



**PRIYADARSHAN-AKSHAY KUMAR  
TO REUNITE FOR COMEDY**  
pg 08

**WHAT ARE LOST CONTINENTS,  
AND WHY ARE WE  
DISCOVERING SO MANY?**

04

**M NIGHT SHYAMALAN'S  
'SERVANT' GETS EARLY  
SEASON 2 RENEWAL**

pg 08



# SummitTIMES

Vol 04 | Issue 311 | Gangtok | Tuesday | 26 November 2019

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5

## Minister hands over Tourism award to CM

**GANGTOK, 25 Nov (IPR):** Minister for Tourism & Civil Aviation, BS Panth along with the Secretary, TT Bhutia called on Chief Minister, PS Tamang in his office at Tashiling Secretariat, this evening and handed over the India's Best Award 2019-Best Emerging Green Destination.

Travel + Leisure India and South East Asia publishing house awarded Sikkim Tourism with the prestigious award of Best Green Destination on 15 Nov, 2019 in a glittering function held at ITC Maurya, New Delhi.

The recognition was bestowed on Sikkim Tourism for its commendable effort in the field of green tourism.

Chief Minister, PS Tamang congratulated the entire team and asked them to work with more zeal and enthusiasm to promote Sikkim in the field of tourism with various activities.

## SC order on Maharashtra govt formation on Tuesday morning

**NEW DELHI, NOV 25 (PTI):** The Supreme Court will give its order on Maharashtra government formation on Tuesday, the apex court said while hearing the Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress combine's plea against the governor's decision to swear in Devendra Fadnavis as chief minister.

As uncertainty in the state mounted, the Centre on Monday maintained that the BJP had the support of all 54 NCP MLAs to form a government in Maharashtra and asked the Supreme Court for two to three days to reply to the plea against Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari's decision.

Appearing for the Shiv Sena, senior advocate Kapil Sibal said the combine has affidavits from 154 Maharashtra MLAs and the BJP should be asked to prove its majority within 24 hours if it has the numbers.

The Shiv Sena-Congress-NCP has filed a plea against the governor's decision to swear in BJP leader Fadnavis as chief minister and NCP's Ajit Pawar as deputy chief minister in the early hours of Saturday.

The Centre told a bench comprising Justices N V Ramana, Ashok Bhushan and Sanjiv Khanna that the governor had in absolute discretion invited the largest party to form government on November 23.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the top court the Maharashtra governor is not supposed to conduct a roving  
**turn to pg 02**

## FIRST CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT

# High time we included children in policy making: Health Minister

**GANGTOK, 25 Nov (IPR):** The 1st Children's Parliament under the State Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction organised by the Social Justice and Welfare Department was held at the auditorium of Manan Kendra today.

Education Minister, Kunga Nima Lepcha, attended the occasion as the chief guest accompanied by Mani Kumar Sharma as the guest of honour along with Kuber Bhandari [Secretary, Department of Sports & Youth Affairs], Dhan Jyoti Mukhia [Secretary, Social Justice and Welfare Department] along with the officials from line departments, representatives from NGOs, teachers and students at large.

The Children's Parliament is a call for action to limit and prevent young children's exposure to



drugs and substance abuse. The Children's Parliament saw participation from students parliamentarians selected from various Govern-

ment schools in the state. In her opening remarks, Dhanjyoti Mukhia [Secretary, SJ&W Dept], heartily welcomed all the guests and partici-

pants to the event. She highlighted that Sikkim is and has been facing a major problem due to substance abuse.

She mentioned that

the main focus on the state action plan will be preventive education, awareness generation, capacity building and specific intervention programme in

coordination with other line departments, various stakeholders and concerned NGOs.

During her address, she provided a brief

overview on the state action plan prepared by the Social Justice and Welfare Department to address the demand of drugs in the state. She also provided fact and figures regarding the SADA Act before the gathering.

She further stated, "Addiction to drugs create havoc and disrupts an individual's life and family and is a major deterrent for any kind of human growth and development and also for social economic, political stability of the society and state as a whole".

She mentioned that the Department is working diligently to tackle the problem of drug abuse in the state. She also added that the Department will put in more concerted efforts into involving everyone and creating

**turn to pg 02**

## U-17 footballers Sridevi and Laxmi call on CM



**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 25 Nov:** Sridevi Subba and Laxmi Thatal have been selected to join the India Under-17 team for the upcoming FIFA Under-17 World Cup to be hosted in India next year.

The two were selected for the national camp for the Under-17 World Cup after trials held in Kolkata recently.

Sports & Youth Affairs Minister Kunga Nima Lepcha, Secretary Kuber Bhandari, Director

Narendra Pradhan along with Sridevi and Laxmi, accompanied their mothers, and coach, Ms Aprana Lepcha, called on Chief Minister PS Tamang at Tashiling Secretariat this evening.

A visibly pleased Chief Minister congratulated them and wished them the very best and also expressed his happiness on them bringing such laurels to the State and granted them Rs 2 lakh each and Rs 1 lakh to the coach.

## NE's first Energy Management Centre set up in Sikkim

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 25 Nov:** The 12th Energy Management Centre under GEF-UNIDO-BEE Project 'Promoting Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in Selected MSME Clusters in India' is being set up in Sikkim marking the launch of the initiative in the North Eastern region in India, as per a press release.

The formal in inauguration scheduled for 26 November at Gangtok will be attended by senior officials of the government and Dr Rene Van Berkel, UNIDO Representative for India.

The Energy Management Centre has been established at Sikkim Development Agency (SDA), Power Department, Government of Sikkim.

Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Ministry of Power in association with United Nations Industrial

Development Organization (UNIDO) is implementing Global Environmental Facility funded national project on 'Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy in selected MSME clusters in India'. The project is under implementation in 23 clusters under 5 different sectors (brass, ceramic, dairy, foundry and hand tools).

Under this project, 11 Energy Management Centres were established with an aim to promote the need of regular energy audits among the MSME units. Each Energy Management Cells (EMCs) is equipped with energy audit instruments worth of 30 lakhs.

The main motive behind the energy management cell is to empower the local MSME units to carryout energy audit of the unit on their own (i.e. performance

assessment of furnaces, compressed air system, motors, pumps, lighting and many other energy consuming equipment) without depending on external consultants/energy auditing firms.

This activity helps to identify energy efficiency improvement potential and promote energy effi-

ciency at unit level in the MSME units. These EMCs are now fully operational and regular trainings are also being provided to the MSME unit members on handling of instruments and energy audits.

The list of energy auditing instruments provided for each EMC are as below:  
**turn to pg 02**

S.No.	Instrument Name
1	3 Ph Power Analyzer
2	1 Ph Power Analyzer
3	Flue Gas Analyzer
4	Anemometer
5	Infrared Thermometer
6	Contact Thermometer
7	Lux Meter
8	Distance Meter
9	Compressed air Leak Detector
10	Thermo Hygrometer
11	Ultrasonic Flowmeter
12	Pyrometer
13	Differential Manometer

## Awareness Programme on Mitigation of Mangan landslide

### Stakeholders and officials to form committee

**GANGTOK, 25 Nov (IPR):** A day-long Public Awareness-cum-Sensitization Programme on Mitigation of Mangan landslide under National Disaster Management Authority's umbrella pilot scheme to demonstrate benefits of landslide mitigation measures was conducted here at Conference Hall of District Administration Centre, Mangan, North Sikkim, today.

The main objective of the programme was to disseminate information to the public and stakeholders about the benefits of landslide mitigation measures which is necessary to protect Mangan from natural disasters.

The programme was attended by District Collector, North, Tenzing T Koleon, Special Secretary, Land Revenue



and Disaster Management Disaster (LR&DMD), East, CK Chettri, District Forest Officer, Territorial North, Forest Department, Pempa Dadul Ladenla, Additional Director, LR&DMD, East, GC Khanal, Additional Director, Mines and Geology Department, North, ST Lepcha, Senior Geologist, Mines and Geology

Department, KK Liutel, EGE Consultant, Parsan Overseas Private Limited, Nitin Goyal, HoDs from various Line Departments, Councilor, Panchayats, Stakeholders and the General Public of Mangan.

Special Secretary, LR&DMD, Mr Chettri said that the Mangan landslide

mitigation process is of serious concern. In addition, he said that the suggestions presented by the stakeholders during the programme will be sent to higher authority for consideration. He assured everyone that the team will do its best to synchronize this project.

Additional Director, Land Revenue Disaster Management Department, East, GC Khanal gave a brief information on the Geological consideration needed to rebuild Mangan's infrastructure which would make the town immune to natural disasters in the future. He apprised that Mangan is an important town in Sikkim which is on a development stage and needs good planning and infrastructures to sustain it.

It was informed that the soil formation in Mangan is vulnerable during landslides and needs a different approach.  
**turn to pg 02**

## SC asks EC to decide on plea seeking to bar people with criminal record from contesting polls

**NEW DELHI, NOV 25 (PTI):** The Supreme Court asked the Election Commission on Monday to pass a "reasoned order" on a representation seeking to restrain political parties from fielding candidates with criminal antecedents in polls.

A bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde passed the order while refusing to entertain a PIL filed by lawyer and BJP leader Ashwini Upadhyay seeking a direction to the poll panel to devise a mechanism to ensure that parties be restrained from fielding candidates with criminal records.

"We direct the Election Commission of India to consider the representation of the petitioner (Upadhyay) dated January 22, 2019 and pass a reasoned order within three months," said the bench, also comprising Justice B R Gavai.

The top court, while disposing of a similar PIL, had on January 21 this year directed the petitioner to approach the poll panel which was also asked to treat the plea as a representation for taking requisite steps.

Upadhyay alleged that the EC did not act, forcing him to file the plea afresh and now the apex court has directed the EC to pass a reasoned order within three months from today.  
**turn to pg 02**



## The Twins café opens in Salbari



### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 25 NOV:**

A café called 'The Twins' opened in Methibari, Salbari in Siliguri on 24 Nov in the presence of Sahitya Akademi awardee, Dr Jas Yonjan 'pyasi'.

A press release informs that a trilingual (Rai, Nepali, English) dictionary and a collection of Rai poetry titled 'Ngayuna-Nunsung' written by Ran Kishore Rai was also

released on the occasion.

Mr Rai has been doing research on the Kirati Rais of eastern Himalayas and Sikkim since 1993.

Sikkimese poet, Guru T Ladakhi also read out some of his poems.

A joint venture of Lekha Rai and Laxmi Rai, this book cafe seeks to inculcate reading habit, host storytelling, poetry recitation, book launches and more, the release mentions.

### SC asks EC...

Upadhyay had sought a direction to the EC "to restrict political parties to setup candidates with criminal antecedents in serious offences".

The plea said the cause of action had arisen on October 10, 2018 when the EC, while issuing notification for assembly elections in five states, did not amend the Election Symbol Order 1968 and the Model Code of Conduct to restrict political parties from fielding candidates with criminal records.

"Criminalisation of politics in India has only grown. Data published by the Association for Democratic Reforms shows that 24 per cent members of Parliament have criminal cases pending against them...."

"Out of 7,810 candidates analyzed for the 2009 elections to Lok Sabha, 1,158 or 15 per cent declared criminal cases of which 610 or 8 per cent had serious cases. Out of 8,163 candidates for the Lok Sabha elections in 2014, 1398 or 17 per cent declared criminal cases of which 889 or 11 per cent had serious cases," the plea said.

