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# SummitTIMES

Vol 04 | Issue 300 | Gangtok | Friday | 15 November 2019

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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## State-level Annual Sports Competition kicks off



**SAGAR CHHETRI  
GANGTOK, 14 NOV:**

The state-level Annual Sports Competition 2019-20 was inaugurated by the Minister for Sports & Youth Affairs, Kunga Nima Lepcha here at Paljor Stadium this morning. The two-day competition is being organised by the Department of Sports & Youth Affairs, Government of Sikkim. The selected teams and athletes from this competition will represent Sikkim in the School National Games.

A total of 380 sportspersons are participating in this two-day competition. In the block-level competitions, 418 schools had participated from which selected teams and athletes had participated in the district-level.

In his address, the Minister mentioned that school games are being conducted in the State after a gap of 12 years. He stated that the Chief Minister has directed that sporting events should be held consistently in the State to spot promising and talented sportspersons from

different corners of the State in order to provide them wider exposure at higher levels.

Mr Lepcha assured all possible support from the government in terms of facilities and infrastructures in the field of sports. He also congratulated international basketball player from Sikkim, Nima Doma Bhutia, who is presently with team India in Malaysia.

Earlier, Secretary Sports & Youth Affairs Department, Kuber Bhandari congratulated all participating athletes and teams representing their respective districts in this state-level competition.

Mr Bhandari informed that selected athletes and teams from the state-level will represent Sikkim in the School National Games. He added that state teams for swimming, basketball, boxing and badminton have already left to represent Sikkim in the School National Games and others will leave after this state-level competition. He further informed that the selected athletes and teams in the School

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## Footballer Reeya Lepcha diagnosed with brain tumour

**REBYNA RANA  
GANGTOK, 14 NOV:**

Reeya Lepcha, a 15-year-old footballer who has represented Sikkim at national level football tournaments, is presently in dire need of support from the society.

Reeya has been diagnosed with brain tumor and the first surgery was conducted on 28 October. She has been referred to Apollo Hospital, Delhi, for further treatment from the Central Referral Hospital, Manipal here.

She hails from Sangkhu Radukhandu GPU, Maneybong-Dentam constituency in West Sikkim and is a promising footballer.

Reeya's parents are unable to meet the treatment costs of their daughter and have appealed for financial support from the people. They are taking their daughter to Delhi on Sunday.

Footballers Nim Tshering Lepcha and Kunzang Lepcha from Dzongu recently worked together with Sikkim Lepcha Youth Association, Dzongu branch to raise some aid for Reeya. They hand-

ed over the collected amount of Rs. 27,010 to her parents today.

"We appeal to all to come forward and help save the life of a young girl. Your financial contributions will be crucial to saving her life," appeals Nim Tshering.

Donations can be made at the bank account of Reeya's father Manjum Lepcha.

**Account number: 2380306246  
Bank: Central Bank of India, Dentam branch.  
Account holder name: Manjum Lepcha.  
Contact number: 7432042807.**

People can also contact Nim Tshering Lepcha in Gangtok at 8972683560 to hand over financial assistance in cash or for further queries.

## Uncle arrested for Pakyong teen's murder

**ARPAN PRADHAN  
GANGTOK, 14 NOV:**

Police have arrested 23-year-old Ash Kumar Rai for the rape and murder of a 19-year-old girl in Pakyong, East Sikkim on 08 Nov. The accused admitted to committing the crime during interrogation last night, as per the police.

Briefing the media today, Superintendent of Police, East District, Hari Chettri said that the accused is the paternal uncle of the victim and confessed while being interrogated on Wednesday night.

He informed that the accused was produced in the District Court today and has been remanded to police custody.

"The investigation



is not yet complete, so the final charges on him will be framed after the

investigation is completed," said the SP, East.

As of now, the case

is registered against the accused under sections 302, 376 and 201 of the

Indian Penal Code.

Mr. Chettri has congratulated the team of

## State level Children's Day celebration



**GANGTOK, 14 NOV (IPR):** State level Children's Day function to commemorate the 130th Birth Anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was celebrated in a grand manner at Chintan Bhawan today.

Organized by the Education Department, the event was attended by Chief Minister, Prem Singh Tamang (Golay) as chief guest.

Also attending the

event were Education Minister, Kunga Nima, Speaker, Sikkim Legislative Assembly, LB Das, Chief Secretary, SC Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, GP Upadhaya, Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, Mayor, Deputy Mayor, HoDs, officers, teachers and children from various schools.

Earlier, the CM paid respect to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru by garland-

ing his bust at Ridge Park near Mintokgang after which they proceeded towards Chintan Bhawan.

The programme started with the offering of bouquets to the chief guest after which the ceremonial lamp was lit.

Teachers of Deorali Girls Senior Secondary School presented the welcome song which was followed by patriotic songs

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### CM ANNOUNCES

1. Right to Education entitlement like uniforms, mid-day meal, textbooks and exercise books provided by the Samagra Shiksha and Education Department jointly reach every child at the beginning of every academic session.
2. ICDS operating from rented house should be shifted to schools for proper transition to school.
3. Private schools which do not fulfill the NCTE norms, do not have B.Ed. and DIET trained teachers, no proper facilities as per the Right to Education Act and curriculum as per the National Curriculum Framework and NCERT guidelines, will be closed down.
4. Education Department should immediately formulate a policy to monitor all private schools and have full control

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## Indra Hang condemns Machong murder case

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 14 NOV:**

Ok Sabha MP, Indra Hang Subba, has strongly condemned the Machong murder incident and said it was very unfortunate for the small and peaceful state like Sikkim to witness such a heinous crime.

He stated that the entire state and the state government have condemned the incident and he was also doing so not only as an MP but also as an individual.

He has assured all possible help from his side to help the family cope and added that the State governments will also extend all possible assistance.

**Samajik Adhikarita Shivar**  
Distribution of Aids & Assistive Devices to Divyangjan and Senior Citizens

**Narendra Modi**  
Prime Minister

**Date : 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019 | Time: 11:30 A.M.**  
**Venue : GGSSS, Kyongsa, Gyalshing, West Sikkim**

**Prem Singh Tamang**  
Chief Minister of Sikkim

**804 Senior Citizens belonging to BPL Category & 197 Divyangjan will be provided Aids and Assistive Devices**

**Empowerment through Samajik Adhikarita Shivar**

- 3.08 lakh Aids & Assistive Devices distributed to more than one lakh Senior Citizens under Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana
- Assistive Devices distributed to more than 14 lakh Divyangjan

- 2237 cochlear implant surgeries were conducted
- Approx 13000 motorized tri-cycles distributed
- 80 years old Senior Citizens to get devices directly at their home

**Chief Guest**  
**Prem Singh Tamang**  
Chief Minister, Sikkim

**Presided over by**  
**Thaawarchand Gehlot**  
Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment  
Govt. of India

**Government of India**  
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

**150**  
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CELEBRATING  
THE NATION

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## State-level Annual ...

National Games will get entry in Khelo India.

He thanked the State government and the CM for providing all support and guidance to conduct the school games in the State after a gap of 12 years.

The inaugural function also witnessed march past by participants of all four districts. This was followed by the commencement of the competition at different venues.

Athletic events started at Khel Gaon, Reshithang, archery at Archery field at Tathangchen and football, table tennis, taekwondo and karate at Paljor Stadium complex. The closing function of the state-level competition will be held on Friday afternoon.

## State level...

presented by students of Bojoghari SSS and Modern SSS.

Addressing the gathering, the CM wished the students on behalf of his government and said celebrating Nehru's birthday as Children's Day is an eternal honor to him. He said that Jawaharlal Nehru was one of the main pioneers of modern India and his immense contribution especially in building the foundation of all the reputed infrastructures in the country are still acknowledged.

"Children have a conscious mind. Every little thing affects their brains, therefore special attention should be paid to their daily activities. In addition, taking care of children's mental and physical health is also very important. They are the future makers of the nation," he said.

He also shared his experiences working as a teacher and the strong relationships which he shared with students while expressing teachers' happiness over the success and achievements of their students.

While addressing the gathering, the Minister for Education expressed his delight in being a part of this wonderful occasion. He said that children are the future of tomorrow and greatness of any country is evaluated by the youth force in it, thus, it is our duty to make sure that we create an atmosphere of constructive development.

He elaborated on the meaningfulness of the day and shed light on Pandit Nehru's fondness for children and how he was referred to lovingly as Chacha Nehru. He also elaborated on Nehru's life history where he talked about his love and concern towards children and how under the guidance of Mahatma Gandhi, he turned out to be the leader of India's struggle for independence.

During the programme, the CM also released a new textbook.

Earlier, a speech on Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was given by Deepti Karki of Deorali SSS.

The programme also witnessed a short presentation on DIKSHA- the energized textbook for Classes I-III and another presentation on new textbooks developed by SCERT, Sikkim in collaboration with UNESCO-MGIEP and Azim Premji Foundation.

The function also showcased a documentary film on Lt Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru.

Earlier, the welcome address was presented by ACS, GP Upadhaya, and the vote of thanks was delivered by Director, School Education, Education Department, Bhim Thatal.

## CM ANNOUNCES...

over them in the matters of curriculum, training, pedagogy, school development plan and other requirements.

- There should be four levels of school education
- Directorate of Elementary Education for pre-primary to class eight as per the NCTE and NCERT norms
- Directorate of Secondary Education for Classes 9 to 12
- Directorate of Higher Education for Academic and scholastic education like undergraduate courses of BA, BSc, B. Com etc. and Master Degree
- Directorate of Technical Education for professional and diploma courses like Engineering, Medical, Technical and other Vocational Courses
- All schools must ensure that there is proper coordination with the society.
- Maximum focus on KG classes, information and communication technology, vocational education, community participation
- All companies, private sector undertakings, corporate bodies must give a minimum of 50% of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to education sector every year.
- Two annual increments will be given to those teachers who admit their children in primary classes in government schools.
- Sikkim State Teachers' Recruitment Board (SSTRB) must conduct recruitment of teachers every year at the end of the academic session.
- To ensure transparency and accountability, SSTRB must also have a Secretary from the Civil Service NOT working in the Education Department.
- Like DIET for Diploma in Elementary Education (D El Ed), an institute under DIET for Diploma in Early Childhood Care and Education (D ECCE) for pre-service training of pre-primary teachers will also be established.
- MP LAD fund will be used for development of Education only.
- Education tour (exposure trip) for senior students every year

# Block level workshop on child rights held in Chungthang



**MANGAN, 14 Nov [IPR]:**

A Block level Workshop on child rights and child related legislations was held at Panchayat Bhawan, Chungthang, on 14 Nov, 2019 for members of Village level Child Protection Committees of Chungthang Block, North district.

The program was attended by the Chairperson and members of Block Level Child Protection Committees (BLCPCs) of Chungthang Block and Chairperson and members of Village

level Child Protection Committees (VLCPCs) formed in the two GPUs and two Dzumsas of Lachen and Lachung.

At the outset, BDO Chungthang, Sonam Palden Bhutia introduced the members of the BLCPC, Chungthang.

Chairperson, BLCPC, Chungthang, Tshering Ongmu Lepcha addressed the gathering by motivating them to work hard towards protection of child rights.

Chairperson, Child

Welfare Committee (CWC), North, Mingma Doma Bhutia highlighted the role of CWC in handling cases of Child In Need of Care and Protection (CINCP), and urged all the GPUs & Dzumsas of the north District.

DCPO, North, Wendy Lepcha highlighted the pertinent provisions of child related legisla-

tions like JJ Act, 2015,

POCSO (Amendment) Act, 2019, etc. and their roles as Child Protection Committees. It was also informed by the DCPO, North, that 4 Block Level Child Protection Committees have been formed in all the four blocks of the District i.e. Mangan block, Dzongu Block, Kabi Block and Chungthang Block. 25 VLCPCs have been formed in all the GPUs & Dzumsas of the north District.

