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# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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## Golay meets Arunachal counterpart, discusses Demwe hydel project and tourism prospets

**ITANAGAR, 02 DEC (IPR):** Chief Minister PS Tamang [Golay], who is on a two-day official tour of Arunachal Pradesh, met with the Arunachal CM, Pema Khandu, in the capital city Itanagar this afternoon.

The CM is in Itanagar primarily to discuss and learn more about the Demwe Hydro Electric Project.

Both the Chief Ministers had a long discussion about tourism prospects in Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. They also discussed in detail how they can help each other in promoting tourism in both the states.

Further, both the Chief Ministers talked about social, political, economic and demographic structure of Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim.

During the meeting, the CM also extended an invitation to Mr Khandu to visit Sikkim, which he gracefully accepted.

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### SIKKIM'S CONNECTION TO DEMWE HYDEL PROJECT

Navayuga Engineering and state-run Sikkim Power Investment Corporation have submitted binding bids for the Rs 15,000-crore planned hydro power project in Arunachal Pradesh that is undergoing insolvency proceedings. The 1,750MW project awarded by the Arunachal government to Athena Energy Ventures on a 40-year concession has been stalled due to incomplete forest clearances and insufficient funds.

Athena Energy owes Rs 550 crore to Indian Bank and Corporation Bank as working capital dues that the lenders were unable to recover from the former.

Navayuga's bid is pegged at Rs 300 crore, news

reports from last year inform. Sikkim Power Investment Corporation, the first state-run utility to participate in bidding for a bankrupt company, in turn is reported to have offered a little over Rs 250 crore.

Though Navayuga's bid is said to be higher, the committee of creditors has disqualified its bid on the grounds that it violates provisions of Section 29 A of the insolvency and bankruptcy code which disallows people connected to defaulting promoters/companies from bidding for the stressed assets.

The port operator has challenged the decision at the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).

## MP apprises Union Minister about poor condition of NH10

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 02 DEC:**

Lok Sabha MP, Indra Hang Subba met Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari and apprised him of the pathetic condition of NH10.

As per an SKM release, Mr Subba requested for intervention in regards to the condition and maintenance of the NH10 especially from Sevoke to Rangpo which is maintained by the Government of West Bengal.

The MP also updated him regarding erosion caused by dams on Teesta leading to multiple landslides along the National Highway. The Minister assured that all necessary action would be taken to ensure quality of NH10.



Mr Subba also discussed the urgent need for completion of alternative highway to Sikkim which is under construc-

tion. Mr Gadkari assured that alternative highway from Bagrakote to Gangtok would be completed at the earliest.

## Muslim party seeks review of Ayodhya verdict, says Babri be rebuilt for complete justice

**NEW DELHI, DEC 2 (PTI):**

A plea seeking review of the verdict which cleared the way for construction of a Ram Temple at the disputed site in Ayodhya was filed in the Supreme Court on Monday stating that "complete justice" could only be done by directing reconstruction of Babri Masjid.

A 5-judge bench, headed by the then Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, had in a unanimous verdict on November 9 decreed the entire 2.77 acre disputed land in favour of deity 'Ram Lalla' and also directed the Centre to allot a 5-acre plot to Sunni Waqf Board for building a mosque in Ayodhya.

While key litigant, Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Wakf Board, decided against challenging the verdict, Maulana Syed Ashhad Rashidi, legal heir of original litigant M Siddiq and UP President of Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind, sought review of the verdict on 14 counts.

The litigant, in review plea filed through lawyer

Ejaz Maqbool, has also sought an interim stay on operation of the verdict in which it had directed the Centre that a trust be formed within three months for construction of the temple at the site.

Rashidi also questioned the direction asking the Centre and the Uttar Pradesh government to allot 5 acre land for construction of a mosque at a prominent place in Ayodhya, saying that such a prayer was never made by the Muslim parties.

It was also submitted that despite acknowledging several illegalities committed by the Hindu parties, including the destruction of the mosque at the disputed site, the apex court condoned them and granted the land to them.

"By virtue of the impugned judgment, this court has effectively granted a mandamus to destroy Babri Masjid and to construct a temple of Lord Ram in the said place," the plea said.

It further stated that though in the impugned judgment this court has acknowledged few of the several illegalities committed by the Hindu Parties, particularly in 1934 (damaging the domes of the Babri Masjid), 1949 (desecrating the Babri Masjid) and 1992 (demolition of the Babri Masjid), it has "proceeded to condone those very illegal acts and has awarded the disputed site to the very party which based its claims on nothing but a series of illegal acts".

However, Rashidi submitted he was not seeking review of the entire judgement and several findings, and was limiting the plea to apparent errors on the face of records such as the title in favour of Hindus "virtually amounts to a mandamus to destroy the Babri Masjid" and "no person can derive benefit out of an illegality while granting title to Hindu parties".

It said the judgement erred in disregarding the settled

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## Sub Lt Shivangi becomes Navy's first woman pilot

**KOCHI, DEC 2 (PTI):**

Sub-Lieutenant Shivangi of the Indian Navy on Monday became first naval woman pilot and joined operational duties in the presence of top naval officials at its base here. It is a very proud feeling for me. It is a different feeling," Shivangi told reporters here.

Fulfilling her long-cherished dream, she received her 'qualification wings' from the chief of Southern Naval Command Vice Admiral AK Chawla. I have been craving for this for a long time. It is a great feeling, she said. She joined the Indian Navy as its first woman pilot on completion of operational training here. Hailing from Muzafarpur in Bihar, Shivangi would be flying the Naval Dornier surveillance aircraft. As part of her training, Shivangi has flown Pilatus PC 7 Mk II, Basic Trainer at AFA and completed Dornier Conversion with the Indian navy in Kochi.

She would continue her training at INAS 550, the Dornier squadron at INS Garuda, to become a fully operational pilot on Maritime Reconnaissance (MR) aircraft. Later, interacting with the media, she said she started dreaming of becoming a pilot ever since she saw a chopper carrying a minister landed in the neighbourhood of her grand parents' place in Bihar during her childhood.

Shivangi recalled that everyone in the area had gathered around to see the helicopter and she was one among them. She got 'super-inspired'

when she saw the helicopter and the man flying it. She said her family is supportive and they never questioned her wish to join defence forces.

"In fact, they were proud," Shivangi said.

Shivangi, who joined the force just two days ahead of the Navy Day, also thanked the Navy staff and Qualified Flying Instructors (QFIs) for their support. They have always encouraged me, she said. The Indian navy congratulated her on her achievement.

Along with her, two trainee officers of the 7th Dornier Conversion Course (DOCC) also qualified as Dornier pilots and were awarded the coveted golden Wings at the simple and solemn ceremony, a defence spokesman said. Vice Admiral AK Chawla was the chief guest for the ceremony who presented the Wings to the passing out officers, signifying their qualification as naval aviators.

The FOC-in-C South Rolling Trophy for standing first in overall order of merit was awarded to Lieutenant Shivam Pandey, he said. The award of the Wings marks the culmination of one year of flying training at the Air Force Academy (AFA), Dundigal and Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 550, INS Garuda in Kochi.

From here on, these pilots would join the Dornier Operational Flying Training course at INAS 550 from mid-January 2020, prior to joining an operational maritime reconnaissance squadron.

## BCCI secretary to mentor SICA

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 02 DEC:**

Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary, Jay Shah along with Niranjn Shah will be overseeing the development of cricket in Sikkim, Uttarakhand and Arunachal Pradesh, a SICA release informs.

Sikkim Cricket Association (SICA) had long been demanding that the BCCI handhold the new member states in developing cricket in the region.

Finally, after meeting the representatives of all the units, the Board formed a three-member panel comprising of Sauro Ganguly, Arun Singh Dhumal and Jay Shah to look after the overall development of the new states, the release mentions.

BCCI president, Mr Ganguly will focus on



Meghalaya, Mizoram and Bihar, with the help of Naba Bhattacharjee. Arun Singh Dhumal will be in-charge of Nagaland, Manipur and Pondicherry.

This was announced during the 88th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) was held on Sunday - their first after the newly

elected body takes over the Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators (CoA). It was the first AGM in the last three years.

Along with the other voting right members, the president of Sikkim Cricket Association (SICA), Lobzang G Tenzing attended the meeting.

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## SIKKIM OLYMPIC ASSOCIATION MEETS State Games in April-May next year

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 02 DEC:**

State Games is scheduled to be organized in April-May 2020 by Sikkim Olympic Association [SOA] and the proposal for the same has been submitted to the Ministry of Sports & Youth Affairs, Government of Sikkim and also to Sports Minister, Government of India, for sanctioning of grants.

This was informed by SOA president, BK Roka during a coordination meeting held at Paljor Stadium conference hall, Gangtok on 29 Nov, 2019.

A press release informs that the meeting was held in association with Secretary, Department of Sports & Youth Affairs, Government of Sikkim.

The meeting was presided over by Secretary, Kuber Bhandari, Sports & Youth Affairs Department.

Mr Roka also informed that Goa is going to host the National Games in

2020 and associations should send the names of qualified entries as per the norms of Indian Olympic Association at the earliest to SOA, and also the 2nd North East Olympic games to be held at Arunachal Pradesh in 2020.

He also highlighted that SOA and the Department of Sports & Youth Affairs should be informed by the concerned state associations before sending their teams to any Zonals, Nationals, Invitational and International Tournaments so that there is no miscommunication regarding incentives to be provided by the government later.

All sports association should submit their annual activity and audit reports to SOA annually by the month of April so that the same can be forwarded to the S&YA Ministry and to IOA, he added.

Secretary, Sports Department, Kuber Bhandari, requested all associations to submit their annual sporting



calendar to the department so that the yearly calendar of events can be prepared by the department accordingly.

He added that the department is coming up with various sporting events in the State to hunt for raw talent in panchayat and block level so that they can be groomed for national and international events.

President, Badminton Association of Sikkim, C Zangpo suggested that Sikkim Olympic Association should submit a de-

tail planned report for grants to all sporting associations and submit it to the Department of Sports so that all associations can promote their discipline in each and every corner of the state with coaching camps or talent search programs.

The meeting was also attended by Director, Jt Director, and officials of S&YA Dept, president and secretaries of all State Associations affiliated to Sikkim Olympic Association also attended the meeting.



## Minister visits under construction Cafeteria at Legship



**LEGSHIP, 02 DEC (IPR):** Minister-cum-MLA of Gyalshing Bermiok constituency, Lok Nath Sharma visited the under construction Tourism Cafeteria-cum-Guest House at Legship, this morning. The construction has been stalled for some

time now.

Minister Mr Sharma interacted with the contractor and local public regarding the stalling of the construction work. Further, he stressed to seek ways and means to resume the construction work at the earliest.

## Parliament passes bill to ban e-cigarettes



New Delhi, Dec 2 (PTI): Parliament on Monday passed a bill which seeks to prohibit the production, trade, transport, storage and advertisement of electronic cigarettes in the country.

The Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Bill, 2019, was passed in Rajya Sabha with voice vote. The bill was passed in Lok Sabha earlier this month.

The government had issued ordinance to ban e-cigarettes in September this year. The new law would replace the ordinance.

"We have done it with very pious intention. There is no vested interest," Health Minister Harsh Vardhan told the House in his reply on the bill.

During the debate on the bill, some members expressed apprehensions that the government had brought this bill under pressure from tobacco lobby and demanded the ban be extended to raw tobacco and conventional cigarettes.

The minister said that he would be the happiest person on the earth if to-

bacco could be banned completely.

The bill defines electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) as electronic devices that heat a substance, which may contain nicotine and other chemicals, to create vapour for inhalation.

The bill provides for imprisonment of up to one year, or a fine of up to one lakh rupees, or both to a first time violator.

