



**WILL NOW WORK FOR UNEMPLOYED YOUTH: DZONGU MLA**  
pg02

**How anti-Semitic stereotypes from a century ago echo today**  
pg04

**ROTARY CLUB INSTALLS SANITARY NAPKIN VENDING MACHINE IN RHENOCK COLLEGE**  
pg03



# SummitTIMES

Vol 03 | Issue 291 | Gangtok | Friday | 16 November 2018

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

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5



## THANDA THANDA PANI!

The mercury has been steadily dipping in the past few days with today feeling especially cold. While the higher reaches of East Sikkim reported Snowfall at Tsomgo and beyond, the drizzle also forced Gangtokians to pull out their umbrellas. According to the Met Department, today recorded maximum temperatures of 13.8 degree Celsius while the minimum was 9.5 degree Celsius in Gangtok.

### Saudi admits Khashoggi dismembered in consulate

**RIYADH, Nov 15 (AFP):** Five Saudi officials face the death penalty over the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, who was drugged and dismembered inside the kingdom's Istanbul consulate, Riyadh's public prosecutor said Thursday.

Khashoggi, a Washington Post columnist and then dismembered, a spokesman for the public prosecutor's office said in the first Saudi acknowledgement of the manner of his killing. The journalist's body parts were then handed over to an agent outside the consulate grounds, the spokesman said.

### Elderly woman killed in monkey attack in Agra, second death in two days

**AGRA, Nov 15 (PTI):** A 58-year-old woman died after being attacked by simians when she had gone out of her house to relieve herself at Thok Mohalla here, two days after an infant was killed by a monkey in the city.

Bhoomi Devi was attacked Wednesday evening and was found with severe injuries. She was taken to a hospital where she died during treatment, police said.

On Monday, a 12-day-old baby died after a monkey snatched him from his mother and left him bruised and bitten on the terrace of a neighbour's house in Kachhera Mohalla here.

Devi's family members said, "She had lost so much blood that doctors could do nothing to save her."

turn to pg02

## State Level competition Kala Utsav 2018



**GANGTOK, 15 NOV (IPR):** The State Level competition Kala Utsav 2018 was held at the mini Auditorium of Manan Kendra, with much exuberance and enthusiasm, today.

Organised by the Human Resource Development Department, under the aegis of Samagra Shiksha, the state level competition was screened by eminent artists such as Bimla Pradhan, Suman Karki, Lhakpa Lepcha and Raju Sharma as the notable

jury members.

Attended by G.K. Niroula (Chhetry) Vice Chancellor Sikkim State University as the chief guest, the event also had the presence of Directors, District Joint Directors and other officials and staff of the Samagra Shiksha, HRDD.

The chief guest during his address appreciated the efforts of the participating students and accompanying teachers in bringing together art forms and cultural pro-

grammes. Emphasizing the importance of art and culture in a student's life, he urged the students to overcome all challenges and shine with their performances at the national level.

Kabita Moktan, Dy. Director (SS) highlighted a brief overview and objective on Kala Utsav. While addressing the function she focused on the rules and regulations of Kala Utsav competition for the participating students. Student's par-

ticipation is a great contribution for the State, she added. She also highlighted the selection process in the National Level Competition.

Suraj Subba of Kalzang Gyatso Sen Sec School, Kabi North and Rinchen Palkit Bhutia of Namthang Sen Sec School bagged the first position in painting competition.

Aditya Subba of Singtam Sen Sec School and Nisha Rai of Telling Sen

turn to pg02

## Korean Smart Parking proposal to help solve Sikkim's parking woes

**GANGTOK, 15 NOV (IPR):** A team from the DMIC Engineering and Manufacturing Co. Ltd, Republic of Korea represented by Setiawan Cho, Don I.B. Jang and Hemant Swarop from The Trade Office, Embassy of Republic of Korea, Gurgaon called on the Chief Minister, Pawan Chamling at his official residence at Mintokgang today.

PHE Secretary, Sonam Dadul Bhutia in brief explained about the problem of traffic management and scarcity of parking areas in the state. He then briefed about the proposed plan of Smart Parking and stated that representatives from DMIC, Korea with their expertise and technological proficiency have put forward the proposal for development, manufacturing, installation and maintenance of mechanical car parking system at places opted by the state government.

Smart Parking is the solution which deals with the complexities of lack of parking facilities, he said. The team from the DMIC Engineering and Manufacturing Co. Ltd, Republic of Korea



then showed a presentation on Smart Parking and explained how it minimises the use of space and maximises the area for parking vehicles.

The Chief Minister directed the Heads of concerned Departments to start work for the pilot project and see the feasibility of the same.

Talking about the brand Organic Sikkim, the team from Korea proposed their interest in the Organic produce of Sikkim. They stated that the

Organic produce would have a great market in Korea and they were willing to buy the produce under the brand name of Sikkim and sell it in their country.

The Chief Minister asked for their expertise and intellectual inputs in this regard and stated that if it helped the farmers of Sikkim and build the brand name of Organic Sikkim with processing units set up in the state, this proposal could also be considered.

turn to pg02

## Bangladesh calls off "rushed" repatriation plan of Rohingyas to Myanmar

**ANISUR RAHMAN**

**DHAKA, Nov 15 (PTI):** Bangladesh on Thursday called-off its plan to repatriate hundreds of Rohingya refugees in the country after they refused to return to Myanmar where the minority Muslim community feared for their lives.

More than 700,000 Rohingya refugees fled Myanmar's Rakhine state since August last year after a brutal military crackdown was launched, dubbed by the UN as a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing" and "genocide" by inter-

national rights watchdogs, sparking a global uproar.

On Thursday, Bangladesh began preparations to repatriate an initial batch of 2,000 Rohingya Muslims from 485 families to Myanmar, in line with a plan agreed with Myanmar in October.

However, several thousand Rohingya instead staged protests declining to go back to Myanmar as four trucks and three buses have been stationed at Unchirang camp in Cox's Bazar, ready to carry refugees who have been

"approved" to a transit camp by the border but not one refugee has been willing to board them, officials said.

"Nobody is willing to return to Myanmar, Rohingya repatriation will be called-off for the day if nobody volunteers by 4pm on Thursday," Bangladesh's Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commission's (RRRC) chief, Md Abul Kalam was quoted as saying by the Dhaka Tribune.

"The buses were ready and we readied three days of rations for

turn to pg02

## Blanket ban on use of term 'Dalit' by media not advisable: PCI

New Delhi, Nov 15 (PTI): The Press Council of India has decided against issuing a directive to the media prohibiting the use of the word "Dalit", saying a blanket ban was neither advisable nor feasible.

In August, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had issued an advisory to all private satellite TV channels, urging them to refrain from using the nomenclature 'Dalit' for people belonging to Scheduled Castes in compliance with a Bombay High Court directive.

The Press Council of India (PCI), in its decision, that was made earlier but ratified during

a meeting on Thursday, said it had an in-depth deliberation on the order of the Bombay High Court's Nagpur bench.

"It (the Council) opined that it is advisable not to issue direction/orders prohibiting the use of the word 'Dalit' in all circumstances," the order said.

PCI chairperson C K Prasad, while replying to a question on the issue of the use of the term 'Dalit' during a media interaction, noted that the Bombay High Court directed the I&B ministry to consider issuing such a directive.

"The order of the Bombay High Court was

turn to pg02

## Sabarimala all-party meet fails, Govt firm on implementing SC verdict

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, Nov 15 (PTI):** Consensus eluded a crucial all-party meeting called Thursday to resolve the stand-off over permitting women of menstrual age into the Sabarimala shrine with the Kerala government firm on implementing the Supreme Court order and the Opposition walking out in protest.

After the nearly three-hour long meeting, dubbed as a 'farce' by the Opposition, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said his government was duty bound to enforce the court's September 28 verdict allowing women of all ages to pray at the hill temple of Lord Ayyappa as it had not been stayed.

The meeting was convened by him in the backdrop of state-wide protests by devotees after the Supreme Court ended an age-old ban on entry of women in the 10-50 age group.

"The government has no other

option as Supreme Court has made it clear that the September 28 verdict has not been stayed, which means women in the 10-50 age group have the right to visit the Sabarimala temple," Vijayan told reporters.

Opposition Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) and the BJP staged a walkout at the meeting, convened two days ahead of the temple's opening on November 17 for the two-month long pilgrim season when lakhs of devotees are expected to throng the shrine.

Leader of the Opposition in the state assembly Ramesh Chennithala accused the government of being adamant, while BJP state President P S Sreedharan Pillai said the meeting was a 'waste of time'.

Meanwhile, the erstwhile Pandalam Royal family, associated with the temple, told Vijayan

that there was no change in its stand with regard to rituals and traditions of the shrine and it was against entry of young women.

The views were conveyed during talks held separately by the chief minister with the family member Sasikumar Varma and Tantri (head priest) Kandararu Rajeevaru on the issue.

"We are against the entry of young women. There is no change in the stand", Verma told reporters adding Vijayan informed them about the limitations of the government vis-a-vis the court order.

Kandararu Rajeevaru said "we can only appeal to young women not to come to Sabarimala".

At the all-party meet, Vijayan rejected the demand that the government seek time from the court to implement its order since a bunch of review petitions are expected to come

up for hearing before the apex court on January 22.

The government cannot say that belief was above the Constitution, he said.

It put forward certain suggestions, including setting apart certain days for young women to offer prayers, instead of all days, Vijayan said, adding these had to be discussed with all stakeholders.

He said the CPI(M)-led LDF government was not adamant but was duty-bound to implement the court verdict.

Chennithala said the government was "adamant" in its stand and it refused to accept the Opposition's suggestions.

"We decided to walk out of the meeting after the Chief Minister's reply. The meeting was a farce, government was not ready for any compromise", he told reporters.

turn to pg02



## Prohibitory orders clamped in three Guwahati police districts

**GUWAHATI, NOV 15 (PTI):** Prohibitory orders under section 144 of CrPC have been imposed in the three police districts of Guwahati city with immediate effect on Thursday, ahead of Friday's Assam secretariat gherao programme of KMSS and AJYCP against the Citizen (Amendment) Bill, 2016.

The order clamped in the East, West and Central police districts will remain in force till further notice, police said.

The 'Janata Bhanwan Gherao' at the secretariat on Friday by Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti(KMSS), a peasant organisation, and Assam Jatiyatabadi Yuba Chhakra Parishad (AJYCP), a student organisation, is expected to see participation from 68 other organisations from other parts of the state, protest organisers said.

Protesters travelling from Sadia, Dhubri and Diphu to participate in the agitation were detained at Tamulpur, which is about 80 km from here, and Sipajhar, which is about 60 km from here, police said.

The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016

was introduced in the Lok Sabha to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955.

The bill seeks to grant citizenship to people belonging to minority communities such as Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan after six years of residence in India, instead of a wait of 12 years, even if they do not possess any proper document.

The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on July 15, 2016 and a joint committee of both Houses of Parliament, which is examining it, had been asked to submit its report in the coming winter session of Parliament, which is likely to be the last session of the 16th Lok Sabha.

Large sections of people, organisations in the northeast and leading political party AGP,

which is an ally of the ruling BJP, are opposed to the bill saying it will nullify the provisions of the Assam Accord of 1985, which fixed March 24, 1971 as the cut-off date for deportation of illegal immigrants irrespective of religion.

### Korean Smart Parking...

Principal Secretary Finance, Revenue & Expenditure Department-cum-Development Commissioner V.B.Pathak asked the team to submit the specifications and requirements at the earliest.

The meeting also had the presence of Mayor, Shakti Singh Choudhary, Secretary Agriculture Department and Organic Mission, Khorlo Bhutia, Secretary UDHD, Ganga Pradhan, CEO Smart City Gangtok, Tshewang Gyaccho.

### Elderly woman killed...

Following the elderly woman's death, locals took out marches and held a meeting Wednesday night, demanding monkeys be excluded from the list of protected species under the Wild Life Act of 1972.

Currently, there are over 25,000 monkeys in the city, according to municipal corporation officials.