All these GPUs+Dzumsas have been declared as "Child friendly GPUs+Dzumsas" and the Village level Child Protection Committees (VLCPCs) will be monitoring the GPUs/Dzumsas for effective implementation of the child protection mechanism in the community.

The program concluded with all the members of BLCPC and VLCPC taking a Child Protection Pledge and signing the pledge.

## Children's Day celebrated at Tiny Tots School



**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 14 Nov:**

Tiny Tots School Rangpo celebrated Children's Day today at the school complex.

As per a press release, the program started with offering of khada on the portrait of Late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. School Principal, Ajeet Sharma in his welcome address specially highlighted the activities of the

school in 2019. Colourful cultural program, poem and story recitation, sports competition was held on the day.

The main attraction of the program was TTS Idol competition. Twelve students reached the semifinal round and 5 singers were selected for the final round which is going to be held in the second week of December 2019.

## KVK West organizes field day program at Mangsari



**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 14 Nov:**

Krishni Vigyan Kendra, West Sikkim, conducted field day program at Mangsari village under Soreng block today, a press release informs.

The programme was chaired by ward Panchayat, Deputy Director Agriculture Department Soreng, Pranay Gurung, Sr Scientist and Head, Dinesh Basnett, SMS Agronomy, Jaya Prakash Dulal, SMS Soil Science, Basant Tamang, Training Asst, Phurba Diki Sherpa from KVK West Sikkim, HDO, DP Sharma, Agriculture Inspector, Kabita Thapa, and 35 progressive farmers attended the program.

Farm school on or-

ganic cultivation of Paddy in Hee Martam - Sumbuk village was also opened for farmers to learn from along the concept of learning by doing in collaboration with ATMA West, managed by Block Tech Manager (BTM), Bivek Sharma and regularly monitored by KVK West Sikkim.

Crop cutting programme was also organised by KVK, West Sikkim. Data and results were calculated in the presence of various line department officials and farmers. The average yield obtained is 34 to 38q/ha in West Sikkim under organic condition with crop duration of 137days after sowing.

## Bardang School celebrates Children's Day

**YOGEN THATAL**

**SINGTAM, 14 Nov:**

Bardang Secondary School, East Sikkim, along with a team from Childline Sub Centre representing Rongli and Rangpo celebrated Children's Day at Bardang Secondary School today.

Dancing, singing, games and other activities were conducted in today's program. The winners were presented

with gifts from Vice Principal, Bandana Rai.

During the program, the Childline team asked girl children to be alert and safe. The Childline Sub Center was represented by Jharna Gurung while Amrit Sapkota from Welfare Department was present as a resource person for the program.

Teacher, Kripesh Singh of the school presented the vote of thanks.

## Lok Sabha MP felicitated as Youth Icon at inter-college Debate Competition

**GANGTOK, 14 Nov (IPR):** Inter-College Debate Competition and felicitation of Member of Parliament, Indra Hang Subba, as a youth icon was organised by Nar Bahadur Bhandari Degree College, Gangtok today.

The bilingual Inter-college debate competition, themed 'The Digital Age has Paralysed Young Minds,' and was won by Nisha Gupta of Sikkim Law College who was adjudged the Best Speaker. Harkamaya BEd College took home the runners-up

trophy while Nar Bahadur Bhandari Degree College bagged the first prize.

Six institutions - SRM College-Tadong, Sikkim Government Law College-Burtuk, Harkamaya BEd College, ICAI University, Sikkim Govt. College Burtuk and the host college participated in the competition.

The jury comprised of Anita Niroula, news editor of All India Radio; and Dr Durga P Chettri, Associate Professor, Head of Department, Political Science, Sikkim University.

## Sikkim Pentecostal Churches Council celebrates 19th foundation day

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 14 Nov:**

Sikkim Pentecostal Churches Council celebrated its 19th foundation day at Rangpo Pentecostal Church in East Sikkim on Wednesday.

The celebration started with an invocation prayer by Rev Eliya Rai followed by a welcome address by Council general secretary, Pastor Basant Gazmer. Council advisor Rev KD Khaling also spoke at the function.

In his presidential address, the Sikkim Pentecostal Churches Council president, Rev Smile Gurung, detailed future programmes of

the organization and informed that the council was working to organise a Pentecostal Churches Summit 2020.

He mentioned that the council has been working to speak for churches here on different issues and has also been working as the bridge between the churches and the government.

On the occasion, the council congratulated the new State government led on its electoral victory.

The celebration ended with a prayer by the Council's East treasurer, Pastor Usha Lepcha, and benediction prayer by chief advisor Rev SK Bharat Rai.

## Two-day National Seminar on Sikkim history at SU



**GANGTOK, 14 Nov (PIB):**

Two day National Seminar on "Reimagining the History and Traditions of the People of Sikkim" is being organized by the Department of History on 14 and 15 Nov, 2019. The inaugural function of the Seminar was held at the Conference Hall, Barad Sadan on 14 Nov, 2019. The chief guest for the programme was Former Ambassador of India to Greece, Tsewang Topden. The keynote address was delivered by Prof Jyoti Prakash Tamang. Prof Tamang highlighted on the ethnic fermented foods of

Sikkim and their similarities with the ethnic fermented foods of the other parts of India and the world. The inaugural function was chaired by the Registrar, TK Kaul.

The Seminar seeks to narrate the lifestyles, cultural practices and knowledge systems that are untapped or left away by the academia and encourage scholars to reimagine the history and traditions as it is practiced.

The Seminar also aims at looking into the different aspects of the history and traditions of the people of Sikkim.

## SJA conducts workshop for Advocates



**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 14 Nov:**

Sikkim Judicial Academy organized a workshop for Advocates of Sikkim on 09 Nov, 2019. The workshop was divided into two sessions.

A press release informs that the first session was on "Duties of an Advocate, Professional ethics, Knowing your Judicial Fora and understanding your role vis-a-vis the Advocates Act, 1961 and the Bar Council of India Rules, 1975."

The second session was on "Drafting, Framing of issues, Preparing and Conducting a Civil litigation." The Resource Person for the workshop was Senior Advocate, Narendra Rai, High Court of Sikkim and President, Bar Association of Sikkim.

The participants were Bar Members of Bar Association of Sikkim, East District. The Resource Person discussed each topic in detail and conducted exercises on the subject matter.

## Chandrika Yolmo Lama is Mrs India Classic 2019

**NITESH R PRADHAN**

**GANGTOK, 14 Nov:**

Chandrika Yolmo Lama, representing the Darjeeling and Sikkim region, has won the Mrs India Classic 2019, a beauty pageant held in Goa on 11 Nov.

Ms Lama is an educa-

tionist and an army wife.

Being an animal-lover, she has rescued many animals in distress and also works for the upliftment of underprivileged children.

Her dream is to start an animal sanctuary for paralyzed street animals.

## Govt eases norms for change of address on Aadhaar

**NEW DELHI, NOV 13 (PTI):**

The government has allowed migrants to change address on Aadhaar by giving self declaration, a move aimed at helping them open bank account and promote financial inclusion.

The changes were made by amending the Prevention of Money-laundering (Maintenance of Records) Rules, as per a gazette notification issued on Wednesday.

It allows a person with Aadhaar number for identification wants to provide address different from what is available in the Central Identities Data Repository, he may give a self-declaration to

that effect to the reporting entity, it said.

There was long standing demand to ease address change rule.

The decision will help migrant workers who have address of their native place in Aadhaar but wants a bank account with their current address where they are living for work. People may have residential address in their Aadhaar and give work address as current address.

There are many cases where people may have their address in Aadhaar and want to give a more functional address for know your customer (KYC).

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

**For details contact: 9083826462**

### FLAT FOR RENT/LEASE

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

**For more details: 9083826462 /9832556698**

### GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

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

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

**Contact: 9800201335**

### LAND FOR SALE

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

**to book advertisements in SummitTimes call 03592-208698, 9734152541, 9647102692, advertise@summittimes.com,**



## Blood Sugar Level Screening at SRM on World Diabetes Day

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 14 NOV:**

Commemorating World Diabetes Day, School of Public Health at SRM University, Sikkim, conducted a blood sugar level screening campaign among the teaching and non-teaching staff of the institution.

Awareness was also provided to all the students and the faculty members through the display of diabetes awareness materials on the display board.

Around 90 teaching and supporting staff got themselves screened today.

## Dentam Vocational College students appeal for donations to help cancer victim

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 14 NOV:**

Dentam Vocational Degree College has initiated a donation drive to raise funds to aid the treatment of a class X student of Dentam suffering from a cancerous tumor in her brain.

Riya Lepcha, who hails from a BPL family of Khandu, Dentam, is undergoing treatment at Apollo Hospital, New Delhi and her father had recently appealed for financial support from the people.

Students of Dentam Vocational Degree College have also appealed to student unions across the State to initiate a fund raising drive to help the child.

## SU and SMU join hands for research and training

**GANGTOK, 14 NOV (PIB):** A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between Sikkim University and Sikkim Manipal University on 14 November 2019. Both SU and SMU have entered into an agreement to promote relations and mutual understanding to recognize their strengths in research and education in one or more disciplines of science, engineering, management and Medical and Allied Health Sciences.

Through this MOU both Universities seek to promote and develop academic co-operation by jointly engaging in research and training programmes and also to jointly organize seminars, conferences and workshops on topics of mutual interest.

SU and SMU also agree to explore opportunities to exchange information on research and training/ learning material and other literature relevant to their educational and research activities.

## Sikkim United Cup 2019 kicks off



**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 14 NOV:**

Sikkim United Cup 2019, an Inter Church Football Tournament, kicked off here at Paljor Stadium on Thursday. Forest Minister, Karma Loday Bhutia declared the tournament open. The 8th edition of Inter-Church Football Tournament is being organized by Sikkim Christian Sports Association [SCSA] on the theme 'Play for Glory'.

The inaugural match was played between Agape Christian Fellowship, Majhitar and Bethlehem Fellowship, Gangtok, in which the former outplayed the latter 5-2. Bijendra Rai of Agape Christian Fellowship was adjudged Man of the Match.

The inaugural day was also attended by Agriculture Minister, Lok

Nath Sharma, who is the Chief Advisor of the organizing committee, Political Secretary to the CM, Jacob Khaling, who is the Chief Patron of the committee, Upper Tadong MLA, GT Dhungel, who is the Advisor of the committee and Namchey-bong MLA, Em Prasad Sharma among other dignitaries. The inaugural function also witnessed performances by popular Christian singers and dance groups.

A total of 29 teams from all four districts of Sikkim and one team each from Kalimpong and Darjeeling are participating in the tournament. The tournament is an annual event of Sikkim Christian Sports Association since its establishment in year 2012.

Speaking to media persons, SCCA chief coor-

dinator, Suman Rai mentioned that the main objective of the tournament is to provide a bigger platform and exposure to skillful and talented footballers in different corners of the State.

He informed that the tournament has been successful in providing exposure to many talented footballers of different churches and now they have been playing for different professional clubs in and outside the State. He stated that the tournament also aims to further strengthen the bond and brotherhood between different churches.

The tournament carries cash prize of Rs. 1.5 lakh to the winner and Rs. 50,000 to the runners-up. The final match of the tournament is scheduled to be played on 30 November.

## Rahul Prasad is the 'Brain of NPS'



**SUMMIT REPORT  
NAMCHI, 14 NOV:**

Rahul Kr Prasad of Class 12 [Science] has won the 2019 Quiz Competition, popularly known as the "Brain of Namchi Public School" contest.

In a closely contested final, Rahul edged past other finalists to win the coveted title. The four finalists, Suchal Chettri (Class 10), Allan Rai (Class 11) and Siddhanth Pradhan (Class 11) and

Rahul Kr Prasad, got through to the grand-finales after grueling preliminary rounds.

Meanwhile, Pradhumna Sapkota of Class 6 won the second edition of BNPS Jr Wizkid Quiz Competition. The other three finalists were Abhinandan Chettri (Class 6), Dishant Mani Pradhan (Class 6) and Niskarsh Pariyar (Class 5).

