



LATA MANGESHKAR 'STABLE AND MUCH BETTER,' SAY FAMILY
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TRUMP AND JOHNSON ARE LEADING THE ATTACK AGAINST THE RULE OF LAW
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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Students mount pressure on administration, demand justice for murdered teen

SERVE ONE WEEK ULTIMATUM TO ADMINISTRATION

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 13 NOV:

A 19-year-old girl was raped and murdered in East Sikkim on 08 Nov. She had left her house at around 3 PM for a nearby forest to collect firewood and did not return. Later, her father found her in the jungle lying unconscious and took her to a PHC where she was declared brought dead.

Post mortem reports showed that she was sexually assaulted, strangled and had a head injury. Police have registered the case under sections 376/302/201 of the Indian Penal Code.

Since the crime was reported, social media has been up in arms demanding justice for the victim and today the student fraternity held a protest rally in the capital. The rally began from MG Marg and ended in front of the DC Of-

fice in Sichey.

Speaking to media, students of different colleges condemned the incident and demanded that the police administration act fast to apprehend the culprit. They also signed a memorandum to be submitted to the State Home Minister, District Collector and Superintendent of Police, East District.

One student said, the post mortem was conducted on Friday [08 Nov] and the report was released on Monday [11 Nov]. This, they alleged, showed the lackadaisical attitude with which the case was being pursued.

It may be mentioned that Saturday and Sunday are government holidays.

The memorandum demands that the Police Department take the case seriously and apply all resources available to



investigate and apprehend the culprit. They have given a week's time to the administration to solve the case failing which they have threatened to launch a strong movement.

"We can't and will never compromise with our future in this context. The case must be investigated at the earliest and

the culprit should be ascertained sooner. Till then we shall keep our eye on this process with utmost belief and come up with constant follow up," the memorandum states.

On the other hand, the police have assured that investigation is being carried out diligently.

Meanwhile, Cabinet Ministers, Arun Upreti,

Bhim Hang Subba, Sanjeet Kharel and Political Secretary to CM, Jacob Khaling visited the victim's family and assured that the culprit will be apprehended and punished as per the law.

BJP Sikkim has criticized the slow pace at which the investigation has been progressing given that five days

have passed since the incident.

The party has demanded that the investigating agencies rise above tokenism and take up the case with the seriousness it deserves.

If the officials investigating the case are incompetent then the state government should replace them

with a more senior investigating team, according to BJP Sikkim.

The party has further said that crimes against women has been increasing and the society as a whole should come together to address this issue.

Reporting on the crime on social media has been drawing much

flak after details of the victim including photos were shared by social media "news" pages, which is a punishable crime under the law.

The East District Superintendent of Police had to issue directions to the media and individuals not to upload the photo, name and other details of the victim.

Sikkim U-23 women's cricket team beats Mizoram



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 13 NOV:

The U-23 women's cricket team of Sikkim is participating in "Women's Under-23 T20 Trophy 2019-20" at Pondicherry which started on 12 Nov, a press release informs.

Today they played their second match of the tournament against Mizoram at Siechem Stadium, Pondicherry and won the match by 9 wickets. So far they have played two matches out of seven to be played in this tournament.

The Sikkim team will be playing against Maharashtra, Mizoram, Rajasthan, Hyderabad, Pondicherry, Mumbai and Tamil Nadu throughout this tournament in Group E.

In today's match,

Mizoram won the toss and chose to bat first and scored 118 runs losing 2 wickets in 20 overs at a run rate of 5.90. Sandhya Kumari scored the innings highest of 87 runs off 72 balls followed by Lal Rin Fela (11) and K Dinpui (7) for Mizoram.

Sikkim's bowler Aruna Barman and Rinky Rajak took 1 wicket each. In the second inning Sikkim scored 119 runs losing 1 wicket in 17.1 overs and won the match by 9 wickets. Rinky Rajak scored 45 runs (not-out), Sarojini Giri 28 runs (not-out) and Nandika Kumari 4 runs for Sikkim. With this win Sikkim earned 2 point(s).

The next match will be played against Rajasthan at CAP Ground 2, Pondicherry on 15 November.



Mangshila College students hold vigil in memory of Machong victim

MANGAN, 13 NOV: Students of the Mangshila Degree College here organised a candlelight vigil on Wednesday evening to register their condemnation of the rape and murder of a 19-year-old at Machong near

Pakyong in East Sikkim. The students also submitted a memorandum to SP North seeking urgent and immediate action against the crime which had come to light on 08 November and has still not been solved.

Royal Gorkha Cook Book released

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 13 NOV:

Lok Sabha MP, Indra Hang Subba, today released chef Shamson Tamang's documentation of the traditional cuisine of the Gorkha community, 'The Royal Gorkha Cook Book'.

The author is also looking for support from the Parliament and the Centre for the endorsement of traditional Gorkha cuisines and to include it in the menu of elite hotels and restaurants of the country.

On the occasion, the author was also felicitated by Sikkim Tamang Youth Society for his initiative.

In his address, the Lok Sabha MP, while congratulating the author



for his effort to promote the identity of the community, highlighted that Sikkim was always in the forefront when it comes to efforts in the interest of the community.

Commenting that food was part of the identity of a community, the MP assured the author to provide all possible sup-

port in his endeavour.

The author, in turn, explained that the main objective behind the book was to document and promote ethnic Gorkha cuisine and shared his desire to see ethnic Gorkha cuisine in the menu of elite hotels and restaurants of the country.