For any subsequent offence, it says that the crime will be punishable with an imprisonment of up to three years, along with a fine of up to five lakh rupees.

Under the Bill, no person is allowed to use any place for the storage of any stock of e-cigarettes. If any person stores any stock of e-cigarettes, he will be imprisoned for up to six months, or slapped with a fine of up to fifty thousand rupees, or both.

If an authorised officer believes that any provision of the Bill has been contravened, he can search any place where trade, production, storage or advertising of e-cigarettes is being undertaken.

## Cipla launches second Mobile Science Lab

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 02 DEC:**

Cipla Ltd launched its second Mobile Science Lab in Sikkim today as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility initiative. The MSL was launched by Additional Chief Secretary, GP Upadhyaya, at Govt Senior Secondary School, Rhenock, on Monday, a Cipla press release informs.

The MSL has been launched with Cipla's implementing partner, Agastya International Foundation and is projected to reach out to 1,400 students across 10 schools in the periphery of the Golden Cross Unit.



The project claims to "revolutionize" rural education and make hands-on learning accessible. It aims to raise awareness on sci-

ence among children and teachers from government and government-aided schools through classroom sessions, science fairs and

community visits.

The first Mobile Science Lab by Cipla in Sikkim was launched on 15 August by the Chief Minister.

## Brotherhood FC lifts Balachaturdashi Mela Cup at Legship

**GYALSHING, 02 DEC (IPR):** IPR Minister, Lok Nath Sharma, who also happens to be the area MLA, attended the finals of the Balachaturdashi Mela Cup Open Football Tournament 2019 as chief guest at Community Ground, Legship, today.

Brotherhood FC of Ranipool won the tournament after an exciting final match against Childhood FC of Namchi which ended 4-2 in its favour. The tournament was organised by Legship-based NGO, Manav Sewa Samiti.

Brotherhood FC received a trophy along with a Rs One lakh cash prize while the runners-up team received Rs 70,000 and a trophy.

In his address, the Minister informed that a constituency-level football tournament is scheduled to be organised at Bermiok from 16 to 26 Dec in coordination with the Sports and Youth Affairs Department.

The best performing player will be selected under the supervision of department officials and



a more prestigious platform will be provided to the selected local players.

He mentioned that the ongoing construction of a new road from 8th Mile to Omchung School will be completed at the earliest and the proposed work pertaining to the establishment of rock climbing on the steep hill of Community Ground will be initiated next year.

The Minister also outlined the youth-centric programmes of the state government under the leadership of the Chief Minister and informed that a Coaching

Centre for Civil Services Examination will also be opened for the youth.

Further, he urged people to maintain unity and communal harmony and extend support and cooperation for the all round development of the constituency.

During the programme, the Minister also handed over 300 chairs to five NGOs of Gyalshing Omchung Zilla Territorial Panchayat.

The Minister handed over 100 to Manav Sewa Samiti- Legship while the other four NGOs including Milan

Samaj- Omchung , Jana Kalyan Samaj 5th Mile/ Omchung, Jana Suraksha Samaj-Middle Gyalshing and Pragati Samaj 8th Mile/ Gyalshing received 50 chairs each.

The Legship Taxi Drivers Association also donated an Oxygen Cylinder for the Medical Ambulance of Manav Sewa Samiti.

On the occasion, the organising committee felicitated the Minister Sharma for his social works and other initiatives.

The programme also featured colourful cultural performances.

## Shah sets 2024 deadline for NRC

**CHAKRADHARPUR/BAHARAGORA, DEC 2 (PTI):** BJP chief Amit Shah on Monday set a 2024 deadline for implementing the hugely divisive NRC across the country, asserting "each and every" infiltrator will be identified and expelled before the next general election.

Notwithstanding the admission by some BJP leaders in West Bengal that apprehensions over the NRC had cost the party dearly in the recent bypolls there, the Union Home Minister told poll rallies in neighbouring Jharkhand that the nation-wide exercise will be conducted despite reservations voiced by opposition parties.

"Today, I want to tell you that before the 2024 polls the NRC will be conducted across the country and each and every infiltrator identified and expelled.

"Rahul Baba (Congress leader Rahul Gandhi) says don't expel them. Where will they go, what will they eat? But I assure you that before the country goes to polls in 2024 all illegal immigrants will be thrown out," he told election rallies in Chakradharpur and Baharagora.

Shah said national issues like uprooting terrorism, naxalism and construction of a grand Ram temple in Ayodhya were as important in the Jharkhand elections as local matters like development. Raking up the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri



mosque dispute once again, the BJP president alleged the Congress made attempts to thwart the hearing of the case in the Supreme Court.

"Congress leaders would tell the Supreme Court that there is no need for hearing the Ram Janmabhoomi case. With your (people's) backing, we submitted that it be taken forward, and the result is that the apex court has ruled that only a Ram temple will be built in Ayodhya," he said.

He also attacked the JMM-Congress-RJD alliance, which is crossing swords with the BJP for electoral laurel in Jharkhand.

The BJP leader also gave credit to the state's BJP government for "uprooting" the naxalite menace and for bringing in development.

"When Congress was in power, it fired upon students agitating for Jharkhand state and attacked them with batons.

Now Hemant Soren (JMM leader) is sitting in the laps of the same Congress so he can become the chief minister," he said. Referring to the

"vikas ki Ganga" flowing in Jharkhand because of the "double engine" growth the Centre and the state governments had ushered in together, Shah said the Modi government built AIIMS in Deoghar, and it will now construct an airport there and also in Bokaro, Dumka and Jamshedpur.

About 20 lakh farmers have benefited from the crop insurance scheme, he said.

Within five years, the Narendra Modi government and Raghuram Das dispensation uprooted naxalism and paved the way for the state's development, he said.

He said Raghuram Das provided a "zero corruption" government and gave the state political stability. The Das government is the first in Jharkhand's history that will complete its full term in office.

"Rahul Gandhi is in Jharkhand today. I challenge him to give an account of what Congress governments have done for Jharkhand during 55 years of their rule. We will also give an account of what we have done in five years," he said.

Targeting the opposition alliance, the BJP chief said, "Parties that sell poll tickets, exploit adivasis, had opposed creation of Jharkhand and indulged in corruption involving millions and billions of rupees cannot take the state forward.

## Verbal duel in LS over Adhir's comments on Modi, Shah

**NEW DELHI, DEC 2 (PTI):** A war of words broke out in Lok Sabha on Monday over Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury's remarks that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah were "infiltrators". During the Question Hour, when Chowdhury rose to ask a supplementary related to the Steel Ministry, ruling alliance members tried to mock him by shouting the word "infiltrator" several times.

The Congress leader immediately tried to counter by saying: "Yes, I am an infiltrator, I am a 'deemak' (termite).

Modi is an infiltrator. Amit Shah is an infiltrator. LK Advani is an infiltrator". Union Petroleum and Steel Minister Dharmendra Pradhan shot back, saying Chowdhury's "design would be exposed soon".

"Sab khulengi, aap ki paribhasha se desh nahi chalega (Everything will be exposed. The country will not run by your definitions," Pradhan said.

On Sunday, Chowdhury had termed Modi and Shah as "infiltrators" in Delhi. The Congress leader also said Modi and Shah are migrants since they have their homes in Gujarat but are now living in Delhi.

### Muslim party...

principle of law that a "tainted cause of action cannot be sustained or decreed in a civil suit".

"This court erred in wrongly applying Article 142 of the Constitution as doing complete justice or res tituting the illegality could only be done by directing the reconstruction of the Babri Masjid," said the review plea, running into 93-pages.

Rashidi said he was conscious of the sensitive nature of the case and understood the need to put a "quietus to the dispute" to maintain peace and harmony, but there "can be no peace without justice".

"Further, this court has, in an attempt to balance the reliefs between the parties, while condoning illegalities of the Hindu parties, has allotted alternate land ad-measuring five acres to Muslim parties, which was neither pleaded nor prayed for by the Muslim parties," it said.

The verdict disregarded the settled legal principle and supported "a party which based its cause of action upon an illegal act", it said.

The top court "committed an error apparent by elevating a mere look at the central dome by the Hindu parties to a claim of possessory title", it said.

The fact that Babri mosque was a waqf property was wrongly not accepted, it said and alleged uneven appreciation of evidence.

The verdict gave "precedence to oral testimonies of the Hindu parties vis-a-vis the contemporary documentary evidence of the Muslim parties, which resulted in incorrect application of doctrine of preponderance of probabilities", it said.

"This apex court committed an error apparent by not appreciating that the structure in question had always been a mosque and had been in exclusive possession of Muslims," it said, adding that the principle of presumption under the Evidence Act on the issue of offering of namaz at the site between 1528 to 1856 was disregarded.

"This court committed grave error by elevating the mere prescriptive rights of the Hindu parties, which were settled as far back as in 1886, to those of possessory title," it said.

The lawsuit of the deity should not have been entertained by the court as it was based "on mere impatience" which can never be a valid cause of action for any litigation, it said.

"This court erred in relying on travellers' accounts and archaeological findings in order to decide issues of title, despite noting that travellers accounts were not conclusive and archaeological findings could not be the basis of deciding a title dispute.

"Further, despite noting that only the facts after the annexation of Oudh in 1856 were to be considered for adjudicating the present dispute, this court proceeded to rely upon the facts prior to 1856," the review plea said.

The plea, however, said it was not assailing certain findings of the court such as Nirmohi Akhara's lawsuit was barred by limitation and the birth place was not a juristic entity.

The plea also did seek review of SC's findings that "deity is not a perpetual minor for the purposes of limitation".

### Golay meets...

Mr Khandu also hosted a lunch for Mr Tamang and his team from Sikkim.

The Chief Minister is accompanied by Power Minister MN Sherpa , Principal Secretary DoP, Tenzing Gelek, Secretary to the CM, SD Dhakal, Confidential Secretary Bikash Basnet, PT Bhutia and Rodan Thapa.

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### BCCI secretary...

"This was a historic moment as for the first time a delegate from Sikkim was attending the AGM of BCCI as a full member," the release states.

In the meeting, many important decisions were discussed, such as the proposal for amendment of the existing constitution of the board, passing of accounts, adoption of the fresh budget for 2019-20 season, the appointment of fresh auditors, and many more.

Jay Shah, the son of Minister of Home Affairs of India, Amit Shah, has been recently elected as the Secretary of BCCI. He has served as an executive board member of the Central Board of Cricket, Ahmedabad in 2009, and became the joint secretary of the Gujarat Cricket Association (GCA) in September 2013. He oversaw GCA's project of constructing the Sardar Patel Stadium, the world's largest cricket stadium, in Ahmedabad. He also became a member of the finance and marketing committees of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) in 2015. With such an experience it is an honour for Sikkim to have him as a mentor.

During the meeting, it was announced that from the next season Under 16 girls tournaments will also be started, which is good news for players and also a landmark for the Women's Cricket. Live telecast of Under 16 and Under 19 matches is to be started soon.

## ~ SummitTIMES ~ CLASSIFIEDS

### GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

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

**For details contact: 9083826462**

### FLAT FOR RENT/LEASE

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

**For more details: 9083826462 /9832556698**

### GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

General land 30X40 (3 Plots) available for sale at Tadong 6th Mile next to Harka Maya College.

Flat Land no cutting required. Price 30 Lakhs (negotiable).

**Contact: 9800201335**

### LAND FOR SALE

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





## Lawyers beat journos in friendly football

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 02 DEC:**

A friendly match was played between Press Club of Sikkim [PCS] and BAR Association of Sikkim [BAS] here at Paljor Stadium on Monday. BAS won the match by 3-1.