Principal, Loyola College of Education, Rev Fr

P Joseph Sandanasamy, gave away the prizes.

Prizes were sponsored by Narendra Rai of Educational Book Stores, Siliguri, Balaji Stores, M/s Bhoj Raj & Sons, Ramji Lal & Hanuman Ji and Santosh Gupta, a press release informs.

NPS also celebrated Children's Day along with the birthdays of the Vice Principal, Rev Fr Albert Lobo, Junior School Head, Rev Sr Ajaya today.

## Workshop begins on Challenges and Opportunities in NSS

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 14 NOV:**

The National Service Scheme cell of the Department of Sports & Youth Affairs is organizing a two-day state-level workshop on Challenges and Opportunities in NSS here on 20 and 21 November.

A total of 100 participants, including teachers

and lecturers, are expected to participate in the workshop being funded by the NSS Regional Office, Guwahati.

State NSS Officer, Doma Tshering, informs that such a workshop for school teachers and college lecturers was being organized for the first time in the state.

She adds that resource persons from the regional office and State NSS Cell will deliberate on various issues related to the theme and expressed confidence that the workshop will help take the message, objectives and core agenda and other activities of NSS to more students.

## CONTRIBUTIONS INVITED FOR AMBA SCHOOL LIBRARY UPGRADATION

Wandering Souls of Sikkim is excited to announce our plan to upgrade the school library of Govt. Secondary School, Amba, East Sikkim. This will be fourth such upgradation of school libraries by WSOS.

We have successfully upgraded 3 school libraries so far with the support and contributions of our generous patrons and are looking forward to receive more such contributions.

We request all to kindly contribute books either old or new or cash for the upgradation of school library at Amba.

Our Library Initiative is aimed at upgrading School libraries specially in rural areas of the state and for laying a foundation for better future of our young minds studying in these schools.

**To Contribute Contact WSOS at 7384639193.**

## Temi Tea Mr Sikkim 2019 finalist Tenzing Rinchen Bhutia

**NITESH R PRADHAN  
GANGTOK, 14 NOV:**

Tenzing Rinchen Bhutia is someone who never quits. His hard working nature and zest for life has made him one of the finalists in Temi Tea Mr Sikkim 2019 Manhunt.

**Why Mr Sikkim Manhunt?**

In my opinion, being a Sikkim youth this is a wonderful opportunity to showcase myself and my talent. It was necessary for me to be in this season 2 to know how much I am capable of and lastly to win people's heart and mostly to be a winner.

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

Well each and every person is different in some way or the other but we don't really need to find ways to stand out in the crowd or be unique or different. It will be our dreams that will stand out, our desire to achieve the best in us, working hard towards what we actually want and trust me nobody or no power in the entire universe can stop you from what you really want. You just need to have believe in yourself. My determination and my positive attitude towards life will get the best in you and will be reflected in your deeds and will make me stand out in a crowd.

**What if you win or lose the competition?**

If I win the competition it will be a very happy moment for me. As a teenager, I was always greedy about winning and just getting to the top and at the end when I would lose, I used to cry my heart out.

Later I realised that competition is more about learning.

Apart from winning and losing ill get to learn a lot more things from this competition I'll get a chance to explore things, met many new friends, I'll also get to learn many things from the organisers and the judges. So lastly life is not only about winning or losing competition always makes you stronger.

Define yourself.

I am a very friendly person. I believe patience is my biggest strength because I believe patience is the virtue of person's own character. It helps me stay calm even in the most difficult situation.

I also take success and failure both with positive attitude. During success, I try to encourage myself, while during failure, I try to figure out my mistakes and try to overcome them.

**What is that one thing that can unite humanity?**

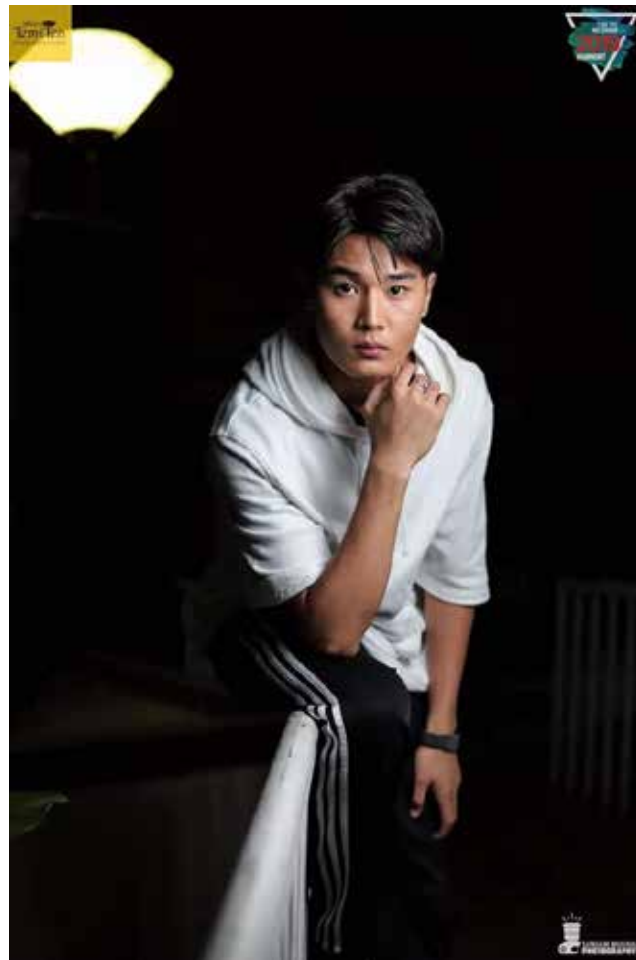
The world is divided upon a lot of things; Nationality, Race, Religion, colour, ethnicity, beliefs, whatever. You name it, there's probably two sets of people fighting over which side is better.

But the one thing that unites us all is humanity and most importantly love.

**Any appeal/message?**

I would like to tell the Sikkim people that please do support me/show some love. Lastly for the people "if you're alive just take advantage of it".

Tell us something about yourself.



Hi, I am Tenzing Rinchen Bhutia. I am from Gangtok. I have completed my schooling from Kyi-De-Khang

and currently I am pursuing my college from IG-NOU. In my family there are 4 members and if I talk about my hobbies I like playing basketball and exploring different kinds of places.

And lastly in my family I have my father, mother, sister and I am the only and youngest son.

## AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

No. 533/Adm/Agri

Dated:11/11/2019

### EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Applications are invited from eligible local candidates for the following posts for a period of 1(one) year in the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sichayee Yojana (PMKSY) under Agriculture Department, Krishi Bhawan, Gangtok.

Sl. No.	Post	Number of posts	Nature of Post	Qualification	Age (Yrs)	Consolidated pay/month as per GOS norms
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Assistant Engineer (AE)	02	Contract for a period of one year on Consolidated Pay as per Col No. 7	B.Tech (Agriculture /Civil)	18-35	Rs.25,000/-
2	Junior Engineer (JE)	02	-do-	Diploma (Civil Engineering)/ B.Tech (Agri Engineering)	18-35	Rs.18,000/-

The posts are purely temporary which shall cease to exist on termination of funding by the Government of India.

The candidates will be selected through Walk-in-Interview. Eligible candidates may apply with the following attested documents:-

- Educational Qualification Certificate from class X onwards.
- Valid Employment Card.
- Age Certificate
- Experience Certificate.
- C.O.I.
- Resume (with contact No.)

Application along with all the relevant documents should be submitted at the Office of Additional Secretary (Adm), Agriculture Department from 14.11.2019 between 10 am to 4.30pm on working days. The last date for submission of application is 20.11.2019. Applications submitted after 4.30 pm on 20.11.2019 will not be accepted.

The Walk-in-Interview will be held on 26.11.2019 in the Conference Hall of Krishi Bhawan, Tadong at 11.00 am on the following dates:-

No TA/DA shall be paid for attending the interview. Original documents should be produced on the above dates.

The Agriculture Department reserves the right to reject an application without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-

**R.O. No. 249/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20  
Dated: 12/11/2019**

Under Secretary (Adm)  
Agriculture Department  
Government of Sikkim.

**HAVE A  
STORY TO  
SHARE?**

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



## This Winter, Work on the Schools

### *Prioritise repair & renovation to prove to children that we care*

The final examinations will soon begin in schools across the State. The end of the year exams come with their attendant features of reduced attendance in government offices [with parents keeping busy preparing their wards], but that is not what we are getting into here. This is that time of the year when the School Management Committees and the Education Department should be at their busiest. If they are not, then parents with children who will be returning to poorly provided for schools next year should start exerting some pressure.

Schools will be closed for winter vacations shortly and the dry winter months are a good time for repairs and renovation. It is no secret that there are many government schools which could do with some repairs and renovation. What every school management committee should do now is take stock and submit a wish-list with the Department which controls the purse-strings. It is possible that this [tabling of requirements] is a routine that is played out every year before the winter vacations, it is after all a logical thing to do, but this year, for a change, maybe it should rise above such annual tokenism. SMCs should make the concerned school heads forward a precise enumeration of what is required at their institution by way of infrastructure for the next academic session to begin on a brighter note. Probably the pressure of arranging for the advance salaries keeps the Department busy at this time of the year and by the time this ritual is taken care of, the holiday mood has kicked in and the concerns mentioned earlier get carried forward to the next session.

It would, however, be a good idea to prioritise upkeep of the schools this year. The Department should organise meetings at the district level to discuss the requirements, budget provisions and priority lists in consultation with the in-charge of schools and the management committees; even set up a monitoring committee and announce another meeting for the week before the schools reopen to take stock of progress made. If things go well, students might actually enjoy the first day in school next year, as definitely would the teachers and the staff if they arrived at schools which have been considerably appointed to facilitate learning in comfortable environs. Worth giving it a shot, isn't it?

# Urban unrest propels global wave of protests

HENRY F. (CHIP) CAREY  
*theconversation.com*

Numerous anti-government protests have paralyzed cities across the globe for months, from La Paz, Bolivia, to Santiago, Chile, and Monrovia, Liberia, to Beirut.

Each protest in this worldwide wave of unrest has its own local dynamic and cause. But they also share certain characteristics: Fed up with rising inequality, corruption and slow economic growth, angry citizens worldwide are demanding an end to corruption and the restoration of a democratic rule of law.

It is no accident, as Foreign Affairs recently observed, that Latin America – which has seen the most countries explode into the longest-lasting violent protests – has the slowest regional growth in the world, with only 0.2% expected in 2019. Latin America is also the world's region with the most inequality.

Bolivia's once-powerful president, Evo Morales – whose support was strongest in rural areas – was forced out on Nov. 11 by a military response to mass urban unrest after alleged electoral fraud.

In October, Lebanon's prime minister also resigned after mass protests.

One under-covered factor in these demonstrations, I would observe as a scholar of migration, is domestic, rural-to-urban migration. All these capital cities gripped by protest have huge populations of desperately poor formerly rural people pushed out of the countryside and into the city by climate change, national policies that hurt small farmers or a global trade system that impoverishes local agriculture.

#### RAPID URBAN GROWTH

Cities worldwide have been growing at an unsustainable pace over the past seven decades.

In 1950, the New York metropolitan area and Tokyo were the world's only megacities – cities with more than 10 million people. By 1995, 14 megacities had emerged. Today, there are 25. Of the 7.6 billion people in the world, 4.2 billion, or 55%, live in cities and other urban settlements. Another 2.5 billion people will move into cities in poor countries by 2050, according to the United Nations.

Most modern megacities are in the developing regions of Africa, Asia and Latin America. There, natural population increases in cities are aggravat-

ed by surges in rural migrants in search of a better life. What they find, instead, are sprawling informal settlements, frequently called urban slums.