### SC order...

and fishing inquiry to ascertain which party has the numbers to form government

The question is, he said, can a party come and seek the court's intervention to hold a floor test within 24 hours

Mehta said the governor was cognizant of the facts and the situation after poll results that had led to President's rule being invoked in the state

The apex court, after perusing Koshiyari's letter inviting Fadnavis, said it has to be decided whether or not the chief minister enjoys majority support on the floor of house

The solicitor general explained that the governor had invited Shiv Sena, BJP and NCP for government formation and President's rule was imposed only after they failed

Senior advocate Maninder Singh, appearing for Ajit Pawar, told the bench that the governor rightly invited Fadnavis to form government

Opening his arguments, Sibal, appearing for the Shiv Sena, referred to Uddhav Thackeray being declared the next Maharashtra chief minister at a press conference of the three parties

"Where was national emergency to revoke President's rule at 5.27 am and CM being administered oath at 8 am next morning," Sibal asked

Sibal referred to the alleged haste by which President's rule was revoked and a new government was formed in Maharashtra and said it has never been done in history

"(Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress) Combine has affidavits of 154 Maharashtra MLAs supporting it. If the BJP has numbers, then they should be asked to prove majority within 24 hours," Sibal said

Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for the NCP and the Congress, termed it a "fraud of the worst kind" and asked whether a single NCP MLA told Ajit Pawar that he supported him to go with the BJP

As the hearing began on Monday morning, Meh-ta submitted letters of the governor and Fadnavis as asked by the bench on Sunday

The apex court said it is not considering the Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress' combine's plea that they be invited to form government in Maharashtra.

### Awareness Programme...

Further, he stressed that there needs to be a good collaboration between the general public and stakeholders to make this mitigation process a success.

Nitin Goyal, EGE, Consultant, highlighted and explained about the types of solution that can be used during landslide mitigation process of SNT complex, Rafong Khola and Mangan School compound. Solution includes 400 mm dia pile, SDA anchors and shotcreting and checkdams will be made at Rafong Khola

Further, he gave brief report on Detail Project Report (DPR) of his survey and recognized three vulnerable areas in and around Mangan. These three areas are Rafong, Remit and Ambithang.

He further explained the mitigation measures layout plan for Mangan landslide area which includes Minor Scrubbing of top layer formation level for installation of RCC poles, Self Drilling Anchor, Shotcrete, Drainage system and RCC Pile with Pile Cap Beam at the identified vulnerable areas in and around Mangan.

He also explained the geotechnical design and support provision for these three vulnerable areas to the stakeholders and general public.

Meanwhile, DC, Mr Kaleon has suggested the stakeholders and officials of the line department to form a committee comprising some of expertise and consultant so as to have better deliberation on landslide mitigation so that they can proceed the protective works accordingly.

## Kisan Gosthi cum Demonstration of Silage making

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 25 NOV:**

KVK West Sikkim in collaboration with ATMA West conducted Kisan Gosthi cum Demonstration of Silage making for the progressive dairy farmers of Soreng, Chakung Chumbong, Rinchenpong, Daramdin and Hee-Martam at Rumbuk.

The programme was coordinated by Block Technology Manager (BTM), Assistant Technology Manager (ATM) of respective blocks. It was attended by 50 progressive farmers.

The program was attended by the Joint Director Agriculture Cum Deputy Project Director, TN Bhutia, ATMA West who briefed the farmers about the various schemes of Agriculture,



ATMA and encouraged scientific dairy farming.

SMS Animal Science, Dr LD Bhutia explained the scope of scientific dairy farming, Silage and its benefits, and also demonstrated the Silage making procedure. The programme concluded with exposure visit in and around the village.

Silage is a type of fodder made from green foliage crops which have been preserved by anaerobic fermentation. The major challenges faced by the dairy farmers in most parts of the state are unavailability of green fodder during lean period.

Considering the above issue, KVK West

Sikkim conducted demonstration of Silage making with High Density Polythene bag (HDP) under Frontline Demonstration (FLD) programme 2019-20.

For the FLD programme ten progressive farmers from Rumbuk village were selected and trial was conducted from Aug- till Sept, 2019.

## Lions Club International 322F Region-III meet held at Rangpo



### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 25 NOV:**

Lions Club International 322F Region-III meet was held at Rangpo, Sikkim, today which was attended by Lions Club members from Kalimpong, Darjeeling and other areas of West Bengal, a press release informs. The meeting was hosted by Lions Club of Rangpo.

The programme started with a welcome speech by Lions Club of Rangpo president, Ramakant Rai, members, secretaries and administrators of different clubs present in the meeting placed brief report of their Club's social and

administrative activities. Daylong meeting was conducted by Sanjay Agarwal and Namita Chettri.

For best presentation and all round best performance awards for clubs were presented to Lions Club of Shivmandir Greater and Darjeeling. President of Lions Club of Shivmandir, Chandan Mukerjee was also presented with a Token of Appreciation.

Token of love was presented to GMT Coordinator 322 F, Bipul Ch Das. Special Appreciation Award was presented to Zone Chairperson Zone I, Simon Ratan Murmu.

## MYM Siliguri welcomes group on spiritual rally



### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 25 NOV:**

Marwadi Yuva Manch Siliguri Branch received an opportunity to provide service to a spiritual group coming from Guwahati and going towards Khatudhaam in Rajasthan, approximately 2500 kilometers on foot, a press release informs.

The spiritual group was provided lodging facility at Surtaram Nakipuria Trust Bhawan for three days. A huge gathering of spiritual persons from Siliguri and surrounding areas welcomed and congratulated the group for this historical tour.

According to the group, they aim to complete this spiritual tour to Rajasthan within 71 days. They reached Siliguri on 22 November and the spiritual rally was organised by Prem Karo Krishna Pariwar on 24 November.

On the same evening, a bhajan program was also organised. The group left for their next destination this morning. Marwadi Yuva Manch Siliguri president, Mahesh Dalmia, Program Coordinator, Aashu Agarwal and other members extended support to make the program successful.

## Pep Guardiola stays philosophical in hunt for 'unstoppable' Liverpool

### RICHARD JOLLY

*theGuardian*

If the challenge for Manchester City has been to translate their dominance of England into superiority in Europe, Pep Guardiola may instead have borrowed from his Champions League rhetoric to lay the groundwork for a Premier League near-miss.

The City manager has a tendency to downplay his side's chances of conquering the continent. A 12-point deficit to Liverpool had been reduced to nine and Chelsea's early lead overturned on Saturday when Guardiola drew on context to suggest his champions are outsiders now.

"Liverpool look unstoppable," he said. "I know it's far away with these numbers. My teams always try but we accept other teams can be better. So [if] we are going to lose the Premier League, we are going to try the next season. It's not the first time Manchester City in 100 years of history lose the league."

It is a mantra of Guardiola's that his side are alone in retaining the title in the past decade. He feels expectations are exaggerated. He gazed across the sporting landscape to cite his friend, the Ryder Cup golfer Tommy Fleetwood, whose first win of 2019 came last week. "It looks like if we won the last two Premier Leagues we have to win seven Premier Leagues in a row, you have to win 200 points every season," he said. "It does not work [like that] at a high, high level. Tennis players lose games. In golf, Tommy Fleetwood does not always win the tournament."

If Guardiola has been theatrical in his reactions of late, especially the defeat to Liverpool, he is attempting to be philosophical in his title bid. "If we don't do it, I'm not going to retire but I'm going to be disappointed," he said.

Guardiola took solace from City's spirit against Chelsea. It was the second time in November alone that they had come from behind to win. Yet whereas his teams are natural frontrunners who tend to control campaigns as well as games, Saturday's frenetic effort seemed significant. If it was testament in part to Chelsea's ambition and excellence, they may

have been encouraged by City's frailties. Kevin De Bruyne remarked afterwards that City are always expected to have 70% possession. They actually registered a record low for a Guardiola team, just 46%, and the policy of playing out from the back threatened to backfire.

Once again, they were grateful to the resilient, redoubtable Fernandinho, who produced a goal-saving intervention to deny N'Golo Kanté in a defiant display. Few other midfielders could, at 34, transform themselves into the outstanding available centre-back at an elite club, and if that is an indictment of John Stones and Nicolás Otamendi, it is proof of Fernandinho's adaptability. "He can play there," said Guardiola. "He was incredible at Anfield. He was incredible today."

Three years ago, Guardiola said Fernandinho could play in three positions; now he could benefit from three Fernandinhos, two in defence and one in midfield. As long as Aymeric Laporte is sidelined, the plan is to retain the Brazilian in defence. "I like Fernandinho in that position, with the problems that we have," Guardiola said.

Managing problems are becoming a theme; it is less about perfectionism than the pragmatism of making do in the circumstances. Already shorn of their premier specialist defender, City now look set to be without their best striker. Sergio Agüero's muscle injury was assessed on Sunday and while he was able to stay late at the Etihad to watch the Copa Libertadores final, the fear is it will sideline him for some time. "It doesn't look good," Guardiola said.

His answer, once again, lies in a Brazilian. While Raheem Sterling could slot in as a centre-forward, Guardiola confirmed Gabriel Jesus will deputise. "He is going to play there, sure," he pledged. An extended opportunity could come in a Manchester derby and meetings with Arsenal and Leicester as City may face a defining December without their record scorer.

Should Jesus require a role model, he need only look at City's right flank on Saturday.

### High time...

awareness, early identification and treatments and rehabilitation of the affected persons.

She further mentioned that the Department is constructing a de-addiction centre at Kichu Dumra apart from the already existing de-addiction centre at Chuwa Tsar, Singtam. She added that various livelihood schools and de-addiction centres in hospitals has been set up throughout the state where the inmates will be integrated back into the society.

She also provided a brief introduction and overview on the concept and objective of Children's Parliament before the gathering and said that the very idea of having the Children's Right constituted has been to provide the platform to the children where they can fully voice their opinions and exercise their rights to participation.

Lastly, the Secretary mentioned that Sikkim is the only state in the country to have constituted Children's Parliament at Government level.

In his positive address to the gathering, Health Minister, M.K Sharma, pointed out that the problem of drug menace requires more compact, comprehensive, coordinated participation from the society.

The Minister informed that the department has created the action plan and will be organising such activities frequently by involving different sections of the society until the desirable results are attained. He stated that the department has been working to remove stigma by changing the mindset of the people.

Likewise, he said, "My true feeling is that we are imposing punishment on our children by not giving much needed time and space to the children. We are not including children in planning and important discussion. Children need to be given more time in order to tap their potential. So this is high time we should include them in policy formation by staging such sessions."

He also highlighted various activities to be organized under Social Justice and Welfare department, Government of Sikkim which include upcoming football tournament amongst the rehabilitation and detoxification centres, cultural activities by rehabilitation centres and special students, painting competition and flash mob.

Lastly, he ensured all the necessary support and help to the students in all their endeavours.

Also, in his warm address to the gathering, Education Minister, Kunga Nima Lepcha, firstly expressed his happiness and congratulated the Social Welfare Department for successfully organising the event.

Speaking before the gathering, he said, "One must go to the roots of the problem rather than serving direct punishment on the children. He suggested special counselling sessions for the parents and guardians of the children and added, "Time has come to motivate the parents and guardians to support their children and not to overlook the ambitions of their children."

He further put much emphasis and provided suggestions for involving and engaging children in policy making.

He said, "Our goal is to provide the children with proper education about different facets of life, to make them responsible citizens and support them in their endeavour. Let us make this a revolutionary movement and for the movement to be successful, People's participation is a must."

He also suggested for corrective measures in tackling the menace of drug abuse in the state and motivated the stakeholders and policy makers to share their recommendations before the government.

Mr Lepcha further informed that Children's Parliament will be a mandatory part of the school curriculum. Lastly, he thanked all the students and children for their overwhelming participation in the event.

The program came to an end with the vote of thanks proposed by Rohini Pradhan [Joint Secretary, Social and Welfare Department].