During the meeting, which was attended by environmentalists and social activists, Satyamev Jayate, trustee, Mukesh Jain, said, "For over a decade we have been demanding permission to transfer monkeys to forested areas and also setting up of a facility to sterilise monkeys, but so far we have failed to get permission from government agencies."

Social activist Shruvan Kumar Singh said, "Each day the number of (incidents of) monkey bites is going up and citizens are dead scared to move out freely, roam on terraces."

"Monkey attacks have become so frequent that women and children are reluctant to move around freely," he said. They also passed a resolution at the meeting, demanding adequate compensation to victims of monkey attacks. "It is the duty of the government to protect its citizens. If it cannot do that then compensation should be paid to the victim or his family," according to the resolution.

### Blanket ban on use...

forwarded to us. The Council discussed that and has taken a decision that to prohibit the use of the word 'Dalit' in all circumstances will not be advisable. Maybe in a given case the use of the term 'Dalit' may be necessary, and therefore we have said absolute prohibition is not feasible, it is not advisable," he said.

The court directive in June had come on a petition filed before the Nagpur bench of the high court.

In its advisory, the I&B advisory also cited a Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment circular of March 15, advising the central and state governments to use the term 'Scheduled Caste'.

The use of the term 'Dalit' has to be judged on a case by case basis, Prasad said. "We cannot have general guidelines that in no circumstances, the expression 'Dalit' can be used," he added.

During the interaction on the eve of National Press Day, the PCI chief also talked about the paid news phenomenon and asserted that the council takes complaints related to it seriously.

However, he said, the benefit of the doubt always goes to the media.

On a question about fake and paid news gaining ground with elections approaching, Prasad said the Election Commission of India has written to them and has formed a committee in which PCI members have been included.

On National Press Day Friday, veteran journalist and Hindu publishing group chairman N Ram will be presented with the prestigious Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award for his outstanding contribution towards journalism. Awards in other categories will also be presented.

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley will inaugurate the celebrations in New Delhi on Friday.

Delegates from neighbouring Press Councils of SAARC countries -- Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives will be present on the occasion.

# Will now work for unemployed youth: Dzongu MLA

**WANGCHUK BHUTIA  
DZONGU, 15 NOV:**

The Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) government under the leadership of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling has brought about all kinds of development in Dzongu and people should recognize that, said Deputy Speaker SLA cum MLA Dzongu, Sonam Gyatso Lepcha while addressing the public of Lingthem-Lingdem GPU of Upper Dzongu in North Sikkim on 14 Nov.

The Deputy Speaker also paid tribute to the portrait of Pandit Jawa-

harlal Nehru on the occasion of Children's Day.

Highlighting the issue of literacy, the Deputy Speaker said that the government has provided 20 % of the budget to the education sector and urged people to help create quality human resource. He also stated that Dzongu has been excelling in Chief Minister's meritorious scholarship scheme for which he had given credit to the teachers of Dzongu.

The Deputy Speaker further appealed to all the people not to get



misled by some people with vested interests who are playing politics of dividend. While

highlighting the series of infrastructure development sanctioned by the government, he said that

Lingthem will become a leading tourism destination. He also highlighted about the different de-

velopment projects to be undertaken in Upper Dzongu like Kayam Bridge, Sakyong-Pentong bridge, etc which will be a boon for tourism.

"Now I will work for the unemployed youth of Dzongu and I will establish one institution in Dzongu about organic farming. I have always worked for the welfare of Dzongu," he stated.

Earlier, delivering the welcome speech, the zilla member, Nimkit Lepcha underlined the development of the area and urged everyone to be united and support SDF.

## Lower Tanak school celebrates Children's Day

**YOGEN THATAL  
SINTGAM, 15 NOV:**

Government Primary School Lower Tanak, South Sikkim, celebrated Children's Day today. On the occa-

sion, cultural program was presented by the children along with quiz competition conducted by CK Chettri and RK Chettri.

Addressing the function, headmaster Mahesh

Dahal said, "School is like a home where students and teachers are family members. It is a family with distinct character where every day is an opportunity to learn something and

to contribute something. It is our responsibility towards all children to make them capable because they are the future and backbone of the society, and of course the nation."

## China coercing India, Japan to exert its "illegitimate" influence : US report

**LALIT K JHA  
WASHINGTON, Nov 15 (PTI):**

The security and wellbeing of the US are at a greater risk than at any time in decades, a report has said, acknowledging that China presents a "daunting" challenge to US' supremacy as Beijing coerces American allies like India and Japan to exert its "illegitimate" influence. A congressional-mandated panel tasked with examining and making recommendations with respect to the National Defense Strategy Commission (NDSC) said the rivals and adversaries are challenging the US on many fronts and in many domains.

Observing that America's ability to defend its allies, its partners, and its own vital interests is increasingly in doubt, the report said that if the US does not act promptly to remedy these circumstances, the consequences will be grave and lasting. "The security and wellbeing of the United States are at greater risk than at any time in decades. America's military superiority the hard-power backbone of its global influence and national security has eroded to a dangerous degree," the NDSC said.

Established by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017, the Commission on the National Defense Strategy for the US is a panel of bipartisan national security experts appointed by Congress to make recommendations for the nation's defence strategy at the outset of an administration.

The 12-member Commission, tasked with reviewing the current national defense strategy of the United States, including the assumptions, missions, force posture, force structure, and risks associated with the strategy, concluded that powerful authoritarian rivals China and Russia see the US leadership as a barrier to their ambitions.

"These countries seek to overturn existing regional balances of power and re-create spheres of influence in which they can dominate their neighbours' economic, diplomatic and security

choices. They are also seeking to project power and exert influence beyond their peripheries," it said.

"The challenge China presents is particularly daunting," the report said. It is natural for China to exert greater influence as its power grows, and the rise of China would present challenges for America and the world even if Beijing pursued its interests through entirely legitimate means, it said.

"Unfortunately, China is increasingly exerting influence in illegitimate and destabilising ways. China is using military, paramilitary, and diplomatic measures to coerce US allies and partners from Japan to India; contest international law and freedom of navigation in crucial waterways such as the South China Sea; undermine the US position in East and Southeast Asia; and otherwise seek a position of geopolitical dominance," the report said.

It alleged that China was using predatory economic statecraft to weaken its rivals, including the US, and give it decisive strategic leverage over its neighbours.

Meanwhile, China is reaping the fruits of a multi-decade military buildup. Beijing has invested in systems designed to counter American power-projection and thereby prevent the US from protecting its allies, partners, and economic interests.

"China is also modernising its nuclear forces, developing sophisticated power-projection capabilities, and undertaking the most thoroughgoing military reforms since the founding of the People's Republic," the report said.

"China already presents a severe test of US interests in the Indo-Pacific and beyond and is on a path to become, by mid-century, a military challenger the likes of which America has not encountered since the Cold War-era Soviet Union," reported the NDSC. Russia, too, is pursuing regional hegemony and global influence in destabilising ways, the report said.

## MI retains 18 players; releases Duminy, Cummins, Rahman

Mumbai, Nov 15 (PTI): Mumbai Indians have retained 18 players including their skipper Rohit Sharma but released some top international stars like JP Duminy and fast bowling duo of Pat Cummins and Bangladesh's Mustafizur Rahman ahead of the 2019 Indian Premier League players' auction.

The franchise has also released 10 players which include one capped, five uncapped and four international cricketers. All-rounder Hardik Pandya, Krunal Pandya, Jasprit Bumrah, Mayank Markande, Aditya Tare, Ishan Kisan, Rahul Chahar, Anukul Roy and Suryakumar Yadav have been retained by the three-time champions.

To maintain the mix of experience and youth, the franchise has also retained Kieron Pollard, Ben Cutting, destructive opener Evin Lewis and Kiwi pair of Mitchell McClenaghan and Adam Milne.

The management has also backed Australia's T20 specialist Jason Behrendorff after the left-arm quick was recalled to the national side to face the Proteas. Rohit -- the most

successful captain in IPL -- will continue to lead the team next season.

South Africa's Duminy has been released along with Australian fast-bowler Cummins, who was ruled out before the start of IPL 2018. Rahman and Sri Lankan spinner Akila Dananjaya have also been let off by the franchise.

Besides, Mumbai Indians have also released domestic players like Saurabh Tiwary, Pradeep Sangwan, Sharad Lumba, Tajinder Singh Dhillon, Mohsin Khan and Kerala's MD Nidheesh.

Retained players: Rohit Sharma (Captain), Hardik Pandya, Jasprit Bumrah, Krunal Pandya, Ishan Kishan (WK), Suryakumar Yadav, Mayank Markande, Rahul Chahar, Anukul Roy, Siddhesh Lad, Aditya Tare, Quinton de Kock, Kieron Pollard, Ben Cutting, Mitchell McClenaghan, Adam Milne, Jason Behrendorff.

Released players: Saurabh Tiwary, Pradeep Sangwan, Mohsin Khan, MD Nidheesh, Sharad Lumba, Tajinder Singh Dhillon, JP Duminy, Pat Cummins, Mustafizur Rahman, Akila Dananjaya.

### Sabarimala all-party...

UDF was with the believers and wanted peace and harmony in Sabarimala, while the government's aim was to "destroy" the pilgrimage, where lakhs of people from all over the world visit annually, he alleged.

"This is a declaration of war" on the believers by the government. The Chief minister and the government would be responsible for any violence or untoward incident in Sabarimala, he added. BJP leader Pillai alleged Vijayan had come with a script prepared at the AKG Centre, the CPI-M's state headquarters, and that attempts were on to convert Kerala into "Stalin's Russia".

"We will oppose the government's decision in a democratic manner", he said, adding an all-party meeting was called to elicit views of everybody and reach a solution, but the government snubbed the suggestions. The "new found love" of the LDF government towards the Supreme Court verdict on Sabarimala showed its "malicious intention to impose atheism in society", Pillai, a practising lawyer in the Kerala High Court, alleged. Varma said the talks were held in a 'cordial' atmosphere and the chief minister put forward certain suggestions.

These have to be discussed with other members of their respective families, Varma and the head priest said. "We will examine it, hold discussions and take a decision", Varma added.

The state had witnessed a string of protests by Congress, the BJP, RSS and right wing outfits against the LDF government's decision to implement the apex court verdict. Frenzied devotees had prevented at least a dozen women in 10-50 age group from entering the temple when it opened for five days last month and two days this month for monthly and special puja amid high drama.

Social activist Trupti Desai has said she along with six other young women would offer prayers at the shrine on Nov 17 and sought protection from the state government. The outfits opposing the court order have said they would resist through "Gandhian means" any attempt by young women to enter the temple.

### State Level competition...

Sec School bagged the 1st position in Solo Dance Competition.

Bir Man Tamang of Namchi Sen Sec School, South and Barsha Thapa of Namchi Govt. Sen Sec School, South bagged the 1st position in Instrumental Music Competition.

Baichung Bhutia of Hee Gyathang Sen Sec School, North and Babita Thapa of Singtam Sen Sec School, East bagged the 1st position in Vocal Music Category.

These eight best solo performances in each domain of arts selected out of State Level Competition will represent the State for National Level Competition slated to be held at New Delhi in December 2018.

The winners and participants were handed over the certificates.

Kala Utsav is an initiative of the Ministry Of Human Resource Department (MHRD) Government of India to highlight and promote arts in educational practices by fostering and showcasing the artistic talents of school students in the Country. Kala Utsav was started in 2015 and is now being regularly organized every year as a celebration of art forms in the school system.

The event gives students the opportunity to understand and celebrate cultural diversity at School, Districts, State and National levels. The Ministry has from this year initiated the concept of pairing of states to promote national integration and create awareness about the culture and traditions.

Vote of Thanks was delivered by K.Inbaraj, SE/SS, HRDD.

### Bangladesh calls off...

those who were set to return, in the first batch but none boarded on the buses," an official of the relief commissioner's office at the scene said.

The Rohingya staged protest marches demanding realisation of a five-point demand as the precondition that included deployment of UN peacekeeping forces in the Rakhine State to ensure their safety and giving them the full citizenship status in Myanmar. "We want our security and dignity, we don't believe them (Myanmar authorities)," a Rohingya protesters told a private TV channel. Kalam earlier said none of the 50 families spoken to so far "expressed their willingness to go back under the present circumstances" and "We cannot force them to go back against their will."