State Level Kala Utsav Competition 2019

RANIPPOOL, 13 NOV (IPR): The State Level Kala Utsav Competition 2019 organised by the Department of Education, Government of Sikkim under the aegis of Samagra Shiksha was held with much enthusiasm and gaiety at the auditorium of Biraspati Parsai Sr Sec School here today.

The State Level Kala Utsav Competition 2019 is an initiative of Ministry of Human Resource Development Department (MHRD) conducted by the State Project Office, Samagra Shiksha to promote Arts in Education by nurturing and showcasing the aesthetic and artistic talent of school students at the secondary school stage in the country.

The focus of State Level Kala Utsav 2019 was on the traditional, classical, folk or contemporary art forms rang-

ing from music, dance, theatre, visual arts (painting, drawing, sculpture, crafts) including Online Art projects (History, Documenting the facts and process of practicing living traditions, write-ups) and art projects (e-project).

The event had Minister, Education Department, Kunga Nima Lepcha as the chief guest accompanied by Additional Chief Secretary, Education Department, GP Upadhyaya including the Directors, Joint Directors, other officials, teachers and students at large.

Speaking before the gathering, Kunga Nima Lepcha at the onset, expressed great happiness on meeting and interacting with the teachers and students present at large. He further spoke on the importance of water conservation, which is highly

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SMU declares 2019-20 as “Year of Research”

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 13 Nov:

Sikkim Manipal University (SMU) is launching the Year of Research 2019-20 on 14 Nov in a program which will be attended by Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha, Sikkim, Indra Hang Subba as chief guest, a press release informs.

On the occasion, First Annual Oration of Sikkim Manipal University “Collaboration and Competition in Science” will be delivered by Vice Chancellor, Prof Dr Avinash Khare, Sikkim University.

The year 2019-20 has been declared as “Year of Research” in which several additional activities related to research have been planned, the release mentions.

Faculty and students of SMIMS and constituent colleges are involved in collaborative studies, both with national and international institutes of repute with extramural funding from agencies like IARC WHO, Florida University, Duke Clinical Research Institute USA, ICMR, DBT, DST, RNTCP, DESME, SJRI Bangalore etc.

In addition, intramural funding is available to support both faculty and student research. Mobility among the Manipal institutions is funded with the aim to bring the researchers together so that there is sharing of expertise, high quality research output, and access to research facilities, strengthening of research collaboration and building of a professional network.

HC relief for SBI, other DHFL lenders

MUMBAI, Nov 13 (PTI):

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday allowed a plea by a group of banks, including the State Bank of India, seeking to modify its earlier order restraining payments by mortgage financier DHFL to them. The high court said payments to banks and NBFCs, pursuant to any securitisation or similar agreement, will be allowed.

Last month, Justice A K Menon had restrained the Dewan Housing Finance Corporation (DHFL) from making further payments to any unsecured creditors until further orders. Financial Institutions, including SBI, Union Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, HDFC and others, filed intervention plea before Justice Menon on Wednesday, seeking modification of the order.

They claimed that they did not fall within the category of creditors, being owners of assets securitised to the DHFL.

The DHFL was making regular payments before the high court passed the order in October, and if it was not amended, securitised loans may become non-performing assets (NPAs), the plea said.

The judge granted the plea, and said payments to banks and NBFCs, pursuant to any securitisation or similar agreement, will be allowed.

The DHFL can make all the future payments as well as those payments which were due since October 10 when the court had passed the earlier order, the judge said.

Sikkim Aakraman wins 1st Minister’s Gold Cup

SOMBARIA, 13 Nov (IPR): Chief Minister, Prem Singh Tamang (Golay) attended the 1st Minister’s Gold Cup Invitation Football Tournament, 2019 at football ground of Sombaria Senior Secondary School today. The tournament organized by Daramdin Khel Kud Sangh had the presence of Deputy Speaker SLA, Sangay Lepcha, Minister for Agriculture, Horticulture and IPR, LN Sharma, Area MLA cum Minister for Energy and Power, MN Sherpa, MLA, Aditya Golay, Officials and public at large.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister extended his congratulations to the organizing committee in successfully coordinating this tournament. He spoke about the importance of playing any kind of sports in order to be physically and mentally fit.

He also cited the example of renowned footballer Sanju Pradhan who hails from Daramdin and encouraged the youngsters to follow his sporting profession so that they can bring about



laurels to the state. The Chief Minister stated that football is the most rewarding sports that has many health benefits and brings about discipline in one’s life.

Speaking about the various initiatives of the State Government the Chief Minister elucidated that projects relating to tourism will commence at the earliest so that the masses can gain profit. He also informed that once the Assembly session is over he will meet with the public.



Additionally, the Chief Minister explained that the State Government will shortly start distributing benefits such as house upgradation, health insurance and other schemes to the public. Furthermore, he highlighted that pending developmental works will be completed at the earliest.

Area MLA, MN Sherpa apprised about the requirements of the constituency and assured that the demands of the general public will be fulfilled shortly. He also

added that the State Government will consistently look into upgradation of this constituency thereby elevating the living standard of its citizens.

During the course of the tournament the Chief Minister also launched social service activity initiated by Block Administrative Centre Daramdin for the upliftment of the masses. He was also felicitated by the monastic teachers for the valuable services and immense contributions made by the Chief Minister for the

upliftment of Sikkim.

The football final of this tournament was played between Sikkim Aakraman FC and Royal FC Siliguri wherein the former emerged victorious with a scoreline of 2 - 1. The golden boot was awarded to Emanuel from Sikkim Aakraman FC while golden gloves title was awarded to Promod Limboo from State Sports Gangtok. Aadarsh Tamang was named man of the tournament and Sameer Pradhan was named man of the match.