Earlier, a debate competition was conducted during the session of Children's Parliament wherein vigorous discussion on the topic of SADA Act took place among the participating student parliamentarians.

### NE's first...

Apart from energy audit instruments, under GEF-UNIDO-BEE project, various skill development training programs were also being organized for employees of MSME units to upscale the skills on handling of energy audit instruments, identification of energy conservation measures, report writing and also to carryout detailed energy audit among MSME members.

## ~ SummitTIMES ~ CLASSIFIEDS

### GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

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

**For details contact: 9083826462**

### FLAT FOR RENT/LEASE

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

**For more details: 9083826462 /9832556698**

### GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

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

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

**Contact: 9800201335**

### LAND FOR SALE

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

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



*Sherpas deprived of BL rights, reiterates DSA*



#### SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 25 NOV:

An executive meeting of Denzong Sherpa Association (DSA) was held in Gangtok today.

During the meeting various issues were discussed and it was decided to expedite all long pending social and political issues pertaining to the Sherpa community of Sikkim, a press release informs.

"The association is passionately hopeful towards the SKM Government being led by Hon'ble Chief Minister, PS Golay in fulfilling the long pending aspirations of the Sikkimese Sherpa," the release mentions.

The meeting also conveyed all Sherpa kyidugs and members in Sikkim to remain united and alert in pursuit of achieving our demands and aspirations in due course of time.

DSA has further reiterated that the Sherpa community is being deprived of the pre-merger BL right which has caused an identity crisis for the community.

## EPCS-Namchi and Gitang Dagbari in Sikkim United Cup semis

#### SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 25 NOV:

EPCS, Namchi, and Gitang Dagbari, West Sikkim, completed the semifinalist squad of the ongoing Sikkim United Cup here at Paljor Stadium.

In the third quarter-final match played on Monday, EPCS-Namchi edged past Word of Life Church 2-1. Brijesh Mangar of EPCS Namchi was adjudged the Man of the Match.

Gitang Dagbari also entered the semi-final round after defeating Bethany Church, Ranipool, 4-1 in the last quarter-final match. Sanjay Rai of Gitang Dagbari was awarded the Man of the Match honour.

The first semi-final match of the tournament is scheduled for Tuesday between ABYF Baptist Church, Sikkim, and Abad.

## SGREWA Central Executive term extended for 3 months



#### SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 25 NOV:

Executive Committee of Sikkim Government Retired Employees Welfare Association held a meeting here at Employees Guest House, today.

A press release informs that it was decided to extend the term of existing executive body for three months. The present term expired on 11 Nov.

General secretary, PL Sharma informed that

due to general elections and subsequent by polls, meeting of conveners of Sub-Committees could not take place earlier.

Adviser SGREWA, KN Sharma advised the executive committee, led by president, Dorjee Tshering Bhutia and general secretary, Pushpa Lal Sharma, to continue till the new one takes over.

All the members of Central Executive Committee unanimously agreed upon inviting Con-

venors and three others from all the sub-committees across the State in mid-February to discuss holding fresh elections, schedule and mode.

The general secretary presented account details and all the members were informed that the president and general secretary had called on the Chief Minister, PS Tamang and presented demands of Association, including increase in medical relief.

## Snakebite case: Students continue protests



**WAYANAD, NOV 25 (PTI):** Students of the state-run vocational higher secondary school near here continued their protest on Monday demanding strong action against the teachers responsible for the death of a fifth standard student due to snake bite inside her classroom on November 20.

While the investigating police officers visited the school and hospitals to record the statement with regard to the incident, the Mananthavady Municipality began a cleaning drive at the school.

The students demanded that the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) be disbanded and strong action be taken against the teachers responsible for 10-year-old Shehala's death.

"We are not seeking dismissal of other teachers.

We don't want everyone to be ousted. We

want those teachers responsible for the incident to be ousted.

The present PTA must also be disbanded," a student said.

The investigating team headed by Manthavadi ASP Vaibhav Saxena visited the Vythiri Good Shepherd hospital and recorded the evidence of doctors.

The team also visited the school and recorded statements of teachers and students.

The State has been witnessing protests against the school authorities who had allegedly failed to ensure that Shehala was rushed to hospital on time.

The probe team met the medical board to ascertain whether delay in treatment caused the death or not.

Meanwhile, the forest department conducted a search and capture operation at the school to find any snakes in the school compound. Police

baton-charged activists of the Kerala Students Union (KSU), the congress' student outfit in the state, when they tried to barge into the residence of Education Minister C Raveendranath at Thrissure.

Three school officials, including the principal and the vice principal, have already been suspended. The local-self government ministry has issued an order to all panchayats to urgently complete pending repair and cleaning works of schools in their jurisdiction.

An all party meeting held here Sunday decided to demolish the dilapidated classroom and construct a new one.

The meeting also decided to provide counselling to the students and asked school authorities not to take any vengeful action against children who had voiced protest against the school management over the death.

## Situation in Kashmir far from normal: Yashwant Sinha after visit to Valley

**SRINAGAR, NOV 25 (PTI):** A five-member civil society delegation led by former Union minister Yashwant Sinha on Monday wrapped up its four-day visit to Kashmir terming it as very successful, but asserted that the situation in the Valley after the abrogation of Article 370 was not normal.

The delegation, known as Concerned Citizens' Group (CCG), also termed the curbs by the police on their movement in different parts of the Valley as a "deliberate ploy" by the government to hide the ground reality.

It warned that the situation will deteriorate further if the Centre does not change its behaviour pertaining to Kashmir.

"After talking to various groups of people and individuals, I have come to the conclusion at the end of our visit that the situation is not at all normal," Sinha told PTI.

Asserting that the Centre's decision of stripping Jammu and Kashmir of its special status and bifurcating it into two Union territories has caused a "huge psychological problem", Sinha said an atmosphere of fear was prevailing in the Valley.

The region's inhabitants had not expected the enormous move by the Centre that resulted in people being numbed and now that numbness has been replaced by a great deal of fear, the former Union finance minister said.

"There is a prevailing atmosphere of fear here. Even those who came to see us in the hotel were harassed by security forces and they told us very clearly that they will



not like their names to be revealed because they were not sure what kind of future they will face," he said.

Asked about the detention of several mainstream political leaders, including sitting Member of Parliament Farooq Abdullah - whom he talked to over the phone, Sinha accused the Centre of "destroying a significant buffer" in the Valley and creating a vacuum as people have no one to go to with their grievances.

He termed as very "unfortunate" and "painful" the detention of Abdullah, a political representative elected by the people.

"They have destroyed a significant buffer which was there and they have created a vacuum. There is nobody to talk to, Sinha said.

He claimed that since the group was not allowed to carry out with its programme that involved travelling and meeting people in the towns and villages in the districts outside Srinagar, it was an indication that the government wanted to hide the ground reality from the rest of the country.

The group, which arrived here on Friday on their first visit to the Valley after the abrogation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, met several delegations and individuals during their stay before leaving for Delhi on Monday afternoon.

The group members were asked by the police not to move outside Srinagar as the situation was not conducive and there was a threat of an impending terror attack, which Sinha termed as "a deliberate ploy" by the government to restrict their interactions with common people.

"We have come to Kashmir at the height of militancy when the situation on the law and order front was really far from normal. We travelled around in taxis, went to the districts, met people, there was no threat," he said.

Sinha asserted that the Central government has maintained that Article 370 was responsible for terrorism in Kashmir and now that it has been four months since Article 370 was abolished, people are being told that terrorism is still there.

"So, either the first part is true or the second part is," he said.

However, he added that the visit was still very successful.

"I will describe my visit as very successful because even as we were not allowed to visit, for instance Pulwama or Shopian, but people from Pulwama and Shopian met us here. We met Panchayat representatives, Bar Association members, farmers, youths, we met a very large cross-section of the people," the former Union Finance minister said.

When asked if he foresees the situation as returning to normal in the Valley in the near future, Sinha said it would depend on the Centre's behaviour on the Kashmir issue.

"It is difficult to say when the situation will return to normal, but much of it depends on how the Government of India will behave. If there is no change in its behaviour, then there will be no change in the situation here and if there is any change in the situation, then it will only deteriorate further, he said.

# DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH SIKKIM UNIVERSITY

presents  
(OUR VERSION OF)  
**SHAKESPEARE'S**

## THE TEMPEST

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

*We don't need a handful of people doing zero waste perfectly. We need millions of people doing it imperfectly...*

## CALLING ON YOUTH

TO JOIN THE  
ZERO WASTE HIMALAYA  
MOVEMENT

*explore zero waste lifestyles  
become a peer educator  
lead the Himalayan cleanup- 2020*

**2 DAYS RESIDENTIAL WORKSHOP  
DECEMBER 10- 12, 2019  
kalimpong**

**FREE REGISTRATION  
EMAIL TEXT CALL**  
zerowastesikkimdardjeeling@gmail.com  
Dardj KPG 75508 01804 / Sikkim 80169 46417

**LIMITED SEATS AVAILABLE**

**CONTACT**  
**SUMMIT TIMES**  
**REPORTERS**  
**SINGTAM**  
**8170070813**  
**MANGAN/**  
**DIKCHU**  
**9832612485/**  
**9434011213**  
**GANGTOK**  
**8116388176**  
**9832424750**  
**8016270440**



## Living With HIV

*It can't be easy, but it should be this tough either*

The trauma and privations of People Living with HIV and AIDS remain largely unaddressed because the society at large remains uninvolved, allowing them to struggle in the shadows. It cannot be easy coming to grips with getting tested positive for HIV, especially in a society as closed and as prone to jumping-judgmentalism as Sikkim. The heart goes out for the 593 People Living with HIV/ AIDS in Sikkim (as of 31 March 2014, the latest figures updated by the National AIDS Control Organisation). As per NACO records, there are also 19 children living with HIV in Sikkim, having been born with the Virus. These, one must qualify are numbers projected by NACO. As far as the State AIDS Control Society is concerned, the number, as of 30 Nov 2016, stands at 395. These are the number of people who have tested positive in Sikkim. The real number of course could be higher, and that is the projection that NACO was working on two years ago.

It cannot be easy to be a PLHA in Sikkim where neither the civil society nor the government appears really too moved to address their situation beyond what is strictly provided for by rules or sponsored by way of funds. What is worse, ever since NDA assumed office at the Centre in 2014, HIV and AIDS, along with a host of other social sector interventions, have found their finances blackballed by inconsiderate policy makers and their kowtowing minions in the departments who have consistently failed to lobby for population groups they have been tasked to look out for. Meanwhile, since the first HIV+ve case was detected in Sikkim in the year 1994, twenty-five people have died of AIDS in Sikkim. The number of HIV+ve people and those struck by full-blown AIDS could be higher since there can be a substantial mismatch between what is officially recorded and what is the ground reality.

Getting to zero, by way of no more infections and no more fatalities, is a global pursuit when it comes to the HIV and AIDS scenario. Unfortunately, where this should have resulted in higher allocation of funds and support for awareness and care, in India, the zero target appears to be for financial commitments to the battle against HIV/ AIDS. AIDS awareness finds itself budgeted down to a sliver of what it was receiving till three years ago. The corridors of power in Delhi are taking the "getting to zero" call too literally and extending it to funding support for interventions by people living with HIV AIDS as well. And one sees the warning signs in such unexpected corners as the latest data on HIV/ AIDS. The numbers are of 31 March 2014 vintage! When it comes to continuing challenges like AIDS, data should be real-time, and yet, even as the country claims that the numbers are falling, we have only data from two years ago for reference. Why? Data can be officially updated only after "surveillance" has been completed. This has not happened for two years now obviously because this was one of sectors which saw its funding slashed. When basics like data collection which would inform policy interventions and project adjustments get compromised, one fears for where AIDS awareness and care are headed.