"We are waiting, we will start the repatriation if someone agrees to go back by 4pm," Kalam said.

Bangladesh officials on Thursday held several rounds of meetings with the Rohingya in their effort to motivate them to return home but said they were at liberty to decide on their return. The authorities in Dhaka, however, are yet to make any announcement on the situation. The UN rights body chief Michelle Bachelet on Tuesday urged Bangladesh to halt the repatriation plans fearing that sending them back would put their lives at "serious risk".

The date for the beginning the repatriation was set on October 30 in line with Myanmar officials talks with Bangladesh while they visited the cramped Rohingya camps in the country's southeastern Cox's Bazar visibly in their effort to start a process as Naypyidaw agreed to begin their repatriation by November.

Bangladeshi officials said they so far provided Myanmar a list of 24,000 Rohingyas in two phases, while Myanmar said they verified 5,000 of them while media reports quoting Naypyidaw sources suggested they could return initially 2,000.

Myanmar earlier announced a large-scale repatriation plan in November 2017 but Dhaka alleged the country took little steps to keep their promise.

Myanmar, however, is still refusing to acknowledge any wrongdoing in its treatment of the Rohingyas.

The UN investigators said Myanmar's top military officials should be prosecuted for genocide but the country has rejected the calls, insisting it was defending itself against armed fighters. The UN has called on both governments to halt the "rushed" repatriation plans but the pleas appear to have fallen on deaf ears. Bangladesh, however, tried to quell the panic by instructing NGOs it maintained its commitment to voluntary returns and that all NGOs should continue their work as usual. US Vice President Mike Pence told Aung San Suu Kyi on Wednesday that the violence against the Rohingya was "without excuse", adding pressure on Myanmar's civilian leader.

Bangladesh, which had been extending refuge to another 300,000 Rohingyas ahead of the fresh exodus since last year, demanded greater UN and global pressure on Myanmar for their safe and dignified return. Rohingyas who took refuge in Bangladesh said their movement was restricted in their homeland ahead of the cleansing campaign while "fear and mistrust" had exposed them to hardship and economic vulnerability.



## Modernites celebrate Children's Day



### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 15 NOV:**

On the occasion of Children's Day yesterday, Modernites attended Children's Day celebration at Modern Senior Secondary

School where the teachers and ex-students put up a cultural presentation for the students.

Ms Chung Chung Bhutia gave a brief talk on the significance of celebrating Children's

Day and advised students to give their best in every field of life and strive to become good human beings and serve society.

The programme was also addressed by gen-

eral secretary of Modernite, the alumni association of the school, Prakash Sundas, who thanked the Modern School family for inviting ex-students to participate in the function.

## NCW seeks I&B ministry's intervention in sexual harassment complaints at AIR

**NEW DELHI, NOV 15 (PTI):** National Commission for Women Chairperson Rekha Sharma on Thursday wrote to the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, seeking its intervention into recent complaints of sexual harassment at the All India Radio (AIR).

The women's rights body also asked the ministry to submit a status report in one week.

The letter said several cases of alleged mishandling of sexual harassment complaints have been reported from different AIR stations in the wake of the recent #MeToo movement.

As part of this movement, scores of women have spoken out about sexual harassment at workplace.

Sharma said the commission has received a complaint from the "All India Radio Casual Announcer and Comperes Union alleging sexual harassment at workplace of casual announcers and comperes working in different stations of AIR throughout the country".

In the letter addressed to I&B secretary Amit Khare, Sharma asked for his "personal intervention" in the matter.

"I am bringing (this) to your notice for your personal intervention in the matter and to keep the commission apprised about the status report within 7 days of the receipt of the letter," she said. The NCW chairman also wrote to Prasar Bharti CEO Shashi S Vempati and asked for a probe into the matter.

She also asked for an action taken report within 15 days. Earlier on November 9, Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi wrote to Information and Broadcasting Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore to ensure that a "sensitive and fair system" is put in place at the state-owned AIR to address the sexual harassment complaints.

Gandhi said a responsible organisation must provide justice to each and every woman who complains of sexual harassment.

## Rotary Club installs sanitary napkin vending machine in Rhenock College



### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 15 NOV:**

Rotary Club of Gangtok installed a sanitary napkin vending machine at Government College, Rhenock, yesterday, a press release informs.

Principal, Dr Iyaata Upreti, and college staff welcomed and thanked the Rotary Club for this donation.

Dr. Renu Verma of Rotary Club, Gangtok, addressed the gathering and addressed the taboos and myths associ-

ated with menstruation and explained the importance of menstrual hygiene. She also requested students to take up adult education in their society on one-to-one basis and strengthen Rotary India Literacy Mission (RILM).

Another Rotary member, Asha Kiran, coordinated the interactive session and also spoke on the ills of spitting indiscriminately.

Anti-spitting posters were also released on the occasion.

Aswin Oberoi, who is the Club's Chairman for Youth Services, spoke on the Rotaract movement and invited students to try and start a Rotaract Club in their college.

Rotary Club of Gangtok has two Rotaract Clubs under its banner at present - Rotaract Club of SRM University Sikkim and Rotaract Club of Gangtok Royale.

Rotary Club of Gangtok is celebrating its golden jubilee year this year.

## Indian-origin minister leads resignations in fresh Brexit turmoil for Theresa May

**ADITI KHANNA**

**LONDON, NOV 15 (PTI):** British Prime Minister Theresa May's uneasy Brexit truce was shattered Thursday as Indian-origin Shailesh Vara became the first of the four ministers to resign over a "half-way house" divorce deal with the European Union.

Minutes after Vara stepped down as Northern Ireland minister, Prime Minister May was hit by a bigger blow as her Brexit Secretary Dominic Raab resigned from the Cabinet saying he "cannot in good conscience" support the draft of the withdrawal agreement with the 28-member bloc.

"We are a proud nation and it is a sad day when we are reduced to obeying rules made by other countries who have shown that they do not have our best interests at heart. We can and must do better than this. The people of the UK deserve better," said Vara, Conservative Party MP for North-West Cambridgeshire, who has been a minister in the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) since January.

He attacked the draft withdrawal agreement which would form the basis of the UK's exit from the EU by March 2019 as a "half-way house with no time limit on when we

will finally become a sovereign nation".

Raab, who took charge as Secretary of State for Exiting the EU after his predecessor David Davis stepped down in protest over May's Brexit negotiations in July, said the proposed arrangement to avoid a post-Brexit border with Northern Ireland is a "very real threat to the integrity of the United Kingdom".

"I cannot support an indefinite backstop arrangement where the EU holds a veto over our ability to exit. No democratic nation has ever signed up to be bound by such an extensive regime, imposed externally without any democratic control over the laws to be applied, nor the ability to exit the arrangement," he said.

Raab's resignation was followed by another pro-Brexit minister, work and pensions secretary Esther McVey, announcing that she is resigning from the Cabinet over the issue.

Another junior Brexit minister Suella Braverman quit over Brexit, shortly after her former boss Raab quit office.

"It is with deep regret and after reflection that I have had to tender my resignation today as a Brexit Minister. Thank you for the opportunity. I

look forward to working to support Brexit from the Backbenches. This has not been an easy decision," Braverman said in a tweet.

The resignations are being seen as a sign of bigger troubles ahead for May, who is set to defend the agreement before MPs in the House of Commons on Thursday.

"I firmly believe that the draft Withdrawal Agreement was the best that could be negotiated, and it was for the Cabinet to decide whether to move on in the talks," she said in her statement at the Downing Street doorstep after hours of talks with her top team on Wednesday evening.

"The choices before us were difficult, particularly in relation to the Northern Ireland backstop. But the collective decision of Cabinet was that the Government should agree the draft Withdrawal Agreement and the Outline Political Declaration this is a decisive step which enables us to move on and finalise the deal in the days ahead," she said.

There were already rumblings that while she claimed the Cabinet had collectively given its backing to her deal, many ministers had spoken out against it and were not entirely happy with the final text.

## ICFAI celebrates Children's Day

**REBYNA RANA**

**GANGTOK, 15 NOV:**

The ICFAI University Sikkim celebrated Children's Day on 14 Nov wherein various activities were organised to mark the day. The day started with blood donation camp organised in association with an NGO from Gangtok, Round Table India 301.

Several students and staff members donated blood on this occasion. Simultaneously,

sapling plantation was also done at the University campus by Vice chancellor, Dr. Jagannath Patnaik, Officiating Registrar, Anita Gupta, members of Eco Club, members of Gangtok Round table 301 and staff members.

It was followed by lunch for everyone and post that the Children's Day activity began, which was organised by the staff members of the University.



## Odisha govt announces special package for drought hit people

**BHUBANESWAR, NOV 15 (PTI):** Odisha government Thursday announced a special package for the people hit by drought in nine districts in the state.

The package was decided at a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, officials said.

Earlier, the state government had identified as many as 5,633 villages of 66 Blocks and 16 urban local bodies (ULBs) of nine districts - Baragarh, Bolangir, Deogarh, Jharsuguda, Kalahandi, Nabarangpur, Nuapada, Sambalpur and Sundargarh, as drought affected areas.

The farmers in these districts have suffered crop loss of 33 per cent and above due to moisture stress.

To give relief to farmers who have taken credit from different banks, the state government has decided to convert short term kharif loans in the affected areas

during kharif 2018 having crop loss of 33 per cent into medium term loan, he said.

Due date of Kharif short term loan advance in the affected areas will be extended up to September 30, 2019 to facilitate conversion of such loans into medium term loans, the official said.

The Central government would be requested to provide interest incentive of 3 per cent for medium term (conversion) loans which is at par with crop loans for prompt paying farmers, he said.

The government has also decided 100 per cent remission in respect of cess on land revenue and compulsory basic water rate will be given to farmers where the crop loss is 33 per cent or more, the official said.

Similarly, it has been decided that school fees and school examination fees up to high school level in government schools shall be waived in the

affected areas. In the agriculture sector, agriculture input subsidy will be provided to small and marginal farmers who have suffered crop loss of 33 per cent and above Rs 6,800 per hectare of land in rainfed/non irrigated areas, Rs 13,500 per hectare of land in areas under assured irrigation and Rs

18,000 per hectare for all types of perennial crops.

Agriculture input subsidy will also be given to farmers other than small and marginal farmers at the same rate subject to a ceiling of two hectare per farmer. The assistance would be provided to actual cultivators.

## ~ SummitTIMES ~ CLASSIFIEDS

### An announcement for RIE, Bhubaneswar alumni

The Alumni Association of the Regional Institute of Education, Bhubaneswar is holding its 8th Annual Meet on 23rd Dec (Sunday), 2018 in the auditorium hall of the institute. All pass-out of this Institute are requested to attend the meet. Those seeking accommodation in Guest House/Hostel may contact the Secretary (mob 09439870708). The membership fee of the Association is Rs. 1000/. The participation fees is Rs.500/- and for accompany person is Rs.300/ per head. The details Information can be obtained from the website of the institute or may contact to mobile no. 9475087020 or email id: rajkumari.sd@gmail.com.





# SummitTIMES

## As Another Academic Year Draws to a Close

*Think of expanding collaborations and inspiring participation*

Another year, hopefully one of improved learning, is drawing to a close for schools in the State. The students can take a well-deserved break for having persevered through another academic year, with many of them having struggled with a disinterested faculty and poor infrastructure, but the teachers and the department cannot afford to take any time off. In fact, it is now that the real work on formulating and implementing policy improvements begins. The year was mostly taken up with routine administrative works and now that the routine of schools in session will soon no longer be the more pressing concern, more time and planning can be invested on addressing the recurring challenges of educating Sikkim. And while it is hoped for government schools to receive special attention since most of the students are enrolled in them, it is also important for private schools to take stock and plan improvements because they carry an inspirational veneer with most parents wanting their wards in them if possible.