Legal awareness programme at ICAFI by DLSA



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 13 Nov:

A legal awareness programme was organized by District Legal Service Authority in coordination with Sikkim SLSA, Gangtok, at the ICAFI University Sikkim on 12 Nov, 2019, a press release informs.

The programme was addressed by District Judge, Prajwal Khatiwara. He interacted with the students and faculties and discussed about the different awareness programmes.

Events like essay com-

petition, walkathon, marathon on different legal awareness themes like child labour, child abuse, constitutional and fundamental rights may be organized in coordination with the officials of DLSA.

He also suggested that students can go for legal camps in remote areas for various awareness programmes. He mentioned that students of the University should visit the court to witness court proceedings and also interact with lawyers and judges.

SBFP workshop on Biodiversity Conservation and Human-Wildlife conflict

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 13 Nov:

A workshop on ‘Challenges for Biodiversity Conservation and Human-Wildlife conflict – identifying the problem and possible solution’ is scheduled to be held on 15 and 16 Nov at Chintan Bhawan, Gangtok, East Sikkim.

A press release informs that the workshop is being organized by Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) assisted Sikkim Biodiversity Conservation and Forest Management Project (SBFP) under Forest and Environment Department, Government of Sikkim.

Speaker, SLA, LB Das has given his consent to inaugurate the workshop as chief guest. The workshop will be followed by field visit on 17 Nov.

For sharing of knowledge, work experiences and success stories, 12 states including Sikkim will be participating in the workshop along with esteemed Institutes like Wildlife Institute of India, Indian Institute of Forest Management, the release mentions.

Joint Forest Management Committees, Eco-Development Committees, Non-Government Organisations

would also be participating in the workshop.

The workshop seeks to pave the way for inter-sectoral linkages and official development assistance for other sectors in the State. A meeting with the heads of line departments of the State will also be convened under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary in concomitance with the workshop for discussing prospective projects.

To address crop raiding incidences by wild pig, Indian peafowl, porcupine, civet cat, monkey menace and bear attacks leading to casualties, specialists and senior officials have been invited for the workshop in order to discuss, debate and discover the means to mitigate these issues of human-wildlife conflict.

A delegation from JICA India office and JICA Tokyo led by chief representative, Katsuo Matsumoto shall be present during the workshop.

The workshop would also discuss enhancing the resilience of local communities with adaptive measures. The management interventions and related legal issues would also be deliberated upon, the release adds.

Governor’s greetings on Children’s Day

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 13 Nov:

Governor of Sikkim, Ganga Prasad, has extended warm greetings and good wishes to the children of Sikkim on the occasion of Children’s Day 2019.

As per a Raj Bhavan release, the Governor has said, “As we brace ourselves up for the celebration of Pandit Nehru’s birth anniversary, it is also obligatory on our part to evaluate our efforts and vision for our future generation. We

must visualise future India in children and chart our plans and action to realise the dream we foresee as ‘New India’. The institutions of learning must develop a robust mechanism with a vision and purpose to empower children of the country through cutting edge competitive education, which would ultimately take the country forward in the path of development and prosperity.

As we fondly remember ‘Chacha Nehru’, I urge

the children to prepare themselves for the greater challenges that the 21st Century world pose in front of us. In order to fulfil the expectations the country has on its young generation, I appeal the children to gear up for the responsibility and role to transform our country as true global leader of 21st Century. Dear Children! Remain focussed on studies and inculcate the habit of cleanliness, hygiene and healthy living.”

CM’s Children’s Day greetings

GANGTOK, 13 Nov (IPR):

On the occasion of Children’s Day, Chief Minister of Sikkim, PS Tamang has extended his heartiest greetings to the children of Sikkim.

The Chief Minister has said, “Every year we celebrate Children’s Day on 14 November, the birth anniversary of our first Prime Minister, He had great love and affection for children. His commitment to their care was deep and abid-

ing. Therefore, it is befitting that we rededicate ourselves to the cause of children on the birthday of Pandit Nehru.”

In his message, the Chief Minister has urged the children to study well and inculcate the habit of cleanliness, hygiene, and healthy living to achieve greater challenges that lie ahead. The future of our nation and state depends on our children. Therefore, children should be en-

couraged to dream big and explore their potential to the fullest.

“When provided with adequate opportunity and guidance, they (children) have immense potential to contribute to the society and humanity. I extend my love, affection and blessings to our children. My best wishes to all those who are working for their care, growth and development,” the CM has said.



SKM confers with Arithang constituents on their problems

PUBLIC MEETING CUM HEARING BY SKM CONSTITUENCY LEVEL COMMITTEE

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 13 Nov:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha’s Constituency Level Committee for Arithang convened a public meeting and hearing at Arithang Gumpa today, a press release informs.

Minister Arun Upreti, who is also the area MLA, was present as the chief guest accompanied by officials from the concerned Departments, the release adds.

The people in attendance high-

lighted problems like irregular and inconsistent water and electricity supply, cleanliness challenges, need for safety and surveillance, lack of parking space and traffic congestion.

The Minister, in turn, briefed the people about work that the new Government has been done till date and assured that all the issues raised by them will be attended to.

He added that his doors were open to all for their grievances irrespective of their party affiliations.

Organic farming training at Dung Dung Thasa

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 13 Nov:

A daylong demonstration and training programme on organic farming was organized for the farmer community of Dung Dung Thasa Gram Prashasan Kendra, East Sikkim, a press release informs.

The programme was organized by International Panaacea Limited and Sikkim Organic Mission under Horticulture & Agriculture Departments, Government of Sikkim,

Agriculture Development Officer, Agriculture Inspector, VLW and IPL Field Functionaries along with progressive farm-

ers were present in the training programme. In-Charge, Karma Dubo Bhutia and his team demonstrated the preparation method of Vermicompost.