The match was a part of ongoing Phoenix Cup, an Inter-Rehab Centre Football Tournament, here at Paljor Stadium. The tournament

is being organized by Social Justice & Welfare Department under State Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction.

Eleven rehab centers from different parts of the State have been participating in this week-long football tournament. The final match will be played on 04 November. The winner of the tournament will get cash prize of Rs 10,000 and Rs 5,000 will be awarded to the runners-up team.

### Pema's Gym felicitates weight lifting team

**SAGAR CHETTRI**

**GANGTOK, 02 DEC:**

Pema's Gym and Health Club, Martam in East Sikkim felicitated its members for their outstanding performance in the recently held 3rd Open State Weight Lifting Championship at Gangtok.

A seven-member team of the club had participated in the championship, which was held at White

Hall on Saturday.

In the felicitation programme on Sunday, Pema's Gym and Health Club felicitated Pujan Baraily for winning gold medal, Homnath Siwakoti and Kamal Rasaily for winning a silver medal each, Suren Rai, Bikash Kami and Krishna Nepal for winning a bronze medal each and Sanders Baraily who stood on the fourth position.

### India U-16 football team raises funds for Reeya



**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 02 DEC:**

Members of India national U-16 boys football team have also come forward in support of 'Run for Reeya' campaign. The campaign is to raise funds for ailing national footballer, Reeya Lepcha from Sikkim.

Sikkimese footballer, Evan Thapa, who is presently in U-16 national football camp at Bhubaneswar, took the lead to raise funds in the camp and transferred it to Gangtok-based journalist, Dichen Ongmu, who had initiated the campaign.

### Phurba Lama wins Mr Sikkim Manhunt 2019



**NITESH R PRADHAN**

**GANGTOK, 02 DEC:**

In a grand finale organized by The Accelerator and Sikkim Chronicle and powered by Demarg on 30 November at Manan Kendra here, the Temi Tea Mr Sikkim Manhunt 2019 title was bagged by 23-year-old Phurba Lama of Gangtok.

Similarly, Tseteej Shiwakoty [23] and Anand Lamichaney [25] were crowned on second and third spots respectively.

The panel of judges comprised of Naresh Subba, Peden Ongmu Namgyal, Arijit Dutta, Piyush Sharma, Rewaj Chettri and Ashwani Neeraj.

There were five sequences in the competition - Grand Entry, Introduction, Bare body, Louis Philippe and formal round.

The following contestants won the sub titles:

Mr Wisdom: Sagar Sundas  
Mr Sanity: Anish John Ngullie  
Best Smile: Sunny Golay Tamang  
Best Walk: Anil Jeremy Rai  
Mr Style Icon: Pratik Chettri  
Mr Multimedia, Mr Tourism, Mr Talent & Mr Alamode: Anand Lamichaney  
Mr Fit: Bahar Dewan  
Man with Purpose: Phurba Lama  
Mr Congeniality: Kelzang Ongdi Lepcha  
Mr Wellbeing: Tseteej Shiwakoty  
Best Makeover: Phurba Tshering Tamang  
Mr Photogenic: Ambrose Haokip.

## Teesta Rangeet MSME Utsav gets underway



**GANGTOK, 02 DEC [IPR]:** A press conference was held at Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom, Zero Point, Gangtok, today by the Commerce and Industries Department on the eve of the inauguration of the Teesta Rangeet MSME Utsav.

Teesta Rangeet MSME Utsav is being organized from 03-05 Dec at the Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom, Zero Point.

The press conference was addressed jointly by Dr. Thomas Chandy, Additional Chief Secretary, Commerce and Industries Department, Alka Arora, Joint Secretary, Ministry of MSME, Government of India, Udaya Kumar, Director, National Small Industries Corporation, New Delhi and Mercy Apao, Director MSME Ministry.

The Teesta Rangeet MSME Utsav is the first of its kind being held in the state and is in pursuance of the state government policy to promote micro

and small enterprises and promote local entrepreneurs and startups to give expression to their business ideas.

The Utsav has been organized with the objective of providing forward and backward linkages to the local entrepreneurs and to provide a platform for local entrepreneurs to interact with buyers, exporters and investors directly in order to explore better marketing possibilities, both in domestic and international market.

Speaking on the occasion Dr. Thomas Chandy, Additional Chief Secretary stated that there are more than 70 entrepreneurs who are participating in the Utsav, drawn mainly from the handicrafts, food processing and services sector. He stated that there would be Business-2-Business and Business-2-Government meetings during the three-day event, apart from fashion show and cultural programmes

based on local products.

Joint Secretary, Alka Arora stated that MSME Ministry wanted to support Sikkim's entrepreneurs to get started with their business and also to enable them to become bigger entrepreneurs and join the mainstream. She said that Sikkim had potential in the food processing sector which has become big business in modern times.

She lauded the State Government for implementing the scheme most successfully among the northeastern states. Udaya Kumar, Director stated that his organization will be supporting the State Government in MSME development. Mercy Apao, Director, Ministry of MSME also spoke on the occasion.

The Utsav is being funded by the Ministry of MSME, Government of India and supported by National Small Industries Corporation, Public Sector Undertaking of the Ministry of MSME.

## Matru Vandana Saptah 2019 launched

**GANGTOK, 02 DEC (IPR):**

The launch programme of Matru Vandana Saptah 2019 under Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), a maternity benefit programme, was organised at the conference hall of Social Justice and Welfare Department, Lumsey, Tadong here today.

Secretary, SJ&W Department, Dhan Jyoti Mukhia attended the occasion as the chief guest along with guest participants and host of officials from SJ&W Department.

Matru Vandana Saptah is observed every year with an objective to intensify the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) and create a competitive spirit among States and UTs. The best performing States and Districts will be subsequently rewarded at the National level.

The week-long Matru Vandana Saptah 2019 will be celebrated from 02 to 08 December and is themed as "Towards Building A Healthy Nation- Surakshik Janani, Vikshit Dharini".

The programme commenced with the lighting of ceremonial lamps by the chief guest and followed by the welcome address from Deputy Director, ICDS, SJ&W Department, G.M Subba wherein he presented a brief report and overview on PMMVY, a maternity benefit programme under Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India before the gathering.

Following this, Project Director, Shri Phuchung Bhutia in his address spoke and briefly highlighted on the launch of Matru Vandana Saptah 2019. Further, he urged the gathering to increase the awareness of the 'Scheme' among the rural and urban beneficiaries.

Subsequently, Santi Kr Pradhan, Project Supervisor, highlighted on the objectives, benefits and important guidelines under PMMVY.

The programme also saw a brief district wise



presentation on the aims and objectives of Matru Vandana Saptah by the concerned CDPOs from all the districts. The concerned CDPOs from the respective district also presented a detailed overview of coverage since the implementation of schemes.

Additionally, Dr Anita highlighted and presented a brief summary on the objectives and provided an in-depth report on the present implementation status of Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), a centrally sponsored scheme under National Health Rural Mission.

She also added that the main objective of JSY is to increase institutional deliveries and reduction of Infant mortality rate in the state.

Lastly in her key note address before the gathering, chief guest, Dhan Jyoti Mukhia spoke on the need to create more awareness among the masses both at rural and urban level and directed the supervisors and CDPOs to take up more awareness campaign in all the districts of the State. She added that the launch of Matru Vandana Saptah will facilitate in getting more enrolment among both the rural and urban masses.

She mainly pointed out that the performance of Sikkim has not been up to the mark as per the target set up by the Centre, hence she urged the CDPOs and supervisors to put in an accelerated efforts to achieve the targets before the stipulated time set up by the Centre.

She also directed the concerned officials to streamline and improve

the PMMVY benefit disbursement process. Additionally, she directed the CDPOs to tie up with the functionaries during the upcoming Gram Sabha to get more enrollment and ensure that no household remains uncovered.

She further mentioned about the importance of Aadhar linkages among the beneficiaries from both the rural and urban areas. She so spoke on the success of JSY in Sikkim and reiterated that the main objective of JSY is to increase the institutional deliveries and to ensure safe delivery and added that the institutional deliveries in the state have improved and child mortality rate has reduced in the state since the inception of the scheme.

She highlighted on the role of ASHA workers to increase the uptake of the scheme and urged them to improve their overall performances for which the Department will be incentivising top performers and top performing districts accordingly, she added.

Lastly, she highlighted on the series of activities to be undertaken by the Social Justice and Welfare Department which include organising awareness campaigns, football tournament, painting competition, flash mob, etc and urged the participants to be work more diligently and be actively involved in making the events a huge success.

The programme came to an end with the vote of thanks proposed by Normit Lepcha, Nodal Officer, PMMVY, Social Justice and Welfare Department.

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## Meet the Others

*Insularity is unfortunately a national malaise. Address it*

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

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

That said, it is important that the ignorance which has degenerated into disdain, mutual suspicion and distasteful stereotyping is lifted. One could argue that perceived slights are by nature pointless obsessions since they are born out of, well, perceptions which cannot really be tackled because, well again, they rest in perceptions and those are more difficult to address than actual instances of discrimination. They do, however, become worries when the perceptions start manifesting as actual attacks, like ones which triggered the exodus of NE people from the metros or the lynching which occurred in Nagaland a few years ago. And then there is the continuing parochialism everywhere else in the country and the reprehensible attempts at justifying such targeted attacks born out of Hate seeded in prejudices and stereotypes. These will repeat unless this country makes some earnest efforts at celebrating its much-vaunted diversity. 70+ years as one nation and the citizens still don’t behave as One People! This obviously needs to change, and the Supreme Court recently cracked the whip with its slew of directions, including the setting up of a three-member panel to “enhance the sense of security and inclusion of the people from the north-eastern states who faced violence and hate crimes”. The SC directive is the first step, an acceptance of sorts of a problem that exists. For it to be of any real consequence, wider, more collaborative initiatives will need to be taken.

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

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## Spinster, old maid or self-partnered – why words for single women have changed through time

AMY FROIDE  
[theconversation.com](http://theconversation.com)

In a recent interview with Vogue, actress Emma Watson opened up about being a single 30-year-old woman. Instead of calling herself single, however, she used the word “self-partnered.”

I’ve studied and written about the history of single women, and this is the first time I am aware of “self-partnered” being used. We’ll see if it catches on, but if it does, it will join the ever-growing list of words used to describe single women of a certain age.

Women who were once called spinsters eventually started being called old maids. In 17th-century New England, there were also words like “thorn-back” – a sea skate covered with thorny spines – used to describe single women older than 25.

Attitudes toward single women have repeatedly shifted – and part of that attitude shift is reflected in the names given to unwed women.

### THE RISE OF THE ‘SINGLEWOMAN’

Before the 17th century, women who weren’t married were called maids, virgins or “puella,” the Latin word for “girl.” These words emphasized youth and chastity, and they presumed that women would only be single for a small portion of their life – a period of “pre-marriage.”

But by the 17th century, new terms, such as “spinster” and “singlewoman,” emerged.

What changed? The numbers of unwed women – or women who simply never married – started to grow.

In the 1660s, demographer John Hajnal identified the “Northwestern European Marriage Pattern,” in which people in northwestern European countries such as England started marrying late – in their 30s and even 40s. A significant proportion of the populace didn’t marry at all. In this region of Europe, it was the norm for married couples to start a new household when they married, which required accumulating a certain amount of wealth. Like today, young men and women worked and saved money before moving into a new home, a process that often delayed marriage. If marriage

were delayed too long – or if people couldn’t accumulate enough wealth – they might not marry at all.

Now terms were needed for adult single women who might never marry. The term spinster transitioned from describing an occupation that employed many women – a spinner of wool – to a legal term for an independent, unmarried woman.