These marginalized parts of cities in the developing world – called “favelas” in Brazil, “bidonvilles” in Haiti and “villas miserias” in Argentina – look remarkably similar across the globe. Ignored by the municipal government, they usually lack sanitation, clean drinking water, electricity, health care facilities and schools. Informal urban settlements are usually precariously located, near flood-prone waterfronts or on steep, unstable mountainsides.

Their economy and, to a significant degree, politics, are infiltrated by gangs – organized crime groups that profit off the illegal trafficking of drugs, people and weapons. These gangs, in turn, may be linked to political parties, serving as their armed enforcers.



Many rural migrants, who lack identity documentation, social entitlements, housing and financial services, are forced to work in these illicit labor markets.

This system replicates in a predatory, illegal form the patron-client relationship still common in many developing countries, in which a rural economic elite provides employment, loans, seeds, cash or protection for farmers in exchange for “taxes” – usually a share of the farmer's produce – and political fealty.

In the unstable market economy of the urban slum, gangs are the patron.

#### A STAGING GROUND FOR DISCONTENT

The injustices of this daily life underlie the anger of many of today's protesters. From Quito, Ecuador, to Beirut, the extreme marginalization of so

many people living in big, dysfunctional and dangerous places has boiled over into deadly unrest.

In Haiti, for example, the majority of demonstrators who've staged nine straight weeks of massive protests against documented official corruption, gasoline shortages and food scarcity are extremely poor Port-au-Prince residents. They are highly motivated to keep protesting because they are facing starvation.

Even Chile, which technically is the wealthiest Latin American country, has an awful lot of very poor people struggling to get by. Its current protests, which began in mid-October with a hike in the Santiago subway fare, are disproportionately composed of youth and rural migrants from Santiago's poor outskirts. Among Latin American countries, Chile has the second-highest rate of internal migration in all of Latin America, second only to Panama. Bolivia ranks fifth in the region.

It is not the actual movement of rural people into cities that creates social upheaval, according to a 2015 analysis of 20 years of data on internal migration, poverty and inequality for 34 cities in Africa and Asia. Rather, it's the overall poor and unequal educational and housing opportunities that rural-to-urban migrants face in cities – coupled with their socioeconomic marginalization – that spurs urban discontent.

People who fled impoverished countryside only to find poverty in the city, too, are demanding more. Two centuries after the peasant rebellions that toppled monarchies across Europe, cities have become the stage for the kind of resentment and frustration that can destabilize entire nations.

*[the writer is Associate Professor, Political Science, Georgia State University]*

# Climate change fueled the rise and demise of the Neo-Assyrian Empire, superpower of the ancient world

ASHISH SINHA & GAYATRI KATHAYAT  
*theconversation.com*

Ancient Mesopotamia, the fabled land between the Tigris and the Euphrates rivers, was the command and control center of the Neo-Assyrian Empire. This ancient superpower was the largest empire of its time, lasting from 912 BC to 609 BC in what is now modern Iraq and Syria. At its height, the Assyrian state stretched from the Mediterranean and Egypt in the west to the Persian Gulf and western Iran in the east.

Then, in an astonishing reversal of fortune, the Neo-Assyrian Empire plummeted from its zenith (circa 650 BC) to complete political collapse within the span of just a few decades. What happened?

Numerous theories attempt to explain the Assyrian collapse. Most researchers attribute it to imperial overexpansion, civil wars, political unrest and Assyrian military defeat by a coalition of Babylonian and Median forces in 612 BC. But exactly how these two small armies were able to annihilate what was then the most powerful military force in the world has mystified historians and archaeologists for more than a hundred years.

Our new research published in the journal *Science Advances* sheds light on these mysteries. We show that climate change was the proverbial double-edged sword that first contributed to the meteoric rise of the Neo-Assyrian Empire and then to its precipitous collapse.

#### BOOMING RIGHT UP TO AN UNEXPECTED BUST

The Neo-Assyrian state was an economic powerhouse. Its formidable war machine boasted a large standing army with cavalry, chariots and iron weaponry. For over two centuries, the mighty Assyrians waged relentless military campaigns with ruthless efficiency. They conquered, plundered and subjugated major regional powers across the Near and Middle East, as each Assyrian king tried to outshine his predecessor.

Ashurbanipal, the last great king of Assyria, ruled this vast empire from the ancient city of Nineveh, the ruins of which lie across the Tigris River from modern Mosul, Iraq. Nineveh was a sprawling metropolis

of unprecedented size and grandeur filled with temples and palace complexes, with exotic gardens that were watered by an extensive system of canals and aqueducts.

And then it all ended within just a few years. Why?

Our research group wanted to investigate climate conditions over the few centuries when the Neo-Assyrian Empire took hold and then eventually collapsed.

#### BUILDING A PICTURE OF CLIMATE 2,600 YEARS AGO

For clues about rainfall patterns over northern Mesopotamia, we turned to Kuna Ba cave, located near Nineveh.

Our colleagues collected samples from the cave's stalagmites. These are the cone-like structures that point upward from the cave floor. They grow slowly, from the ground up, as rainwater drips down from the cave ceiling, depositing dissolved minerals.

The rainwater naturally contains heavy and light isotopes of oxygen – that is, atoms of oxygen that have different numbers of neutrons. Subtle variations in the oxygen isotope ratios can be sensitive indicators of climatic conditions at the time the rainwater originally fell. As stalagmites grow, they lock into their structure the oxygen isotope ratios of the percolating rainwater that seeps into the cave.

We painstakingly pieced together the climatic history of northern Mesopotamia by carefully drilling into stalagmites, across their growth rings, which are similar to those of trees. In each sample, we measured the oxygen isotope ratios to build a timeline of how conditions changed. That told us the order of events but didn't tell us the amount of time that elapsed between them.

Luckily, the stalagmites also trap uranium, an element that's ever-present in trace amounts in the infiltrating water. Over time, uranium decays into thorium at a predictable pace. So the dating experts on our research team made scores of high-precision uranium-thorium measurements on stalagmite growth layers.

Together these two kinds of measurements let us anchor our climate record to precise calendar years.



#### UNUSUAL WET PERIOD, THEN MASSIVE DROUGHT

Now a direct comparison of the stalagmite climate record with the historical and archaeological records from the region was possible. We wanted to place the key events of Neo-Assyrian history into the long-term context of our climate reconstruction.

We found that the most significant expansion phase of the Neo-Assyrian state occurred during a two-centuries-long interval of anomalously wet climate, as compared with the previous 4,000 years. Called a megapluvial period, this time of unusually high rainfall was immediately followed by megadroughts during the early-to-mid-seventh century BC. These ancient dry conditions were as severe as recent droughts in Iraq and Syria but lasted for decades. The period marking the collapse of the Neo-Assyrian Empire occurred well within this time frame.

Mindful of the caveat that correlation doesn't imply causation, we were interested in how this wild climate swing – an unusually rainy period that ended in drought – could have influenced an empire.

While the Neo-Assyrian state was huge in its final few decades, its economic core was always confined to a rather small region. This relatively small area in northern Mesopotamia served as a primary source of agricultural revenues and powered Assyrian military campaigns.

We argue that nearly two centuries of unusually wet conditions in this otherwise semi-arid region allowed for agriculture to flourish and energized the Assyrian economy. The climate acted as a catalyst for the creation of a dense network of urban and rural settlements in the unsettled zones that previously

hadn't been able to support farming.

Our data show the wet period abruptly ended and the pendulum swung the other way. In the grips of recurring megadroughts, the Assyrian core and its hinterlands would have been engulfed within a “zone of uncertainty” – a corridor of land where the rainfall is highly erratic and any rain-fed agriculture comes with a large risk of crop failure.

Repeated crop failures likely exacerbated the political unrest in Assyria, crippled its economy and empowered the adjacent rival states.

#### UNCERTAIN CLIMATE, UNSUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Our findings have current-day implications.

In modern times, the same region that once constituted the Assyrian core has been repeatedly struck by multiyear droughts. The catastrophic drought of 2007–2008 in northern Iraq and Syria, the most severe in the past 50 years, led to cereal crop failures across the region.

Droughts like this one offer a glimpse of what Assyrians endured during the mid-seventh century BC. And the collapse of the Neo-Assyrian Empire offers a warning to today's societies.

Climate change is here to stay. In the 21st century, people have what Neo-Assyrians did not: the benefit of hindsight and plenty of observational data. Unsustainable growth in politically volatile and water-stressed regions is a time-tested recipe for disaster.

*[Ashish Sinha is Professor of Earth and Climate Sciences, California State University, Dominguez Hills; Gayatri Kathayat is Associate Professor of Global Environmental Change, Xi'an Jiaotong University]*



# Dhankhar questions TMC fuss over his Singur visit

**KOLKATA, Nov 14 (PTI):** The acrimony between the West Bengal governor Jagdeep Dhankhar and the state government deepened on Thursday with him questioning the hullabaloo created by the ruling TMC over his unscheduled visit to Singur and wondered what was being sought to be concealed there.

Dhankhar said that he in his capacity as the governor would like to spend a long time at Singur and Nandigram and gather "full knowledge" about the two places.

Singur and Nandigram saw anti-land acquisition movements in the last decade that catapulted Trinamool Congress and its supremo Mamata Banerjee to power in the state ending the 34-year-rule of the Left Front. "I had gone



to Singur after informing the collector (district magistrate) ... Did the same thing before visiting Burdwan and Durgapur," Dhankhar told reporters here on Thursday.

"When there are attempts to conceal or hide something then the urge of the people to see it grows ... So if someone

wants to hide something, then I too would like to see it," he said about his unscheduled visit to Singur, which drew reactions from TMC.

The governor said that he was pained to see women activists of a political party (ruling TMC) staging protests against his visit to the office of the block devel-

opment officer (BDO) of Singur sub-division in Hooghly district on Monday. The women protesters were "provoked" to put up the protest, he said.

Dhankhar had paid an unscheduled visit to the BDO office of Singur on his way back to the city from Shantiniketan after attending

the convocation of Visva-Bharati University.

On his way to Shantiniketan the governor had stopped at Burdwan and Durgapur and interacted with the people there.

TMC had slammed the governor for allegedly exceeding his brief and wondered whether he understood his "constitutional bindings".

Dhankhar, who assumed office in July end, has been locked in a war of words with the state government over a number of issues -- ranging from his seating at the Durga Puja carnival to comments on his security since he rushed to Jadavpur University on September 19 to "rescue" Union minister Babul Supriyo, who had been gheraoed by a section of students.

## CBI interrogates IPS officer Arnab Ghosh in Saradha case

**KOLKATA, Nov 14 (PTI):** IPS officer Arnab Ghosh, one of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) members that initially probed the Saradha scam, was interrogated by the CBI here on Thursday over alleged suppression of evidence.

This was the second time that Ghosh was being questioned by the central investigating agency in this connection this year.

Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) sources said that the officer was questioned at the CBI office in CGO complex in Salt Lake regarding some

"missing" articles like a red diary and a pen drive that the central agency had been seeking since the investigation was handed over to it by the Supreme Court.

The SIT was formed by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to probe the Saradha chit fund scam before the CBI began an investigation at the orders of the Supreme Court in 2014.

As part of the Rs 2,500 crore scam, the Saradha group of companies had allegedly duped lakhs of customers, promising higher rates of returns on their investment.

## MP govt to bear medical expenses of gas tragedy activist

**BHOPAL, Nov 14 (PTI):** The Madhya Pradesh government announced on Thursday that it will bear expenses of treatment of Abdul Jabbar, a prominent activist working for the victims of the 1984 Union Carbide gas leak tragedy.

Jabbar has been undergoing treatment for the past few months.

He is convener of the Bhopal Gas Peedith Mahila Udyog Sangathan,

one of the organisations championing the cause of victims of the gas leak incident which claimed at least 2,000 lives.

Wishing him early recovery, chief minister Kamal Nath said in a tweet, "The state government will bear the medical expenses of the treatment of Abdul Jabbar Bhai, who has been continuously fighting for the survivors of the Bhopal gas tragedy.