Similarly, another ward level programme was held at Kadamtam ward, Aho Yentem GPU. The training and demonstration was conducted by In-Charge Ramesh Sharma and Field Functionary of IPL, Deputy Director, LN Sharma, ADO, Rashika Gurung and field functionaries of Agriculture Department, Pakyong Circle and progressive farmers of Kadamtam Ward were present in the programme.

State Level...

taken for granted in today’s world. He also highlighted on adopting cleanliness as the means to promote hygiene and healthy living among the students.

He also gave a strong message on the dire need to love Mother Nature and also spoke on the need to respect, conserve and save our own environment. He also touched upon the importance and need to adopt Organic farming and further spoke on its usefulness for preparation of mid day meal for students.

Earlier, the Minister visited and inspected the Atal Tinkering Lab at the school auditorium where various art and science projects and exhibits were displayed by the participating students from various Government school of the state.

Simultaneously, the Minister also inaugurated the new Gymnasium at the auditorium of the school which will offer opportunity for the students to adopt a healthy lifestyle and reinforce the importance of staying fit and healthy among the students.

Earlier during the event, State Project Director (Samagra Shiksha), Bhim Thatal, in his welcome address, provided a brief overview of the Kala Utsav before the gathering. He further highlighted on the importance of Arts in Education and also provided brief details on the selection process for the Kala Utsav competition.

More than 200 students from class IX to XII selected from the District Level competition participated in the daylong event.

Colourful dance and musical performances including other activities like drawing and painting reflecting the traditional arts of the State were showcased by the participating students.

The State Level Kala Utsav 2019 has also been envisaged as a fully integrated platform with an effort to mainstream the children with special needs to showcase and express their hidden talents.

The best solo performances in each domain of Arts selected out of State Level competition will represent the State and showcase their talent at National Level Kala Utsav 2019 slated to be held this December at National Bal Bhawan, New Delhi.

The daylong event concluded with the declaration of results, distribution of certificate of participation winner certificates and vote of thanks by Joint Director, K Inbaraj, SE/SS.

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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

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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).

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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

Workshop on Dhrupad music at Sikkim University

GANGTOK, 13 Nov (PIB): The Department of Music, Sikkim University, is organizing a four-day Workshop on Dhrupad Music by Padma Shree Faiyaz Wasifuddin Dagar and Carnatic Instrumental-Violin by Sangeet Natak Akademi Awardee Mysore Manjunath from 13 to 16 Nov, 2019.

The inaugural function of the workshop was held on 13 Nov at the Cauveri Hall of the University. The chief guest for the programme was Member of Parliament, Indra Hang Subba.

Vice-Chancellor of Sikkim Manipal University, Lt Gen. Venkatesh was the guest of honour. The inaugural session of the workshop was chaired by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Avinash Khare.

Padma Shree Faiyaz Wasifuddin Dagar is a renowned Indian classical singer of the Dhrupad genre and the son of Dhrupad singer Ustad Nasir Faiyazuddin Dagar. He was awarded the prestigious Padma Shree in the year 2010.

Sangeet Natak Akademi Awardee Mysore Manjunath is an Indian Violinist. He has travelled extensively and performed all over the world. He is amongst the most popular musicians on this instrument and is especially popular with the younger generation for his creative improvisations. He is one of the youngest recipients of the prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademi Award by the Government of India. Vice-Chancellor Professor Avinash Khare was extremely happy to welcome the music maestros to the University and hopes that the workshop will benefit the students in more ways than one.

Cleanliness drive by Mamring School

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 13 Nov: Mamring Senior Secondary School here in East Sikkim organized a cleanliness drive under the Swachhata Abhiyan today in the area surrounding the school.

Students, led by PGT [Political Science], IP Khatiwara, who is also the Vice Principal, in consultation with the Principal, Prahlad Sharma, collected scattered plastic and other waste from the area and deposited it to the garbage vehicle of Dilip Dhakal, a local social worker, to be disposed, a press release informs.

Mr Dhakal is collecting non-degradable waste of Mamring at his own expense in his private vehicle.

Speaking to the students, the Principal underlined that cleanliness was the social responsibility of all the people and not only teachers and students and in this regard highlighted how the Panchayats of the area were working towards the keeping GPU clean.

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110th Devkota Jayanti celebrated in Gangtok

ARPAN PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 13 Nov: The 110th birth anniversary of Mahakavi Laxmi Prasad Devkota was commemorated with a special function and a literary program in Gangtok on Tuesday. The 110th Devkota Jayanti programme was organized by Vivid Kala Academy in association with Press Club of Sikkim.

This was the first time that the Devkota Jayanti was commemorated in a different day rather than observing it on the day of Laxmi puja every year. It may be mentioned here that Devkota Jayanti is usually observed on the day of Laxmi Puja during Diwali but this time the organizers has observed the Jayanti on the poet's birthday as per the English calendar.

Addressing the occasion, litterateur Padam Bahadur Chettri presented a brief talk on the



life and contributions of Mahakavi Laxmi Prasad Devkota. He said that Devkota started writing poems since the age of 10 and went onto to enrich Nepali Literature with his works.

During the special occasion, 8 local poets presented their poems. Poets Hari Dhungel, Amar Baniya Lohoro, Deo Kumar Dumi, Amir Bhandari, Khusboo Chettri, Renuka Basnett, Jagan Dahal and Santosh Subba recited their poetry on

the occasion.