Support for People Living With HIV has also taken a hit, one of the casualties of the change in the Central Government's approach to addressing HIV AIDS in the country. International funding, which was lavish to say the least, was scaled down once the rate of infection came down. That was expected, since the immediate threat had been managed. And once the bushfire had been stamped out, the funding was expectedly diverted to other countries and regions where the problem continues to remain urgent. But that does not mean that HIV and AIDS have ceased to be issues of concern in the country. They might have stopped being on the top of priority intervention for international funding agencies, but as far as the nation is concerned, AIDS awareness cannot be allowed to slacken because if that happens, the disease will relapse and all gains made by the past decades of awareness and sensitization will have been squandered. Delhi might have stuck its head in the sand, and will have to eventually pull its head out, but till then, the state exchequer will need to sustain the AIDS control mission. It cannot do that if it starts winding up dedicated cells just because USAID or the Bill Gates Foundation is not writing the cheques any more. It should not be allowed to do. But who will make some noise about it?

The problem of funding has been around for some years now, but it has not really made news or headlines on a scale that it requires. That is clearly because like with most social concerns which don't make the headlines, this situation lacks the titillation and sensationalism that would attract TRPs. Maybe the HIV+ve form neither a visible vote-bank nor constitute a purchasing pocket to receive attention. Maybe at a subconscious level, the society at large does not see anything wrong in such withdrawal of assistance for condition which most people still blame on lifestyle choices. Maybe these are the reasons why the problem is not receiving the attention it should. This has to change, but won't until more people take notice. No one has take note thus far because when it comes to real work, HIV and AIDS continue to be battled in the shadows with only a sanitized version of awareness and empathy put out on display. Let's try and change; let's try and improve this World AIDS Day which is barely a week away.

# What are lost continents, and why are we discovering so many?

MARIA SETON, JOANNE WHITTAKER & SIMON WILLIAMS  
*theconversation.com*

For most people, continents are Earth's seven main large landmasses.

But geoscientists have a different take on this. They look at the type of rock a feature is made of, rather than how much of its surface is above sea level.

In the past few years, we've seen an increase in the discovery of lost continents. Most of these have been plateaus or mountains made of continental crust hidden from our view, below sea level.

One example is Zealandia, the world's eighth continent that extends underwater from New Zealand.

Several smaller lost continents, called microcontinents, have also recently been discovered submerged in the eastern and western Indian Ocean.

But why, with so much geographical knowledge at our fingertips, are we still discovering lost continents in the 21st century? **WE MAY HAVE FOUND ANOTHER**

In August, we undertook a 28-day voyage on the research vessel RV Investigator to explore a possible lost continent in a remote part of the Coral Sea. The area is home to a large underwater plateau off Queensland, called the Louisiade Plateau, which represents a major gap in our knowledge of Australia's geology.

On one hand, it could be a lost continent that broke away from Queensland about 60 million years ago. Or it could have formed as a result of a massive volcanic eruption taking place around the same time. We're not sure, because nobody had recovered rocks from there before - until now.

We spent about two weeks collecting rocks from this feature, and recovered a wide variety of rock types from parts of the seafloor as deep as 4,500m.

Most were formed through volcanic eruptions, but some show hints that continental rocks are hiding beneath. Lab work over the next couple of years will give us more certain answers.

### DOWN TO THE DETAILS

There are many mountains and plateaus below sea level scattered across the oceans, and these have been mapped from space. They are the lighter blue areas you can see on Google Maps.

However, not all submerged features qualify as lost continents. Most are made of materials quite distinct from what we traditionally think of as continental rock, and are instead formed by massive outpourings of magma.

A good example is Iceland which, despite being

roughly the size of New Zealand's North Island, is not considered continental in geological terms. It's made up mainly of volcanic rocks deposited over the past 18 million years, meaning it's relatively young in geological terms.

The only foolproof way to tell the difference be-

tion and geophysical surveys.

New discoveries continue to be made.

During a 2011 expedition, we discovered two lost continental fragments more than 1,000km west of Perth.

The granite lying in the middle of the deep



tween massive submarine volcanoes and lost continents is to collect rock samples from the deep ocean.

Finding the right samples is challenging, to say the least. Much of the seafloor is covered in soft, gooey sediment that obscures the solid rock beneath.

We use a sophisticated mapping system to search for steep slopes on the seafloor, that are more likely to be free of sediment. We then send a metal rock-collecting bucket to grab samples.

The more we explore and sample the depths of the oceans, the more likely we'll be to discover more lost continents.

### THE ULTIMATE LOST CONTINENT

Perhaps the best known example of a lost continent is Zealandia. While the geology of New Zealand and New Caledonia have been known for some time, it's only recently their common heritage as part of a much larger continent (which is 95% underwater) has been accepted.

This acceptance has been the culmination of years of painstaking research, and exploration of the geology of deep oceans through sample collec-

tion and geophysical surveys.

Some existed only in the geological past, millions to billions of years ago, and later collided with other continents as a result of plate tectonic motions.

Their only modern-day remnants are small slivers of rock, usually squished up in mountain chains such as the Himalayas. One example is Greater Adria, an ancient continent now embedded in the mountain ranges across Europe.

Due to the perpetual motion of tectonic plates, it's the fate of all continents to ultimately reconnect with another, and form a supercontinent.

But the fascinating life and death cycle of continents is the topic of another story.

[Maria Seton is ARC Future Fellow, University of Sydney; Joanne Whittaker is Associate Professor, University of Tasmania; Simon Williams is Research Fellow, University of Sydney]

# Climate explained: how growth in population and consumption drives planetary change

MICHAEL PETTERSON  
*theconversation.com*

The growth of the human population over the last 70 years has exploded from 2 billion to nearly 8 billion, with a compounding net growth of over 30,000 per day. We all breathe out carbon dioxide with every breath. That equates to about 140 billion CO<sub>2</sub> breaths every minute. Isn't it logical that atmospheric carbon will continue to increase with the birth rate regardless of what we do about fossil fuel reduction?

This question touches on the core of our impact on planetary change. It highlights the exponential growth in the human population, but also homes in on the potential direct input of carbon dioxide from humans, through respiration.

As I explain in more detail below, our breathing does not contribute to the net accumulation of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. But population growth, combined with an increase in consumption, is now seen as the main driver of change in the Earth system.

### HUMANS: A MOMENT IN GEOLOGICAL TIME

Earth has been around for 4.56 billion years. The earliest evidence for life on Earth comes from fossilised mats of cyanobacteria that are about 3.7 billion years old.

From around 700 million years ago, and certainly from 540 million years ago, life exploded into its present myriad forms, from molluscs to lung fish, reptiles, insects, plants, fishes and mammals – culminating in hominids and finally Homo sapiens. Genetic studies suggest hominids evolved from primates around 6 million years ago, with the oldest hominid fossil dating from 4.4 million years ago in East Africa.

Our species appeared around 200,000 to 300,000 years ago, a blink of an eye in geological terms. From Africa, Homo sapiens migrated through Europe and Asia and spread across the world, at lightning speeds.

Part of the question is about a putative link between human biological functions and climate. Homo sapiens is one of more than 28 million living species today, and some 35 billion species that have ever lived on Earth. There has always been a link between

more, the hard parts of human skeletons are potential carbon stores, if buried sufficiently deep.

There is a constant cycling of carbon between geological, oceanographic and biological processes. Homo sapiens is part of this carbon cycle that plays out at the Earth's surface. Like all living organisms, we derive the carbon we need from our immediate environment and give it up again through breathing, living and dying.



life and Earth's atmosphere, and perhaps the clearest indicator is oxygen.

### LIFE, CARBON AND CLIMATE

Cyanobacteria were the first organisms to master photosynthesis and began adding oxygen to Earth's early atmosphere, producing levels of 2% by 1 billion years ago. Today oxygen levels are at 20%.

While people inhale oxygen and exhale carbon dioxide (billions of tonnes each year), this does not represent new carbon in the atmosphere, but rather recycled carbon that had been taken up by the animals and plants we eat. Further-

Carbon is only added to the atmosphere if it is taken out of long-term geological stores such as carbon-rich sediments, oil, natural gas and coal.

### PLANETARY IMPACT OF HUMANS

But the remarkable growth in human population is surely the critical issue. Ten thousand years ago, there were 1 million people on Earth. By 1800, there were 1 billion, 3 billion by 1960 and almost 8 billion today.

When these figures are plotted on a graph, the growth line looks

almost vertical from the 1800s onwards. Population growth may eventually flatten out, but only at around 10-11 billion.

Alongside the unprecedented population growth of humans has been the loss of many non-human species (10,000 extinctions per million populations per year, or 60% of animal populations since 1970), the rapid loss of wilderness habitat and consequent growth in farmed land, over-fishing (with up to 87% of fisheries fully exploited), and a staggering growth in global car numbers (from zero in the 1920s to 1 billion in 2013 and a projected 2 billion by 2040).

The world production of copper is an instructive proxy for human global impacts. As with many commodity curves, the trend from 1900, and particularly from the 1950s, is exponential. In 1900 around half-a-million tonnes of copper was produced worldwide. Today it is 18 million tonnes per year, with no sign of lowering consumption rates. Copper is the feedstock for much of modern-day and future green technologies.

Most parts of the world now experience material consumption as never before. But serious inequality remains, with over 3 billion living on less than US\$5.50 a day, and a tiny percentage who own so much.

Some argue that it is not the numbers of people on Earth that count, but rather the way we consume and share. Whatever the politics and economics, the gross consumption level of billions of humans is, surely, the main cause of planetary change, especially since 1950. Present-day atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide are one of many symptoms of human impact.

[the writer is Professor of Geology, Auckland University of Technology]



# Darjeeling wins 2 Bronze and a Special Prize at WEBPEX 2019



## SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 25 NOV:**

Members of Alpine Philately and Numismatic Society (APNS), Darjeeling - Nilema Yonzon, Anand Yonzon and students of North Point Academy, a school

in Singamari, Darjeeling won 2 bronze medals and a Special School Collection Prize at the State Level Philatelic Competition WEBPEX 'Ekla Chalo Re-2019'. The six-day exhibition was held at the Academy of Fine Arts,

Kolkata from the 16 to 21 Nov, 2019, a press release informs.

The two Philatelists representing APNS won bronze medals with their thematic Philatelic exhibits titled 'Woman Empowerment' and 'The

Postal System' under single frame category. Students of classes 4 and 5 of North Point Academy (NPA), Darjeeling also won Special School Collection Prize for their collective school collection. NPA has an ac-

tive Philately Club run under APNS and this is their second achievement after the District Level First Prize won at KALIMPEX in 2018.

"APNS, formed with the sole motive of promoting intellectual hobbies among the youth, to keep them away from the ill elements of society, especially mobile phone addiction has headed in the right direction," said secretary, APNS, Vivek Yonzon. He congratulated all the winners at the WEBPEX.

"The Society takes pride in what it has achieved in just a period of a year since its inauguration and we plan to influence more people, help more schools run Philately and Numismatic Clubs' added Vivek. He thanked the Postal Department and everyone involved in organising such events and also for helping APNS in many ways.

## TSRTC employees call off nearly two month old strike

**HYDERABAD, NOV 25**

(PTI): The nearly two month old strike by employees of the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation over various demands was called off on Monday, a top trade union leader announced.

The TSRTC employees unions Joint Action Committee (JAC) leader Aswathama Reddy said the decision to end the strike was taken to halt alleged attempts to 'privatise' the corporation.

Over 48,000 employees of TSRTC went on an indefinite strike since October 5, demanding among other things, merger of the corporation with the state transport department.