## Organic Agriculture University to come up in Goa soon

**PANAJI, Nov 13 (PTI):** Goa is soon likely to get an 'Organic Agriculture University', which would primarily focus on studying organic crops that could be grown in the state, Deputy Chief Minister Chandrakant Kavlekar said on Wednesday.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant gave an in-principle nod to the proposal during a meeting held on Tuesday, Kavlekar, who is also the state's agriculture minister, told PTI.

"The government has set a target of one year to set up the university, the first-of-its-kind in the state," he said.

The varsity will focus on research and study of various organic crops suitable for the Goan soil, he said.

Kavlekar said he recently visited the Pune

Agriculture College and the Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth at Rahuri in Maharashtra's Ahmednagar district to seek inputs for setting up the organic agriculture university in Goa.

The university will help in boosting the rural economy, which has been affected due to the halt of mining activities in Goa, he said. "Currently, we have identified some areas for the project. The government is in the process of shortlisting some specific areas along with other legal procedures," he said.

The state government has appointed Dr Madan Gopal Varshney, dean of the Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth in Maharashtra, as chief strategist for setting up the organic agriculture university.

## NRC erroneous as its responsibility was on 'incompetent' Hajela: Tarun Gogoi

**GUWAHATI, Nov 14 (PTI):** Veteran Congress leader Tarun Gogoi on Thursday alleged that final NRC is an "erroneous" document as the full responsibility of the exercise was entrusted upon state co-ordinator Prateek Hajela who was "a junior and incompetent officer".

The updated final NRC, which validates bonafide Indian citizens of Assam, has left out over 19 lakh applicants. It was published on August 31 under Hajela, who was appointed the

NRC state coordinator by the Supreme Court.

"The NRC is full of errors. Instead of identifying foreigners, it made Indians as foreigners, who have all the valid documents. The future of these 19 lakh excluded people are totally uncertain now," the 3-time chief minister said.

Hajela should not have been fully trusted and given importance, he said adding that he was a "junior officer and incompetent for the work" compared to the registrar

general of India. Gogoi said Hajela should not have been allowed to leave Assam before the NRC becomes "fully correct".

The 1995 batch IAS officer has been transferred to his home state Madhya Pradesh following a direction of the Supreme Court. He was released on November 11.

The Congress leader said people of Assam expected an error-free NRC and the Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi himself is a native of the state.

## Sand shortage: Naidu stages protest against AP govt

**VIJAYAWADA, Nov 14 (PTI):** TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu staged a protest here on Thursday, alleging that the Y S Jaganmohan Reddy-led Andhra Pradesh government had made a "quid pro quo" deal with the cement industry which has led to an "artificial" shortage of sand in the state.

Naidu demanded a relief of Rs 10,000 per month to all construction workers and Rs 25 lakh compensation for the kin of 42 construction workers who allegedly committed suicide, the party said in a statement.

He also demanded that the YSR Congress Party government restore the free sand policy to save workers associated with the construction sector, it said.

According to the statement, Naidu staged a 12-hour protest in Vijayawada to highlight the plight of over 35 lakh workers of construction and allied fields affected by the shortage of sand.

"Jagan, your thoughts are criminal, your wish is to make money come what may. But you cannot cheat people all the time," Naidu said.

He alleged that Chief Minister Reddy has "entered into a quid pro quo arrangement with cement industry to benefit from artificial sand crisis."

"Sand is natural and an endowment of God. Why restrictions on it," the former chief minister said, addressing the gathering assembled at the Dharna Chowk here.

The Telugu Desam

Party chief also refuted the government's argument that floods have washed away sand reaches in Krishna and Godavari rivers, saying at least 125 different kinds of construction activities have come to a grinding halt in the past five months.

He also criticised the state government for bringing a new law making sand hoarding and transportation a criminal activity. "Using sand from own land to build your own house will be now considered illegal," he added.

The Andhra government on September 4 announced a new sand mining policy, scrapping the free sand policy implemented by the previous government in the state.

## Some people in constitutional posts acting like BJP mouthpieces: Mamata

**KOLKATA, Nov 14 (PTI):** Hitting out at Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari for recommending President's Rule in the state after the assembly polls, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday said some people in constitutional posts are acting like BJP mouthpieces. These people wish to run a parallel administration in some states, she said.

Banerjee said some nominated persons are exceeding their brief. "They should not supersede the central government. The Centre must take care of this," she said. "I generally do



not comment on constitutional posts, but a few people (governors) are acting just like BJP mouthpieces. In my state too, you have seen what is going on - they want to run a parallel administration," Banerjee said.

The central and state governments are elected by the people and the federal structure must work as per Constitution,

she said. "They (governments) should be allowed to work," the CM said.

President's Rule was imposed in Maharashtra on Tuesday after Koshiyari in a report to the Centre stated that formation of a stable government was impossible in the current situation despite all his efforts, drawing flak from non-BJP parties.

## Buzz in Ballia as 'native' Jugnauth becomes Mauritius PM

**BALLIA (UP), Nov 14 (PTI):** The election of Pravind Jugnauth as Mauritius prime minister has created a buzz in the district's Rasra area, from where his ancestors are said to have migrated to the island-nation.

Congratulatory messages are being exchanged over social media, celebrating the results of the elections last week in far-off Mauritius.

Incumbent Jugnauth took oath on Tuesday after the elections which consolidated the grip of his Morisian Alliance on parliament.

Rasra's sub divisional magistrate Vipin Kumar Jain said it has been established that Jugnauth's ancestors hailed from the area, but the exact village is yet to be pinpointed.

"Four people in Rasra have claimed that he be-



longs to their family," the SDM said.

Rasra MLA Uma Shankar Singh expressed happiness over Jugnauth's success and said people in the area are proud of his achievements.

"The central and state governments should make all-out efforts to find Jugnauth's village, he said, accusing them of not doing enough.

Jugnauth, 57, took over from his father in 2017 without going

through a vote, but his centre-right coalition scored a decisive in the November 7 elections.

Months ago, a diplomat from Mauritius visited Rasra, reportedly in a bid to trace Jugnauth's ancestors.

Indian-origin people constitute nearly 70 per cent of the population of Mauritius. Their ancestors were sent there as indentured labourers during the British rule.

## Mamata refrains from reacting on Ayodhya verdict



**KOLKATA, Nov 14 (PTI):** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee refrained from reacting on Ayodhya verdict on Thursday, six days since it was passed by the Supreme Court, saying she is too busy with the relief work after Cyclone Bulbul. The Ayodhya verdict was passed by the apex court on November 9 and not a single leader of the ruling TMC in West Bengal, including Banerjee, who is party supremo, has come out with a reaction on it.

"I don't want to comment on it as this is a government meeting and I am too busy with the cyclone relief work," Banerjee said while addressing a press conference post an administrative review meeting.

A total six lakh people have been affected and over five lakh houses damaged due to the cyclone, which made landfall late on Saturday

between Sagar Islands in West Bengal and Khepupara in Bangladesh. A total 14 people, including fishermen of a capsized trawler whose bodies were found by the Coast Guard, had died in the calamity.

According to TMC sources, there has been "strict instruction" from the party top brass asking its leaders not to "utter a single word" on the judgement.

"We have been asked not to speak on this issue. Only our party supremo Mamata Banerjee will speak on it if needed.

Or it will be by someone assigned by her," a senior TMC leader had said on Saturday.

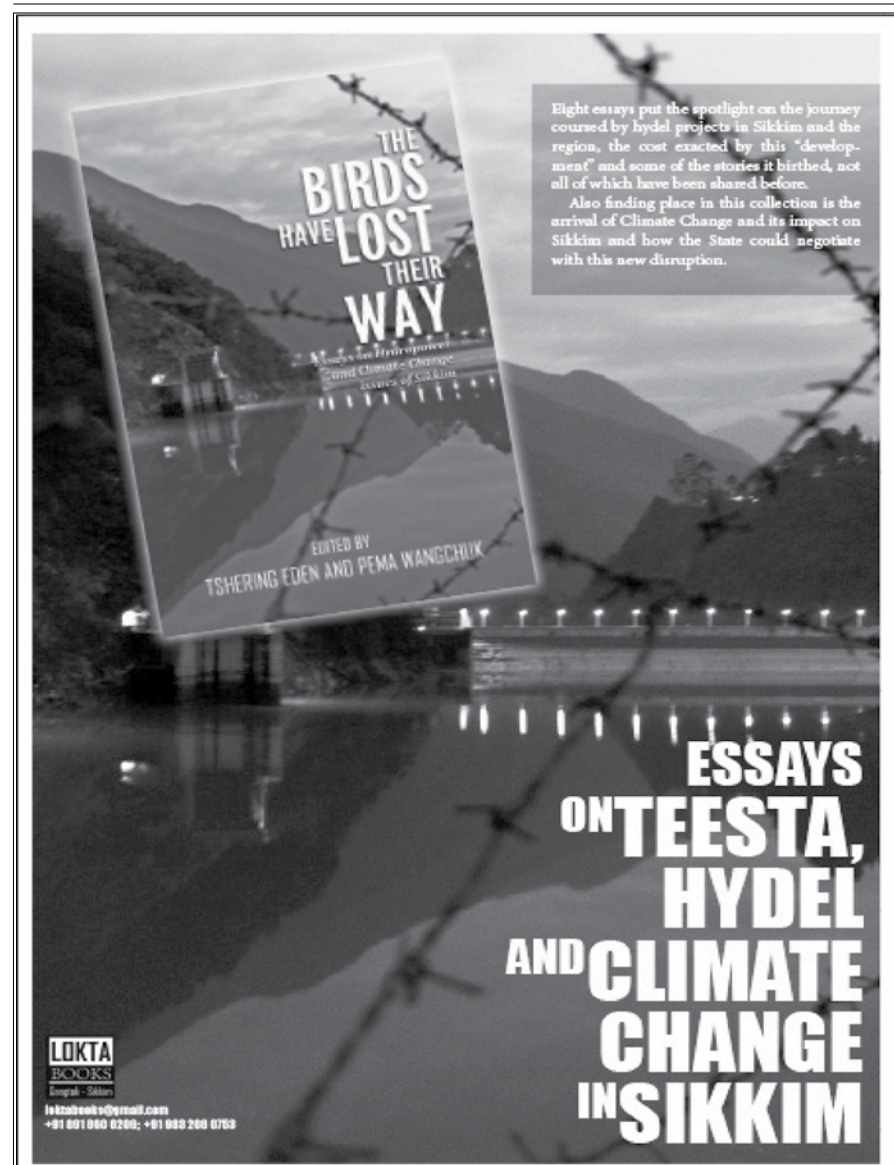
TMC's silence on the historic verdict by the Supreme Court on Saturday allowing the construction of a Ram temple at the disputed site had drawn sharp reactions from BJP and

the Congress.

West Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh Saturday questioned TMC's silence on the Ayodhya verdict and said the ruling party of Bengal always prefers to keep quiet when it comes to taking a stand on issues related to national and social interests.

In one of the most important and most anticipated judgements in India's history, a five-judge Constitution bench of Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi on Saturday put an end to the more than a century old dispute that has torn the social fabric of the nation.

The court in its unanimous verdict cleared the way for the construction of a Ram Temple at the disputed site at Ayodhya and directed the Centre to allot a five-acre plot to the Sunni Waqf Board for building a mosque.





## Bryan brothers to retire in 2020

**LOS ANGELES, NOV 14 (AFP):** US men's doubles duo Bob Bryan and Mike Bryan said Wednesday they will retire at the end of the 2020 season, bringing the curtain down on one of the most successful pairings in tennis history.

The 41-year-old twins said in a statement they planned to hang up their racquets after taking part in next year's US Open, where they made their Grand Slam championship debut in 1995.

Since that first Slam appearance, the Bryans have racked up a record 118 trophies including 16 Grand Slam doubles titles. They also won Olympic gold at the 2012 London Games.

