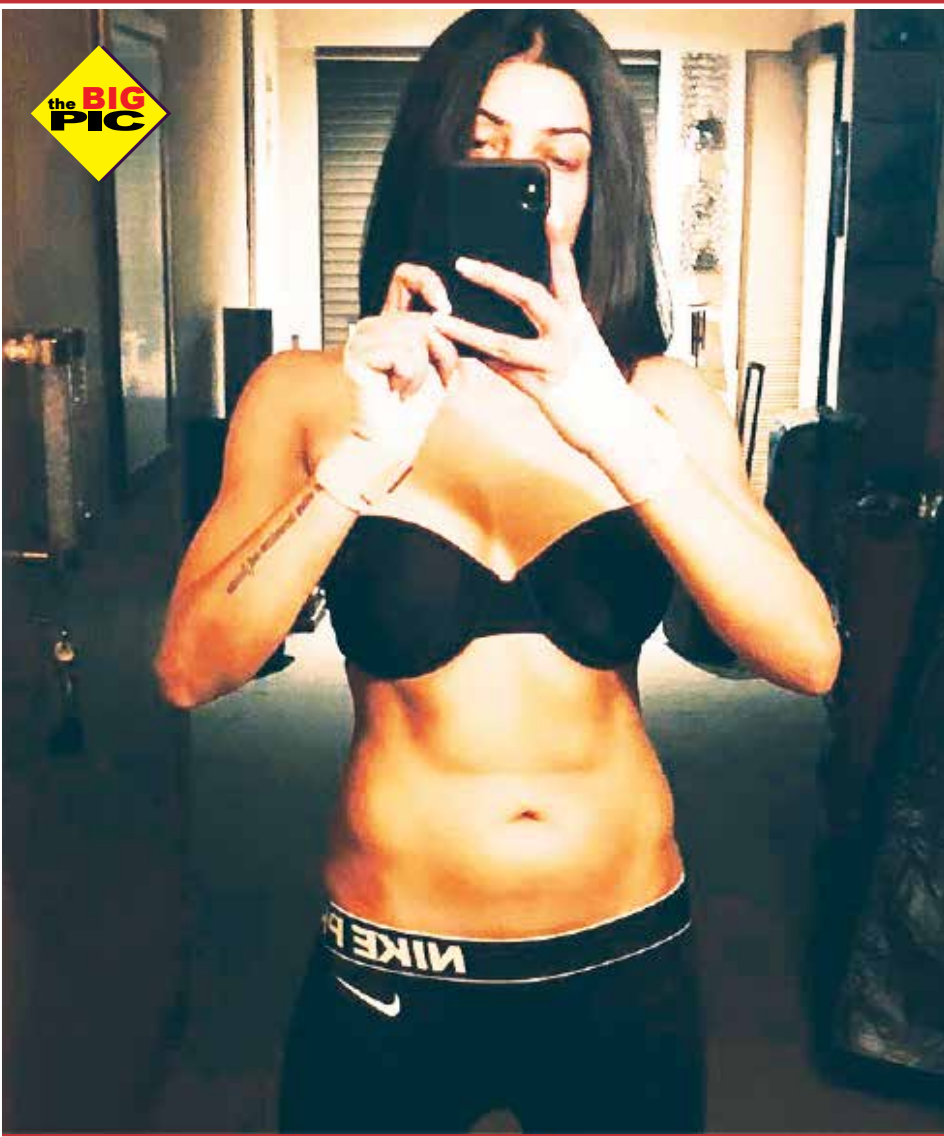
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**SUSHMITA SEN POSTS INCREDIBLE GYM PIC:** Sushmita Sen shared a post-work out mirror selfie to document her “work in progress” physique and it’s got us and many running on the treadmill already. She had her caption modified to this: “Body shy? NAH Body proud. Tracking work in progress. Looking good is one thing... Feeling good is everything! Feel good and yes take a selfie when you do! I love you guys!”

## Aamir Khan visits Golden Temple



**AMRITSAR, NOV 30 (PTI):** Superstar Aamir Khan paid obeisance at the Golden Temple here on Saturday.

Khan sat in the sanctum sanctorum of the Golden Temple and spent around 50 minutes listening to religious hymns sung by Sikh priests, an official of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) said.

SGPC Chief Secretary Roop Singh remained with Khan in the marbled periphery of the Golden Temple.

Singh also briefed Khan about the Operation Blue Star carried out by army in 1984 to flush out the hiding militants from the Golden Temple complex, the official said.

Khan is shooting for his upcoming film “Laal Singh Chaddha”. He told Singh that he was feeling honoured to play a Sikh man in the film, which will release on Christmas 2020.