Later the unions said they were willing to drop the merger demand if it becomes a hurdle for the government to hold talks with them. However, neither the TSRTC management or the state government have acceded to any demand of the workers.

"...attempts are being made to privatize RTC; to stop and face this, whether the government responds or not, we should all go to (bus) depots tomorrow morning and bring pressure on the management towards taking up our duties, he told reporters. He claimed that attempts are being to issue a Government Order (GO), by taking up the matter with the Governor, allowing more private services.

On November 22, the Telangana High Court had dismissed a petition, challenging the state cabinet decision to privatise over 5,000 bus routes.

The court, while dismissing the petition of P L Vishweshwar Rao, vice-president of the Telangana Jana Samithi, challenging the cabinet's November 2 decision to privatise permits of 5,100 bus routes, said the state government has the authority to take a decision on the matter.

## Tejashwi draws parallel between government formation in Maha and Bihar

**PATNA, NOV 25 (PTI):** RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav on Monday remarked that the turn of events in Maharashtra reminded him the dramatic political turnaround in Bihar two years ago that left his party stripped of power and himself of the Deputy Chief Ministers post in an unceremonious fashion.

The younger son of Lalu Prasad also trained his guns at Sushil Kumar Modi and said that had the RJD joined hands with the BJP "he (Modi) would have still been the Deputy CM but serving under a Chief Minister of our party".

"Indeed, the events in Maharashtra remind me of the hijacking of popular mandate that we had witnessed in Bihar in 2017. The BJP has played this game in many states, an example being Goa.

"Now that the matter is sub judice I would not like to comment much but wait for the Supreme Courts verdict", Yadav

who is the leader of the opposition in the state assembly told reporters outside the House.

He was replying to queries about the early morning swearing-in of Devendra Fadnavis as Chief Minister and NCPs Ajit

Pawar as his deputy bearing an uncanny resemblance to Nitish Kumar resigning on a July evening two years ago only to take oath again in less than 24 hours and forming a new government with support of the BJP.

Kumar had taken the step after Yadavs name got embroiled in a money laundering scam and the RJD stoutly rejected demands for his resignation.

Kumar and Prasad had ended decades of bitter rivalry to contest the assembly polls as allies in 2015, along with the Congress. The Grand Alliance that thus came into being won a handsome victory, trouncing the BJP-led NDA.

Yadav, whom Prasad has named his heir apparent, also took potshots at Modi for his recent tweet wherein the Deputy CM had defended the developments in the western state taking place in unearthly hours with the remark "many great things, including the Independence and the lowering of the Union Jack, had taken place in the thick of the night".

"If Sushil Modi thinks that way, we are fine by it. But let me remind him that we too had the option of

forming a government after joining hands with the BJP but we chose to stick to ideology and principles. Had we decided otherwise, Modi would still have been the Deputy CM, but serving under an RJD CM", Yadav remarked sarcastically.

Incidentally, Sushil Modi had claimed during the Lok Sabha polls this year that Nitish Kumars exit from the grand alliance had come months after a meeting Prasad had with the late Union minister Arun Jaitley.

During the meeting, Prasad had offered to topple the government headed by the JD(U) national president and help the BJP come to power in the state in exchange for the Centre going easy on numerous corruption cases against the family members of the RJD supremo, he had asserted. Modis claim has been dismissed by the RJD, which has been stating that it was the saffron party which had come forward with the offer of a tie-up which Prasad had turned down because of his unflinching commitment to secularism.

Kumar and his JD(U) have, however, maintained a studied silence on the intriguing episode.

## With two suspensions, unbeaten Goa take on Jamshedpur

**MARGAO, NOV 25 (PTI):**

FC Goa take on Jamshedpur FC knowing they must win and stay within touching distance of the leaders in the Indian Super League here on Tuesday. Goa are unbeaten in the league so far and have accumulated eight points from four matches.

A win will take Goa to the top of the Hero ISL table, but the Gaurs' head coach Sergio Lobera would be concerned with the fact that his side haven't won consecutive matches this season. Goa followed up a win with a draw, something which the Spaniard would be keen to address.

Goa will miss the services of midfielder Hugo Boumous and winger Seiminlen Doungel due to suspensions the pair have to serve for their involvement in a tussle during their game against NorthEast United earlier this month.

"I think we are a strong team of individuals and tomorrow is a good opportunity for us



to show this. It's difficult for us but as a coach, I can only work hard to change the situation," said Lobera.

Goa will rely on Ahmed Jahouh and Lenny Rodrigues in the centre of the park with Brandon Fernandes and Jackichand Singh expected to make forays into the opposition box with their angular runs from the flanks. The return of Edu Bedia from injury also augurs well for the team.

Star striker Ferran Corominas already has three goals to his name and the 36-year-old is

showing no signs of slowing down. "I think Jamshedpur is a very strong team with very good defenders and attackers. They have a very good balance between attack and defence and it's going to be a very difficult match for us," said Lobera.

Getting back to winning ways will be the agenda for coach Jamshedpur FC coach Antonio Iriondo when they face Goa. After picking up seven points from their first three games, all at home, Jamshedpur were beaten by ATK away from home in their previous

game. Iriondo will hope that his team can avoid the tag of being poor travellers' by picking up a positive result in Goa.

"Goa, I think, is among the top three teams in the ISL at this moment. I am not trying to tell you how to beat them - maybe work with the formations and strategies. (But) Yes, they are a great team. They are undefeated till now and yeah they will be difficult," said Iriondo. Midfielder Piti had picked up a knock in their last game and it remains to be seen if he recovers in time.

## CBI detected 894 shell companies in four years: Govt



**NEW DELHI, NOV 25 (PTI):**

The CBI detected 894 shell companies while probing 108 cases in the last four years, the government told Parliament on Monday.

The agency also registered 30 cases against 104 shell companies during the period, the House was told.

Replying to a written question in the Lok Sabha, Minister of Corporate Affairs Nirmala

Sitharaman said, "The CBI registered 30 cases against 104 shell companies during the last four years i.e 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018. Further, during the investigation of 108 cases, 894 shell companies were detected, wherein irregularities such as falsification of financial statements, bank fraud, diversion of funds, impersonation, cheating, abuse of official position, criminal con-

spiracy, criminal misconduct etc. were found."

Some of the shell companies and persons were involved in more than one case, she added.

According to the data presented by the minister, of the 108 cases, chargesheets were filed and trial was going on in 72. Of the 30 cases filed against 104 shell companies, chargesheets were filed in 24, Sitharaman said.

## Odisha FC hold ATK to goal-less draw



**PUNE, NOV 24 (PTI):** ATK and Odisha FC played out a goal-less draw in an Indian Super League clash here on Sunday.

Both sides had numerous chances to break the deadlock but a goal eluded them.

The result saw ATK maintain their top spot in the table with 10 points from five games while Odisha are now fifth with five points from as many matches.

The game got off to an energetic start with ATK looking to go forward quickly. However, Odisha slowly started to put ATK's defence under pressure and had two chances to take the lead after 15 minutes. Nandhakumar Sekar headed over from close range after Martin Guedes' corner evaded ATK custodian Arindam Bhattacharja. Then, Daniel Lalhlipui displayed silky skills to embark on a mazy run, evading three ATK defenders with ease, but he lost his footing and could only direct a tame effort at Arindam.

Odisha's dominance continued as Nandhakumar picked out Guedes in the box, but he could not get a shot away in the 24th minute.

In the middle of all the Odisha pressure, ATK had a chance when Javier Hernandez was sent through on goal,

but Odisha goalkeeper Arshdeep Singh was quick to pounce on the ball.

Odisha, who are playing at Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex as their home venue, continued to be in the ascendancy with Shubham Sarangi and Nandhakumar Sekar asking quite a few questions of the ATK defence.

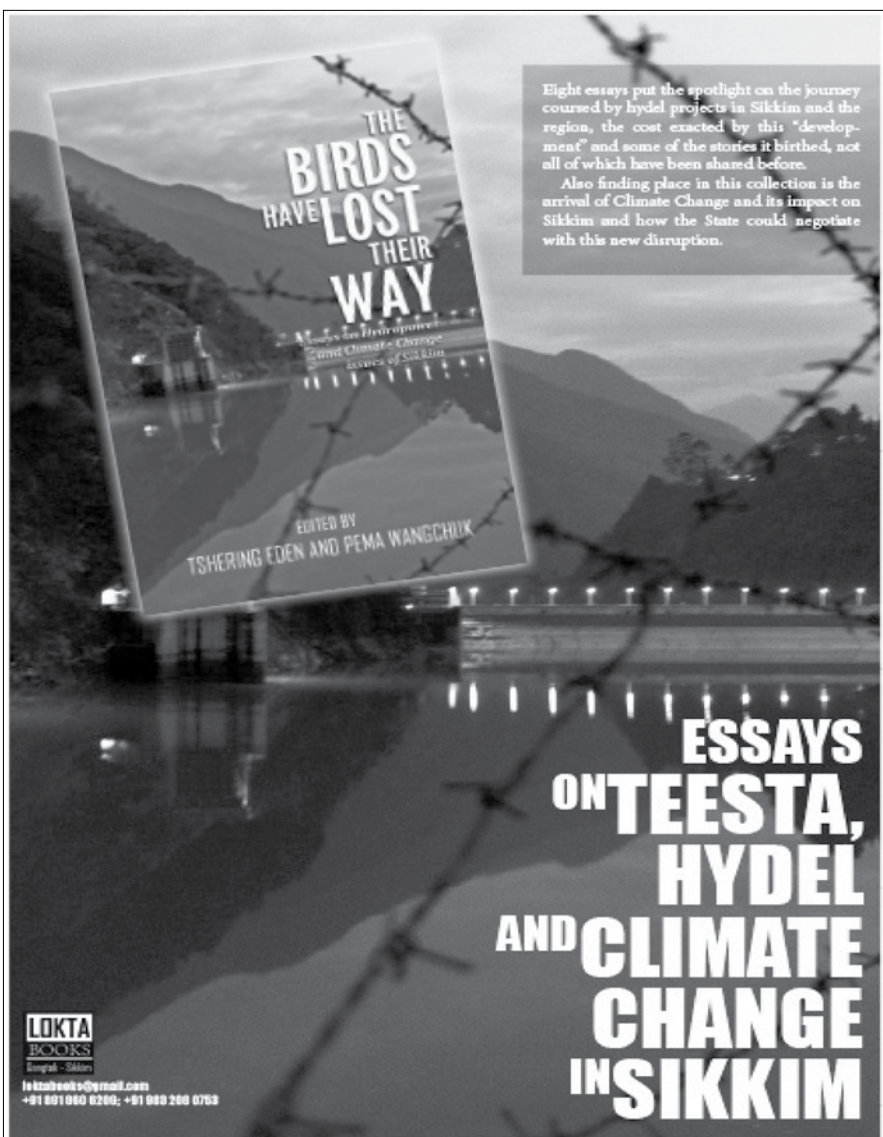
The frantic nature of the game continued even in the second half. Odisha continued to assert their dominance and Martin Guedes saw a shot in the 52nd minute saved by Arindam.

At the other end, ATK started to slowly claw their way back into the game and had a great chance when second-half substitute Jobby Justin got on the end of a corner and got a header on target in the 63rd minute. Nandhakumar, however, was on hand to clear the ball off the line.

Jerry Mawihmingthanga then picked out Aridane Santana at the far post but could not get his header on target as ATK heaved a sigh of relief.

Both sides continued to test each other in a bid to find a winner but a combination of sloppy passing and poor finishing kept the deadlock intact.

There was some drama at the end as ATK forced a series of corners but a goal did not materialise.