The function had the presence of Speaker of the Sikkim Legislative Assembly, LB Das, as the chief guest and the program was attended by eminent litterateur, poets, students and others.

The function was also addressed by the president of the Vivid Kala Academy, Kiran Rasaily who highlighted the importance of observing Devkota Jayanti. The programme was also addressed by others.

During the occasion, Pabitra Bhandari, who was recently awarded with Iron Lady Award was also felicitated by Vivid Kala Academy, Press Club of Sikkim, Sikkim Mahila Patrakar Sangh and Journalist Union of Sikkim.

It may be mentioned here that Devkota Jayanti programme is organized every year by the Press Club of Sikkim and this year it was co-organized by Vivid Kala Academy and Press Club of Sikkim.

Cleanliness drive at Krishi Bhawan

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 13 Nov: The departments of Horticulture and Agriculture undertook a joint cleanliness drive at the Krishi Bhawan complex today.

The drive was initiated by Horticulture Secretary, MT Sherpa, and conducted under the supervision of Principal Secretary, Horticulture and Agriculture Department, R Telang, a press release informs.

The drive was also actively participated in



by the Agriculture Secretary, Rinzing Chewang, and Principal Director MK Pradhan, and all officers

and staff of both the departments, the release adds.

Help was also taken from the Quick Re-

sponse Team to clear tree branches which were posing a threat to the office complex.

The cleanliness drive was also joined by farm staff from Marchak Floriculture Centre.

The Gangtok Municipal Corporation also extended support to this long overdue cleanliness drive by deputing labourers to the task, the release further informs.

Three truckloads of waste, including e-waste, were collected during this cleanliness drive.

Temi Tea Mr Sikkim finalist Sunny Golay Tamang

NITESH R PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 13 Nov:

An aspiring model, Gangtok's Sunny Golay Tamang describes himself as a hard worker who wants to inspire others to chart a unique journey towards success.

Why Mr Sikkim Manhunt?

Why I chose Mr Sikkim Manhunt is because it's a platform where we all can represent what we really are and fulfill our desires and passion.

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

Firstly I am very confident when I speak in front of others. I have honesty and humility towards the person I speak with, so these are the qualities which make me stand out in a crowd.

What if you win or lose the competition?

It would be a great honour if they gave me the Mr Sikkim title. It will be a moment to cherish for me and I'll do my best in future and make my state proud. Even though I didn't win the title it will not be a failure for me because I have been learning so many things from the day I gave my auditions. In fact it will always inspire me and give me confidence to participate in other events in upcoming days.

Define yourself.

My name is Sunny Golay Tamang. I am ambitious and driven. I am a guy with tons of aims and very dedicated towards my work. I am very honest towards people. If it feels right then I'll be very committed towards that work. That's why people can rely on me and my work.

What is that one thing that can unite humanity?

The world is divided by a lot of things; Nationality, Race, Religion, Colour, Ethnicity, Beliefs. But the one thing that unites us all is Humanity, like for e.g.- if you are thirsty and ask for water, people will give it you and not ask which religion you believe in. So being kind and humble towards people can unite humanity.

Any appeal/message?

So my appeal to the people especially to the youth of Sikkim is be what you are and never change your passion and desires for anyone else. Nowadays, I see so many people are into unwanted stuff, I advise them not to get involved in these things and try to upgrade yourself positively and be dedicated towards your work.

Tell us something about yourself.

My name is Sunny Golay Tamang and



I am from Gangtok, Sikkim. I am 20 years old. I recently completed my graduation in BA English Honours from Siliguri. I did my schooling from Gangtok. My parents are Prabhat Golay and Padma Golay and I have one sibling, Prashant Golay who is my elder brother. I love my family and my parents are very supportive about whatever I want to do in my life. My hobbies are swimming, modeling, and driving. Modeling has always played a crucial part in my life. I always wanted to be a model and a supermodel in future. I always give my 100% when it comes to my hobbies and interests. And lastly for me modeling is not just having body and looks, it's about how you carry yourself and having the right attitude because body and looks, everyone has.

CONTRIBUTIONS INVITED FOR AMBA SCHOOL LIBRARY UPGRADATION

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

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

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

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

To Contribute Contact WSOS at 7384639193.

PRESENTS

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AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

No. 533/Adm/Agri Dated:11/11/2019

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

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

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

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

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

- i) Educational Qualification Certificate from class X onwards.
- ii) Valid Employment Card.
- iii) Age Certificate
- iv) Experience Certificate.
- v) C.O.I.
- vi) Resume (with contact No.)

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

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

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

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

Sd/-

R.O. No. 249/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20

Dated: 12/11/2019

Under Secretary (Adm)
Agriculture Department
Government of Sikkim.

Empowered Futures

A call for more professionalism, fewer sops and greater merit

Even the new government, from whispers that escape the corridors of power, is already ruling the preponderance of personnel-related requests which swamp out people's projects and recommendations from the tables and attention of those who take decisions now. The fact that access and influence are often misused for personal gain will not surprise too many, not in Sikkim, but more than a statement of the obvious this continuing complaint is a call for improved professionalism and genuine concern among the state's bureaucrats.

What should be obvious to all by now is that real change, the kind that sustains and prospers, cannot come with sops and handouts or favours. The people have to be empowered if things are to really improve in Sikkim. Empowerment is not the same as rights, that, the citizens of India already enjoy in plenty. Empowerment demands a wider realization of the rights, the responsibilities that come with it and a stronger desire for pride and securing self/ mutual respect. These are virtues that rarely serve the ends of politics well, at least in the short term because political support is more safely secured through dependence. An empowered people, after all, are unlikely to be swayed by rhetoric and will rarely be available as ready fodder for the intemperate demands of active politics. Populist measures on the other hand provide instant gratification and attract immediate praise even if they deliver only short-lived impact. And Sikkim has enjoyed enough of that. A clearer call needs to go out for the finer virtues.