Single women made up, on average, 30% of the adult female population in early modern England. My own research on the town of Southampton found that in 1698, 34.2% of women over 18 were single, another 18.5% were widowed, and less than half, or 47.3%, were married.

Many of us assume that past societies were more traditional than our own, with marriage more common. But my work shows that in 17th-century England, at any given time, more women were unmarried than married. It was a normal part of the era’s life and culture.

### THE PEJORATIVE ‘OLD MAID’

In the late 1690s, the term old maid became common. The expression emphasizes the paradox of being old and yet still virginal and unmarried. It wasn’t the only term that was tried out; the era’s literature also poked fun at “superannuated virgins.” But because “old maid” trips off the tongue a little easier, it’s the one that stuck.

The undertones of this new word were decidedly critical.

“A Satyr upon Old Maids,” an anonymously written 1713 pamphlet, referred to never-married women as “odious,” “impure” and repugnant. Another common trope was that old maids would be punished for not marrying by “leading apes in hell.”

At what point did a young, single woman become an old maid? There was a definitive line: In the 17th century, it was a woman in her mid-20s.

For instance, the single poet Jane Barker wrote in her 1688 poem, “A Virgin Life,” that she hoped she could remain “Fearless of twenty-five and all its train, / Of slights or scorns, or being called Old Maid.”

These negative terms came about as the numbers of single women continued to climb and marriage rates dropped. In the 1690s and early 1700s,

English authorities became so worried about population decline that the government levied a Marriage Duty Tax, requiring bachelors, widowers and some single women of means to pay what amounted to a fine for not being married.

### STILL UNEASY ABOUT BEING SINGLE

Today in the U.S., the median first age at marriage for women is 28. For men, it’s 30.

What we’re experiencing now isn’t a historical first; instead, we’ve essentially returned to a marriage pattern that was common 300 years ago. From the 18th century up until the mid-20th century, the average age at first marriage dropped to a low of age 20 for women and age 22 for men. Then it began to rise again.

There’s a reason Vogue was asking Watson about her single status as she approached 30. To many, age 30 is a milestone for women – the moment when, if they haven’t already, they’re supposed to go from being footloose and fancy-free to thinking about marriage, a family and a mortgage.

Even if you’re a wealthy and famous woman, you can’t escape this cultural expectation. Male celebrities don’t seem to be questioned about being single and 30.

While no one would call Watson a spinster or old maid today, she nonetheless feels compelled to create a new term for her status: “self-partnered.” In what some have dubbed the “age of self-care,” perhaps this term is no surprise. It seems to say, I’m focused on myself and my own goals and needs. I don’t need to focus on another person, whether it’s a partner or a child.

To me, though, it’s ironic that the term “self-partnered” seems to elevate coupledness. Spinster, singlewoman or singleton: None of those terms openly refers to an absent partner. But self-partnered evokes a missing better half.

It says something about our culture and gender expectations that despite her status and power, a woman like Watson still feels uncomfortable simply calling herself single.

*[the writer is Professor of History, University of Maryland, Baltimore County]*

## African literary prizes are contested – but writers’ groups are reshaping them

DOSELINE KIGURU  
[theconversation.com](http://theconversation.com)

Literary prizes do more than offer recognition and cash to writers and help readers decide what book to choose. They shape the literary canon, a country’s body of highly regarded writing. They help shape what the future classics might be.

But what if Africa’s biggest prizes are awarded by foreign territories; former colonial masters? Or what if African-born writers in the diaspora are routinely chosen as winners over writers living and working in Africa?

Debates have been raging over these issues in recent years, especially relating to the lucrative Caine Prize for African Writing.

The words ‘award’ or ‘prize’ imply that there was a selection process and the best emerged as winner. The awarding of value to a text through the literary prize industry involves selection and exclusion in which some texts and authors are foregrounded, becoming the canon.

The scholar John Guillory argues, in addition, for the need to “reconstruct a historical picture of how literary works are produced, disseminated, reproduced, reread, and retaught over successive generations and eras.”

The issues are complex and the landscape is changing. My research covers how prizes create taste and canon – but also the increasing role played by literary organisations to shape those prizes and hence the canon.

Writers’ organisations mainly provide a social space for writers. There are dozens across the continent. Sometimes they include a publishing avenue, workshops, fellowships and competitions. In general, they have aimed to fill gaps left by

mainstream literary bodies such as publishers, universities and schools, and book marketers.

To understand the process of creative writing on the African continent it’s useful to focus on the interrelationship between prize bodies and writers’ organisations in contemporary literary production.

### THE CAINE, THE COMMONWEALTH AND WRITERS’ ORGANISATIONS

The Caine Prize for African Writing and the Commonwealth Short Story Prize are two major awards for contemporary Africa that have been cited as significant in promoting up-and-coming writers to become global writers. Both trade in the short story.

The Commonwealth, an initiative of the Commonwealth’s agency for civil society, awards unpublished fiction. The Caine, a charity set up in the name of the late literary organiser Sir Michael Caine, only accepts already published work. The cash reward that comes with winning these prizes is a major factor in their popularity on the continent.

But they are also significant in the growth of the short story genre. This is why I am interested in the partnerships that have emerged between prize bodies and writers’ organisations. Together they are influencing literary production structures from creative writing training to publishing and marketing texts.

Both the Caine and the Commonwealth prizes have partnered with African based writing organisations – like Uganda’s FEMRITE and Kenya’s Kwani? – to organise joint creative writing workshops.

The Caine holds annual workshops for its longlisted writers. These mostly take place in Africa, working with local writers’ organisations. Sometimes the resulting writing is

entered into competitions and in this way, the prize body both produces and awards literary value.

Many of these writers’ organisations are headed by people who were canonised through the international prize, and sometimes the writing trainers and competition judges are also previous winners.

With such links it then becomes important to analyse the literary texts produced within these networks with the awareness of the importance of a text’s social, cultural and political context. The literary product becomes a reflection of the different systems of power at play.

### POWER AT PLAY

A good illustration of this power play can be found in best-selling Nigerian novelist Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie’s short story Jumping Monkey Hill. It tells of a fictional creative writing programme for African writers run by the British Council. The story, set in South Africa, narrates the experiences of the writers, who are all expected to write about African realities in order to have their stories published internationally. The writers come to the workshop ready to learn how to improve their skills but encounter setbacks mainly because the trainer has a preconceived idea of what ‘plausible’ African stories should be. These writers have to understand the power play in place and then make a choice.

Jumping Monkey Hill acknowledges the role played by the creative writing institution in the production of literature as a commodity that must fit market demands. For this reason, the increasing investment of African based writers’ organisations in the literary production scene can also be understood as a political move. It is also an effort to influence

the literature coming out of the continent and shape the canon.

### WHY WRITERS’ ORGANISATIONS MATTER

Contemporary African writers’ organisations are deliberately involved in canon formation by taking an active role in the production and distribution of literature. They understand that the uneven distribution of economic and cultural capital results in misrepresentations, or lack of representation, within the canon.

Writers’ organisations such as FEMRITE, Kwani?, Farafina, Writivism, Storymoja and Short Story Day Africa, among others, are active in the literary industry through publishing, creative writing programmes and providing access to major award organisations and international publishers.

They are, in the process, contributing to canon formation.

Short Story Day Africa, for instance, pegs its yearly competitions on the promise that the winning stories will be automatically submitted for the Caine Prize. In fact, the 2014 Caine winning story and one other shortlisted story were initially published in its anthology Feast, Famine and Potluck (2013).

In the African academy, creative writing is usually offered as a single course within a larger programme or is available only at selected universities. This has resulted in a market gap that has been quickly filled by writers’ organisations. They fill this gap by offering short term courses on various aspects of creative writing. This is in part because the local literary organisation possesses the cultural capital necessary to link writers to prize organisations and publishers, and therefore to global visibility.

*[the writer is Postdoctoral research fellow, Rhodes University]*



# Opp LS members express concern over health of economy

**NEW DELHI, DEC 2 (PTI):**

Lok Sabha members from various opposition parties on Monday expressed concern over the health of the economy and asked the government to take effective steps rather than "clutching at straws" to deal with the problem.

Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury asked the BJP leadership to seek advice from former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on ways to deal with the current economic slowdown.

He said Singh's warning that demonetisation would bring down the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2 per cent has come true.

Participating in the discussion on the Taxation Law Amendment Bill and a statutory resolution disapproving the ordinance on the same legislation, Chowdhury said it was regrettable that the Modi government was viewing everyone with suspicion and not taking anyone's advice to deal with the country's economic woes.

Observing that tax rate cut would result in revenue loss of Rs 1.45 lakh crore, he wanted to know how the government will deal with the fiscal deficit.

The debate in the



Lower House mostly hovered around the GDP slipping to an over-six-year-low of 4.5 per cent in the July-September quarter.

Attacking the Congress, Nishikant Dubey (BJP) said it is not right to believe that the GDP is the only parameter to assess the health of the economy and focus should be on sustainable economic development.

He also listed measures like the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and Ayushman Bharat to improve the lives of people.

"Sustainable economic development (is) more important than the

GDP," he said, inviting criticism from opposition members.

Dubey said the Modi government should be credited for not signing the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement last month.

Mahua Moitra (TMC) said the economy has faced a crippling blow due to demonetisation and faulty implementation of the Goods and Services Tax.

She also said the government was giving relief to Foreign Institutional Investors but the same was not being extended to Indian corporates.

The TMC MP also said the corporate tax cut proposed through the bill only helps the profitable to become more profitable.

"It does not do anything to revive a very large part of this economy which is struggling. Instead it is clutching at straws," she said.

Moitra also questioned the government's move to disinvest a profitable company like the Bharat Petroleum Company Ltd (BPCL). This, she said, reflected the government's desperate measures.

Arvind Sawant (Shiv Sena) also questioned

the government's move to sell BPCL. He said though the government is taking decisions, it is not looking at the impact.

He also said demonetisation has badly hurt the economy. The economic slowdown started with demonetisation and has hit every sector that gives signs of doomed financial prospects, he said.

A Raja (DMK) said the economy was going through a turbulent phase and the government was not willing to accept it.

"It has to be accepted that the economy has been affected," he said.

## Films are not written for women in big, commercial space: Katrina

**MUMBAI, DEC 2 (PTI):** Katrina Kaif believes Bollywood is far behind in writing for women and there is a dearth of fun films in commercial space with female leads.

The star on Sunday said in the West, actors are supported with great writing in films and shows, which has enabled them to give some of their best performances.

"When you look at American cinema or what's happening in the West, you see incredible writing for women. It's there on a larger scale, in films which Charlize Theron, Nicole Kidman are doing. These are the actresses who have been around for a really long time. They are doing their best work now..."

"They are supported by great writing and storytelling. If you look at

'Big Little Lies' or other incredible shows, these are written for women with these characters in mind and created that way. That way we are very far behind in our writing for women," Katrina said.

The actor was speaking at We The Women' curated by Barkha Dutt.

"I have been looking for a script, been discussing with people. Every-time someone comes to me with a film, of maybe a guy and a girl, and I'm like 'hey what about doing a story with women in a big, fun commercial space' and it's not there! It's just not there yet," she added.

Katrina said today, she looks for characters which have some kind of emotional resonance.

"The roles I look for now need to have a little bit more personality.

There's a phase when we are having fun, just out of our teens, discovering ourselves. I remember being on the sets of 'Singh is Kinning' and 'Welcome' and everything in the world seems so happy and fun. I was having a good time and was enjoying being part of this incredible world of cinema.

"Today, all I'm looking forward to is being emotionally connected to a story. I wouldn't have done that before because my emotional intelligence wasn't fully developed." Giving examples of "Bharat" and "Zero"-- both projects which got her rave reviews-- Katrina said these roles connected with her.