An official remake of Tom Hanks’ 1994 feature “Forrest Gump”, the film is being directed by Advait Chandan. Kareena Kapoor Khan is playing the female lead.

During the visit of Khan, SGPC officials were seen hovering around him to have a photograph with him.

The “Dangal” star posed for a group photograph with Singh and other officials of the SGPC.

Khan visited Singh’s office where the SGPC chief secretary honoured the 54-year-old-actor with a set of Sikh religious books and woolen shawls.

## Huge leak reveals the plot for the biggest Marvel movie coming in MCU Phase 4

**H**uge leak reveals the plot for the biggest Marvel movie coming in MCU Phase 4

The Infinity Saga concluded with the defeat of Thanos and the partial restoration of order in the universe. After all, the five years between the snaps never changed, and everyone will still have to deal with that. Endgame doesn’t deliver the perfect happy ending that some fans expected, and the future isn’t necessarily bright now that Thanos is gone.

In addition to building the new Avengers roster, Marvel will probably introduce another major villain to replace Thanos. Some already speculate who that person might be, and We Got Things Covered thinks it knows details about the next Endgame.

The site says that Marvel is in the early stages of developing Secret Wars, which is based on one of the most famous comic book series in Marvel’s pocket. We’ve heard speculation before that Secret Wars would be an excellent choice for the MCU after Endgame, and Spider-Man 2 certainly helped Marvel plant more seeds for a future story along those lines.

The blog notes that Doctor Doom will be the next Thanos-level threat, and he’ll be the main villain in the movie. Doom will transport the heroes to an is-



land or planet in space and force them to fight, the report notes. However, Marvel’s next Endgame won’t happen until Phase 6 or even later. If every phase gets two years of Disney+ shows and movies, as was the case for Phase 4, then it won’t be here any sooner than 2025 — assuming that We Got This Covered has accurate information.

The report also notes that there are “whispers” of the studio’s interest in having the Russo brothers direct again, given their previous success. They did say before that Secret Wars is the kind of story that would bring them back to the MCU. On a related

note, the same blog said a few months ago that Marvel is planning a massive Avengers vs. X-Men crossover for the Avengers franchise.

It’s unclear if both rumors can be right at the same time, or whether they’re talking about different sides of the same epic Endgame sequel. Not to mention that we have no way of verifying any of this, and Marvel will certainly not confirm any future Avengers projects until all the required pieces of the puzzle are in place.

Phase 4 kicks off on May 1st with Black Widow and concludes in November 2021 with Thor 4.

## Ben Affleck and Jennifer Garner appear to engage in tense conversation after exes spent Thanksgiving together with their kids



**B**en Affleck and Jennifer Garner appeared to engage in a tense conversation after the exes spent Thanksgiving together with their kids.

Things appeared to be strained between the former couple,

who are co-parenting their three children, on Friday as they spoke in front of Garner’s home.

Garner, 47, was seen carrying a bunch of items to a SUV along with a canned beverage.

The actress placed the items in the rear passenger compartment and then stood talking with Affleck, 47.

The conversation was quite animated with the actor and director gesturing with his hands as he spoke and both wore serious expressions.

Their divorce was finalized in October 2018.

Despite the breakup of their marriage, Garner supported Affleck as he sought treatment last year for his alcoholism, including a stint at a residential rehab facility in Malibu.

They have also continued to focus on their children - Violet, 13, Seraphina, 10, and Samuel, seven.

The two Hollywood stars were married for 10 years before separating in June 2015.

The day before Thursday’s Thanksgiving holiday, Affleck was seen arriving at Garner’s home with his mom Christine.

Later, Garner joined them and the kids to go see a movie together in LA.

According to People, Affleck traveled back to LA from New Orleans where he is filming the movie Deep Water so he could spend Thanksgiving with his family.

An insider shared: “They all celebrated Thanksgiving together. It’s very important for both Jennifer and Ben that they celebrate all the holidays together as a family.”

Also on Friday, Affleck got a visit from his good friend Matt Damon.

The two are reuniting on screen for the first time since 1997’s Good Will Hunting, for which they each won an Academy Award for best original screenplay.

They are starring in Ridley Scott’s period drama The Last Duel and are co-writing the screenplay.

## Leonardo DiCaprio Accused Of Bankrolling Amazon Rainforest Fires By Brazil President

**J**air Bolsonaro, the populist Brazilian nationalist president sometimes referred to as the “Trump of the Tropics,” has accused actor Leonardo DiCaprio of financially backing the fires that have torched the Amazon rainforest in that country.