Bob Bryan said the duo had opted to end their 2019 season after the US Open in order to remain fresh for next year.

"We decided that it would be best to rest our minds and strengthen our bodies in preparation for 2020 which will be our final season on the ATP Tour," Bob Bryan said in a statement.

"It has truly been a magical ride," he added. "However, we want to end this great ride while we're healthy and we can still compete for titles." At their peak, the Bryans were a formidable doubles duo, rising to No.1 in the rankings for the first time in 2003.

They spent a total of 438 weeks at the top of the rankings and ended 10 seasons as the No. 1 team.

## Shubhankar starts with two-under 70 in South Africa

**JOHANNESBURG, NOV 14 (PTI):** India's Shubhankar Sharma failed to build on a superb start to finish at two-under 70 in the first round of the Nedbank Golf Challenge hosted by Gary Player on the European Tour, here on Thursday.

Shubhankar, who finished tied-seventh in Turkish Airlines Open last week, was four-under after starting from the 10th. But he gave away three bogeys and had just one more birdie on the front nine for a card of 70. He was lying tied-17th.

Louis Oosthuizen took the lead with a brilliant nine-under 65, while Thomas Detry shot 66. Guido Miglizzo turned in 30 to set a blistering pace but finished at 67 in third place.

South Africans, Ernie Els and Zander Lombard were tied fourth at 68. Els got a rapturous reception as he went off in the first group of the day and soon had the crowd cheering even more.

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# Very few world class bowlers in Test cricket now: Tendulkar

**KUSHAN SARKAR**

**INDORE, NOV 14 (PTI):** A dearth of quality pace bowlers has all but put an end to the iconic duels which once added to the charm of Test cricket, said the iconic Sachin Tendulkar, who is worried about the traditional format's health.

A Sunil Gavaskar vs Andy Roberts, Dennis Lillee or Imran Khan was worth the wait during the 1970s and '80s. Similarly a Tendulkar vs Glenn McGrath or Wasim Akram used to be a connoisseur's delight.

But not anymore, feels the man, who played 200 Test matches in his illustrious 24 years in international cricket.

"Rivalries which people invariably looked forward to are no longer there because there are very few world-class fast bowlers right now. That element I am sure is missing. The quality of fast bowling can surely be better without any doubt," Tendulkar told PTI while analysing how cricket has evolved in the past 30 years (15th November, 1989) since he made his debut.

Asked if the competitiveness, as far as Test cricket is concerned, is confined to only three countries (India, Australia and England), the maestro agreed.

"The standard of cricket has gone down which is not great news for Test cricket. The standard needs to go up



and for that, I would again say that the root cause is the playing surfaces," he said.

"I think it has also got to do with the kind of pitches that are provided. If we provide fair pitches where fast bowlers as well as spinners get help, then balance between bat and ball will be restored.

"If the balance is missing then the contest becomes weak and it fails to grab eyeballs. Test cricket must have good wickets," added the man, who has scored 15,921 runs with 51 hundreds.

For Tendulkar, the model pitches are the ones on which the Ashes was played in England.

"I feel this year's Ashes

had some of the best Test pitches in recent times. Magnificent I would say. The only time they moved to Old Trafford, you saw that Test wasn't as exciting as the ones at the Headingley, or the Lord's Test or for that matter even the one at the Oval. I thought those Test matches were exciting," he said.

For someone, who has seen the evolution of the game from Test cricket to T20s, Tendulkar remains a purist at heart, who would never endorse an IPL performance as being good enough to merit selection in the ODI and Test team.

Unless, of course, the player in question is as exception-

al as Jasprit Bumrah.

"I think if somebody has done well in the IPL, then he is fit to represent India in T20 Internationals. It is absolutely fair. But if somebody does well in the IPL and because of that performance he is picked for Tests and even ODIs, I think there would be a question mark.

"I don't support that unless there is an exceptional talent, who can be good across formats. Jasprit Bumrah is one example. Otherwise normal players, if they do well in IPL, that performance should only be considered for T20 formats."

When one talks about homework in Test cricket, his

epic duel with Shane Warne in the 1998 series is still a part of cricketing folklore, simply because how much he prepared for the battle. And then the second innings in Chennai happened where he blasted Warne out of the rough to hit 155 in the second innings.

"The series was built up as Tendulkar vs Warne battle. Somehow, I knew Warne would come round the wicket in that series. My homework started by getting Mumbai teammates (leg-spinner) Sairaj Bahutule and (left-arm spinner) Niles Kulkarni at the nets," recalled Sachin.

He rates his 1991 Test hundred at Perth as "the moment" in his career.

"I have never liked comparisons but if you ask me, that century at Perth on that track made me realise that I was ready to play any attack on any surface. It was like I announced my arrival at the international stage," he said.

"Having said that, the Chennai hundred against Pakistan (1999), when I was battling back-pain or not hitting a cover drive during my double hundred in Sydney (2004) or those couple of spells against Dale Steyn in Cape Town in 2011, had their own beauty and challenges."

He has now been a retired cricketer for six years. So what does Tendulkar miss the most about not being an active player?

"I am probably one player, who has played with five generations. One before me that had Kapil Dev, Ravi Shastri, Krish Srikkanth, Dilip Vengsarkar and Mohammed Azharuddin. It was followed by my generation of players like Sourav (Ganguly) and Rahul (Dravid).

"Then came Yuvraj Singh, Harbhajan Singh, Zaheer Khan, Virender Sehwag and Ashish Nehra. After that was Suresh Raina's generation followed by Virat (Kohli), Rohit (Sharma) and Ajinkya (Rahane). I miss the laughter, the seriousness, the celebrations. Dressing room was like a temple.

## Rahane likely to move to Capitals from Royals



**NEW DELHI, NOV 14 (PTI):** India's Test vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane is likely to be traded to Delhi Capitals from Rajasthan Royals before the IPL players' transfer window expires on Thursday.

"Talks are still going on. A decision has to be made before the end of the day and it will be made," a BCCI official told PTI.

Rahane, who has been trying to get back

into India's limited overs set up, established his T20 credentials as an opener after moving to Royals from Mumbai Indians in 2011.

He has scored two IPL hundreds in 140 games, averaging 32.93 with a strike rate of 121.92. In 2012, he was Royals' highest run-getter.

The deal could also be a swap between Royals' Rahane, who has a price tag of Rs four crore, and

Capitals' Prithvi Shaw, whose doping ban ends on Friday.

Rahane, who was removed as captain in the middle of the 2019 season with Steve Smith taking over the leadership, did rather well last year, scoring 393 runs in 14 games at 32.75, including an unbeaten 105.

The 31-year-old last played a T20 for India in August 2016 and an ODI in February 2018.

## BJP should accept Sabarimala like they accepted Ayodhya ruling: Digvijaya

**BHOPAL, NOV 14 (PTI):** Senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh said on Thursday that the RSS and the BJP should accept the Supreme Court's decision in the Sabarimala temple case just as they did in the Ayodhya matter. He was reacting to the apex court's decision to refer the Sabarimala and similar religious issues to a larger bench.

"Our party has always been of the opinion that the court should decide issues like Ayodhya dispute. "I am happy that all parties accepted the SC decision on this (Ayodhya) issue," he said.

"The BJP and RSS should learn from this...All should accept the verdict of Sabarimala too, like the SC decision on Ayodhya," the Congress leader added.

The Supreme Court on Thursday said a larger seven-judge bench will re-examine various religious issues, including the entry of women of all ages into the Sabarimala temple. Earlier, addressing par-

ty leaders at state Congress headquarters Indira Bhawan at a program to mark the birth anniversary of Jawaharlal Nehru, Singh said history is being rewritten by the current regime in the country.

"India's history is being changed and the image of our freedom fighters is being tarnished," Singh said, asking Congress leaders to fight against this by educating children about the country's history and freedom fighters. He also lamented that "more than half the Congressmen don't know about what Article 370 is".

"They are saying that Centre did a good job (by abrogating its provisions). What good job? Kashmir is slipping out of hand. If we want Kashmir then we will have to keep Kashmiri people with us," he told the gathering. Jyotiraditya Scindia, one of the top Congress leaders from Madhya Pradesh, was among those who had welcomed the NDA government's decision to scrap Kashmir's special status.

## Cong asks for dismissal of Karnataka govt

**NEW DELHI, NOV 13 (PTI):** The Congress on Wednesday called for the dismissal of the Yediyurappa government in Karnataka, saying the Supreme Court's decision on disqualified MLAs had exposed BJP's 'Operation Kamal' in the state.

The court on Wednesday upheld the disqualification of the 17 Congress-JD(S) MLAs whose rebellion led to the fall of the Kumaraswamy government and the return of the BJP to power in July but gave some relief by allowing them to contest the upcoming bypolls to 15 Assembly seats. The Congress welcomed the judgement saying the "completely hypocritical face of the BJP" stands exposed by this verdict.

"We call for immediate resignation of the chief minister. We ask the prime minister and other important people in this Cabinet to do soul search-

ing about what their party is doing. Please don't have this mis-impression that these things are at state-level without the 100 per cent involvement of the central leadership... Today the BJP stands completely exposed," said Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi.

He said the Karnataka government stands completely exposed as there was every kind of malpractice in this operation. This, he said, is not the first time as one has seen it in Goa and Arunachal Pradesh and now in Maharashtra.

Congress general secretary in-charge for Karnataka KC Venugopal welcomed the Supreme Court verdict, upholding the disqualification of defecting MLAs.

Describing it as a vindication of Congress's stand, he termed the

judgement a slap on the face of BJP and its leadership that, he claimed, exercised all sorts of unconstitutional, illegal and corrupt practices to bring down the Congress-JDS government.

"The BJP formed government in Karnataka by violating constitutional norms, democratic values and ethos. After the SC judgment, BS Yediyurappa has lost all moral right and authority to continue in his post. The judgement rendered continuation of the BJP government in the state morally untenable," he said. In light of the above, Venugopal urged the president and the Union government to immediately dismiss the BJP government in Karnataka which was formed through horse-trading, and unconstitutional and illegal practices.

"The Supreme Court's decision has exposed BJP's 'Operation Kamal' in Karnataka... The Yediyurappa government is an illegitimate government in terms of law and constitution and should be dismissed immediately," Congress spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said.

He also asked for an independent inquiry into the role of the BJP leadership to "illegally" topple the JDS-Congress government in Karnataka.

Surjewala also demanded a probe into 'Yediyurappa tapes'.

"Public opinion and democratic values demand that not only should the illegitimate Yediyurappa government be sacked, but BJP's conspiracy to bring down an elected government on the basis of money power be investigated. The 'Yediyurappa tapes' need to be investigated.

Where did all this black money come from? What

was the role of BJP leadership," he asked.

"Will Operation Kamal, which is notorious for use of money and muscle power in Karnataka, be investigated impartially? Will the role of Yediyurappa and Amit Shah be examined? Will the BJP give tickets to those MLAs whose disqualification has been upheld today by SC," asked Surjewala. Claiming that the ball is now in the prime minister's court, Singhvi asked if Modi has the courage to sack the illegitimate Yediyurappa government as he is often found preaching about morality in public life.

"If PM Modi fails to do so, he will be held responsible for demolishing democracy, undermining the Constitution and lowering the political standards in the country for a long time to come," he said.

Singhvi echoed his views, saying the Yediyurappa government does not have the moral right to continue in office any more.

It was now established beyond doubt that a democratically elected government was felled by using "massive inducements, threats and allurements", disregarding every basic tenet of public propriety, he said.

"It goes on to establish that the present Yediyurappa government is an illegitimate government," he said.

"It will be in fitness of things, constitutional propriety, democratic values and political fairness, that not only be this illegitimate government dismissed, but an impartial court monitored probe be undertaken to ascertain the role of money and muscle power in destabilising the Congress-JDS government," he said.