"That's where I'm finding my enjoyment in the work now. Just making sure that I connect on an emotional level," she added.

## Sports University Bill passed in Delhi Assembly



**NEW DELHI, DEC 2 (PTI):**

The 'Sports University' Bill was tabled in the Delhi Assembly on Monday with Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal asserting that it is aimed at getting more medals than China in the Olympics.

The Bill was passed by the House with a voice vote.

Participating in a discussion on the bill, the chief minister said that the political leaders and bureaucrats will not have a say in the functioning of the proposed Sports University. Professionals will run it instead, he said.

Kejriwal said in last 70 years, the country has won only 28 medals in Olympics. In the last Olympics in 2016, China won 70 medals, adding that there is no

dearth of talent in India. "This Bill will realise the dream of every youth and sportsperson in the country of winning more gold than China. I am sure this dream will be realised in my lifetime. I will not go anywhere unless India wins more gold than China," Kejriwal said in his address in the House.

He said the sports university will help India overtake China in less time than it took the neighbouring country to dominate the global sports arena.

He said although the Delhi youth will be given priority in admissions to the proposed university, talented youth and sportsperson from all parts of the country will

also be provided opportunity at the institution.

"This university will prove to be the 'Mecca' of all sportspersons of the country and relieve every patriot of the pain they feel when India fails to win medals at international events and the Olympic," the chief minister said.

Commenting on the current scenario, Kejriwal said although India and its people including youth are the best in the world, but the government and system fail to support talent.

"As soon as a sports talent is spotted, the entire system gets down to suppress it. There is no support from the government or the system," he complained.

## Passengers fume at Kolkata airport after flight delays



**KOLKATA, DEC 2 (PTI):** Chaos prevailed at the Kolkata airport on Monday morning after delay in flight services by a private airline left passengers in the lurch.

At least two flights of GoAir to Guwahati and Ahmedabad were eventually cancelled after being delayed by hours, a passenger at the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose

International Airport here said. Another traveller said the airline did not give any explanation initially before informing that the delays were due to technical issues.

"A combination of factors such as inclement weather, low visibility conditions and runway maintenance in certain parts of the country have resulted in consequential

delay on the network," a GoAir spokesperson said. "This was further aggravated with flight duty time limitations (FDTL) of the crew," he added.

The airline, however, did not elaborate about the number of flights that were delayed or cancelled.

The stranded passengers were later accommodated in other flights.

## 'Sorry state of affairs': Naidu on members' absenteeism

**NEW DELHI, DEC 2 (PTI):** High absenteeism among Rajya Sabha members despite listing of starred questions invited the ire of Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu on Monday, who described it as a "sorry state of affairs".

In a rare instance, Rajya Sabha during Question Hour was adjourned for lunch five minutes before schedule at 12.55 pm. This was on account of absence of seven members whose starred questions were listed for today. All the seven belonged to opposition parties.

"I am sorry, I have to make an observation happening time

and again. There were 15 starred questions... members were absent. After having asked the question they are absent.. It is a sorry state of affairs," Chairman Naidu observed while adjourning the House for lunch at 12.55 pm.

Expressing concern over such high absenteeism, Naidu even urged the media to publish their names.

"I hope the media will publish the names of those absent, those who are not coming to House in spite of putting the questions also, which is a serious matter. ...today is Monday, the first working day," he said.

The Chairman allowed supplementary questions in respect of four starred questions listed against four of the seven absentees.

In effect, 12 of the 15 starred questions listed for the day were orally answered.

Those absent were Dharmapuri Srinivas (TRS), Ravi Prakash Verma (SP), Ronald Sapa Tlau (Cong), MD Nadimul Haq (TMC), Dr Sasikala (AIADMK), Binoy Viswam (CPI) and Pradip Bhattacharya (Cong).

During the 250th session, all the 15 starred questions were orally answered twice during last week.

## JNUTA demands report on fee hike issue be made public

**NEW DELHI, DEC 2 (PTI):**

The Jawaharlal Nehru University Teachers' Association on Monday staged a march to demand that the report of a high-powered committee set up by the Centre on the fee hike issue be

made public.

They started their march from Janpath but were stopped near Shastri Bhawan by police.

A delegation of JNUTA office-bearers was escorted to the ministry by police.

## Rajasthan Royals' off season camp gets underway

**NAGPUR, DEC 2 (PTI):**

Eight players, including new recruits Ankit Rajpoot and Rahul Tewatia, will sweat it out for the next three days at a new training facility at Talegaon as Rajasthan Royals on Monday began its pre-season camp for Indian cricketers ahead of next year's IPL.

The Indian cricketers, who are part of the Rajasthan Royals' squad for the upcoming season, will undergo training for three days under the watchful eyes of head of Cricket, Zubin Bharucha.

He will be supported by batting coach Amol Mazumdar, spin bowling coach Sairaj Bahutule and UK Academy director Sid Lahiri. The Royals physiotherapist John Gloster is also part of the camp.

"This camp is an opportunity to review the level of development of

our players over the last 7 months. We will be reviewing both their technical and physical progress to set clear plans for the build up to the IPL," said Bharucha.

"Furthermore after the trading window this will be an extremely beneficial few days to integrate our new players into the Royals family and get a closer look at their outstanding skills."

In the next three days, the Indian cricketers will not only train in open nets but also simulate match scenarios with the coaches sharing development plans with each player to help them prepare for the season.

The Indian cricketers present at the camp are Shreyas Gopal, Mahipal Lomror, Varun Aaron, Shashank Singh, Rahul Tewatia, Manan Vohra, Riyan Parag and Ankit Rajpoot.

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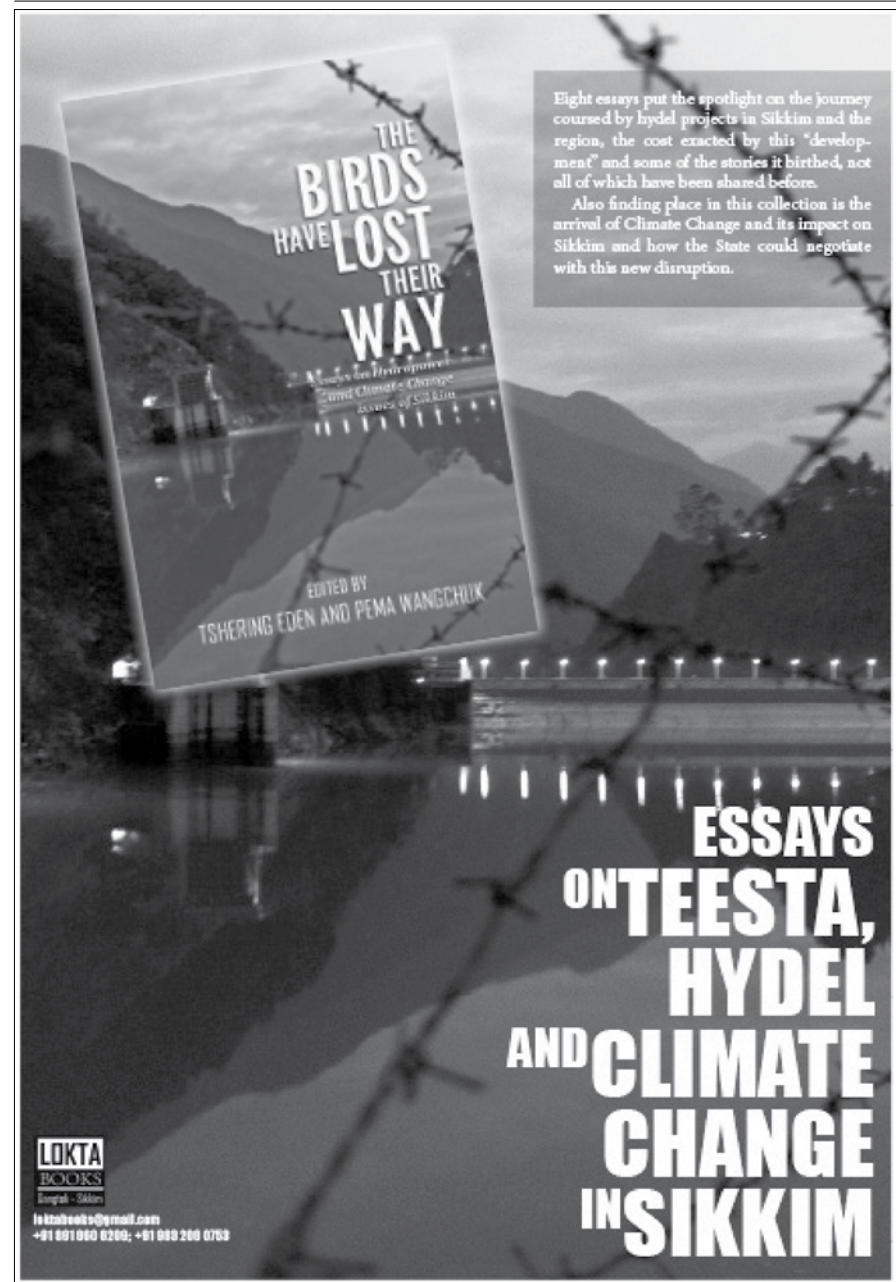
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Mr. Mani Rai, M/s. Space Ads, B.R. Ambedkar Building, Room No.7, 1st floor, Opp. Ganga Hotel, Hill Cart Road, Siliguri - 03. Ph. 9832318644/ 9800682989/ 9153035100 or mail at mani\_siliguri@yahoo.co.in.

**KOLKATA OFFICE:**

Irshad Ali/ Imteeyaz. Synapse, 6, Madan Street, Mezzine - 2, 2nd floor. Kolkata - 700072. Ph. 033-2214348/ fax 033-22124337/ mob. 9830547774/ 983108397. E-mail: contact.synapse@gmail.com/ irshad\_ali123@rediffmail.com





# Lionel Messi’s late winner sinks Atlético Madrid and puts Barcelona top

**SID LOWE**  
**MADRID, 01 DEC [THEGUARDIAN]:** There were six minutes left on a wet, wild night in Madrid and somehow there still had not been any goals, when Lionel Messi raised his arms on the right. The message was clear. “Give me the ball.” So they did. As soon as he got it, just about everyone in the stadium knew what he would try but that did not mean they could stop him. He ran inside, away from Thomas Partey, away from Saúl Niguez and rolled it into Luis Suárez, on the edge of the area. There, the Uruguayan did what he had to do and gave it right back. Messi bent it first time inside the far post, beyond the dive of Jan Oblak.

In that moment Barcelona beat Atlético Madrid to go back to the top of the table. There had been 30 shots: they had come back off the line, off the post and off the goalkeepers. Now at last one had gone in. It had been 0-0 until then, but this was not one of those games, of the type Atlético are accused of producing too often. Instead, it was a whole lot of fun and now it had an end worthy of what went before. Barcelona had not had this easy, especially not in the opening half-hour, but they had the victory. Messi had been decisive but so, too, had been Marc-André ter Stegen.

To begin with, Atlético dominated. By the time João Félix’s effort



flashed wide on the half-hour, the home side had racked up nine shots to Barcelona’s one and, while eight had been off target, there were moments when the visitors seemed to be hanging on. They did not have the ball often and, when they did, it was not much better. It may even have been worse, possession an invitation for Atlético to take it from them and in even more compromising positions.

Every time Atlético pressed, Barcelona looked like prey. On the touchline Diego Siméone was conducting the crowd and his team, sensing the fear. Junior, Ivan Rakitic, Frenkie De Jong, Arthur – all of them were caught. Atlético used it well, usually looking right where the quality and quantity of the crosses delivered

by Kieran Trippier was startlingly high, even if a breakthrough remained elusive.