There was a time when the masses needed to be pampered. And they were. Now, Sikkim has to get more realistic, experiment with more effective empowerment. This transition to the next level will not be easy because indulgence is not easily quit. The rural folk have been prioritized, anyone who has seen the numbers in which they now travel to the district headquarters and the capital, the ease with which they make demands and get heard, will agree with this observation. Now is the time to provide coherence to their plans. Not only is this desirable, it is also an urgent need. The Sikkimese economy has survived [and quite obviously also prospered] on Central grants for far too long. While this patronage makes for comfortable living, it also makes the people lethargic and when the tap is turned off, as it appears to be in the process of closing of late, desperation sets in. There might not be instances of abject poverty in the State, but there are equally fewer success stories outside the circle of the government and its coterie. The real problem with the Sikkimese economy is that it is too dependent on the State exchequer. This overdependence can prove crippling the day the State cannot support all the kitchens any more, and the strain is already showing.

Sikkim should start sustaining itself. For that the sops will have to be phased away and replaced with rewards for hard work and celebration of merit. It is going to be tough since the State takes care of everything from subsidizing rations to paying for the education of the children. The desire to work hard has atrophied and needs to now be coaxed back to strength. The inherent lethargy and the refusal to work hard has to be exorcised and the plethora of skill development programmes need to be reworked to inspire new motivation as well.

WRITE US:

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

Trump and Johnson are leading the attack against the rule of law

JEFFREY B. MEYERS
theconversation.com

Increasingly, threats to the rule of law are as acute as those presented to our species by the unfolding catastrophe of global warming. We are too complacent about both.

As someone who teaches in a law school, I believe it's critical to look closely at two recent events that demonstrate a crisis of the rule of law in the United Kingdom and the United States.

The first event is the judgment of the U.K. High Court striking down Prime Minister Boris Johnson's attempted prorogation of Parliament — on the basis that it was an illegal and unconstitutional attempt to subvert democratic debate and preempt an anticipated vote of non-confidence in Parliament.

That decision ought immediately to have forced Johnson to resign; it did not. It did however trigger a series of events that have resulted in a Dec. 12 national election in the U.K.

The second is the decision by U.S. Congress to initiate an impeachment inquiry into President Donald Trump.

Over the course of the past several weeks, those impeachment proceedings have shone a public spotlight on a series of high-profile State Department and other government officials. Their alarm earlier this year about Trump's conduct on foreign affairs did what Robert Mueller's report on Russian collusion could not. It triggered the impeachment process.

TRUMP CONVICTION UNLIKELY

The decision of the Democrat-led House of Representatives to initiate an impeachment inquiry will probably lead to the adoption of articles of impeachment. However, conventional wisdom suggests conviction by two-thirds of the Republican-controlled Senate is unlikely.

A segment of America's liberal chattering class is nevertheless hopeful enough to begin asking the question of whether Trump can stand for re-election if he is actually impeached and convicted. The answer is unclear.

The constitutional crisis around the Trump presidency raises grave questions about public order, civil peace and national cohesion, which are basic to the legitimacy of the state, its rule-making powers and ultimately its monopoly on force.

These questions are particularly urgent amid the impact of Trumpian and Brexit-era politics on the rule of law in even the most established democracies.

In a televised statement on behalf of a unanimous U.K. Supreme Court bench, the Honourable Lady Brenda Hale, the president of the court, condemned Johnson. She said he had violated the British Constitution by using a request for prorogation of Parliament to avoid continued Brexit debate and

to duck a potential vote of non-confidence.

Lady Hale's judgment was a monumental moment for the evolution of the rule of law in the U.K., and it was celebrated as a moment of sanity. Yet it only temporarily averted another constitutional crisis because Johnson did not take the judgment as invitation to resign, and insists that he remains legitimately in office. This is symptomatic of the crisis of the rule of law — a crisis that now exists on both sides of the Atlantic.

TRUMP GROWS MORE BRAZEN

During the same period in time over the last several months, Trump, perhaps emboldened by the failure of Congress to impeach him on the basis of the revelations contained in the Mueller report, has become more brazen.



It's been alleged that this summer, shortly after the Mueller investigation had concluded, Trump improperly withheld military aid money allocated by Congress to Ukraine.

He advised Ukraine President Vladimir Zelensky that the release of those funds was contingent upon that country's investigation of the Ukrainian business dealings of Hunter Biden, the son of Trump's rival presidential candidate, while Joe Biden was vice-president.

Since then, evidence has emerged of a similar conversation in June between Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping about investigating the Bidens.

Under any other circumstances, revelations of this sort would trigger serious political consequences. Recall Watergate, when Richard Nixon's similar efforts to derail his political rivals ultimately resulted in his resignation.

Today, these dramatic revelations have prompted Congress to finally initiate an impeachment investigation. Trump's response, likely aimed at distraction, was to precipitously and suddenly remove U.S. Special Forces from the Kurdish border areas of Syria and Turkey. The world's attention was suddenly on this monumental abandonment of the Kurds, a key American ally. This was both a dangerous distraction and a huge slap in the face to

the Kurds — and the rule of law.

POLITICAL LAWLESSNESS

On both sides of the Atlantic, the durability of the rule of law is being tested more and more intensely. Although the decision of the U.K. Supreme Court was perhaps a win for the rule of law, Johnson's refusal to resign as a result of the judgment suggests we're now in an unprecedented era of political lawlessness.