## BJP deriving 'sadistic pleasure' out of Maha logjam: Sena

**MUMBAI, NOV 13 (PTI):** In a vitriolic attack on the BJP, the Shiv Sena on Wednesday said it was deriving "sadistic pleasure" out of the struggle of other political parties to form government in Maharashtra. Without taking any names, the Sena, in an editorial in party mouthpiece 'Saamana', said those who talk of ethics in politics are currently the "most disruptive".

President's rule was imposed in the state on Tuesday after Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari sent a report to the Centre, stating that formation of a stable government was impossible in the current situation despite all his efforts.

The development came as the political stalemate continued since the declaration of Assembly poll results last month, with the Congress and NCP saying they had not yet taken any decision on Shiv Sena's proposal of forming a government and will hold further discussions.

Prior to it, the BJP, which won 105 seats, on Sunday expressed its inability to form government due to lack of enough numbers. Despite their alliance getting a majority, the BJP and the Shiv Sena parted ways following disagreement over power sharing, with the Uddhav Thackeray-led party insisting on the chief minister's post.

"If a party with 105 MLAs could not form government, others would struggle for sure. But it does not mean the largest party should rejoice. This attitude of deriving sadistic pleasure has pushed Maharashtra into today's situation," the Sena claimed.



# Activists urge India, UK to challenge Pak atrocities in Balochistan

BY ADITI KHANNA

**LONDON, Nov 14 (PTI):** The UK chapter of the Baloch National Movement (BNM) and associated organisations called on the Indian government to challenge the atrocities of the “rogue state of Pakistan” and assist Balochistan’s freedom movement.

At a memorial event to mark Baloch Martyrs’ Day in London on Wednesday, members of the BNM as well as groups such as the World Sindhi Congress and Baloch Students Organisation Azad paid tributes to those killed in their fight for Baloch freedom over the years and branded the UK government “hypocritical” for its silence on the human rights violations in the resource-rich region.

“Over 20,000 Baloch people have been abducted by Pakistani security forces and many killed in the last two decades. Our message to the Indian government is that they have to raise their voice against the atrocities by the Pakistani security forces,” said Hammal Haider, foreign affairs



spokesperson of the Baloch National Movement. “India played an important role in liberating Bangladesh and it must now come forward and support our movement to gain independence from the rogue state of Pakistan, which is breeding Islamist militants and destabilising the entire region,” he said.

The organisation along with Balochistan activists around the world annually mark November 13 as Martyrs’ Day in tribute to the mar-

tyrdom of Baloch ruler Mir Mehrab Khan and his fighters who defended the region in the face of British invasion on November 13, 1839.

Candle-light vigils, poetry sessions and tributes are held to honour the memory of all those killed in their struggle for Baloch independence from Pakistan, which it sees as an illegal occupier of its land.

In reference to the British government, Haider said, “The UK talks about human rights

of the Kashmiri people and remains silent on our suffering at the hands of Pakistan’s spy agency Inter-Services Intelligence.

“This is hypocritical, given that Balochistan was an independent country before the British colonialists created Pakistan and paved the way for Pakistani occupation of our land. They must speak out for all human rights violations.”

Dr Lakhu Luhana, General Secretary of the World Sindhi Congress, added, “It is the duty of

the entire international community to speak out against the genocide in Balochistan. “The British, US, Indian governments all have a role to play to stop Pakistan because the implications pose a threat not only to the peace and security in the region, but also globally.”

The Baloch Martyrs’ Day event in London coincided with similar memorial events around the world, seen as a means of raising international awareness for the Baloch independence cause.

## Impeachment proceedings a ‘sham and should not be allowed’: Trump

BY LALIT K JHA

**WASHINGTON, Nov 14 (PTI):** US President Donald Trump has said that the impeachment proceedings against him in the Democratic-led House of Representatives are a “sham and should not be allowed.”

The public hearing of the probe kicked off on Wednesday as William Taylor, the acting ambassador to Ukraine and George Kent, the deputy assistant secretary of State for European and Eurasian affairs, testified for more than five hours before the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Trump is facing allegations of using his office to pressure Ukraine officials for personal political gain against Democratic presidential aspirant Joe Biden and his son Hunter, who served on the board of a Ukrainian gas company.

This is a sham and shouldn’t be allowed. It was a situation that was caused by people that shouldn’t have allowed it to happen, Trump told reporters at the White House during a joint press conference with the visiting Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Trump, who was in meetings with Erdogan for most of the day at the White House said that he did not watch the public hearing on his impeachment.

Are you talking about the witch hunt? Is that what you mean? Is that what you’re talking about? I hear it’s a joke, he said when a reporter asked about his general reaction to the impeachment hearing.

I haven’t watched. I haven’t watched for one minute because I’ve been with the (Turkish) President, which is much more important, as far as I’m concerned, Trump said, adding that he would want to find out who is the whistleblower.

It is the whistleblower, he said, who gave a lot of very incorrect information, including that of his call with the President of Ukraine in July, which he asserted was a perfect call and highly appropriate.

He wrote something that was much different than the fact. I want to find out why the IG -- why would he have presented that, when, in fact, all he had to do was check the call itself and he would



have seen it, he said.

Trump said that he would be releasing transcripts of another call with the Ukrainian President on Thursday.

I’m going to be releasing -- I think, on Thursday -- a second call, which actually was the first of the two. And you’ll make a determination as to what you think there. But I’ve heard -- just a report -- they said it’s all third-hand information. Nothing direct at all. It can’t be direct because I never said it, he said.

And all they have to do is look very, very simply at the transcript. If you read the transcript -- this was analyzed by great lawyers. This was analyzed by Gregg Jarrett. It was analyzed by Mark Levin. It was analyzed by everybody. They said this statement that I made -- the whole call that I made with the President of Ukraine was a perfect one, he said.

I hear that it’s a hoax, and it’s being played as a hoax. That’s what I hear, but you’ll have to tell me, Trump said.

According to The Wall Street Journal, the witnesses said there was little merit to the investigations the president sought.

Kent, asked for the basis for allegations by Trump and his lawyer Rudy Giuliani against Biden and his son Hunter, saying he had none whatsoever. He also said the former vice president’s anti-corruption efforts in Ukraine while he was in office were important, though he acknowledged that the reputation of a Ukrainian company whose board Hunter Biden served on was mixed.

He also said there was no factual basis for allegations of Ukrainian

election interference, the daily reported. Taylor reiterated that he saw a link between the aid to Ukraine and investigations Trump wanted the country to pursue.

In a new disclosure, Taylor said that since testifying behind closed doors, he had heard from a member of his staff who was present for a July 26 call between Gordon Sondland, the ambassador to the European Union, and the president, the daily said. The White House later alleged that the Democrats in Congress have been selling their far-left base on impeachment since Hillary Clinton lost the 2016 presidential race.

After nearly 3 years of coming up empty including USD32 million of taxpayer money spent on the Russia collusion hoax Democrat leaders knew they needed to do something to appease their party’s left fringe.

House Democrats are effectively shutting down Congress yet again over their impeachment sham. Nothing substantive can get done while the left remains fixated on undoing the 2016 election. They have repeatedly ignored opportunities to work with President Trump and take action on issues that will help the very people they represent, The White House alleged.

According to The Hill, the Democrats entered Wednesday hoping to manage the tone, and they largely succeeded.

But there were no real fireworks or bombshells during the 5 1/2 hours of testimony. Taylor and Kent are obscure figures, unknown in most households. And the issue involves Ukraine, a country that most Americans couldn’t find on a map, it said.

## Indian man arrested in Sharjah for assaulting wife

SHARJAH, Nov 14 (PTI):

A 47-year-old Indian man has been arrested in Sharjah after his wife, with a heavily swollen and bleeding eye, posted a video online alleging domestic abuse, according to media reports on Thursday.

Jasmine Sultan, 33, on Tuesday tweeted, “Required urgent help. My name Jasmine Sultan I live in UAE Sharjah my husband name is Mohammad Khizar Ulla I have assaulted badly by husband I want help.” In an attached video, Sultan is seen bleeding from her heavily swollen left eye.

Within hours of being posted, the video was retweeted by nearly 37,000 people, tagging UAE law enforcement agencies, Indian missions and the governments, the Khaleej Times reported.

“He (Khizar) assaulted me violently on Sunday night. He punched more on my eyes, twisted my hands backwards, and hit me on my ribs, on my neck and my head. I thought I would die,” Sultan told Khaleej Times.

Speaking to Gulf News, Sultan said her husband used to assault her regularly and that he had taken away her and children’s passports and all her gold jewellery, worth Dirham 60,000.

The couple has two boys aged five years and 17 months. Sharjah Police confirmed they responded to the news of an Asian woman who was suffering domestic abuse and that they have detained the accused, the daily reported. Meanwhile, the Consulate-General of India to Dubai took note of the matter and got in touch with Sultan. “We met Jasmine today and are in regular touch with her. We have called her husband to the consulate tomorrow, and understand that local authorities are already questioning him.

## Climate change poses ‘lifelong’ child health risk



**PARIS, Nov 14 (AFP):** Climate change will damage the health of an entire generation unless there are immediate cuts to fossil fuel emissions, from a rise in deadly infectious diseases to surging malnutrition, experts warned Thursday. Children across the world were already suffering the ill effects of air pollution and extreme weather events, said The Lancet Countdown in its annual report on the impact of climate change on human health.

And far worse is to come for future generations, it warned: airborne diseases, malnutrition due to mass crop failures, and even mental and physical trauma from increased flash flooding and wildfires. The Lancet Countdown is a coalition of 35 institutions including the World Health Organization and the World Bank.

Their warning comes as some of Australia’s worst wildfires in living memory continue to burn across its eastern seaboard, and after a global youth strike inspired by Swedish schoolgirl Greta Thunberg.

August was the hottest month ever recorded and Earth has already warmed one degree Celsius (1.8 Fahrenheit) since industrialisation.

The Paris Climate treaty of 2015 enjoins nations to limit temperature rises to 2C, or preferably to 1.5C if possible.

Yet emissions continue to rise year on year, putting Earth on a path that could lead to a 4C temperature rise by the end of the century - bringing peril for human health. The report said “nothing

short” of a 7.4 percent year-on-year cut in CO2 emissions until 2050 would limit global warming to 1.5C.

“A kid born today has an average global life expectancy of 71 years so that brings them to 2090. That means that kid will experience a 4C world,” Nick Watts, executive director of The Lancet Countdown, told AFP.

The report, compiled by 120 experts, used the latest available data and climate modelling to predict global health trends as the mercury climbs throughout the decades.

In parts of the world already, the health effects from climate change start in the first weeks of a baby’s life.

In the last 30 years, the global yield potential of staple crops such as maize, winter wheat and rice, have all declined, putting infants and small children at heightened risk of malnutrition.

Infant malnutrition impacts every stage of a child’s life, stunting growth, weakening the immune system and throwing up long-term developmental problems.

More children will also be susceptible to infectious disease outbreaks.

In three just three decades, the number of days worldwide of prime infectiousness for the Vibrio bacteria -- which causes much of child diarrhoeal disease worldwide -- has doubled.

This not only increases the likelihood of children contracting diseases such as cholera in at-risk regions, it also enlarges their spread. The report found that mos-

quito-borne diseases such as dengue and malaria were also on the march, putting half of the world’s current population at risk.

And people in cities are already suffering premature disease and death from air pollution -- coal plants alone contributed a likely one million premature deaths worldwide in 2016.

Extreme weather events are likely to proliferate as temperatures climb, posing increasingly frequent economic disruption.

For example, in 2018, 45 billion hours of work were lost due to extreme heat globally compared with 2000.

“Climate change is not about 2100, climate change is about Wednesday, November 13, 2019,” said Watts, speaking on the day.

“Populations around the world are migrating, growing and ageing in the areas that are worst affected by climate change.”

He said even lawmakers in developed, temperate nations “ought to be already extremely concerned” about heatwaves; temperature records were smashed across Europe this year in a string of deadly heatwaves. The study found that last year an additional 220 million over-65s were exposed to extreme heat, compared with the historical average.