Quite how was another question. Mario Hermoso’s pull back deflected off Junior and bounced off the far post, squirming wide. Even more baffling was Hermoso’s volley from a similar position skidding past the same post. Félix had found him with a wonderful ball and, four yards out, his volley hit the inside of Ter Stegen’s left heel, changing course, running the length of the line and wide. Yet another lovely ball from Trippier saw Álvaro Morata powering a header goalwards a few minutes before the break. Ter Stegen’s hands moved fast to push it away.

By then, though, this had become far more even – quick, open, en-

joyable. Signs of a recovery, some football, had perhaps surprisingly started with Sergi Roberto and both Arthur Melo and De Jong began to get hold of the ball. So did Messi – and that changes everything. On 25 minutes he stole possession and slotted it across to Suárez who let it run through his legs. Dashing into the area behind him, Rakitic could not steer past Oblak. There was life in this and a lot of life in Barcelona.

Trippier then had to be alert as Barcelona broke, Suárez and Gerard Piqué running alone into the wide space of Atlético’s half. Next Antoine Griezmann did well to set up a Suárez shot that flew just wide. And four minutes before half time Piqué’s header came down off the turf and then off the bar. There

was still time for Trippier to charge down Junior’s shot. Almost 20 shots, no goals, game on.

As it turned out, it was more Barcelona now but it was far from one-way, shown when Clement Lenglet and Rakitic had to dive in on shots from Thomas and Ángel Correa. Oblak saved from Messi, then from Suárez. Messi’s best opening ended with Hermoso blocking his shot. Then he dashed from deep, through the middle, evaded two attempts to cut him down, scrambling the ball to Suárez who dinked it to Griezmann. He volleyed over. The fans enjoyed that and Atlético roared back, Lenglet forced to clear Morata’s backheel off the line. But then the moment came and Messi set off on one last, decisive run.

# Man Utd blow another lead to lose ground ahead of Mourinho’s return

**MANCHESTER, DEC 2 (AFP):** Manchester United threw away a second-half lead to remain eight points outside the Premier League’s top four with a 2-2 draw at home to Aston Villa on Sunday.

Jack Grealish put Villa in front with a superb solo effort, but United levelled before the break when Marcus Rashford’s header hit the post and came off Villa goalkeeper Tom Heaton into his own net before Victor Lindelöf then headed the hosts in front.

But a week after Ole Gunnar Solskjær’s men surrendered a late lead to draw 3-3 with Sheffield United, they did not learn their lesson as Tyrone Mings secured a deserved point for Villa.

The loss of those four points has cost United the chance to climb up to fifth in the table.

Instead they lie down in ninth and trail two points behind a revitalised Tottenham, who visit Old Trafford on Wednesday with new boss Jose Mourinho eyeing revenge against the club that sacked him 11 months ago. “I wouldn’t be sat here talking about us sitting fifth if we had got that goal extra,” said Solskjær.

“The league table at this point is not the biggest concern, it’s so tight. I just need to make sure we get performances and get three or four performances and results after each other.

“What I can say is so far we have had the lead in so many games and haven’t been able to win those games. Six or seven times we have been up and we should be better at seeing these games into wins.” First, United themselves had to come



from behind after a superb 11th-minute opener from Grealish, who has scored three league goals and made four assists this season.

Anwar El Ghazi burst down the right wing before crossing through the United area for Grealish to gather the ball on the left-hand side and take advantage of Andreas Pereira’s decision to back off by curling a precise shot into the top corner of David de Gea’s goal.

“It was a super goal but that’s what I’ve come to expect from him,” said Villa manager Dean Smith. “I thought the first 30 minutes he was running the game.

“But then he missed a chance he would have scored 99 times out of 100 and they go up the other end and score.”

That miss, just after the hour, saw Grealish slide in six yards out and shoot wide from a Trezeguet cross, although, at that stage, United had

drawn level just before half-time.

Fred and Juan Mata moved a short corner onto Pereira, whose hanging cross towards the far post was headed off the post by Rashford and the ball ricocheted in via Heaton.

It was from another corner that United took the lead. Fred swung over a cross which took an unkind deflection off the head of Douglas Luiz, moving the ball onto the far post where Lindelöf sent a powerful header flying past Heaton.

If Villa’s confidence was dented, they did not show it and took just two minutes to equalise when Matt Targett played an accurate cross onto the six-yard line where Mings was able to volley past the helpless De Gea.

United appealed for offside but VAR showed that Brandon Williams had clearly played the England defender on.

# India to take part in World Cup for over 50 year-olds

**NEW DELHI, DEC 2 (PTI):** India will play their maiden cricket World Cup for the 50-year-olds to be held in South Africa from March 10 to 24 next year.

India will begin the 50-over tournament with a clash against England on March 5 at Green Point Cricket Club.

West Indies, Namibia and Zimbabwe will also be making their debut in the tournament which will be played in Cape Town and Stellenbosch.

India is placed in Pool ‘B’ along with Pakistan, England, South Africa, Namibia and Wales, while Pool ‘A’ includes Australia, West Indies, New Zealand and Sri Lanka, among others.

Sports and brand expert Shailendra Singh will lead the Indian team and the legendary Kapil Dev wished the team luck ahead of the tournament.

“This is a beautiful moment, I want to wish him and his entire team good luck. Do well boys and we are with you all the way and enjoy the game.”

Australia had won the first ever over-50s World Cup in Sydney last year.

# Australia wins by innings and 48 runs, sweeps Pakistan 2-0



**ADELAIDE, DEC 2 (AP):** Nathan Lyon had never taken a five-wicket haul against Pakistan. The veteran off-spinner hadn’t taken a wicket in the day-night test until the fourth day.

Then they tumbled. He took two wickets in the first session Monday and three in the second before Australia finished off a victory by an innings and 48 runs under lights to complete a two-test series sweep with more than a day to spare.

The 32-year-old Lyon (5-69) now has 50 test wickets at the Adelaide Oval, where he’d worked as a curator before making the national team, his 16th five-wicket haul in tests and his first against Pakistan.

The pace trio of Mitchell Starc, Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood did most of the damage in the first test, which Australia won by an innings and five runs,

and in Pakistan’s first innings in Adelaide before the follow-on.

Pakistan resumed at 39-3 on day four and took the total to 123 before Lyon came into his own on familiar turf. Hazlewood picked up the penultimate wicket soon after the dinner break and Cummins finished off the match when he threw down the stumps at the non-striker’s end to run out Mohammad Abbas.

Opener David Warner’s triple century set Australia on course for another big win, following up from his 154 in the first test. Marnus Labuschagne also produced back-to-back centuries as the Australian batsmen dominated an inexperienced Pakistan attack.

Lyon dismissed Shaheen Afridi to complete a five-wicket haul with the last delivery before the main interval Monday as Pakistan slumped

to 229-8. Pakistan added only 10 further runs after the break.

Pakistan was 39-3 overnight after being forced to follow-on on day three, when the visitors were bowled out for 302 to surrender a 287-run first-innings lead.

Shan Masood scored 68 in a determined, 127-ball stand that ended when he advanced to Lyon and mis-judged a drive to mid-off, where Starc took a simple catch to end a 103-run fourth-wicket stand and make the score 123-4.

Asad Shafiq grafted his way to 57 from 112 balls before he was caught at leg-slip by Warner, trying to work a Lyon delivery square, as Pakistan slipped to 154-5.

Pakistan has been on the back foot since Australia won the toss and batted at Adelaide, with Warner posting an unbeaten 335 before skipper Tim Paine declared

with the total at 589-3.

The dominance continued after the first break, with Lyon taking over from the quicks as the main threat. He bowled with subtle variety and just missing edges while getting regular wickets and conceding few runs with the old ball.

The sixth-wicket pair offered some stubborn defense before Lyon had Iftikhar Ahmed (27) caught by Labuschagne at short leg.

He trapped trapped Yasir Shah (13) lbw in front with a ball that skidded and sped on for 13 and went to the dinner break midway through his 25th over when Shaheen was caught at mid-off by Hazlewood.

Pakistan will return home to host its first test series in a decade on home soil, against Sri Lanka, and Australia will take on New Zealand in a three-test series.

# Root’s epic 226 gives England 101-run lead over New Zealand

**HAMILTON (NEW ZEALAND), DEC 2 (AFP):** Joe Root’s masterful 226 to highlight a return to form gave England a much-needed boost in the second Test against New Zealand on Monday as they ended day four believing they can square the series.

It took a five-wicket haul for the tireless Neil Wagner to bring England’s first innings to an end at 476, a lead of 101.

At stumps, New Zealand were 96 for two and needing to bat late into the final day although a rain may yet have the last word with further showers forecast for Tuesday.

Openers Jeet Raval (duck) and Tom Latham (18) went early in New Zealand’s second innings, and for Raval it continued a disappointing run in which he has failed to reach double figures in six of his last 10 innings.

But after being two for 28, New Zealand’s most skilled batsmen Kane Williamson and Ross Taylor prevented further damage with Williamson on 37 at stumps and Taylor on 31.

If Raval is feeling the pressure of his slump with an away series against Australia looming, he need only look at the England captain’s timely double century to see fortunes can change.

England were two for



24 in their first innings when Root went to the middle where he controlled proceedings in a marathon stand in which he faced 441 deliveries in nearly 11 hours.

It was Root’s third double century, his longest innings in terms of time and balls faced and it ended just 28 runs short of his Test best 254 against Pakistan three years ago.

He restored his own confidence and arrested England’s slide in an initial partnership of 177 with Rory Burns for the third wicket followed by a convincing 193-run sixth-wicket stand with Ollie Pope.

On a placid wicket, Root and Pope held control over a disciplined New Zealand attack, slowly accumulating runs to ensure a first-innings lead and then picking up the pace to build the advantage as their

once faint hope of forcing a victory started to look more real. The 21-year-old Pope, in only his fourth Test, progressed to 75 before his valuable contribution ended with an edge to yet another Wagner bouncer.

Four balls later, it was all over for Root whose exquisite timing deserted him when an attempt to hit Mitchell Santner out of the ground turned into a soft catch to Henry Nicholls at deep cover.

He left the field to a deserved standing ovation but barely had time to take his seat when Wagner mopped up the England tail to finish with five for 124, his second five-wicket haul in the series.

After the sterling efforts of Root and Pope kept New Zealand at bay for more than 62 overs, the last five England wickets fell for 21 runs in the space of six overs.

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## Zero-hour on climate, but UN talks in another time zone

**MADRID, DEC 2 (AFP):** Global talks tasked with neutralising the threat of global warming get underway in Madrid Monday, but their narrow focus on rules and procedures remains out of sync with the world's climate-addled future.

Mindful of this gap, UN chief Antonio Guterres warned on Sunday that a "point-of-no-return" in the climate crisis is "in sight and hurtling towards us." Indeed, three decades after NASA scientist James Hansen made headlines by telling the US Congress global warming had begun, evidence of its dire impacts is so overwhelming that "climate denier" is synonymous with insisting the Earth is flat.

Guterres lambasted the world's major economies, describing their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions overheating the planet as "utterly inadequate".

He didn't name names, but he didn't have to.

"Some countries like China and Japan are signalling their unwillingness to increase ambition," said Laurence Tubiana, CEO of the European Climate Foundation and, as a former negotiator for France, a main architect of the Paris Agreement.

Nor have India, Russia or Brazil expressed any enthusiasm for ratcheting up carbon-cutting pledges submitted under the 2015 treaty.

Donald Trump has taken things a step further by yanking the US out of the Paris deal entirely.

But even if all the world's nations honoured their pledges, the planet would still heat up at least three degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels, a sure-fire recipe for calamity, scientists say.

Nations have agreed to cap warming -- already up by one degree Celsius -- at "well below" 2C.