## GB hockey player Sam Ward loses sight in one eye after being hit in the face

**LONDON, 25 Nov [AP]:** British hockey player Sam Ward has pledged to do all he can to make the Olympics despite losing the sight in his left eye in recent weeks.

The GB and England forward, 28, was hit in the face by a ball during the Olympic qualifying victory over Malaysia on 3 November. He underwent surgery 10 days later to reconstruct his cheek.

“Over the last week, I have received advice from three separate eye consultants,” Ward said. “They have all told me that I have suffered damage to the retina of my left eye and that this damage is partly irreversible.

“I may get some sight back, but this won’t be a quick process, and whether it will be sufficient for me to get back to playing international hockey only time will tell. It is a tough pill to swallow but, as people know, I am not one to give up easily and I will do everything can to make myself available for selection for Tokyo.”

It is expected to take several months before the extent of the damage to Ward’s sight is fully understood.

Great Britain and England Hockey’s performance director, Ed Barney, added: “Sam has suffered a very serious injury. At present, our focus is on supporting Sam to the best possible extent and ensuring that he has access to the best medical provision and wider support.”

## Hope Ganguly changes selection panel, need strong people: Harbhajan

**NEW DELHI, Nov 25 (PTI):** Veteran Indian off-spinner Harbhajan Singh is hoping that BCCI President Sourav Ganguly will “change” the current selection panel and bring “strong people” on board.

The 39-year-old was reacting to wicket-keeper-batsman Sanju Samson being dropped from the Indian Twenty20 squad without getting a game in the recent home series against Bangladesh. “I guess they r testing his heart #selection-panelneedtochanged need strong people there.. hope dada @SGanguly99 will do the needful,” he tweeted.

Harbhajan quoted a tweet from Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, who represents Thiruvananthapuram in the Lok Sabha, to make his point. Tharoor had expressed disappointment at the 25-year-old Kerala player not getting an opportunity.

“Very disappointed to see @IamSanjuSamson dropped without a chance. He carried the drinks for three T20Is & has been promptly discarded. Are they testing his batting or his heart?” he asked.

# Higuaín and Dybala make Juve party like it’s 2016 – and give Sarri a problem

**NICKY BANDINI**  
*theGuardian*

A goal down, with less than 20 minutes left to play, in a fixture they had not won for three seasons, Juventus needed a saviour. They had been dominated by Atalanta in Bergamo, overwhelmed by the hosts’ high press and carved open repeatedly by Robin Gosens and Papu Gomez. Only a missed penalty and some last-ditch blocks from Wojciech Szczesny and Matthijs de Ligt had kept them within touching distance.

In moments like this, it helps to be able to call on your club’s record signing. Lucky for Juventus, then, that they have more than one.

The €100m man, Cristiano Ronaldo, was absent, but his €90m precursor was present and correct. Gonzalo Higuaín pulled his team level: seizing on a loose ball inside the penalty box and pivoting to fire a deflected shot beyond Pierluigi Gollini. Eight minutes later, he put his team in front with a first-time finish from Juan Cuadrado’s cross. Finally, Higuaín turned provider, releasing Paulo Dybala with an angled pass from the halfway line to the edge of Atalanta’s penalty area. His compatriot cut inside and slotted the ball home at the near post.

This was not the combination that Juventus expected to build their success upon in this campaign. Higuaín and Dybala were marketed to other teams in the summer, as the Bianconeri worked to balance the books following



the arrivals of De Ligt, Aaron Ramsey and Adrien Rabiot. At least one of the Argentinians was supposed to depart, if not both. Instead, they have carried their side. It was Dybala who hit Juventus’s winner against Milan before the international break, after entering the game as a second-half replacement for Ronaldo. Prior to that, he scored his team’s only goals in a come-from-behind win at home to Lokomotiv Moscow, as well as the draw at Lecce.

He and Higuaín both found the net away to Inter, in what remains Juventus’s most important victory of the season to date. The latter player scored in the win over Napoli, too, and has shown impres-

sive selflessness throughout. Saturday’s game was his fourth in a row with an assist.

Were it not for the presence of Ramsey behind them in Juventus’s attack, and a newly-roofed Curva Nord at Atalanta’s home ground, you could almost have believed we were back in 2016. That was when Higuaín arrived to partner Dybala, soon to be nicknamed by the papers as “an attack in HD”. They scored a combined 51 goals in that first season together, winning a domestic double and reaching the Champions League final.

“With Higuaín, I just need a glance to know what he’s thinking,” said Dybala of their on-pitch understanding after

Saturday’s win. “We make a great pair.” But can they make a great trio, when Ronaldo is present as well? The Portuguese is expected to return to the starting line-up against Atlético Madrid on Tuesday. Maurizio Sarri declined to answer questions about whether he might consider a front three.

Both the manager and Ronaldo have played down any talk of a rift, following the player’s angry response to being substituted against Milan just before the international break. Ronaldo appeared to swear at Sarri as he headed to the tunnel, and then left the Allianz Stadium before the final whistle, but subsequently told the Portuguese newspaper A Bola that he understood

the decision to take him off, since he was not at 100%.

Whether he has now had enough time to recover remains to be seen. Ronaldo remains very capable of scoring goals even when he is not at his physical best, and has since bagged four of them in two Euro 2020 qualifiers for Portugal. Yet both of his last two games for Juventus were decided by the player who replaced him – Dybala against Milan and before that Douglas Costa away to Lokomotiv Moscow.

All of which leaves Sarri in a delicate position. He has made it clear from the outset that he views Ronaldo as a special case, observing in preseason that “Cristiano is

the best player on this team, so we need to organise the other 10 well for the defensive phase of the game and let him go wherever he needs on the pitch.” That outlook meshes with the needs of his club. Juventus need to prioritise and ensure the happiness of their most valuable commercial asset.

At the same time, though, Sarri also has an obligation to win. So far, he is beyond reproach: taking 35 points from a possible 39 in Serie A and 10 from a possible 12 in the Champions League. A victory over Atlético would guarantee Juventus first place in Group D, as would a draw in which neither team scores more than one goal.

Still, there is a sense that Sarri’s side are not yet delivering the fluid football that was hoped for. Sunday’s Gazzetta Sportiva offered a succinct analysis in its match report, suggesting that “Atalanta played like a great team, Juventus won with great players.”

Perhaps that is enough. Ronaldo, after all, is one of the greatest of all-time, and even in this injury-disrupted season has still scored a goal in every other game. Knowing that Higuaín and Dybala can produce when he is absent is a huge asset to a side that failed to win four out of eight games that it played without him last season.

Any background concerns that Juventus may have – about the manager, Ronaldo’s fitness, or the quality of performances – will only become tangible if they start to lose. To date, they remain very good at winning.

## Manchester United’s thrilling comeback masks an abysmal display

**JONATHAN WILSON**  
*theGuardian*

Half-close your eyes, Hsquist a little, do not think too hard and you could just about persuade yourself this was nearly a classic Manchester United comeback. But just as they were preparing to hail the youthquake, three goals by players aged 22 or under including one from Mason Greenwood, the third-youngest Premier League scorer in their history, Oli McBurnie popped up to point out that this is an imperfect simulacrum.

It bears certain clear similarities to Manchester United, it has a manager who is clearly Manchester United, it plays with the tropes of Manchester United and yet somehow it is not quite Manchester United.

For about 10 minutes they were brilliant and scored three times. The less said about the other 80 minutes the better.

Delight, by all means, in the vibrancy and belief brought by Greenwood and Marcus Rashford. Celebrate the smart half-volley by Brandon Williams that began the fightback. But let nobody forget just how poor the away side were in the first hour, how they were bewildered by Sheffield United’s movement until Lys Mousset was forced off midway through the second half, how they were physically dominated, how, as Ole Gunnar Solskjær admitted, they seemed to want it less.

It was Mousset’s departure with a tight ham-



string as much as anything Solskjær did that changed the tenor of the game. United suddenly played with the verve of old, got to the ball first, seemed always to have an extra man. Yet having dragged themselves back into the game and then into the lead, they could not hold on. Something was lacking – guile or leadership or desire or experience. That, perhaps, is the danger of an overreliance on youth: swings of form and emotion are magnified.

Whatever it was, it is safe to say the United of old would not have leaked the 90th-minute equaliser. Nor would they have been as abysmal as United were for most of the game – before Williams’s strike, United’s only shot on target had been a thoroughly unmemorable drive from Anthony Martial. Nor, it is fair to say, would they have drawn 3-3 here and felt as if they had got away with one.

Ed Woodward may continue to brief that Solskjær is part of the long-term project at Old Trafford but any doubts the board may harbour will surely be magnified by the availability of Mauricio Pochettino.

Solskjær, his mid-field depleted, opted for a back-three for the first time in the league since the draw against Liverpool, which meant a first league start of the season for Phil Jones. It did not go well and there was a sense of mercy about his withdrawal at half-time. Jones is 26 but the days when he was a designated Future England Captain feel a long time ago. It may even turn out that he and Jack Rodwell are not the platform on which England’s 2022 World Cup glory is built.

Jones is like one of those depictions of evolution but in reverse, forever getting lower and lower as though not entirely convinced a policy of bipedalism really pays,

preferring the slide tackle or the diving header, the scrambled clearance or the stumbling block to anything more orthodox, such as standing up and kicking the ball. The Ascent of Man has become the Descent of Man United.

Jones was on the ground as John Fleck scored the opening goal, having been outmuscled by Mousset. Solskjær later referred to him as Jonah, which raised an obvious question: if you were setting off on a voyage for Nineveh, whom would you less like to have on board, the luckless defender or the blighted Hebrew prophet?

Sheffield United, for their part, fielded a reserve-team keeper who had not played a league game in 18 months and a 37-year-old centre-back who has started four league games in the past two seasons, yet Solskjær’s side still could not lay a glove on them for three-quarters of the

game. Injuries offer some mitigation but only some. Other teams also have absentees and Sheffield United in their entire history have spent less on players than United spent on two defenders last summer.

What, anyway, does it say for the state of the modern Manchester United that Scott McTominay’s absence is so sorely felt? His qualities are unflashiness and consistently doing the basics well and yet he has become the straw that binds the brick and, when he is not there, all that remains is a muddy splodge. Nothing can be built from that.

Solskjær seemed delighted his side did not give up but that surely is the bare minimum requirement. A third of the way through the season United are 20 points behind the leaders. If the foundations of a glorious future are being built, they are very well disguised.

## Paine says Australia can get better after Pakistan romp

**BRISBANE, Nov 25 (AFP):** Australia captain Tim Paine says his team have room to improve after crushing Pakistan in their opening Test, hailing the quality of his batsmen and bowlers.

The home side comfortably won the first of their two Tests by an innings and five runs inside four days at the Gabba on Sunday, set up by dismissing Pakistan for 240 in the first innings then smacking 580 in reply.

They now head to Adelaide for a day-night Test starting Friday, with Australia having ominously won all five pink-ball matches they have played.

Australia’s top order struggled during the recent Ashes series, but they clicked in Brisbane, raising hopes a corner has been turned.

David Warner hit 154, opening partner Joe Burns 97 and number three Marnus Labuschagne 185. The only real failure was Steve Smith (four), who was their saviour in England.

Asked if Australia had finally found its long-term top three, Paine replied: “The early signs would suggest yes. “One innings doesn’t make a summer but we are really happy with the positive signs that we saw.”

Labuschagne, in particular, was a revelation, building on promising form during the Ashes to hit his maiden Test century and, according to Paine, “finally arrive on the big stage”.

“He gives our team energy out in the field and in the dressing

room. It looks like he is getting better and better which is a great thing for Australia,” said the captain.