Reacting to the report, The Lancet’s editor-in-chief Richard Horton said climate change was “one of the greatest threats to the health of humanity today.”

“But the world has yet to see a response from governments,” he added. “We can’t afford this level of disengagement.

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**MODERN GIRL!** Actress, Hailee Steinfeld exited Strahan, Sara and Keke in a white dress in New York City.

## Method acting is crazy, says Robert Pattinson

**LOS ANGELES, NOV 14 (PTI):** Robert Pattinson believes artistes resort to method acting only when they are not playing “lovely” characters on-screen.

Pattinson, who went the method way to pull off his character in Robert Eggers’ “The Lighthouse”, said the role pushed him to the edge. “It was a kind of no limit part, which I always really like. We’d do these completely wild scenes, and then literally after a take you’d be exhausted. It’s kind of cathartic. I don’t know how you’d be able to bring the part home. It would be impossible,” the actor told Jennifer Lopez during Variety’s Actor on Actor.

Lopez agreed with Pattinson and said there have been times when she just couldn’t wait to shrug off the characters when she is done playing it.

“I feel like some younger actors feel like they need to stay in it all the time, and as I’ve done movies for many years now, I can’t wait for the end of the day to kind of let it go and go home and get in the shower and literally wash it all off,” she said.

To this, Pattinson remarked, “I always

say, you only ever see people doing method (acting) when they’re playing an a\*\*hole. You never see someone just being lovely to everyone going, I’m really deep in character.”

He said it is important for actors to know when to get into the character and when to leave it.



“I need to know when you’re on stage and when you’re off stage. I need to know that between action and cut, that’s the thing. That’s the safe space. I need to know it ends. I need to know there’s a cut coming, and then I’ll feel safe. If it just feels like you can’t get out, that’s when you go crazy,” he added.

“The Lighthouse”, which also featured Willem Dafoe, released in the US in October.

## Where Are Disney Plus’s Promised Marvel Shows? Far, Far Away



Disney Plus is live in the wild, and it has arrived with pretty much two things: a massive truckload of nostalgia ranging from 90s cartoons to classic Disney and Pixar movies, and a shiny, high profile new offering in The Mandalorian, its prestige live-action Star Wars series.

But fans may be wondering about where all Disney’s promised Marvel shows are. We have a long, long list of announced shows at this point, many of which feature famous A-list MCU characters and actors, but where are they? And when are they getting here?

Well, I hope you’re ready to sit around and wait.

As it turns out, pretty much all Disney’s Marvel shows are very, very far away right now, and they’re mapping out that content for the next few years, rather than having any of them be imminent releases.

Here’s where we are right now with the announced shows and their dates:

Marvel’s Hero Project (live now) – This is the only new show with “Marvel” in the title for Disney Plus’s launch, and yet it’s... really not a Marvel show at all. It’s about kids who are “real life heroes” which may be perfectly touching and inspiring and yet it’s not really connected to the rest of these at all as a docuseries.

Falcon and the Winter Solider (Fall 2020) – Yes, you’ve read that correctly, the first “real” Marvel show on Disney Plus is not slated to arrive until a year from now. We know a lot about this series, like that in addition to Sebastian Stan and Anthony Mackie starring, we’re seeing the return of Emily Van Camp’s Sharon Carter and Daniel Bruhl’s Zemo, but its debut is still very, very far off.

Loki (Spring 2021) – This is probably one of the most anticipated shows of the bunch, a limited run series that shows what happens to 2012 Loki after he grabs the Tesseract in Endgame. Hiddleston seems excited about it, returning to the role after his “main timeline” death, but it’s a long ways out.

WandaVision (Spring 2021) – Another spring release for over a year from now, this

should be one of the more interesting offerings of the bunch giving that its rooted in 1950s sitcoms, and is supposed to have larger connections to the movie MCU.

What If...? (Summer 2021) – This one is an animated series and the concept features a lot of alternate reality angles that span concepts like Peggy Carter becoming Captain Carter and Steve Rogers never getting the super serum to how Peter Parker would have turned out if Uncle Ben never died. Should be interesting, though divorced from the MCU itself.

Hawkeye (Fall 2021) – Yes, we have now officially moved into two years away territory for these shows. This is the one where Jeremy Renner’s Clint will reportedly train Haliee Steinfeld as Kate Bishop, taking his place in the Avengers, or leading a new team.

Ms. Marvel, She-Hulk, Moon Knight (???) – These were only recently announced, and are just starting to find their showrunners (Umbrella Academy showrunner doing Moon Knight, Rick and Morty writer doing She-Hulk), so they are very, very early in production. It’s not impossible some of these could be slotted in before the ones with dates above, but it seems more likely that most of them would be after.

In short, it seems like we have to wait at least a full year before the first major MCU-based Marvel show arrives on Disney Plus. There looks to only be a single MCU movie on deck during that window, Black Widow in May 2020, with The Eternals arriving in November 2020, which may be after Falcon and The Winter Soldier debuts. So we are in a bit of a lull when it comes to Marvel content, but given the Endgame finale, I don’t think that’s the worst thing in the world.

I am curious about Disney Plus over the next year. The “geek” crowd is really going to mainly just have this first season of The Mandalorian and not much else this year, as I don’t think future Star Wars projects like Obi-Wan are arriving any time soon. So all that nostalgic content is going to have to last a while, it seems, and we’ll see where Disney Plus is at a few months from now.

## Pink to go on yearlong break from music

**LOS ANGELES, NOV 14 (PTI):** Singer Pink is taking a year off to spend some quality time with her family.

The singer, who shares daughter Willow and son Jameson with husband, former motocross racer Carey Hart, said she had been working nonstop for almost three years and wanted some

time to take it all in.

“We did two-and-a-half years (recording and on tour) and Willow is back in school now and Jameson’s gonna start preschool soon, so it’s kind of the year of the family,” Pink told Entertainment Tonight.

The 40-year-old singer was speaking on the red car-

pet at the CMA Awards show in Nashville.

Pink said she decided to temporarily step away from the stage so that Hart, 44, could focus on his career.

“Carey has a lot going on as well. He is super supportive. He follows me around the world, and now it’s his turn,” she said.

## Camila Cabello, Shawn Mendes get tattoos together

**LOS ANGELES, NOV 14 (PTI):** Singers Camila Cabello and Shawn Mendes got inked.

The couple, who are in a relationship, were recently spotted heading over to West Hollywood to get some tattoos.

According to Billboard, the “Senorita” hitmakers went for different body art.

Tattoo artiste Kane Navasard shared Mendes’ new tat on his Instagram page, a small letter “A” behind his ear, a tribute to his 16-year-old sister, Aaliyah.

“Little letter ‘A’ for the man @shawnmendes,” Navasard captioned the photo.

It was Cabello’s first time getting a tattoo.

She opted for the phrase, “It’s a mystery,” on her small pinky finger, in a reference to the 1998 version of “Shakespeare in Love”, starring Gwyneth Paltrow.

“Welcome to the club @camilacabello,” wrote Navasard on his Instagram Story.

## Alexander Skarsgard on board ‘Passing’



**Los Angeles, Nov 14 (PTI):** Alexander Skarsgard has joined Ruth Negga and Tessa Thompson-starrer “Passing”.

According to Variety, the details on the “Big Little Lies” star’s character are unknown.

The film marks the directorial debut of actor Rebecca Hall who is directing from a script she adapted from Nella Larsen’s Harlem Renaissance novella of the same name.

“Passing” follows the unexpected reunion of two high school friends, whose renewed acquaintance ignites a mutual obsession that threatens both of their carefully constructed realities.

Larsen’s story was first published in 1929 by Knopf and her exploration of race was informed by her own mixed racial heritage and the increasingly common practice of racial passing in the 1920s.

Also starring Andre Holland, the shoot of the film is underway in New York.

**ARIES:** Many of you are getting ready to take your relationship to the next level. Did somebody say wedding season? A traditional ceremony is the most beautiful way to begin your forever, with the blessings of both the old and the new gods. A good way to ensure everything runs smoothly is to channel your inner Monica and delegate wherever necessary.

Tip: There’s something about traditional weddings!

**TAURUS:** The full moon, which was in your sign a few nights ago, brought with itself the reminder that there are some things you are still struggling to let go. What are you resisting, Taurus? Why are you holding onto the pain and the trauma? You are being given the opportunity to break the wheel of misunderstandings, betrayal, and hurt.

Tip: Break free from the old patterns.

**GEMINI:** While some grow up in their family homes or find comfort in sharing space with their friends/partners, others find their home in the mountains, the beaches, the forests, and the hilltops. Gemini, you’re

one of those people who has no trouble making connections. Celebrate both your blood and your soul ties today. Be cognisant of the people who are showing up for you consistently.

Tip: Connect with your soul family love.

Cancer:

To quote John Lennon: “It matters not who you love, where you love, why you love, when you love or how you love; it matters only that you love.” There’s only one kind of intoxicant you need today. Cancer, you are returning to a place of joy, love, and abundance. The past is behind you and the future looks brighter than it ever has before.

Tip: This is what happiness feels like.

**LEO:** Leo, you’ve been loved many times before. But never with this much depth, intensity, and warmth. This is your license to feel all the feels. To allow yourself to be swept off your feet and know that you deserve every bit of the love you have attracted into your Universe. Just when everything is perfect, the old fears and insecurities are likely to show up. Instead of actively engaging with them, learn to become an observer.

Tip: Feel all the feels.

**VIRGO:** Your beliefs may be different from theirs but that doesn’t mean you cannot find a middle ground. Virgo, let patience and understanding become your power words. As such, religion and spirituality are going to important themes for you today. Don’t accept everything that is being shared with you. Dig deeper and uncover newer truths. This is the way to grow and evolve.

Tip: You are revisiting your beliefs.

**LIBRA:** Libra, what you’re experiencing at the moment is the dark night of the soul. Let your fears and insecurities comes to the surface. The old wounds of rejection and abandonment too. The Universe wants you to feel them completely so you can let them go. In moments of vulnerability, remind yourself that you are no longer the person you used to be.

Tip: As Hal Borland once said “No winter lasts forever, no spring skips its turn.”

**SCORPIO:** If you find the other being evasive, it is time to put your foot down. Trust your intuition here, Scorpio. There’s a good

chance they are not being honest about their feelings or sharing what’s going on in their head and heart. While infidelity seems like the most obvious reason, there could be other reasons for this deception. You won’t know until you have the talk.

Tip: Handover the reins to your head for now.

**SAGITTARIUS:** The mind: your slave or master, Sagittarius? Know that it has a way of playing nasty tricks on us in weak or vulnerable moments. When we become comfortable in the discomfort, any attempt to break the cycle is met with resistance. Here’s something to think about when the going gets tough: your brain is just another muscle which you control rather than the other way around.

Tip: Break free of the traps set by your own mind.

**CAPRICORN:** While some need words of affirmation to feel loved others thrive when they receive affection in a physical form. What’s \*your\* love language, Capricorn? More importantly, what makes your beloved feel loved? Today you’re being asked to expand your vocabulary and relate with each other in a brand new manner. Remem-

ber, sharing stories is an integral part of the bonding process..

Tip: Speak the language of love.

**AQUARIUS:** If things have been rough over the past few weeks, trust that the winds of change will provide respite from the stormy weather. On your part, you must be willing to make place for change, to let erase the pain and the hurt from your narrative, and see the good in each and every situation. A fresh start is on the horizon, one that promises peace, love, and tranquility.

Tip: The winds of change are blowing in your favour.

**PISCES:** Today brings with itself the reminder to nurture your closest ties. Think one-on-one conversations and quality time. Skip the noisy bars in favour of a quiet meal at home or split a smoothie bowl at your favourite whole foods cafe. Share what’s going on in your life as you actively listen to them. Pisces, the thing about stories is that they help us connect on a deeper level!

Tip: Nurture your soul ties.