Beyond the 2C threshold, "we are at risk of unleashing self-reinforced warming," Johan Rockstrom, director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, told AFP.

"This is what Earth system scientists fear most." The talks in Madrid -- the 25th "COP", or conference of the parties, in as many years -- will focus on finalising rules for global carbon markets, and setting up a fund to help countries already reeling from climate-enhanced heat-waves, droughts, floods and storms made worse by rising seas.

Poor and vulnerable nations are set to receive 100 billion annually from next year to prepare for future impacts, but no concrete provisions exist yet for "loss and damage" already incurred.

Frontline negotiators here describe COP25 as "technical talks" setting the stage for next year's meeting in Glasgow, where countries must confront the yawning gap between the Paris targets and current emissions.

# China slaps sanctions on US over Hong Kong unrest



China suspended US warship visits and sanctioned American NGOs on Monday in retaliation for the passage of a bill backing pro-democracy protesters in Hong Kong.

The financial hub has been rocked by nearly six months of increasingly violent unrest demanding greater autonomy, which Beijing has frequently blamed on foreign influence.

Last week US President Donald Trump signed the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act, which requires the president to annually review the city's favourable trade status and threatens to revoke it if the semi-autonomous territory's freedoms are quashed.

The move came as the world's two biggest economies have been striving to finalise a "phase one" deal in their protracted trade war.

"In response to the unreasonable behaviour of the US side, the Chinese government has decided to suspend reviewing the applications for US warships to go to Hong Kong for (rest and) recuper-

ation as of today," foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said at a regular press briefing.

China had already denied requests for two US Navy ships to dock in Hong Kong in August, without specifying a reason why.

"Operationally, from a mil-

itary point of view, it doesn't really make a difference for the US, as they can use many naval bases in the region," Michael Raska, a security researcher at Singapore's Nanyang Technological University, told AFP.

However, it "sends a signal that US-China tensions will

continue to deepen," Raska said. The last US navy ship to visit Hong Kong was the USS Blue Ridge in April.

J. Michael Cole, a Taipei-based senior fellow with the Global Taiwan Institute, said the move was "mostly symbolic" but yet another sign of the "tit-for-tat escala-

tion which is poisoning the bilateral relationship."

- Behaving 'badly' -

Hua said they would also apply sanctions to a number of US-based NGOs, although failed to give any specifics over the form the measures would take. Sanctions will apply to NGOs that had acted

"badly" over the recent unrest in Hong Kong, she said, including the National Endowment for Democracy, Human Rights Watch and Freedom House.

There was "already a large amount of facts and evidence that make it clear that these non-governmental organisations support anti-China" forces and "incite separatist activities for Hong Kong independence", Hua said.

She accused them of having "great responsibility for the chaotic situation in Hong Kong".

Protesters in Hong Kong are pushing for greater democratic freedoms and police accountability, but the city's pro-Beijing leadership has refused any major political concessions.

The increasingly violent rallies have hammered the retail and tourism sectors, with mainland Chinese visitors abandoning the city in droves.

The city's finance chief warned Monday that Hong Kong is set to record its first budget deficit in 15 years.

## Australia slams China's 'unacceptable' treatment of jailed writer



Australia's foreign minister on Monday said the treatment of a writer detained in China was "unacceptable", as his lawyer reported he was being shackled and subjected to daily interrogation.

Yang Hengjun, an Australian citizen, has been detained in China since January and was recently charged with spying, which could bring a lengthy prison sentence.

In an unusually frank statement, Marise Payne said she was "very concerned by reports from a recent consular visit" that claimed Yang had been isolated from the outside world and interrogated while restrained.

"This is unacceptable," she said, adding that repeated requests had been made for Yang to get "basic standards of justice, procedural fairness and humane treatment".

The consular visit revealed Yang was undergoing repetitive daily interrogations and being "shackled by the hands and feet", his lawyer Sar-

ah Condon told AFP.

Letters were also being withheld "to cut off the conduit of information from Dr Yang to the outside world, and from the outside world to Dr Yang", she said.

Condon said Yang had been in good health before his detention but had since been told that he was suffering from high blood pressure and "serious" kidney problems.

"He is being provided a number of unknown and unspecified substances, up to nine tablets daily," she added.

But China's foreign ministry denied the allegations of torture on Monday, describing

Yang's health condition as "good".

"There is no problem of so-called torture or cruelty," said Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying at a regular press briefing.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison has denied that Yang -- one of a string of foreign nationals recently arrested in China -- was a spy.

The arrests have been described by rights groups as politically motivated.

"It seems like he's being treated particularly harshly in order to effectively try and break him and push him to confess," said Human Rights Watch's Australia direc-

tor Elaine Pearson.

China's near-silence about Yang's fate has been a point of friction in relations with Australia.

He had initially been held in "residential surveillance at a designated location" before being moved to criminal detention in August.

Yang reportedly once worked in China's foreign affairs ministry in Hainan province -- although this has been denied by Beijing.

He is believed to have left mainland China for Hong Kong in 1992 and then travelled to the United States five years later, where he worked for the Atlantic Council think tank.

He later took up Australian citizenship -- although Beijing does not recognise dual nationality -- and wrote a series of spy novels and a popular Chinese-language blog.

Yang went missing in China once before in 2011, describing his disappearance as a "misunderstanding" when he resurfaced days later.

## UN chief warns of 'point of no return' on climate change

**MADRID, DEC 2 (AP):** UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Sunday that the world's efforts to stop climate change have been utterly inadequate so far and there is a danger global warming could pass the point of no return.

Speaking before the start Monday of a two-week international climate conference in Madrid, the U.N. chief said the impact of rising temperatures including more extreme weather is already being felt around the world, with dramatic consequences for humans and other species.

He noted that the world has the scientific knowledge and the technical means to limit global warming, but what is lacking is political will. The point of no return is no longer over the horizon, Guterres told reporters in the Spanish capital. It is in sight and hurtling toward us.

Delegates from almost 200 countries will try to put the finishing touches on the rules governing the 2015 Paris climate accord at the Dec. 2-13 meeting, including how to create functioning international emissions trading systems and compensate poor countries for losses they suffer from rising sea levels and other

consequences of climate change. Guterres cited mounting scientific evidence for the impact that man-made emissions of greenhouse gases are already having on the planet, including record temperatures and melting polar ice.

But he insisted that his message was one of hope, not of despair. Our war against nature must stop and we know that that is possible. Countries agreed in Paris four years ago to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit), ideally 1.5C (2.7F) by the end of the century compared with pre-industrial times.

Already, average temperatures have increased by about 1C, leaving little room for the more ambitious target to be met.

Guterres said growing demands from citizens, particularly young people, have shown there is widespread desire for climate action.

What is still lacking is political will, he said. Political will to put a price on carbon. Political will to stop subsidies on fossil fuels. Political will to stop building coal power plants from 2020 onwards. Political will to shift taxation from income to carbon. Taxing pollution instead of

people. Guterres noted that some 70 countries many of them among the most vulnerable to climate change have pledged to stop emitting more greenhouse gases by 2050. But we also see clearly that the world's largest emitters are not pulling their weight. And without them, our goal is unreachable, he said.

The U.N. chief said he hoped the meeting in Madrid would see governments make more ambitious pledges ahead of a deadline to do so next year. He also said that creating a worldwide market for emissions, which is a key element of the sixth article of the Paris accord, remained one of the most contentious issues for negotiators.

We are here to find answers for article 6, not to find excuses, Guterres said. Guterres also announced that outgoing Bank of England governor Mark Carney will become his new special envoy on climate action and climate finance from next year.

Organizers expect around 29,000 visitors, including some 50 heads of state and government for Monday's opening, as well as scientists, seasoned negotiators and activists during the two-week meeting.

## Hundreds rally in Myanmar to show support for Suu Kyi

**YANGON, DEC 2 (AP):** About 700 people rallied Sunday to show support for Myanmar's leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, as she prepares to defend the country against charges of genocide at the UN's highest court.

Members of Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party swelled the ranks in front of the colonial-era City Hall in Yangon, Myanmar's largest city, as the crowd waved national flags and listened to music and poetry.

A popular local singer told them Mother Suu is the bravest human being in the world her weapon is love.

Many carried banners saying, We stand with you, Mother Suu.

The case before the International Court of Justice in The Hague relates to a harsh counter-insurgency campaign waged by Myanmar's military against members of the country's Muslim Rohingya com-



munity in August 2017 in response to an insurgent attack.

More than 700,000 Rohingya fled to neighbouring Bangladesh to escape what has been called an ethnic cleansing campaign involving mass rapes, killings and the torching of homes.

The head of a UN fact-finding mission on Myanmar warned recently that there is a serious risk of genocide recurring.

Gambia filed the case at the ICJ, also known as the world court, on be-

half of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.

The case alleges that Myanmar's actions against the Rohingya are genocidal in character because they are intended to destroy the Rohingya group in whole or in part.

Myanmar has strongly denied the charges but says it stands ready to take action against wrong-doers if there is sufficient evidence.

A statement on the website of the Ministry of the Interior said recently that the renewed inter-

national pressure on the country was due to a lack of understanding of the complexities of the issue and the narratives of the people of Myanmar.

Suu Kyi, who was awarded the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize for championing democracy and human rights under Myanmar's then-ruling junta, will lead the delegation to The Hague in her capacity as foreign minister.

Hearings are due to start on Dec. 10. The case is expected to last several years.

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**VIDEO NEWS SECTION**  
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# Dictators today are in-charge of world: **Ryan Reynolds**

BY RADHIKA SHARMA

**SEOUL, DEC 2 (PTI):** Hollywood star Ryan Reynolds on Monday said the world today is run by dictators who can only be described as "bullies" and it is natural why his character in the upcoming film "6 Underground" decides to take matters into his hands. The actor, who plays the enterprising billionaire called "1" in the Netflix film, said his character in the high octane action drama targets one such dictator and decides to bring down his regime with the help of five other individuals.

Reynolds said his character is someone who has lost his way and is disenfranchised with geopolitical issues and life in general.

"He does something that we all at a time wish we can do. You're watching the news you're looking at the world, see how it's on fire in places, there are dictators in charge, you wouldn't dignify them with any term other than a bully. They are injuring, hurting, maiming and killing huge swathes of their own population. "So my character is a guy who basically takes this in his own hands, uses this insane amount of money that he has and decides to put it to use that makes the world a better place," Reynolds told reporters at the press conference of "6 Underground" here.

The 43-year-old actor described the Michael Bay-directed film as "muscular and beautiful".

He revealed that most of the action sequences in the film were performed by stuntpeople, and were not computer-generated imagery (CGI).

Reynolds also praised the stunt performers on the film and made a strong case for them, whom he described as

"some of the most overlooked crew people" in the industry. "I am a huge fan of the analog kind of visual effects as opposed to computer generated visual effects. I love that what you see in this movie is so much of it actually hap-

pened. "They are stunts that are being performed by incredibly talented stunt people, some of the most overlooked crew people in this entire industry. The feats that they pull off are some of the most remarkable things that the audiences are ever going to see."

Reynolds, who was his usual witty self, said though he loves doing action, the hand-to-hand combat or falling on cement after he turned 40 wasn't "hilarious anymore".