Sikkim has routinely performed well in all indicators for school education, and by that count the Human Resource Development Department has a reputation to live up to. At policy level and when it comes to funds commitments and policy intents on paper, Sikkim has proven that it is focused on providing better education. What we also know, however, is that this focus is not always backed by the required diligence at the administrative level. Let's look at some aspects that are wrong with the way Sikkim seeks to educate in its schools. Routine matters which should have been streamlined a long time back continue to get stalled and delayed. That textbooks still take a longer time to reach schools should not be acceptable any more. It is also not uncommon for some schools to hold the first term examinations for students who have not received teachers for some of the subjects. Why this continues to happen is difficult to understand. Then there is the unique situation of understaffed rural schools and still bursting-at-their-seams urban and suburban institutions. And this despite years of trying to correct the balance.

Both these aspects have received some attention in the recent years, and every new academic year should see this process get further refined and less influenced by political pressure and other influences. The winter pause is now being used for advanced teacher training sessions and workshops, and one hopes that this will now graduate to a level where the teachers are also invited to participate in the policy-refining initiatives. Teachers, after all, know best what the students still require and how their learning experience can be made more meaningful. For far too long, teachers have received directions and orders, but no concerted efforts have been made to take their counsel or even take them into confidence. That is a wealth of experience and understanding that Sikkim is not tapping into and should make an effort to source.

Also left out from preparations for the next academic year is feedback from students themselves. There might still be time to begin this process to inform at least some of the initiatives for the next session. A simple offer like inviting school clusters to send in recommendations for what the Department could do for them before schools reopen and for student clubs to send in wish-lists would be a good place to begin. Such a move would not only establish a better connect between the department and the schools, between officials and teachers and between the State and the students, but also seed a stronger sense of belonging and reinforce the urge to participate. That would be a good feeling to end an academic year and look forward to a new one.

### WRITE US:

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

Mail us at: [news@summittimes.com](mailto:news@summittimes.com)

JONATHAN C. KAPLAN  
*theconversation.com*

A few weeks ago, my parents woke up to find a large, orange swastika daubed in paint on a wooden plank outside their house in Sydney. We have a mezuzah attached to our front doorpost, so the "dauber" knew we were a Jewish household. At the time, my parents were angry and sad more than frightened.

My family's experience cannot compare with the hate that burst forth in Pittsburgh several weeks ago, when 11 congregants at the Tree of Life Synagogue were murdered simply because they were Jewish people attending prayer. But we are living in a period of increasing hatred directed at minorities of all kinds, and anti-Semitism is on the rise across the globe.

The Pittsburgh synagogue gunman, Robert Bowers, raged in online platforms that Jews were "invaders" trying to destabilise the United States. They were, he said, "an infestation" and "evil". Bowers' rants cast Jews in the role of dangerous revolutionaries out to destroy Western civilisation. This has long been a staple perspective of anti-Semitism.

In my research, I have been studying the anti-Semitic images that were commonplace in Vienna early last century. These stereotyped images served to vilify Jewish people, culminating in the removal of most of the Jews from Vienna in 1938.

I believe it is important that we reflect on these upsetting images to consider how the "mainstreaming" of anti-Semitic ideas and images in popular media can have terrible consequences.

### CARICATURES IN THE FIN-DE-SIÈCLE VIENNESE PRESS

At the turn of the century, the Austrian capital was home to the third-largest Jewish population in Europe after Warsaw and Budapest. Accounting for almost 9% of Vienna's population, Jews were a highly visible minority. They were also a constant source of conversation and fear within Vienna's political and civic arenas.

Anti-Semitic caricatures and literary sketches in the Viennese press ran rife from the end of the 19th cen-



tury until the German annexation of Austria in March 1938.

The cartoons presented a variety of messages that characterised Jews in a number of negative roles: as the binary opposite to Aryan morality and virtuousness, as money-grubbing parvenus, or as attempting to take over large parts of the city. What all these stereotypes had in common was their characterisation of Jewish people as an Other who did not belong within European society.

One caricature from the widely read Viennese biweekly satirical magazine Kikeriki, published in 1900, comments on the presence of Jews at elite social events.

It depicts Jewish men and women ridiculed for their supposed racial characteristics (a view strongly influenced by the popularity of eugenics and Social Darwinism during this period) and, by satirising the popular dance styles at elite city balls, implies that Jews dominated Viennese elite circles. The image's caption makes no overt references to Jews, but the visual stereotypes would have made it very clear to the readers what this image was about.

Another cartoon from 1890 in Figaro (not to be confused with the popular French daily Le Figaro) depicts two men meeting on a crowded Viennese street. One of the men, a visitor, asks a local if he would be so kind

as to point out the Judengasse [Jews' Street]. The latter replies, "Perhaps you can tell me where it is not."

The scene behind these two gentlemen is filled with characters drawn with common Jewish bodily stereotypes: large hooked noses, dark curly hair and thick lips.

Although at this time most Jews living in Vienna spoke German and were adherents to secular German culture, the figure of the Ostjude (Eastern Jew) was a typical feature of these cartoons. Anti-Semitic cartoonists, newspaper editors and politicians harnessed a fear connected to an increased Jewish migration from Austria's eastern crownlands and the pogroms of the Russian Empire.

Despite the fact that Yiddish-speaking, Orthodox, traditionally attired Jews never accounted for the majority of Vienna's Jewish population, cartoons often depicted them as descending en masse into an unsuspecting "German" city.

Other cartoons bemoaning Vienna's "Jewification" gave way to those speculating on the revenge that would be meted out to the Jews; not necessarily violence and murder, but other forms such as banishment from the city and its social and political arenas.

### 'JEWIFICATION' AND REVENGE TODAY

The effects of this tradition of anti-Semitic representation are clear. It took very little for average men and

women to turn on their Jewish neighbours and colleagues after the German Anschluss in March 1938.

Many Viennese Jews were lucky to escape. Some, just under 2,000, found a haven in Australia. They have since, like many other refugees and migrants, contributed to the economic, cultural and political development of Australian culture in the post-WWII period.

Yet the themes of "Jewification" and revenge expressed in these cartoons are, sadly, still relevant today.

In his online rants, for instance, Bowers had condemned the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) – a Jewish refugee advocacy and support group founded in New York in 1881 – for "bringing in invaders".

The Hungarian-born Jewish billionaire philanthropist George Soros, meanwhile, has been the target of anti-Semitic demonisation. And in Charlottesville last year, hundreds of mostly young white men marched with torches chanting the Nazi slogan "Blood and Soil" and "Jews will not replace us".

How we speak about and depict others in the media and social discourse perpetuates long-held stereotypes and ultimately emboldens hate-filled individuals. It is for this reason that we should look to the past – and learn from it.

*[the writer is Doctoral candidate, University of Technology Sydney]*

## The kilogram is being redefined – a physicist explains

KEVIN PIMBBLET  
*theconversation.com*

How much is a kilogram? 1,000 grams. 2.20462 pounds. Or 0.0685 slugs based on the old Imperial gravitational system. But where does this amount actually come from and how can everyone be sure they are using the same measurement?

Since 1889, countries who are members of the General Conference on Weights and Measures have agreed to use a standard block of metal – kept near Paris – to define the kilogram. But although the modern block is stored in a highly controlled environment, its weight can change by tiny amounts as wear and tear causes it to lose mass and dirt causes it to increase. To address this problem, scientists around the world have spent nearly two decades discussing how the kilogram could instead be defined in relation to constant measurements of nature. And now they have finally reached a decision.

The first kilogram (originally called a grave) was defined in 1793 by a commission of the French Academy of Sciences, who wanted a better standard than the fixed amounts of grain that had traditionally been used. The commission decided that the new measure would be the mass of one cubic decimetre of distilled water at 4°C (the temperature at which water has its highest density under standard conditions). This had the advantage in that most properly equipped labs would be able to reproduce

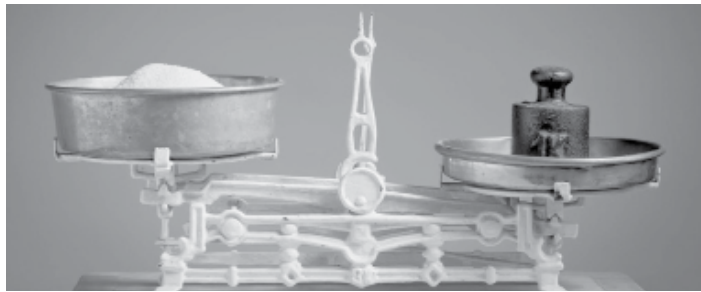
this standard. Subsequently, a prototype of this mass was cast in brass.

Unfortunately, this definition of mass depended upon another variable measure-

can gradually change in mass. Radically, the answer from the International Bureau of Weights and Measures is to overhaul the definitions of a kilogram, as well as all the oth-

9,192,631,770 transitions in the hyperfine ground state levels of Caesium-133. This is the same no matter when or where it is measured.

Scientists were then able



ment, the metre. At this point, the metre was only provisionally defined as part of the distance from the North Pole to the equator. Once the value of the metre and the temperature of water at its densest were more accurately defined, the kilogram also had to be replaced. And a new prototype was cast in platinum to represent this mass.

Eventually, this was replaced with the international prototype kilogram (IPK) used today, cast from a mixture of platinum and iridium to make it very hard and prevent it reacting with oxygen. The IPK and six copies are kept by the International Bureau of Weights and Measures in the Pavillon de Breteuil, Saint-Cloud, near Paris in France to act as a reference to measure against. Copies of the IPK are transported across the world to ensure all participating countries use the same standard.

But even the modern IPK

er basic units of measurement used in science (known as SI units, from the French for international system).

Instead of measuring the kilogram against a block stored in a vault, we can define it based on precise values of constants of nature. Agreeing a definition has taken a long time because we needed to be able to measure these constants to exacting standards with an uncertainty of 30 parts per billion (meaning the measurements are accurate to 0.00000003 of a unit).

Scientists have actually already done this for time and length. A second is no longer a fraction of the time it takes the Earth to revolve, which can change as the globe speeds up or slows down. Instead, a second is now defined by the time it takes for a certain amount of energy to be released as radiation from atoms of Caesium-133. Specifically, one second equals

to redefine the metre in relation to the second and another natural constant, the speed of light in a vacuum (c), which scientists have calculated as 299,792,458 metres per second. So one metre is now the length travelled by light in 1/c seconds.

The new definition of the kilogram uses a measurement from another fixed value from nature, Planck's constant (h), which will be defined as 6.62607015×10<sup>-34</sup> joule seconds. Planck's constant can be found by dividing the electromagnetic frequency of a particle of light or "photon" by the amount of energy it carries.

The constant is usually measured in joule seconds but this can also be expressed as kilogram square metres per second. We know what a second and a metre is from the other definitions. So by adding these measurements, along with an exact knowledge of

Planck's constant, we can get a new, very precise definition of the kilogram.

### OTHER UNITS

Part of the reason creating the new definition has taken so long is because scientists have had to create very precise devices to measure Planck's constant with a high enough degree of accuracy. The method has also been controversial because it will break the link that the kilogram has to other base SI units, particularly the mole, which measures the amount of a substance in terms of the number of particles it's made from. Some scientists have proposed alternative methods as a result.

But following a symbolic vote, the new definition of the kilogram will be used by the International Bureau of Weights and Measures and national measurement institutes around the world, along with new definitions of the remaining base SI units, the mole, the kelvin (temperature), the ampere (current) and the candela (luminous intensity).

For most people, everyday life will carry on as normal despite the redefinitions. One standard bag of sugar will contain as much sugar as it ever did. But some of these changes, for example to the kelvin, will mean practical advantages for scientists making very precise measurements. And to answer the question "how much is a kilogram", we will no longer have to compare blocks of platinum or worry about scratching them.

*[the writer is Senior Lecturer in Physics, University of Hull]*



## Top India, China officials hold defence, security dialogue, agree to maintain peace on the border

KJM VARMA

**BEIJING, Nov 15 (PTI):** A year after the Doklam standoff, top defence officials of India and China have agreed on the importance of maintaining peace in the border areas while implementing the consensus reached between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping at Wuhan.

The ninth annual defence and security dialogue on November 13 was held over a year after the 73-day military standoff in the Sikkim sector.