Australia’s formidable pace attack of Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc also fired, with selectors having the added option in Adelaide of James Pattinson, who was banned for Brisbane over player abuse.

Paine suggested he favoured picking and sticking for the second Test, but that would be determined by the Adelaide Oval wicket.

“I thought the bowlers were terrific, to take 20 wickets inside four days,” he said. “But the squad named was for the first two Tests so we will get to Adelaide and look at the conditions. We have the pink ball as well, so that will come into consideration.”

Pakistan have now lost 13 consecutive Tests in Australia and have plenty to ponder, but at least their second-innings 335 provided some positives with a breezy Babar Azam century and 95 to wicketkeeper Muhammad Rizwan.

Skipper Azhar Ali insisted “almost all of our guys are in good nick”, while ruing their failure to make more runs in the first innings.

“Babar and Rizwan showed the way and also Shan (Masood) played really well,” he said.

“Australians always come hard at you but the wicket was really good and we missed the opportunity in the first innings.



# Germany’s ‘treasury chamber’ museum in Dresden robbed



A German state museum with one of the biggest collection of baroque treasures in Europe has been robbed, police said Monday, with media estimating losses of up to a billion euros.

The Green Vault at Dresden’s Royal Palace, which is home to around 4,000 precious objects made of ivory, gold, silver and jewels, was broken into early Monday morning.

“This morning there was a break-in at the Green Vault,” police in Saxony state confirmed on Twitter,

adding that an estimate of the damages was “not yet possible”.

Bild newspaper reported meanwhile that “antique jewellery worth around a billion euros has been stolen” in what it called “probably the biggest art theft since World War Two”.

One of the oldest museums in Europe, the Green Vault holds treasures including a 63.8-centimetre figure of a Moor studded with emeralds and a 547.71-carat sapphire gifted by Tsar Peter I of Russia.

Bild said the crimi-

nals had broken into the well-protected palace by attacking a nearby power distributor and climbing through a window.

They then proceeded to target smaller items of jewellery, leaving larger, bulkier items behind, Bild claimed, without citing sources.

- ‘Hard-earned’ treasures -

Founded by August the Strong, Elector of Saxony in 1723, the Green Vault is one of 12 museums which make up the famous Dresden State Art Collections.

Its historic section,

which contains around three quarters of the museum’s treasures, was the one broken into on Monday.

With a strict limit on the amount of daily visitors, entrance to the historic vault can only be reserved in advance.

Exhibits are arranged into nine rooms, including an ivory room, a silver gilt room and the central “Hall of Treasures”. One of its most valuable pieces, the green diamond, is currently on loan to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, where it is a headline attraction in

the temporary exhibition “Making Marvels: Science and Splendor at the Courts of Europe”.

After the Royal Palace suffered severe damage in World War Two, the Green Vault remained closed for decades before it was restored and reopened in 2006.

For Saxony’s state premier, the heist went beyond the value of the artefacts stolen.

“The treasures that are found in the Green Vault and the Dresden Royal palace were hard-earned by the people of Saxony over many centuries,” said Michael Kretschmer. “One cannot understand the history of our country, our state without the Green Vault and Saxony’s State Art Collections.”

In 2010, the museum hosted a meeting between Chancellor Angela Merkel and then President of the United States Barack Obama, on the latter’s first state visit to Germany.

Monday’s theft is the second high-profile heist in Germany in recent years, after a 100kg, 24-carat giant gold coin was stolen from Berlin’s Bode Museum in 2017.

# Hong Kong democracy camp heads for stunning polls win



**HONG KONG, Nov 25 (AFP):** Hong Kong’s pro-democracy camp was cruising towards a crushing victory in community-level elections on Monday, sending the Beijing-backed government a clear message of public support for the demands of a protest movement that has gripped the territory for months.

Counting was still under way following record turnout in Sunday’s polls, but partial results indicated that candidates favouring greater democracy were on course to seize a shock majority of the normally establishment-dominated 18 district councils.

The stunning result was a humiliating rebuke to Beijing and dashed any lingering hopes of Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam that the increasingly aggressive tactics deployed by radical protesters would encourage a silent majority to turn out in support of her administration.

Change-seeking politicians seized on the result as proof that citizens want more say in running the city.

“No matter how strong Carrie Lam is I hope she can comply with the wishes of the people, fulfil the five demands (and) give the youngsters a chance,” political activist Jimmy Sham told reporters after winning a district council seat.

The protest movement has made five key demands, including direct popular elections and a probe into alleged police brutality. Lam has dismissed the idea of government concessions as “wishful thinking”.

Hong Kong has endured months of mass rallies and violent clashes, initially touched off by

anger over a bill backed by Lam that would have allowed extraditions to China’s opaque judicial system.

District councils handle community-level concerns such as bus routes and garbage collection and the polls typically generate little excitement. But Sunday’s contest for 452 seats took on new political significance because of the public discontent.

The result was “nothing short of a revolution,” Hong Kong political analyst Willy Lam said.

“It’s a sound repudiation of the (Hong Kong) administration and Beijing’s policy toward Hong Kong.” The result could hasten Beijing’s expected removal of Lam as Hong Kong’s leader, he said, but may also extend the city’s crisis.

“Protesters will see this astounding victory as a mandate given by the people, so they will fight harder. But at the same time there won’t be any concessions from Beijing, so the frustration will mount,” Lam told AFP.

China’s state media had urged Hong Kongers to vote against violence, but downplayed the results on Monday.

“The record turnout has sent the message that however violent the rioters are, ordinary residents are concerned about their own well-being,” a China Daily editorial said.

With just more than half of the 452 races officially tabulated early Monday, 201 pro-democracy candidates had won their races, against just 28 pro-Beijing establishment candidates and 12 independents.

In the last council vote in 2015, just over 100 democrat-leaning

candidates won seats.

A record 71 percent of the 4.13 million citizens who registered to vote had cast their ballots, according to Hong Kong’s election watchdog.

Hong Kong’s largest pro-Beijing political party was seriously bloodied, with at least 155 of its 182 candidates defeated, media reports said.

Among them were firebrand lawmaker Junius Ho, one of the politicians most loathed by democracy activists, and who was stabbed this month during campaigning.

The vote is the closest Hong Kongers get to direct representation.

The territory’s legislature is elected by a mix of popular vote and industry groups stacked with China loyalists, which ensures Beijing’s control.

Some candidates for next year’s legislative elections will be drawn from the district councils, and the bodies also will contribute 117 members to the 1,200-strong Beijing-controlled electoral college that chooses the chief executive.

Protests eased in the poll run-up after pro-democracy figures urged calm to avoid triggering any election delay or suspension.

Campaigning was marred by acrimony, with one pro-democracy candidate having his ear bitten off in an attack, while 17 other candidates of all stripes were arrested over protest-related activities.

Election authorities also banned leading democracy activist Joshua Wong from running, over his support for Hong Kong “self-determination”.

## Iran planning attacks on Israel: Netanyahu

**JERUSALEM, Nov 25 (AFP):** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accused Iran of planning attacks against the Jewish state and said everything possible would be done to prevent them.

The premier, who was indicted on corruption charges on Thursday and is seen to be battling for his political life, made his remarks on a visit to an army base near the border with conflict-ravaged Syria on Sunday.

“Iran’s aggression in our region, and against us, continues,” Netanyahu said. He was speaking on the day US General Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was in the country to meet his Israeli counterpart Avigdor Kahalani.

The two generals discussed “operational questions and regional developments”, an army statement said.

Speaking on the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights, Netanyahu said “we are taking all necessary actions to prevent Iran from entrenching here in our region.” “This includes the activity necessary to thwart the transfer of lethal weaponry from Iran to Syria, whether by air or overland. “We will also take action to thwart Iran’s effort to turn Iraq and Yemen into bases for launching rockets and missiles” at Israel, he added.

On Wednesday, in a rare confirmation of such operations, Israel said its warplanes carried out a “very intense” attack against Iranian forces and Syrian army targets in Syria. Britain-based monitoring group the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said 23 people were killed in the strikes -- 21 fighters and two civilians.

# Greenhouse gas levels in atmosphere hit new high in 2018: UN



Greenhouse gases levels in the atmosphere, the main driver of climate change, hit a record high last year, the UN said Monday, calling for action to safeguard “the future welfare of mankind”.

“There is no sign of a slowdown, let alone a decline, in greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere despite all the commitments under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change,” the head of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Petteri Taalas said in a statement.

The WMO’s main annual Greenhouse Gas Bulletin listed the atmospheric concentration of CO2 in 2018 at 407.8 parts per million, up from 405.5 parts per million (ppm) in 2017.

That increase was just above the annual average increase over the past decade.

CO2 is responsible for roughly two-thirds of Earth’s warming.

The second most

prevalent greenhouse gas in the atmosphere is methane -- emitted in part from cattle and fermentation from rice paddies -- which is responsible for 17 percent of warming, according to WMO.

Nitrous oxide, the third major greenhouse which is gas caused largely by agricultural fertilisers, has caused about six percent of warming on Earth, the UN agency said.

Atmospheric concentration levels of both methane and nitrous oxide both hit record highs last year, the UN said.

“This continuing long-term trend means that future generations will be confronted with increasingly severe impacts of climate change, including rising temperatures, more extreme weather, water stress, sea level rise and disruption to marine and land ecosystems,” WMO said.

- ‘More hopeful’? -

Emissions are the

main factor that determine the amount of greenhouse gas levels but concentration rates are a measure of what remains after a series of complex interactions between atmosphere, biosphere, lithosphere, cryosphere and the oceans.

Roughly 25 percent of all emissions are currently absorbed by the oceans and biosphere -- a term that accounts for all ecosystems on Earth.

The lithosphere is the solid, outer part of the Earth while the cryosphere covers that part of the world covered by frozen water.

The UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has said that in order to keep warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius, net CO2 emissions must be at net zero, meaning the amount being pumped into the atmosphere must equal the amount being removed, either through natural absorption or technological

innovation. While Taalas made clear that the world was not on track to meet UN targets, he did highlight some reasons for cautious optimism.

“The visibility of these issues is the highest (it has) ever been,” he told reporters in Geneva, noting that the private sector was increasingly investing in green technology.

Even in the United States, where President Donald Trump’s administration this month began the process of formally withdrawing from the Paris agreement, “plenty of positive things are happening,” Taalas said.

While Washington may have renounced its Paris agreement commitments, “we have plenty of states and cities who are proceeding in the right direction,” he added.

“Personally, I am more hopeful than I used to be 10 years ago but of course we have to speed up the process,” Taalas said.

**SummitTIMES**  
It's easy to relax...  
When you can trust the News.

**To book ad-space, contact SummitTIMES at**

**GANGTOK:**  
For circulation details Contact: +91-9748897495, +91-9447102492  
& for Advertisement booking at +91-9933427505 or at office no 03592

**KOLKATA OFFICE:**  
Irshad Ali/ Inteyaz, Synapse, 6, Madan Street, Mazina - 2, 2nd floor, Kolkata - 700072. Ph. 033-22124348/ fax 033-22124337/ mob. +91-9830547774/ +91-Mr. Mani Rai, M/s. Space Ads, B.R. Ambedkar Building, Room No 7, Ist floor, 983108397. E-mail: contact@synapse@gmail.com/irshad\_ali22@rediffmail.com

**SILIGURI:**  
Floor Opp. Ganga Hotel, Hill Cart Road, Siliguri - 03. Ph. +91-9832318644/ 980682989/ 950305100 or mail at mani\_silguri@yahoo.co.in.