"The hardest was the fighting - the hand-to-hand combat. After I turned 40, falling on cement isn't hilarious anymore... Mostly love action. I love performing it and learning from it. I love most of it, I wouldn't say it was challenging, it's exciting." The actor said the fact

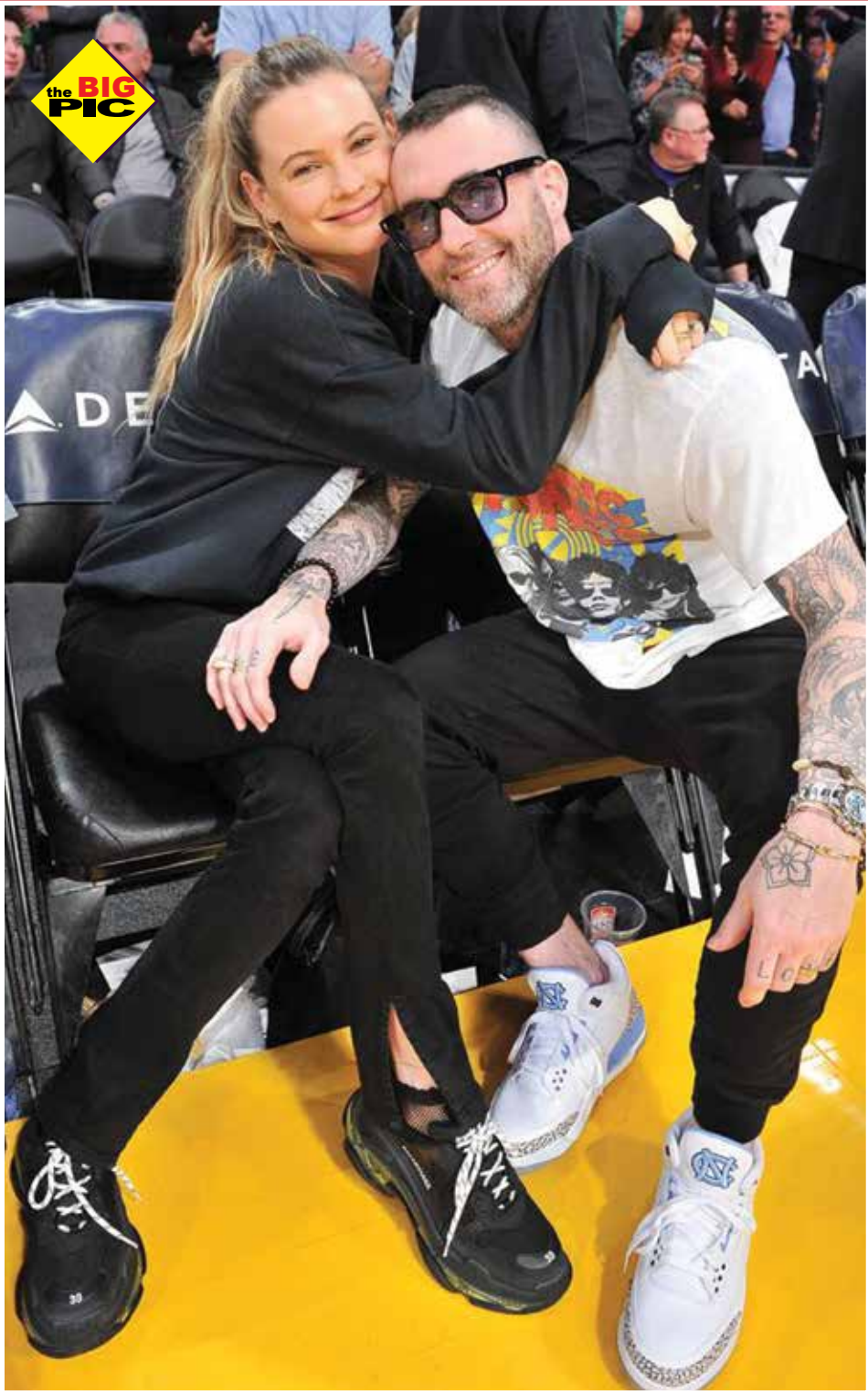
fact that they are bringing this to Netflix is a real sign of the time that how things are changing. This is a movie that is so big, muscular, such an event that I felt like a student again."

Reynolds, who last visited Seoul to promote "Deadpool 2" in 2018, said the Korean audience will love the film.

"6 Underground" is a true blue Michael Bay actioner with cars and yachts blowing in the air in picturesque locales in Italy to Hong Kong, on land, water and in air.

Also present at the event were director Bay, actors Adria Arjona, Melanie Laurent and producer Ian Pryce.

The film will start streaming on Netflix on December 13. It also stars Manuel Garcia-Rulfo, Corey Hawkins, Ben Hardy, and Dave Franco.



**XOXO!** The happily married couple, Adam Levine & Behati Prinsloo is spotted having fun and taking off parenting duties to attend a basketball game between the Los Angeles Lakers and the Dallas Mavericks.

## Dakota Johnson's Extremely Awkward Interview With Ellen Might Be Due To George W. Bush

Days before the Thanksgiving holiday weekend began, actress Dakota Johnson appeared on comedian Ellen DeGeneres's daytime talk show to discuss, among other things, the host's absence at her guest's birthday party in October. Apparently, Johnson had not invited the comedian to attend her 30th birthday bash, but 50 Shades of Grey star was quick to point out that DeGeneres's assertion was, in fact, "not true." What's more, according to Out and a handful of Twitter users who did the necessary addition, the comic may have missed the party because of George W. Bush.

"You were invited," Johnson said when DeGeneres playfully accused her of not inviting her. "Last time I was on the show, last year, you gave me a bunch of shit about not inviting you. But I didn't even know you wanted to be invited... I didn't even know you liked me... But I did invite you but you didn't come."

This particular portion of the interview, as well as the entire interview itself, never strayed too far from the cringe-inducing awkwardness. However, as Out and many Twitter users were quick to notice, DeGeneres and her team recalled precisely why she wasn't able

to attend Johnson's birthday party mid-conversation. "I was invited [but] why didn't I go?" the host asked herself before someone off-camera said something that made her remember. "Oh yeah, I had that thing."

Whatever the specific "thing" is is never mentioned explicitly during the interview



segment, but that didn't stop people from discovering that Johnson's birthday party in Malibu was on Saturday, October 5 and DeGeneres was in Texas on Sunday, October 6 at the Dallas Cowboys-Green Bay Packers game with former President George W. Bush.

Oh yeah... "that thing." Needless to say, folks were as shocked by the possible Bush connection as they were entertained by the awkward interview itself.

## Feel guilty for not understanding Shaheen much: **Alia on sister's** battle with depression

**MUMBAI, DEC 2 (PTI):** Alia Bhatt on Sunday said she felt guilty for being a "terrible sister" for not understanding Shaheen as much as she should have during the latter's battle with depression. The actor said she got more clarity on her sister's mental state after reading her book "I've Never Been (un)Happier". Alia, who accompanied Shaheen at a session on mental health, had multiple breakdowns while talking about what her sister went through.

"I am suddenly feeling very nervous. I am very nervous that I am going to start crying any minute because once we start talking about my sister and her...", Alia said, choking.

The actor broke down and was consoled by her sister.

"I feel extremely proud, heartbroken and overjoyed at the same time. Even though I've lived with my sister my whole life, 26 years, I only understood what she was going through after reading her book.

"That makes me feel, on so many levels, so terrible as a sister. I feel like I didn't put myself out there enough to understand her, to think about what she was going through," Alia said. The actor was speaking at 'We The Women' curated by Barkha Dutt. Alia said on a subliminal level, everyone understood that there are certain situations which are different for Shaheen, but her book made her understand what she was going through.

"What makes me really emotional," Alia broke down again, and added, "I always believed that she is the most brilliant

person in the family but somehow she never believed it herself. That always broke my heart.

"Not just me, everyone feels like this for her, that when Shaheen walks into a room, it's like a star is there because genuinely she with her mind, emotional quotient, the way she makes you feel, it's of another extreme."

When asked if she feels guilty for not being sensitive, Alia said, "I was sensitive but I do feel guilty for not understanding her as much as I should have. I do understand much better now."

Shaheen, however, said understanding what depression means can be a task for people.

"It is impossible to know the intricacies of it (depression) unless you've gone through it... What she's reacting to is that. Maybe she didn't understand the intricacies. I don't think she has anything to be guilty for, at all."

"...It has been 20 years now, for me depression is chronic, it's even now. Talking about having times when I don't want to live, it happened to me a couple of months ago. I hadn't felt that in a really long time. It had been a really long time since those thoughts and feelings came back. I attempted suicide when I was 17-18 as well," she added.

Alia said when a person whom one loves with all their heart goes through depression, it's impossible to not get emotional. "The reason I didn't want to cry was because it'll become 'Alia sheds a tear.' But it isn't about that. I don't want it to become the focus but I'm sorry I just can't help but cry. I love her so much, with all the muscle and cell in my body."



**ARIES:** "Imagine the wheel of time turning in a seemingly endless round, revealing that the beginning is the end of another beginning." These words by Phil Cousineau perfectly describe where you are in your journey to greatness. You have just completed a significant project and are enjoying the rewards of your hard work.

Tip: This ending is making way for a new beginning.

**TAURUS:** You may find yourselves celebrating a level up today. This could come to you in the form of a promotion or a brand new job. Either way, it is symbolic of the hard work you have put in. For some, this could be a time of moving into a shiny, new cabin.

Tip: A new level has been unlocked.

**GEMINI:** The sun has the potential to blind too, Gemini. You chose to go with something that glittered, and are

now facing the disappointment that comes with finding out that the object in question is not gold. At the same time, you could be feeling unsupported by the people around you.

Tip: Bridge the communication gap.

**CANCER:** Today finds you living your sacred purpose, vibrating at the frequency of abundance, inspiring those around you, and spreading them good vibes like confetti—while looking like the most radiant version of yourself, of course! The mysterious smile on your face reveals joy that comes from doing the things that once daunted you.

Tip: You are deliberately creating your destiny.

**LEO:** Have you ever watched the leaves in autumn? The manner in which they descend towards Mother Earth? There is no sense of compe-

tition in this action. They never fight the others to get to the ground first. Instead, they take their own sweet time, swaying and sashaying on their way to the destination.

Tip: Welcome peace and harmony into your experience.

**VIRGO:** Master Bruce Lee's words to help you through the turbulence: "Patience is not passive; on the contrary, it is concentrated strength." Stay centred with the inner knowing that everything is unfolding in divine order. When it comes to your professional life, choose your head over your heart.

Tip: More head, less heart.

**LIBRA:** When you know, you know, Libra. Perks of being in touch with your intuition: trusting the signs that are asking you to leap forward. The world may or may not be on board with your decision, but it doesn't have

to be either. You know exactly what you are doing here.

Tip: Take that leap of faith.

**SCORPIO:** The lion does not concern himself with the opinions of the lamb. You are already the leader of the pack, Scorpio. Don't let the demon of self-doubt get in the way of success. Does that mean you are going to be at odds with those around?

Tip: Be assertive, not aggressive.

**SAGITTARIUS:** A Wayne Dyer quote to help you stay woke: "A higher concept of yourself involves taking on new truths and shedding old views of what you can achieve. This is the only way you can achieve your desires."

Tip: This is a time of coming into your own.

**CAPRICORN:** You are on the brink of a breakthrough, Capricorn. At any point of time, there are two viable options: to work with the tried-and-test-

ed or leap into the unknown.

Tip: Follow the signs that are taking you towards the new.

**AQUARIUS:** It's okay to be a hot mess, Aquarius. Social media is full of lies, and so are the posts that give you the impression that there are people out there who have their stuff together all the time. If and when you find yourself in a tough spot, reach out for help.

Tip: It's okay to seek help.

**PISCES:** Each action has a consequence, Pisces. Keep that in mind as you examine the pathways that are opening for you. Choosing the simpler one will make your life easier, but it will also take you a few steps back on the evolution ladder. Challenge yourself a little. Focus on long-term returns rather than short-term gains.

Tip: Make choices in alignment with your higher goals.