The talks were held between the two defence delegations headed by Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra and China's Deputy Chief of Joint Staff Department of the Central Military Commission Lt General Shao Yuanming, a press release by the Indian Embassy here said on Thursday.

Asked about the outcome of the defence and security dialogue, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said the two sides have exchanged ideas on the management of border affairs and upholding peace and tranquillity.

"We believe the two sides

will try to follow the consensus between the two leaders to ensure peace and tranquillity at our border areas and ensure stability of our bilateral ties," she said.

At the talks, both sides agreed on enhancing defence exchanges and interactions at different levels between the two militaries, the press release said.

After the talks, Mitra called on Chinese State Councillor and Defence Minister General Wei Fenghe on Wednesday, the release said.

Mitra was accompanied by senior officials of the ministry of defence and Indian Army, Navy and Air Force.

The annual dialogue did not take place last year following the tense standoff between the two militaries at Doklam, which was triggered by the Chinese PLA's plan to build a road close to the narrow Chicken's Neck corridor connecting India's northeastern states in an area also claimed by Bhutan besides China.

The standoff ended when Chinese troops stopped the road construction after which both

countries stepped up efforts to normalise relations leading to the informal summit between Modi and Xi at Wuhan in April this year. The defence dialogue was also held ahead of the 21st round of border talks between the Special Representatives of the two countries in the Chinese city of Dujiangyan on November 23-24.

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi are the designated Special Representatives for the border talks.

Besides efforts to work out a solution to resolve the dispute on the border spanning 3,488 kms, the border talks also focussed on discussions on other aspects of India-China relations.

The two militaries are due to hold the annual 'Hand-in-Hand' drills next month in China after gap of one year.

During the dialogue, both sides also agreed on specific defence exchanges for 2019.

"Both sides agreed to enhance exchanges and interactions through reciprocal high-level visits between the

two ministries of defence as well as between military commands, joint training exercises, mutual visits by defence personnel including mid-level and cadet officers were also agreed upon," the Indian Embassy release said.

They reiterated the importance of maintaining peace and tranquillity in the border areas, implementing the consensus reached between Modi and Xi and specific additional confidence building measures at the operational level, it said.

The two nations also had an exchange of views on regional and global issues.

"Both sides underlined the importance of this dialogue as an important mechanism between the two countries for consultations on defence and security matters. They emphasised the need to further strengthen military-to-military ties in order to strengthen political and strategic mutual trust between the two countries," it said.

Both sides agreed to hold the next round of the dialogue at a mutually convenient time in India in 2019.

## Mizoram civil societies hail EC move to replace poll officer

AIZAWL, Nov 15 (PTI):

The Election Commission's move to replace S B Shashank as Mizoram's chief electoral officer was welcomed on Thursday by the civil societies that had spearheaded a movement to seek the poll officer's ouster.

"We welcome anybody as state CEO, except Shashank, who was working against the interests of the Mizo people by making an all-out effort to register Bru voters in the Tripura relief camps without following established procedures," Vanlalruata, chairman of the NGO, Coordination Committee, told PTI.

The poll panel announced in the morning that IAS officer Ashish Kundra was being appointed as the chief electoral officer of the state with immediate effect.

The order came after some civil society groups in Mizoram demanded Shashank's ouster over a row on allowing Bru voters lodged in Tripura relief camps to exercise their franchise from there. Vanlalruata added the civil societies would cooperate with the new CEO if he was willing to work towards free, fair and peaceful polls.

The committee -- an apex body of civil societies and students' organisations

in the northeastern state -- had sought Shashank's exit from the state shortly after the state election commission removed principal secretary (home) Lalnunmawia Chuaungo.

The agitation against Shashank was launched a fortnight ago, with the committee demanding that the officer be transferred outside Mizoram.

It also demanded that 11,232 Bru voters in six Tripura relief camps be allowed to exercise their franchise at their respective polling stations in Mizoram, and not in Tripura as committed by the poll panel. Thousands of Bru community

members had fled the state and took shelter in Tripura following ethnic clashes in 1997. They have since been living in six relief camps of the neighbouring state.

The EC had earlier this month sent two high-level teams to assess the situation in the state, following an agitation by the civil societies outside the CEO office.

After the visits, the poll panel had asked the Mizoram government to suggest names for the CEO's post. Shashank left Mizoram last week after being summoned by the chief election commissioner to Delhi.

## Nagaland's 'Hornbill Night Carnival' to be plastic-free

Kohima, Nov 15 (PTI):

The Kohima Chamber of Commerce and Industries (KCCI) has said the stretch showcasing Nagaland's 'Hornbill Night Carnival' from December 1-10 will be a "plastic-free zone".

The carnival is part of the International Hornbill Festival of Nagaland, an annual tourism promotion event of the state government.

There will be a ban on usage of all forms of plastic and non-biodegradable materials, including mineral water bottles and thermocol, KCCI president Medozhatuo Rutsa told reporters on Wednesday.

KCCI and Kohima Municipal Council would be providing alternate paper bags, while eateries can use washable dishes, he said, adding, defaulters would be penalised.

## Campaigning picks up for Mizoram Assembly polls

AIZAWL, Nov 15 (PTI):

Electioneering has gained momentum in Mizoram for the upcoming assembly polls with candidates trying to woo voters under the supervision of a church-backed election watchdog.

Elections to the 40-member Mizoram Assembly will be held on November 28.

Mizoram is the only northeastern state where the Congress is in power and the BJP is keen on making inroads in the Christian-dominated state.

Mizoram Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) leader Lalhrualtuanga Kawlni said that public meetings and door-to-door canvassing were being organised in villages under the close supervision of the local forums of the Mizoram People's Forum (MPF), the church-sponsored election watchdog.

The standard mode of campaigning in the assembly elections in 2008 and 2013 was a common platform with all candidates of a constituency sharing a stage.

However, this time, the MPF has relaxed the guideline and skipped the common platform.

After consulting representatives of political parties, the MPF has agreed to door-to-door campaigning by the candidates, a MPF leader said. But the candidates have to be accompanied by MPF leaders of the local units during their house-to-house campaigning to ensure that they do not use money power, the MPCC leader said.

The MPF leaders were also chairing public meetings addressed by the contestants, the MPCC leader said.

"Election observers, especially personnel of the surveillance team, are also maintaining a strict vigil and checking vehicles," he said.

The display of flags

of political parties and posters have also been minimised under the supervision of the flying squads and the MPF.

Bio-data of the candidates and their appeals to voters were collected by the MPF leaders and distributed to the members of each household besides publishing them in the house journals of the churches, he said.

Lallenmawia Jongte, the secretary of the opposition Mizo National Front (MNF), said that the front did not organise public meetings, except in some villages.

"We convened party block conferences and unit meetings where candidates and star campaigners or party leaders delivered speeches to persuade the voters to vote in their favour," Jongte said.

Door-to-door campaigns were being conducted in all the villages under the supervision of the MPF and the election watchdog was extremely particular about organising dinners, he said.

Community feasts have been prohibited by the MPF and any political party organising such feasts as part of their campaign was being condemned publicly, he said.

Election campaign offices have been opened in all the villages and more than one campaign office have been set up in larger villages and towns.

Supporters of contestants were found visiting relatives in other villages for canvassing support for the nominees.

Campaigning has also come of age in the state with the use of social media like Facebook and Whatsapp.

With television and radio still being used by candidates and campaigners, social media is also being extensively used to woo younger voters.

On the major poll is-

sues, the ruling Congress was banking on its flagship programme - the New Land Use Policy (NLUP) - which brought the party to power for two consecutive terms.

The Congress also floated a new policy called New Economic Development Program (NEDP) as a convergence of the NLUP under which around Rs 1 lakh each was disbursed to each beneficiary family.

The opposition MNF promised assistance to the tune of Rs 3 lakh to each family under the Socio-Economic Development Policy (SEDP) and to close down liquor shops and impose prohibition again as wished by the powerful church.

The MNF is banking on a non-Congress government at the Centre for funding its development projects.

Zoram People's Movement (ZPM), the newly floated conglomerate of two political parties and five groups, which is contesting in 36 seats as a group of independents, promised crop insurance, purchase of the produces of the farmers and remunerative prices by earmarking fund in the annual budgets.

ZPM leaders said that marginal farmers would be helped to better themselves with what they described as a "hand-holding policy".

The main plank of People's Representation for Identity and Status of Mizoram (PRISM) was combatting corruption and creation of jobs by way of opening venues for entrepreneurs.

The BJP in Mizoram, contesting in 39 seats, is riding on the development works of Prime Minister Narendra Modi while the National People's Party (NPP) is depending on its tribal and Christian centric image for the people of the northeast region.

## Mamata sees "dirty politics" behind NRC in Assam

THAKURNAGAR (WB),

**Nov 15 (PTI):** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday alleged that "dirty politics" is going on in the name of publication of the final draft of National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam as names of genuine voters have been struck off the list.

The Trinamool Congress supremo asserted that she was not against the Assam government, but she does not support NRC.

"I still believe that dirty politics is being played in the name of the NRC. Names of genuine voters have been struck off the list. We do not support this," Banerjee said during her visit to Thakurnagar in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal.

She was here to take part in the birth centenary celebrations of Binapani Devi Thakur, known as 'Boroma', the revered 'mother' of the Matua community.

The community originally hailed from present-day Bangladesh and migrated to India over the past five decades.

Banerjee has been very critical of the BJP-



led government at the Centre since the publication of the final draft of Assam's NRC on July 30.

She had accused the BJP of resorting to "divide and rule" politics in the country and the Narendra Modi government of trying to make millions of people "stateless" in Assam for political gains.

The TMC supremo had warned that stripping the people of their citizenship could lead to "bloodbath" and a "civil war" in the country.

"They (the Centre) are driving away Bengalis from Assam. In Gujarat they are trying to drive away Biharis. We never do this here in West Bengal. We have assured them (Bengalis in Assam) that we are

beside them. They must not forget Bengal is also their home.

"We are not against Assam (government). But in the name of the NRC, lakhs of people have been kept out of the list. It is not a crime to speak in Bengali?" the chief minister asked.

Asserting that many people from erstwhile East Pakistan had come to India as refugees, she said, "All those who came to India before 1971 are very much Indian citizens. They have their name on the voters' list, have ration cards and caste certificates."

"You are an Indian citizen and that is your identity. It cannot be taken away from you. Those trying to snatch it are doing a wrong

thing," she said.

A delegation from the Matua community of Assam was present at the programme. A huge number of people of the community did not find their names in the Assam NRC list.

She said that Matua community member and TMC MLA Mamata Thakur, and seven other party leaders were not allowed to leave Silchar airport in Assam when they had gone there after the publication of the final draft of NRC.

Names of over 40 lakh people were excluded from the citizens' register. Out of the 3.29 crore people who had filled their applications for the NRC, 2.89 crore found their names in the draft list.

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

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

**THE BIRDS HAVE LOST THEIR WAY**

Essays on Teesta, Hydel and Climate Change in Sikkim

EDITED BY  
TSHERING EDEN AND PEMA WANGCHUK

**LOKTA BOOKS**  
Lokta Books Pvt. Ltd.  
+91 981 080 0200; +91 980 260 0753



*Don't think current Indian side is better than ones I played against: Steve Waugh*

**NEW DELHI, Nov 15 (PTI):** Former Australia captain Steve Waugh is “not sure” if the current Indian team led by Virat Kohli is any better than some of the sides that he played against during his international career. Waugh spoke in reference to India coach Ravi Shastri’s comments that this is “the best Indian side in the last 15 years”.

“Look I have played against some great Indian sides and I am not sure that the current side is better than the ones we played against,” Waugh told ESPN Cricinfo in an interview.

The 53-year-old said such comments could have been avoided as it puts pressure on the team. “I am not really sure but probably not a great thing to say as it puts extra pressure on the team. Once they start losing, they will get a lot of criticism for that. Look, it’s good that Ravi Shastri believes in his side but comments like these could be kept to himself,” Waugh said.

The former skipper known for his mental disintegration tactic feels that Australia despite recent problems would be hard to beat in their own den.