**Phone**  
03592-208498  
+91-9832556698  
+91-9832080753

**Address:**  
Santa Bhawan Complex, Church Road  
Near Diesel Power House (DPH)  
Gangtok, East Sikkim, 737101

**VIDEO NEWS SECTION**  
facebook.com/SummitTIMES

**www.summittimes.com**  
news@summittimes.com  
summittimes1@gmail.com  
advertise@summittimes.com

**Sikkim SCAN | CapitalTIMES | Neighbourhood WATCH | Sports & Specials | ElseWhere | ETCETERA**





**HAPPY GAL!** The *Charlie's Angels* actress, Naomi Scott is all smiles after visiting KISS FM in London.

## 'Big Little Lies' season 3 fate rests on writers: Nicole Kidman

**LOS ANGELES, NOV 25 (PTI):** Actor Nicole Kidman says a third season of "Big Little Lies" is only possible if the show's writers are up for it. Based on the novel of the same name by Liane Moriarty and created by David E Kelley, the HBO series follows five women in Mon-

terey, California who become embroiled in a murder investigation.



terey, California who become embroiled in a murder investigation.

Kidman, who both starred and executive produced the show with actor Reese Witherspoon, said the decision to go for another or more installments depends on the scribes.

"David E Kelley constructed this show with Liane Moriarty. They built it from the ground up, and it's their show, and we'll see if they're ignited into building a life for these women, and which way they would go next.

We'll find out. If there is a third one, all of it will come from the writers, and that's amazing," she told Deadline.

Kidman also praised Moriarty and Kelley for their genius.

"Liane is deeply talented. David is deeply talented, and the combination of them is extraordinary. So, where they would take it, I have no idea.

"You have to bow down to the writers, because that really is where it starts. Unless you're a director/writer, and then you write it. But this show, we'll see what Liane can muster, and if she has an interest in it," she added.

Kidman's comments follow reported creative behind-the-scenes tensions between the show's season two director Andrea Arnold and the network responding to the allegations by stating that there "wouldn't be a season 2" without Andrea and that they are "proud of her work".

The actor earlier said she would love "Big Little Lies" to get a third season.

The sophomore season of the show, which aired in June, also featured Shailene Woodley, Meryl Streep, Laura Dern and Zoe Kravitz.

in the recent past and keep your vibrations high, no matter what.

Tip: You are a being of light and love.

**CANCER:** Overheard at the cosmic conference: your gut feelings are nothing but messages from your spirit guides. Take the so-called illogical into consideration, especially if you're making an important decision. If you have been 'feeling' something, it must be for a higher reason.

Tip: Follow the signs. You are being guided by something higher.

**LEO:** Sometimes you just have to light a candle, put on some meditative music, and call upon your spirit team for guidance. Leo, you are a vehicle for higher consciousness and are beginning to undo the layers that are keeping you from accessing your inner wisdom. What this phase of your life requires you to do: awaken your empathy as you understand the pain and suffering of another.

Tip: Awaken your empathetic side.

**VIRGO:** We're so quick to judge others or to look at them from the lens of our precon-

## Priyadarshan-Akshay Kumar to reunite for comedy

**BY SHUBHA DUBEY**

**PANAJI, NOV 25 (PTI):** The credit of establishing Akshay Kumar as one of the most bankable actors in comedy genre goes to Priyadarshan and the veteran filmmaker on Monday revealed they are collaborating again for a film which would be a laugh riot.

The director-actor duo, who has given blockbuster comedies like Hera Pheri, Garam Masala, Bhool Bhulaiyaa and De Dana Dana, will start working on the project later next year.

It is a comedy. I'm currently writing it and will start working on it next year around September-October, Priyadarshan told PTI here on the sidelines of International Film Festival of India (IFFI).

Fortunately Akshay has not been doing many comedies. He did this Housefull 4 and it didn't do really well, the way he wanted it to be, he added.

The filmmaker said after south superstar Mohanlal, with whom he has collaborated on 47 films, Akshay is the only actor he feels comfortable working with.

I've done so many films with him. I have done 47 films with Mohanlal and after him, Akshay became the most comfortable person for me to work with because he completely trusts me. He

doesn't ask what I'm making. He doesn't want to know what I'm doing. He asks me Sir are you excited? and I say 'yes' and we just start working.

That confidence is there so I have a

Rangrezz. Hungama 2, he said, is not a direct sequel to the 2003 film but has a same spirit.

The first movie featured Akshay Khanna, Rimi Sen, Aftab Shivdasani,



responsibility towards him. He trusts me so much that I make sure it works. That trust works well for us. He always says he learns a lot while working with me. His body language has become better. He has evolved a lot. We did Khatta Meetha and after that he started playing a lot of these middle class characters like Padman and others.

Priyadarshan said he will start working with Akshay after finishing his Bollywood comeback Hungama 2. The film marks his first Hindi movie after 2013's

Pareesh Rawal, Rajpal Yadav among others. The director revealed that apart from Akshay and Rimi, all other cast members are set to return. Hungama 2 will also be actor Shilpa Shetty's comeback to the movies.

The story is completely different. It uses the similar kind of entertainment. I have completed the writing process and will start shooting the film in January. The lead pair will be confirmed in a week or so. Shilpa Shetty is also making a comeback with this film, he added.

## Good thing I was interrupted at NGMA: Amol Palekar

**BY MANISH SAIN**

**NEW DELHI, NOV 25 (PTI):** Looking back at an incident that fuelled discussions over right to expression, veteran actor-director Amol Palekar says it was good that he was interrupted at

ring the artistic freedom that we all enjoy. In the hindsight, it was good that I was interrupted several times because of which the issue was discussed even internationally," he told PTI in an interview.



an NGMA event earlier this year.

The actor, who turned 75 on Sunday, said his comments weren't about any particular political party as the establishment "will always try to curb opposition".

"Establishment never likes dissent; it will always try to curb opposition. However, the attack on our right to express has taken an ugly mode in the last five-six years.

"I was trying to highlight certain wrong governmental decisions scar-

In February, the "Gol Maal" actor was repeatedly interrupted during a speech at the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) in Mumbai before being completely cut off when he criticised the government.

Palekar had criticised the Ministry of Culture over its alleged decision to scrap the advisory committees of local artists at the gallery's Mumbai and Bengaluru centres. He said it was his duty as an artiste to speak out against the "autocratic and undemocratic modus operandi" of the government.

"I, as an artiste, ought to speak out against the autocratic and undemocratic modus operandi of the government - my fight is not against a particular party; it is against the ideology that will tear apart pluralism and the idea of India which we have nurtured over the years," he said.

The theatre-film actor recently made a comeback to the stage with "Kusur - The mistake", which he said will be his last play, a "show stopper".

"I have no intention to keep on doing theatre. 'Kusur' is my show stopper. At my age, it is physically very demanding. Besides, I don't know if I will be able to fulfil the audience's expectations," he said.

## M Night Shyamalan's 'Servant' gets early season 2 renewal



**LOS ANGELES, NOV 25 (PTI):** Apple has renewed M Night Shyamalan's upcoming psychological thriller series "Servant" for a second run ahead of its series premiere.

The series, scheduled to debut on November 28, joins several Apple Originals that have recently received second season orders.

Others include "Dickinson", "For All Mankind", "See", and "The Morning Show".

According to Entertainment Weekly, Shyamalan made the announcement during an appearance on "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon" last week.

"Servant" follows a Philadelphia couple in mourning after an unspeakable tragedy creates a rift in their marriage and opens the door for a mysterious force to enter their home.

Directed By Shyamalan, the show's cast includes Toby Kebbell, Lauren Ambrose, Nell Tiger Free and Rupert Grint.

Executive producer and writer Tony Basgallo created the show. Shyamalan is also attached to executive produce along with Ashwin Rajan, Jason Blumenthal, Todd Black, and Steve Tisch.

**ARIES:** You did the best you could, Aries. Release yourself from the burden of guilt. You cannot go back in time and change things. Remembering this will help you move forward and awaken to the blessings. Some of you could be dealing with the demon of loneliness at this point. But are we ever truly alone? Turn inwards and you will find an inexplicable joy in your own company.

Tip: Find a sense of home within yourself.

**TAURUS:** What an anti-climatic start to the week! Things don't go as planned. In fact, they turn out better. Release the need to control the situation and trust the flow, Taurus. This is the only way to get to the desired destination in style. Some of you may find that this is also a time of endings.

Tip: To feel is to heal.

**GEMINI:** Daily reminder, Gemini: it doesn't matter how many times you have had your heart broken. You are being of light, who was born to spread the message of love. The Universe is testing your resolve at this moment. Apply the lessons you have learned

in the recent past and keep your vibrations high, no matter what.

Tip: You are a being of light and love.

**CANCER:** Overheard at the cosmic conference: your gut feelings are nothing but messages from your spirit guides. Take the so-called illogical into consideration, especially if you're making an important decision. If you have been 'feeling' something, it must be for a higher reason.

Tip: Follow the signs. You are being guided by something higher.

**LEO:** Sometimes you just have to light a candle, put on some meditative music, and call upon your spirit team for guidance. Leo, you are a vehicle for higher consciousness and are beginning to undo the layers that are keeping you from accessing your inner wisdom. What this phase of your life requires you to do: awaken your empathy as you understand the pain and suffering of another.

Tip: Awaken your empathetic side.

**VIRGO:** We're so quick to judge others or to look at them from the lens of our precon-

ceived notions. The truth is, we know nothing about them, their struggles, their fears, their insecurities or their challenges. So it's best to keep our biases aside and approach other from a space of purity and openness.

Tip: Approach the situation with a clean slate.

**LIBRA:** "There is a passion inside you, a unique talent that gives meaning to your days and drives you to share the best of yourself until the very end. If you don't know what your ikigai is yet, as Viktor Frankl says, your mission is to discover it." Here's some new-age wisdom for you to consider, Libra.

Tip: Nurture your many gifts.

**SCORPIO:** "We are the products of our past, but we don't have to be prisoners of it," said Rick Warren in his book The Purpose Driven Life. What have you traversed to the earthly realm for? What gives you a reason to jump out of bed every morning? Understand how your past failures are holding you back from making empowered choices and breaking free from the shackles.

Tip: Where is your true North?

**SAGITTARIUS:** Sagittarius, this is the week to redefine fitness goals. Take a break from routine if the monotony is getting to you, and try something different. How about giving Zumba or rock climbing a shot instead. You're also being asked to pay attention to what you put into your body. Consider more plant-based meals. Think fruits, vegetables, legumes, nuts, and seeds—straight from the farmer's market.

Tip: Health and wellness take centre-stage.

**CAPRICORN:** You never thought you'd make it here, yet you did. Focus not on the failures, but the breakthroughs. Forgive yourself for the times you stumbled and understand where you need to realign in order to fulfill your sacred purpose. You are at an important juncture, where new pathways are opening for you. Resist the urge to choose the easy one. Exorcise the demon of self-doubt. An affirmation that will help you in your journey: "I release any beliefs that no longer assist in my soul's growth."

Tip: Trust yourself to make empowered choice.

**AQUARIUS:** Generosity is a virtue, one that your humanitarian soul understands all too well. As somebody who is blessed with the gift of abundance, you often find yourself thinking 'how can I give back?' Today, take a conscious step in this direction. Share the bounty, pay the kindness forward and show some love. Is there a cause that has been calling out to you for a while now? Know that no contribution is too big or small.

Tip: The joy of giving.

**PISCES:** You are both soulful and sensual. In this world but not of it. Don't deny yourself any aspect of this beautiful human experience. You will find that the more you accept the duality within, the more enlivened you will feel. Those who are at odds with their loved one, remember there is no right and wrong. There are simply different ways of looking at the same thing. Broach the subject with an open heart and mind in order to find a solution.

Tip: Embrace every aspect of the human experience.