In the U.S., Congress has oversight of the executive branch headed by the president. But for decades Congress has abdicated its oversight responsibilities over the executive.

Ironically, to preserve the rule of law, Congress must act to trigger impeachment and a trial on the Senate floor overseen by the chief justice of the U.S.

Supreme Court. However, even if Congress introduces articles of impeachment on the House floor, the Republican Senate will likely vote to acquit.

Or worse, House Majority Leader Mitch McConnell might refuse to hold the trial outright, much as he refused to hold confirmation hearings when Barack Obama's administration sought to appoint Judge Merrick Garland to the Supreme Court.

Increasingly, political leadership is now dominated by outsize celebrity egos and buffoonish caricatures of strongmen. Today the rule of law is not holding political leaders to account. After all, those leaders are now reality TV show hosts and former celebrities as often as they are career politicians.

Things are not as they used to be. Authoritative statements by esteemed officials that the rule of law has been violated no longer have immediate or obvious political consequences. Political scandals that would have upended the status quo only a few years ago barely register today.

Just as the destruction of our ecosystem is imminent if we do not act fast on climate change, so too is the destruction of our most cherished political and legal traditions.

[the writer is Lecturer, Faculty of Law, Thompson Rivers University]

Lady backpacks and manly beer — the folly of gendered products

SAMANTHA BRENNAN
theconversation.com

As women started counting steps and walking to work wearing running shoes and fitness trackers, there was one work-related item that had to change: the briefcase. It's not

suited to walking fast and gets in the way of drinking coffee en route to the office. Enter the working woman's backpack. It's a trend.

The Atlantic announced that this is the year professional women started wearing backpacks, even though some of us swear it's been going on for a while. The sale of women's backpacks is up by more than 20 per cent in the past year, but the sale of men's backpacks has flat-lined.

The Atlantic headlined their story "The Rise of the Lady Backpack." Of course they did, because women can't just use backpacks. We have to use "lady backpacks."

What's with the gendering? "Gendering" occurs when we ascribe stereotypical ideas of gender to an object or activity. Cupcakes, salads and white wine are feminine. Beer and steaks are masculine. But it's not just food. It's everywhere.

There are lists of needlessly gendered products ranging from girly pink pens to manly blue Q-tips. Such products reinforce the idea that gender is significant in areas where it's not, they reinforce the gender binary, and they leave out people who don't fit in either the male or the female category. A friend explained that lady back-

packs are built for the female frame. They're smaller. "But what about small men?" I asked. Well, replied the friend, they can buy a lady backpack too.

But they're not ladies! They are small people. Wouldn't it be easier if backpacks came in sizes to match differently sized people?



A GIRLY BIKE

Another friend recently raised the issue of step-through bike frames. He wanted one because he'd had knee surgery and couldn't swing his leg up over a traditional cross bar. The bike shop told him he wanted a woman's bike. He said, no, that he wanted a step-through frame. How hard is this to understand?

When I was a kid the difference between a boy's bike and a girl's bike was the top tube. The one on a girl's bike slanted down to allow modest access to the bike and ease of riding

in skirts. This isn't the issue with adult bikes. When it comes to road bikes they look pretty much the same.

I ride a regular unisex frame road bike, not a women-specific frame. Lots of women ride regular bikes, and the geometry of women's bikes is a great fit for some men.

Ditto bike shoes. Men's shoes are wider. But some men have narrow feet so they wear women's shoes. Some women wear men's shoes and other than colour choices, there is no other difference.

Can't we just call the backpacks big and small? Can't we just call the shoes wide and narrow?

Can't we just call the bike frames long torso and short torso?

WHEN DIFFERENCE IS HANDLED WELL

In the sailing world, when people race lasers, they come in two rig sizes, a full-size standard rig and a ra-

dial rig. The Laser Radial is a variant of the Laser Standard, with shorter mast and reduced sail area, allowing light sailors to sail in heavy winds.

Radial rigs are raced by lighter people with less weight and body strength but no one calls them "lady boats." They're raced by young people of all genders, older adults, and small-to medium-sized women.

There are two models of inclusion at work here.

In the bad old days, everything was sized for men. Bikes were really men's bikes. Backpacks were really man-sized backpacks. Gender wasn't explicitly taken into account but the male body was the default and the norm. Sometimes this has deadly results, like when crash-test dummies are man-sized.

But there are different approaches to fixing the problem. One is to add the category "woman" and make a new set of assumptions about the size and shape of female consumers. Manufacturers create idealized men's and women's versions of products based on typical men's and women's bodies. But this version of inclusion runs into its own problems. Guess what? Not all women are five foot five and weigh 150 pounds. Also, not everyone identifies as either male or female.

I've said it before: a women-specific anything is likely just a bad idea. Humans come in lots of different shapes and sizes. A second, better approach includes a range of shapes and sizes and lets individuals choose. Leave gender out of it, thanks.

[the writer is Professor and Dean / College of Arts, University of Guelph]

JLF announces second list of speakers for 13th edition

NEW DELHI, NOV 13 (PTI): Pulitzer winner Dexter Filkins, Elizabeth Gilbert of “Eat, Pray, Love” fame, and culinary expert Madhur Jaffrey feature on Jaipur Literature Festival’s second list of 25 speakers that was announced on Wednesday.

Touted as world’s largest free literary event, the festival, now in its 13th edition, is expected to see participation by over 250 authors, thinkers, politicians and popular culture icons, with a special focus on world literature. It will be held from January 23 - 27, 2020 at the Diggi Palace Hotel in Jaipur. “The festival will once again be a grand marathon of ideas between idealists, realists, visionaries, intellectuals, the avant-garde and the iconoclasts, who will engage in informed discussion and be united by an abiding love for literature,” organisers said.