“Australia will be hard to beat in Australia. We have a bowling attack as good as any team in world cricket and we can take wickets. It’s our batting if we score 350 runs in first innings, I think we will be very hard to beat. And someone will always come and do well and that’s the nature of the sport.

“I am still pretty confident that we can win in Australia but it’s going to be a close series though,” Waugh said about the Test series starting December 6.

Like everyone else, he praised Virat Kohli for his supreme consistency comparing him with Brian Lara and Sachin Tendulkar. “He is a great player and he loves these big moments. He is like Tendulkar and Lara. They wait for these and that’s where they want to show their best. He will be the dangerman straightaway but they have some pretty good batsmen,” Waugh said.

# Pacquiao, Broner to unveil fight details next week

**NEW YORK, Nov 15 (AFP):** Filipino boxing star Manny Pacquiao and former world welterweight champion Adrien Broner will announce details Monday in New York about their upcoming bout, expected in January at Las Vegas.

Pacquiao owns the World Boxing Association’s regular welterweight crown, a step below US unbeaten WBA ‘super champion’ Keith Thurman, after stopping Argentina’s Lucas Matthysse in July at Kuala Lumpur -- his first knockout win since 2009.

The southpaw, 60-7 with two drawn and 39 knockouts in a career that began in 1995, turns 40 next month while American Broner is 33-3 with one drawn and 24 knockouts.

Broner and Pacquiao are set to talk Monday at New York’s Gotham Hall



and Tuesday at the Waldorf Astoria in Beverly Hills to promote the bout, which is expected to be staged January 19 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

Pacquiao, the only fighter to win world titles in eight different weight divisions, said last month he was 90 percent certain he would next fight Broner, a former four-division world champion.

Pacquiao, also a senator in the Philippines, lost his World Boxing Organization welterweight title to Australian Jeff Horn last year in Brisbane.

Last month, Pacquiao signed with adviser Al Haymon’s Premier Boxing Champions group after being promoted by Top Rank’s Bob Arum, Haymon’s main rival, for the past 14 years.

The move ensures

Pacquiao will have chances to fight the best in the welterweight division as Haymon’s fighters include Americans Thurman, 28-0 with 22 knockouts; World Boxing Council champion Shawn Porter 29-2 with one drawn and 17 knockouts and International Boxing Federation champion Errol Spence Jr., 24-0 with 21 knockouts.

## De Villiers headlines new South African T20 league

**CAPE TOWN, Nov 15 (AFP):** AB de Villiers will headline South Africa’s first city-based Twenty20 league when he leads the Tshwane Spartans in the opening match of the Mzansi (South Africa) Super League against Cape Town Blitz on Friday.

The month-long league will get under way barely a month after the official launch, without a title sponsor and with a relatively modest list of international players, partly because some big-name players already had other commitments.

Cricket South Africa (CSA) have budgeted for a loss of 40 million rand (about 2.8 mn/2.45 mn euros) for the first edition of a tournament which was first mooted in 2017 before being abandoned in the absence of a television deal or main sponsor, leading to a loss of about 14 mn and the resignation of then chief executive Haroon Lorgat.

SABC, the cash-strapped national broadcaster, will televise the tournament. The free-to-air coverage is expected to boost the popularity of cricket, although it is unlikely that CSA are receiving a substantial rights fee.



In addition to the absence of a title sponsor, none of the six teams have announced a major sponsor.

CSA are hoping that international exposure will enable the league to rival the long-term success of similar tournaments in other countries, such as the Indian Premier League and Australia’s Big Bash League.

Marketing head, former Test player Clive Eksteen, said at a recent briefing that the matches would be broadcast in India, England, Australia, North America and the Caribbean.

Some international marquee players, such as Afghanistan leg-spinner Rashid Khan and England batsman Jason Roy,

will be available only for the latter stages, having committed to a 10-overs league in Abu Dhabi.

South Africa’s leading one-day players will miss the opening matches because of a tour of Australia which finishes Saturday.

But De Villiers is probably the biggest drawcard in South African cricket. His retirement from international cricket earlier this year means that the league will be his only appearances on South African fields this season.

In a website article, De Villiers said he “can’t wait” for the league to begin. “I have been working hard in the gym and nets, and it’s all systems go,” he wrote.

# Australia’s World Cup stars to miss parts of IPL: CA

**SYDNEY, Nov 15 (PTI):** Putting country first, Cricket Australia will not allow its players, picked in the World Cup squad, to take part in the last few weeks of the 2019 Indian Premier League (IPL) so that they prepare well for the big-ticket event.

The lucrative IPL Twenty20 tournament is likely to start early than the scheduled time to give the players enough time to rest and prepare for the ODI World Cup, starting in England on May 30.

Advancing the IPL dates to March means it will clash with the last part of Australia’s domestic season as well as their ODI series against Pakistan.

The final round of the Sheffield Shield is scheduled from March 20 to 23, while the Pakistan ODI series, though not confirmed, has been pencilled in for March 15-29.

Cricket Australia has made it clear that World

Cup remains the priority for the defending champions and the players will have to complete their Sheffield Shield commitments and national duties to get approval to play in the IPL.

Cricket Australia also said the 15 players selected in the World Cup squad will have to attend a pre-tournament camp in early May, which means they could miss the final 2-3 weeks of the IPL.

“It is a difficult period with the IPL being brought forward to accommodate the Cricket World Cup, and overlapping our domestic season,” said Cricket Australia’s Interim EGM Team Performance, Belinda Clark.

“We are committed to respecting the position of the Sheffield Shield, while ensuring Australia’s World Cup squad is well prepared for this critical world event, while also ensuring those that are fit to play have opportunity to partici-

pate in the IPL. “While this is no easy feat, I think we have managed a reasonable balance that will enable the players to consider their options and choose what is right for them and their respective teams.”

Clarke said the announcement will give clarity to players.

“...it is important the players understand our position in advance, so they have the clarity they need to make personal decisions.

“It is imperative that we ensure Australia is in the best possible position as we head into the Cricket World Cup and the 2019 Ashes series. This means prioritising our focus on match readiness and the health of our players.”

Fast bowler Mitchell Starc, who has already been released from the KKR squad, has said said that he will not put himself available for the 2019 IPL auction.

## Book on airwaves war in Indo-Pak conflict

**NEW DELHI, Nov 15 (PTI):** A new book unravels historical facts about how Radio Kashmir has over the past seven decades countered incessant malicious propaganda by various underground and FM stations that operate round-the-clock from across the border.

Replete with rare pictures, transcripts and documents from the archives of Jammu and Kashmir, Radio Kashmir: In Times of Peace & War reveals how Radio Pakistan and its notorious Radio Trarkhal beamed vicious misinformation against India to create unrest in the minds of people of Kashmir while trifling with their sentiments and identity.

It also says how under Operation Topac, the ISI launched more radio stations, mostly along the Indo-Pak border to bombard airwaves with hostile ranting.

In addition to Jammu and Kashmir, Radio Pakistan had a meticulously planned coverage to target certain communities living in Indian cities, including New Delhi, Jaipur, Kanpur, Bikaner, Ambala, Saharanpur, Meerut, Aligarh, Farrukhabad, and parts of Nepal, rousing anti-India feelings, the book says.

And how Radio Pakistan and Azad Kashmir Radio acted as a bridge in establishing communication channels between the infiltrators and their masters. These messages, colloquially called Taranas, were most often in Gojri, Pahari, Urdu and Punjabi, spoken on either side of LoC and even in the Punjab province of Pakistan, according to the book.

Brought out by Stellar Publishers, this book emanates from research, based on a doctoral study by author Rajesh Bhat (posted in the Policy Division of Directorate General, All India Radio), in terms of the pivotal function performed by a public service broadcaster like Radio Kashmir during the times of both peace and war since 1947.

The book goes on to describe how Radio Kashmir performed an immensely significant role in safeguarding the strategic interests of both the government and the masses by addressing the core issues concerning the welfare and security of a nation.

And also how industriously it has attempted to weave a cohesive social and cultural fabric in Jammu and Kashmir in the face of turmoil, unrest and proxy war being waged by seditious elements.

Set up on December 1, 1947, with a makeshift studio in Sri Ranbir High School in Jammu, to countermand the specious rumours and fabricated information being disseminated to the refugees pouring in post-Partition, Maharaja Hari Singh inaugurated the station with his maiden broadcast to allay the fears of the people in the turbulent Valley.

To fight on another fraught front,

the state government set up another unit of Radio Kashmir at Srinagar on July 1, 1948, with the prime aim to speak to the people in their own language, and also maintain harmony and brotherhood through the broadcasts, while effectively and skilfully countering the Pakistan propaganda.

The two wings of Radio Kashmir at Jammu and Srinagar, which initially started functioning under the J&K Information Department, continued to be under the control of the state government till April 1954 with this unique name, although they were relaying general programmes and news from AIR, which was already functioning in the pre-Independence era.

The name Radio Kashmir was purposefully chosen to give an impression that the station was indigenously manned and operated by the people of the state and whatever they felt was being voiced through broadcast in its exact format and version, the book says.

This was deliberate since Pakistani media was operating its programmes through some underground and notorious stations. On the contrary, Radio Kashmir was operating under State Secretary, I&B, JN Zutshi, who was also designated as Director General.

Thereafter, strategic broadcasts were planned and Radio Kashmir earned the unique distinction of serving people and the nation, in this conflict-ridden region, promoting and strengthening cultural and democratic institutions in the state, as also promoting people to people’ contact between the citizens of the two countries through drama and music broadcast over Radio Kashmir in Urdu, Punjabi and Gojri languages.

The author also draws attention towards the neglect of radio, especially during proxy war launched by Pakistan in 1989, when its propaganda machinery was at its peak in spreading anti-India canards in Kashmir. And hence, he pitches for the imperative need to have a concrete media contingency plan; a mechanism to plug the loopholes to restore the pristine glory of radio in Jammu and Kashmir amid numerous attacks on media men and media organisations in the state.

Further on, this volume dwells upon certain tactical measures and techniques that could possibly mitigate that gnawing friction through this medium, and facilitate a more constructive and creative communication in bringing these two nations closer, more so, as India and Pakistan share a cultural lineage.

As radio is a repository of rich cultural ethos with a mass base, it could and should ably lend a hand in border areas and tough terrains, to redefine the future relationship of India and Pakistan.

## Indian, Pakistani origin authors in contention for DSC Prize

**LONDON, Nov 15 (PTI):** Indian authors Neel Mukherjee, Sujit Saraf, Jayant Kaikini and Manu Joseph and writers of Pakistani origin Kamila Shamsie and Mohsin Hamid will vie for this year’s USD 25,000 DSC Prize for South Asian Literature.

The shortlist was announced at the London School of Economics & Political Science Wednesday evening by Rudrangshu Mukherjee, chair of the DSC Prize 2018 jury panel. The works of Arundhati Roy, Jeet Thayil, Perumal Murugan and Tabish Khair among others which were in the longest failed to make the cut.

According to the jury, which also included Claire Armitstead, Nandana Sen, Firdous Azim and Tissa Jayatilaka, the six novels poignantly bring alive a wide spectrum of themes and emotions that are so relevant in contemporary South Asian life.

The shortlisted books are: Kaikini’s “No Presents Please” in

Kannada (translated by Tejaswini Niranjana); Shamsie’s “Home Fire”; “Miss Laila Armed and Dangerous” (Manu Joseph); “Exit West” (Mohsin Hamid); Mukherjee’s “A State Of Freedom” and “Harilal & Sons” (Saraf).

Rudrangshu Mukherjee said evaluating these books reminded him once again of the importance of reading in human lives.

The prize received close to a quarter of the submissions from publishers based beyond South Asia and from countries such as the UK, the US, Canada and Australia.

According to the organisers, the shortlisted entrants reflect this global interest, and include Shamsie and Mukherjee who are both based in the UK. Hamid is based between Pakistan, the UK and the US, while Saraf is based in the US.

The winner will be announced at the Tata Steel Kolkata Literary Meet which would take place in

Kolkata from January 22-27, 2019.