So far, Bolsonaro’s unsubstantiated attack has drawn scorn from politicians and activists.

Bolsonaro made two claims on Friday against DiCaprio, first using Facebook and then reportedly telling supporters: “This Leonardo DiCaprio’s a cool guy, isn’t he? Giving money for the Amazon to be torched.”

He earlier made a similar claim in a Facebook live broadcast. “Leonardo DiCaprio, dammit, you’re collaborating with the burning of the Amazon,” Bolsonaro said, saying the actor was part of an international “campaign against Brazil.” He offered no evidence to support his claims in either instance.



**Aries:** Aries, you have worked hard to build a relationship that stands on the foundation of love, trust and honesty. Do not let your mind trick you into seeing that which does not exist. If you are shying away from a difficult conversation because you think it has the potential to turn things sour, know that you are being held back by your limited beliefs. Open the channels of communication and talk your heart out. What you will discover in the process: those who care for you will be willing to meet you halfway.

**Taurus:** Look around you, and you will realise that you are living a charmed life, Taurus—one that is offering you security, stability, joy and abundance. Your relationship is also providing you with the comforts you need to feel safe. Then what’s coming in the way of you and happiness? Have you been conditioned to believe it is not a journey but a destination? What Spirit wants to focus on today: giving thanks for what you have and what is yet to flow into your existence.

**Gemini:** Pearls of wisdom courtesy Deepak Chopra: “The best use of imagination is creativity.

The worst use of imagination is anxiety.” How have you been using your imagination, Gemini? Despairing over things that have not even happened yet and probably never will is like suffering through them twice over. Know that each thought that crosses your mind and every word you speak is charged with a powerful intention. Starting today, tap into the power of your subconscious mind wisely.

**Cancer:** Let’s talk about self-destructive patterns, Cancer. How do you fill the so-called void? Do you find comfort in food and substances, or do you turn to toxic relationships in order to seek temporary respite? You are on the road to hell and only you can stop yourself from making a terrible mistake. Act from a space of awareness, wild one. If your mental health is the cause of concern, turn to a healer or therapist to hold space for your catharsis.

**Leo:** Is this the end of loneliness, Leo? Ergo, the beginning of a brand new adventure. You won’t know until you put your heart on the line. As you do, consciously let go of the old and dated narratives that no longer serve you. The thing about turning points is

that they only make sense to us much later. It could take a few years for you realise why this transformation turned you from a caterpillar to a butterfly.

**Virgo:** When you decide to build a life with someone, it is important to keep the channel of communication open. To practice compassion and be receptive to each other’s needs. Unless you learn to see things from each other’s eyes, how will you meet halfway? There’s no doubt that things have been far from perfect, but that doesn’t mean they haven’t been beautiful.

**Libra:** Love seldom understands logic or rationale. On most days, it feels like a roller-coaster of emotions. But the good thing is, you do not have to go through the highs and lows alone. Turn to your best friend/spiritual bouncer/amour for the emotional support you need at this point. What you need to keep in mind though is that their approach to healing may be different from yours. If they are helping you see the other side of the story, know that it is for your greater good.

**Scorpio:** Often, we act from a space of unawareness, not because we want to harm somebody but because we want to protect our own ego in the bargain. Observe where you are operating from and remind yourself of your power and potential. When you take the high road, you will inspire the other to do just the same.

**Sagittarius:** Sometimes, we’re so stuck on the idea of receiving love and validation from a certain someone that we forget to notice the millions of ways in which life is taking care of us, supporting us in our mission, and helping us experience joy. Not to mention, the soul tribe that shows up for you consistently and reminds you of just how loved you are through their actions and words.

**Capricorn:** Food for thought courtesy Perks of Being a Wallflower: “We accept the love we think we deserve.” What are these words awakening within you, Capricorn? Understand how our idea of love is deeply connected with how we perceive ourselves and our

self-worth. If you find yourself questioning the other’s role in your life and whether you truly deserve them, take this as a sign that something within you needs to be healed. Stop undermining your power, wild one. Aquarius:

Today brings with itself the reminder that you could be caught in a world of illusions. Your inability to see things clearly is coming in the way of your interpersonal relationships. Are there connections that were meant to serve you only for a season? Be aware of what the signs are drawing your attention towards.

**Pisces:** Look at you integrating your soul lessons, turning your wounds into wisdom, and moving forward with dignity and grace. This is a breakthrough moment for you, Pisces, and the Universe is proud of your resolve. On the interpersonal front, you’re being asked to practice truth and honesty. Take responsibility for your thoughts and actions and communicate the same with clarity. As Bruce Lee once said, “Mistakes are always forgivable,