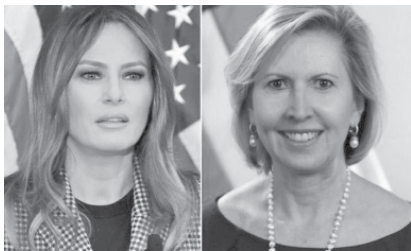
This year, the prize received 88 entries which included stunning portrayals of migration, war and the pain of displacement, poignant love stories, the exploration of new found relationships and identities, and vivification of the personal struggles, hopes and aspirations that symbolise the urgent and divisive realities of contemporary South Asian life.

Commenting on the shortlist, Surina Narula, co-founder of the DSC Prize said, “It represents the very best of South Asian fiction writing, and the depth, creativity and unique narrative of each of these novels is indeed both impressive and inspirational.”

Past winners are H M Naqvi (Pakistan), Shehan Karunatilaka (Sri Lanka), Jeet Thayil and Cyrus Mistry (both India), American author of Indian origin Jhumpa Lahiri, Anuradha Roy (India) and Anuk Arudpragasam (Sri Lanka).



## Melania forces exit of WH aide



**WASHINGTON, Nov 15 (PTI):** A senior national security aide to US President Donald Trump was forced to depart the White House on Wednesday, a day after the First Lady Melania Trump sought her exit.

On Tuesday the office of the First Lady had gone public saying, deputy national security advisor Mira Ricardel "no longer deserves the honour of serving in this White House."

Presidential spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said in a statement, "Mira Ricardel will continue to support the President as she departs the White House to transition to a new role within the Administration."

"The President is grateful for Ricardel's continued service to the American people and her

steadfast pursuit of his national security priorities, Sanders added.

Ricardel is believed to have entered into confrontation with the first lady's staff during her trip to Africa last month.

She was said to be close with John Bolton, the National Security Advisor. Ricardel had earlier served in previous Republican Administration. A member of the Council on Foreign Relations, she had joined the White House in May this year.

This is Trump's first firing after the mid-term elections which saw Democrats seize control of the House of Representatives, ending the Republicans' dominance of both chambers of Congress.

The President is working on some major changes in his administration in the coming weeks.

## EU's Tusk says summit to sign Brexit deal Nov 25

**BRUSSELS, Nov 15 (AFP):** EU President Donald Tusk on Thursday confirmed the bloc would hold a special summit to seal the hard-fought Brexit agreement with Britain on November 25.

Tusk's announcement will come as a boost to British Prime Minister Theresa May as she begins the daunting task of selling the deal to a fractious parliament where she faces resistance from arch Brexiters and EU supporters alike.

Ambassadors from the 27 remaining EU states will meet by the end of the week to share their analysis of the withdrawal deal, Tusk said, adding that he hoped "there will not be too many comments".

They will also take stock of work on the "Joint Political Declaration" about future relations between Brussels and Britain, which Tusk said should be finalised with London by Tuesday and then analysed by member states' officials.

"Then if nothing extraordinary happens, we will hold a European Council meeting in order to finalise and formalise the Brexit agreement. It

will take place on Sunday the 25th of November at 9:30 am," Tusk told the press alongside EU chief negotiator Michel Barnier a day after the 585-page withdrawal agreement was approved by the British cabinet.

Tusk paid tribute to the work of Barnier and his team, who he said had "ensured the limitation of the damage caused by Brexit" and secured the interests of the EU.

Barnier said the deal was "fair and balanced", though it has caused uproar among Brexit supporters in May's government who accused her of betraying the June 2016 vote to leave the bloc.

The deal covers citizens' rights, Britain's financial settlement and plans for a post-Brexit transition period during which both sides hope to agree a new trade deal.

The most controversial element is a "backstop" plan to keep Britain in a customs union with the EU until a trade deal is agreed that avoids the need for border checks with Ireland.

Many Brexiters fear this would leave Britain a "vassal state", tied to the bloc indefinitely.

## Cricketer Shahid Afridi proposes to free PoK; says Pak can't even manage its 4 provinces

**SAJJAD HUSSAIN ISLAMABAD, Nov 14 (PTI):** Pakistan's former cricketer Shahid Afridi has proposed that Pakistan-occupied Kashmir should be given "independence", saying the country does not want the region as it cannot even manage its four provinces.

In a viral video of his address to students in London, Afridi, also known as "Boom Boom", is heard saying that Pakistan is not interested in Kashmir and since the country is against giving

it to India, the region should be given independence.

"I say Pakistan doesn't want Kashmir. Don't give it to India either. Let Kashmir be independent. At least humanity will be alive. Let people not die," he said.

"Pakistan doesn't want Kashmir. It can't even manage its four provinces. The big thing is insaanayat (humanity). People who are dying there, it is painful. Any death, be it from any community, is painful," Afridi said.

# Chaos in Lanka parliament as Speaker comes under siege

**COLOMBO, Nov 15 (PTI):**

Violent scenes were witnessed in the Sri Lankan Parliament on Thursday as agitated lawmakers loyal to President Maithripala Sirisena and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa surrounded the Speaker in his chair after the premier, who lost a floor test, demanded fresh elections to resolve the political turmoil.

Trouble erupted when Speaker Karu Jayasuriya agreed to a request from ousted premier Ranil Wickremesinghe's United National Party that a vote be taken on a statement made by Rajapaksa demanding fresh polls.

Jayasuriya had allowed Rajapaksa to make a statement as a member of parliament after stating that he does not recognise the claim of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) leader who lost a no-confidence motion on Wednesday.

"I was the president and premier, so this prime minister's post is not important," Rajapaksa said. "I urge all 225 members to join me in calling for a fresh election. We want a general election," he said, adding that a fresh election was the best way to resolve the crisis.

UNP legislator Lakshman Kiriella urged Jayasuriya to take a vote by name, showing the loss



of confidence over Rajapaksa's remarks.

Jayasuriya asked the House if it agreed and with resounding voices of 'Aye' he proceeded to take the vote.

He was immediately surrounded by Sirisena and Rajapaksa's MPs who were protesting against Jayasuriya's decision to take the vote.

"I am the Speaker and I decide," Jayasuriya told the angry lawmakers as UNP MPs formed a ring around the Speaker's chair to shield Jayasuriya.

"They are trying to assault the Speaker," UNP legislator Harsha de Silva tweeted from the House.

Objects were thrown

at the Speaker's chair and at least one MP was seen leaving the chamber bleeding, an official said.

The commotion continued for about half an hour before Jayasuriya adjourned the House.

"We are the lawful government and we will sit in the government benches today," Ajith P Perera, a senior UNP legislator said earlier. The UNP had sat on the opposition benches during the no-trust vote.

Rajapaksa's side has disputed the no-trust motion, saying proper procedure was not followed and accused Jayasuriya of bias towards his own party. Since the

Speaker had ruled that Rajapaksa had no majority, Wickremesinghe remains the lawful premier, the UNP claimed.

The UNP said they would boycott a meeting called by Sirisena with political parties which backed the motion against Rajapaksa on Wednesday. This was after a strongly worded letter from Sirisena to Jayasuriya last night.

Sirisena, in response to an official communique by Jayasuriya on the vote in parliament, told the Speaker that a prime minister does not necessarily require a parliamentary majority, that Jayasuriya had violated parliamenta-

ry procedures and standing orders of parliament in conducting the no-trust motion against Rajapaksa, and that he as president was the sole authority in appointing a prime minister.

Parliament on Wednesday passed the no-confidence motion against Rajapaksa who was installed by as premier by Sirisena in a controversial move, after the Supreme Court overturned the presidential decree to dissolve the House and hold snap polls on January 5.

Amid raucous scenes, Parliament on Wednesday met for the first time since October 26, when Sirisena sacked premier Wick-

remesinghe, installed Rajapaksa in his place and suspended the House, plunging the island nation into an unprecedented Constitutional crisis.

The vote of no confidence against Rajapaksa has further complicated the political crisis as the former strongman has rejected the outcome of the floor test. It is not yet clear whether Rajapaksa will resign or whether the ousted Wickremesinghe, who has the support of 122 lawmakers, will return to power.

The passing of the no-confidence motion comes as a major blow to Sirisena and is a victory for Wickremesinghe.

## Death toll from California wildfires rises as 130 still missing



**PARADISE (US), Nov 15 (AFP):** The toll in the deadliest wildfires in recent California history climbed to 59 on Wednesday as authorities released a list of 130 people still missing. Most of those unaccounted for are from the Butte County town of Paradise, in northern California, which was virtually erased from the map by the so-called "Camp Fire" blaze that erupted last week.

Butte County Sheriff Kory Honea told journalists Wednesday evening that 461 search and rescue personnel and 22 cadaver dogs were involved in the effort to locate those missing and DNA testing was being expedited to identify the victims.

"Beginning Thursday, anyone who believes a family member perished can provide a DNA sample" to the sheriff's office, Honea said.

Paradise, a town of about 26,000 in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains, was popular with retirees and many of those reported missing by the sheriff's office are elderly -- in their 70s, 80s and 90s. Virtually every home in Paradise, located 80 miles (130 kilometers) north of the state capital Sacramento, was destroyed by the fast-moving fire fuelled by high winds.

At least 59 deaths have been reported so far from the devastating wildfires and body recovery teams were going house-to-house with cadaver dogs in Paradise on Wednesday. "We are in the midst of a catastrophe," Governor Jerry Brown told a press conference. "The fire was unprecedented, overwhelming,

so a lot of people got caught," Brock Long, head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), said Paradise was looking at a "total rebuild" with many homes, businesses and infrastructure destroyed.

"This is going to be a very long and frustrating event for the citizens of Paradise," Long said.

"We're going to have to find a new normal." "You're not going to be able to rebuild Paradise the way it was." An AFP reporter in Paradise on Wednesday saw crews removing trees, repairing fences along roads and towing away cars. Authorities said livestock owners were being allowed in to restricted areas for brief periods to feed the animals but it was unclear when residents would be allowed back in.

Fifty-six deaths have been reported from the "Camp Fire", mostly in Paradise, while three people have died in the "Woolsey Fire."

Honea said that of the 56 human remains found in his county, 47 had been identified. While the cause of the "Camp Fire" is still under investigation, a lawsuit has been filed against the local power company, PG&E, by fire victims claiming negligence by the utility. The complaint alleged that the fire began on November 8 when a high voltage transmission line failed, igniting a vegetation fire. As thousands of firefighters fought the fires, incredible tales have emerged of courage and survival.

A man who asked to be identified by only his first name, Scott, told the San Francisco Chronicle that

when the "Camp Fire" surrounded his home in Concow in Butte County he and his family plunged into a reservoir along with a 90-year-old neighbor, Bruno.

"Bruno was saying, 'Just leave me. I can't do this,'" Scott, 51, told the newspaper. "I said, 'Bruno, we're not going to leave you. And I'm not going to burn, so you better hurry.'" They remained in the cold water as flames licked the shore and made their way to a small island in the reservoir after finding a pair of rowboats.

Allyn Pierce, a nurse in Paradise, told The New York Times and CNN how his life was saved by a bulldozer driver as he fled the town in his pickup truck along with other residents on Thursday. Pierce said cars were catching fire around him and he dictated a goodbye message to his family, expecting his vehicle to catch fire next.

"I stayed calm but I was terrified," Pierce said.

"Then all of a sudden this bulldozer comes out of nowhere and knocks this burning truck out of the way," he said.

Instead of fleeing to safety, however, Pierce turned around and went back to the Adventist Health Feather River Hospital, where he works as an intensive care nurse, and helped evacuate patients to the hospital's helipad. Pierce displayed pictures of his Toyota pickup truck which he said was still working despite lights which had melted and a rear passenger door which had been welded shut by the heat from the fire.

## Asian stocks higher after Wall Street fall, Brexit approval

**BEIJING, Nov 15 (AP):** Most Asian stock markets gained Thursday after Wall Street fell and Britain's Cabinet endorsed a draft agreement to leave the European Union.

The Shanghai Composite Index rose 1 per cent to 2,659.12 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng added 1 per cent to 25,907.26. Tokyo's Nikkei 225 shed 0.2 per cent to 21,803.62 and Seoul's Kospi advanced 0.4 per cent to 2,077.41.

Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 added 3 points to 5,736.00. India's Sensex rose 0.4 per cent to 35,286.91. Bangkok and New Zealand retreated while Taiwan and other Southeast Asian markets rose. US markets were dragged down by losses for tech companies, banks and insurers.

Apple Inc. lost 2.8 per cent. Bond prices rose as traders shifted money into low-risk assets.

That pulled yields down, which hurts banks by driving interest rates on loans lower.

Energy stocks rebounded as crude oil prices snapped a 12-day losing streak. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 0.8 per cent to 2,701.58. The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 0.8 per cent to 25,080.50. The Nasdaq composite dropped 0.9 per cent to 7,136.39.

Prime Minister Theresa May persuaded the British Cabinet to back an agreement to separate from the European Union, triggering the final steps toward Brexit.

May said the decision

is a "decisive step" toward finalising the exit deal with the EU within days, though it was unclear whether Parliament will go along.

The deal would allow Britain to stay in a customs union, bound by EU rules, while the two sides negotiate a trade treaty.

EU chief negotiator Michel Barnier said the two sides agreed to avoid a "hard border" between Ireland, a member of the trade bloc, and Northern Ireland.

"Despite the UK Cabinet backing the new Brexit draft plan, the boost for markets had been short-lived with the sea of worries overruling sentiment," said Jingyi Pan of IG in a report.

Asian markets are "taking after the poor leads from Wall Street" due to "little data" due out in the region.

Government data showed employment rose by 32,800 in October, above market expectations for a gain of 20,000. The jobless rate stayed at 5 per cent. The annual rate of job creation rose to 2.5 per cent.

Benchmark US crude lost 12 cents to USD 56.13 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 56 cents on Wednesday to close at USD 56.25. Brent crude, used to price international oils, fell 1 cent to USD 66.11 per barrel in London. It gained 65 cents the previous session to USD 66.12.



# 9 Korean Dramas You Need To Watch Before 2018 Ends

*2018 has been a whirlwind of a year with so many fantastic dramas with such varying genres. Romance, memory-loss, plastic surgery... you name it, you got it! In no particular order, here are our personal favourites from this year:*

**1. 100 DAYS MY PRINCE:** Ever since his first big role in It's Okay, That's Love, Do Kyung-soo (better known as D.O. from Korean boyband EXO) has impressed us continually with his stellar performances. This time, paired with "chart-climbing icon" Nam Ji-hyun, the two lead actors make this historical rom-com one that you won't want to miss.

**2. ARE YOU HUMAN TOO?:** What better way to showcase artificial intelligence

than through a feel-good K-drama? Seo Kang-joon turns into a robot for this sci-fi romance drama. Complete with a chaebol (a family-run conglomerate) back-story, we were enthralled by the rich-man, poor-girl plot with a futuristic twist.

**3. MY ID IS GANGNAM BEAUTY:** Beauty is only skin-deep, or so they say. Learning how to love

yourself for who you are on the inside is a big theme in this webtoon-turned-drama, as Mi-rae (played by Im Soo-hyang) learns to navigate the ups and downs of plastic surgery and gain self-confidence in the process.

**4. SUITS:** Can you say bromance? Veteran actor Jang Dong-gun and formidable rising star Park Hyung-sik suit up for the Korean remake of popular American TV

series Suits, all set with office romance, chaebols, secrets and betrayal.

**5. RETURN:** Speaking of secrets and betrayal, no drama does it better than Return. This mystery thriller was a rollercoaster of heart-wrenching moments with a fantastic cast that will surely test your loyalties.

**6. WELCOME TO WAIKIKI:** Leaving those miseries behind, you have got to catch Welcome to Waikiki if you haven't already! A perfect combination of friendship, laughter and romance, this K-drama follows the life of 6 young adults navigating their dreams and their future, true sitcom style.

**7. WHAT'S WRONG WITH SECRETARY KIM?:** Honestly, we asked the same question because who can resist the adorable Park Seo-joon? This office romance features all your clichés: Chaebols? Check. Cinderella



story? Check. Kidnapping? Check! Peppered with sweet moments and funny little cameos from comedian Park Na Rae, this is one of the hottest rom-coms of the year.

**8. SOMETHING IN THE RAIN:** Can you imagine dating your best friend's younger brother? Well, we sure can if it's Jung Hae-In! Not a drama for those who prefer fast-paced storytelling, Something In The Rain reflects reality's slow-paced development

from infatuation to love and is one true-to-life, personable story.

**9. MY MISTER:** Not your typical run-of-the-mill drama, My Mister portrays a different image of Korean singer IU as she plays a woman struggling in life. Beautifully cinematic with scenes that tug at your heart strings, this drama draws attention to the ordinary people and their relationships in everyday life.

## 7 Things About Up-And-Coming Chinese Boyband, Nine Percent

Wait, you mean you haven't heard about Nine Percent, just about the hottest Chinese boyband out there yet? Just to catch you up to speed, here are seven facts about Nine Percent you just got to know before the official release of their first album, "To The Nines", on the 20 November 2018.

**1. THEY HAD AN INSPIRING DEBUT FROM IDOL PRODUCER:** All of them came together as Nine Percent after a gruelling competition by held by Chinese streaming giant iQiyi called Idol Producer. They were the nine out of 100 trainees that won the most number of votes over the course of four months, and the show garnered a total of 100 million viewers within the first hour of broadcast.

**2. WHO'S THE OLDEST AND YOUNGEST IN THE GROUP?:** The oldest member is Malaysian-born You Zhangjing (born in 1994), while the youngest is Justin (born in 2002).

**3. THEIR SOCIAL PULL IS INSANE:** Yes, you saw that right! Singer-songwriter Cai Xukun, or Kun Kun as his fans like to call him, secured almost 48 million votes during the last episode of the competition, maintaining his 1st place position since the first episode.

**4. THEY HAVE A (NOT SO) SECRET CONNECTION TO CHINESE ACTRESS FAN BINGBING:** If you're wondering why Fan Chengheng's name sounds so familiar, it's because he is the younger brother of Chinese actress, Fan Bingbing.

**5. THEY HAVE THREE FOREIGN MEMBERS ON THE TEAM:** There are three foreign members in Nine Percent: Lin Yanjun and Chen Linong are both from Taiwan and You Zhangjing hails from Malaysia.

**6. THEIR FANDOM'S NAME HAS A REALLY CUTE MEANING:** Their fandom's name is 'Nines', as it sounds like a combination of the word 'mine' and the group name 'Nine Percent', representing the fans and the group as one single unit.

**7. THEY'RE CRAZY ACCOMPLISHED:** They all received training in Los Angeles after their debut for half a month, where they were mentored by famous producers Rodney Jerkins and Christopher Scott. During this time, they also filmed their first reality show, 9% Youth.

## Disney's Live-Action Dumbo Trailer Soars to New Heights

*Have you ever seen an elephant fly?*

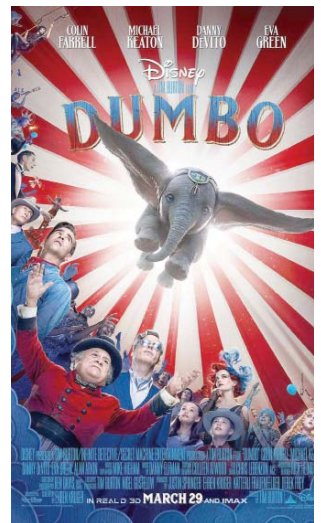
Five months after Walt Disney Pictures released the first teaser trailer for Tim Burton's reimagining of Dumbo, the studio shared the full trailer during the 2018 CMA Awards on ABC.

Loosely inspired by the 1941 animated film of the same name, Dumbo stars Danny DeVito as circus owner Max Medici. He enlists former circus star Holt Farrier (Colin Farrell) and his two children, Joe Farrier (Finley Hobbins) and Milly Farrier (Nico Parker), to care for a newborn elephant whose floppy ears make him a laughingstock in an already struggling traveling show.

Of course, everything changes after they discover Dumbo's high-flying skills—and tycoon V.A. Vandevere (Michael Keaton) swoops in to recruit the peculiar pachyderm for his newest venture, Dreamland. Dumbo gets the opportunity to soar alongside Colette Marchant (Eva Green), a talented aerial artist—until Holt discovers that Dream-

land is actually a nightmare.

Animated characters Jim Crow and Timothy Q. Mouse do not appear to be in the remake.



**LOOKING GREAT!** Songstress Mariah Carey steps out looking gorgeous in an all black outfit in NYC.

**ARIES :** Today you're likely to feel like the powerful creature you are, Aries. Your physical energy is high, and you look and feel great. Your intellect is sharp, so if you indulge in any kind of learning process, you will benefit greatly. Your creative energy is also high, so it's a good day to work on artistic projects. In the evening, you will feel especially romantic, so plan an intimate encounter with a special someone!

**TAURUS :** Your intuition should be very high right now, Taurus, as is your power of manifestation. Today you need to try to curb your thoughts and only think beautiful things, because you might find that whatever you think about seems to manifest! Some powerful dreams and visions can open up new lines of intellectual exploration for you that can have a potent effect on your immediate

future. Go to it.

**GEMINI :** Your immediate goals and wishes might suddenly appear to come together today, seemingly of their own accord. This might be strange, Gemini, and perhaps a bit frightening, but your inner power is especially strong now, and your higher self is manifesting what you've worked long and hard to achieve. At times like this, it's important to remember those who helped you along the way. You will want to acknowledge them as well as yourself.

**CANCER :** If you've been working toward manifesting extra money in your life, Cancer, you will probably see it happen today. Copious physical and emotional energy gives your inner power of mind over matter a special impetus, and you might see the results you've wanted in finance and other matters. Professional interests should also be going well, as

well as any personal projects. Keep up the good work!

**LEO :** Whatever goals you encountered in attaining your cherished goals could suddenly seem to melt away, clearing the way to make your dreams come true, Leo. This could involve physical health, plans for travel and education, and self-expression. You could also feel especially passionate now, so a romantic evening with that special someone would be particularly enjoyable. You feel great, so look your best, too!

**VIRGO :** A lot of activity could occur at home today, Virgo. Perhaps you will have visitors or do some work on the house. Your intuition is particularly strong right now, and you could pick up too much of the thoughts and feelings of others, even strangers. You will probably be most in tune with your family. Take care to guard your thoughts. Today

you might find that whatever you think of could actually manifest

**LIBRA :** Whatever goals you've been trying to reach may finally become reality today, Libra. Finalizing everything could involve a lot of running around in the car and meeting with other people, but you're likely to feel exhilarated all the same. Powerful people could prove to be of valuable help to you. As a result, matters should be going very well right now. Make the most of it!

**SCORPIO :** Events over which you seem to have no control seem to be coming together to make things happen for you, Scorpio. You might find this a bit frightening, but don't let it get to you. Go with the flow. You've worked hard for what's happening today, and you deserve to enjoy the results. The exhilaration you feel could manifest as abundant physical energy.

This could be too much of a good thing. Don't overdo

**SAGITTARIUS :** Your energy is probably high today, almost to the point where you feel you might be able to run a marathon! Seriously, Sagittarius, you're probably thinking in terms of getting out of town for a while. Exercising or participating in sports could also be appealing. You might direct some of this energy into creative projects. Take care not to overdo it. You could still get too tired

**CAPRICORN :** Your inner power is probably at an all-time high, Capricorn. You should be feeling especially confident. You're likely to have a stronger influence on others than usual. You could exercise the power of mind over matter. You could think of something only to have it happen at some point during the day. Today you should guard your thoughts and

be careful what you wish for. You just might get it

**AQUARIUS :** Some fascinating conversations with friends, relatives, and others close to you could take place today, bringing new ideas your way, Aquarius. You have both the physical energy and the inner power to make things happen, so you should make the most of it. Carefully consider your needs and aspirations and formulate a plan of action to make them a reality. The results might surprise you!

**PISCES :** Your career and financial goals should be within your grasp, Pisces. Both your physical energy and inner power are operating at their peak, making this an ideal day to make clear plans. Also, if you've been working to improve your health, you might see some definite results. If not, this is a great day to start a new health and exercise regimen. Go to it!