Among the speakers to watch out for in the second list are Filkins, who won the the Pulitzer prize for covering Afghanistan and Pakistan, award-winning writers Anand Gopal, Anuradha Bhagwati, Asne Seiersstad, noted Indian poet Arvind Krishna Mehrotra, and former minister of European Affairs in Portugal Bruno Macaes.

“The second list we have announced for January 2020 has an intriguing mix of new and established, popular and unexpected speakers. I am excited about welcoming all these wonderful authors to the festival,” said festival co-director Namita Gokhale.

The list also includes a vastly diverse mix of journalists, activists, columnists, broadcasters and poets like Toole, author of seven books, including the bestselling “A Traitor’s Kiss”; Delhi-born author Keshava Guha, who writes regularly on politics, literature and sports for a host of publications; novelist and activist Leila Slimani, winner of the prestigious French literature award Prix Goncourt for her second novel, “Chanson douce”; poet Lemn Sissay, who has read on stage throughout the world from the Library of Congress in the United States to the University of Addis Ababa. “As we gear up for the 13th edition of the Jaipur Literature Festival, we reinforce our commitment to bringing the best literary experience for our audiences through discourse and debate.

“This year’s programme features the best writers and academics from across the world including Nobel laureates, Booker, Commonwealth, Sahitya Akademi, JCB and Crossword prize winners, as well as a host of new voices who will disarm you with their perspective of our world,” said festival producer Sanjoy K Roy. Sessions by columnists like Neelum Saran Gour and Parvati Sharma; Peter Frankopan, who was named one of the World’s 50 Top Thinkers by Prospect Magazine; Paul Muldoon, a former BBC radio and television producer and winner of Pulitzer Prize for Poetry (2003); National Book Award finalist Peter Hessler and Magsaysay Award winning journalist Ravish Kumar, are also part of the line-up.

Mamata pegs loss due to cyclone ‘Bulbul’ at Rs 50,000 crore

BASIRHAT (WB), NOV 13 (PTI): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, after conducting an aerial survey of cyclone ‘Bulbul’-hit areas in North 24 Parganas, said on Wednesday that the loss incurred by the state due to the natural calamity might go up to Rs 50,000 crore.

Banerjee handed over a cheque of Rs 2.4 lakh each to the family members of five people from the district who lost their lives in the calamity.

Taking note of the fact that at least 15 lakh hectares of agricultural land was damaged due to the storm, she said the affected farmers would get all help from her government.

“Going by what I have seen, I think the cyclone has led to massive destruction. By massive, I mean really massive... People sitting in Kolkata and other parts of the state will be not able to realise the degree of devastation.

“If I’m not wrong, I think there has been a loss of Rs 50,000 crore,” the chief minister said at an administrative review meeting here following the reconnaissance.



Those who have enrolled their names for the state government’s crop insurance scheme would get 100 per cent coverage for their loss, she asserted.

“A total of 15 lakh hectares of agricultural land has been dam-

aged. The entire paddy cultivation has been ruined. I assure the farmers of all form of support from our government.

The farmers under the state’s crop insurance policy will get hundred per cent coverage,” Ba-

nerjee said.

The Trinamool Congress (TMC) supremo further said that the state government would soon announce a special package for the affected farmers.

At least nine people have lost

their lives in the calamity - five from North 24 Parganas, three from South 24 Parganas and one from Purba Midnapore - while seven fishermen were still missing, Banerjee said during the meeting.

According to the chief minister, six lakh people have been affected and over five lakh houses damaged due to the cyclone, which made landfall late on Saturday between Sagar Islands in West Bengal and Kheupara in Bangladesh.

The CM gave assurances to rebuild damaged houses under her government’s ‘Banglar Bari’ scheme.

She also announced one hurricane lamp and five litres of kerosene for each affected family in the state.

Banerjee directed the education department to provide books to schoolchildren appearing for board examinations in the storm-hit areas.

On Monday, the chief minister had surveyed the storm-affected areas of Kakdwip, Namkhana and Bakkhali in South 24 Parganas. She had urged people to “stay positive” and stand beside those affected by the cyclone.

Congress seeks written assurance from Manipur CM

IMPHAL, NOV 13 (PTI): The Congress has asked Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh to give a written assurance that the state’s territorial integrity would be safeguarded while resolving the vexed Naga issue.

Urging people to have trust in the government, the chief minister had said that Union Home Minister Amit Shah had assured state government representatives during a meeting on November 10 that all stakeholders would be consulted before inking a final accord with the Nagas.

Shah had also iterated the Centre’s firm commitment that anything that is detrimental to Manipur’s interest will



never be done during the process of bringing a final solution to the Naga issue.

“Why should consultations be held if the talks do not have any impact in Manipur?” Congress MLA Th Lokeshwar asked.

He was speaking to reporters during a sit-

ing in protest at Khundrakpham on Tuesday. Civil societies across Manipur have been holding protests, seeking assurances from the Centre that the solution to the decades-old Naga political problem would not affect Manipur’s territorial integrity. “If the chief min-

ister and his MLAs firmly believe in the assurance given by the home minister that Manipur’s interest will not be harmed under any circumstances, the state government should provide a written assurance and take full responsibility for any eventuality,” Lokeshwar, also a former speaker of Manipur Assembly, said.

His views were echoed by party spokesman Hareshwar Goswami.

Meanwhile, a team of Congress MLAs led by former chief minister and CLP leader O Ibobi will be leaving for New Delhi on Wednesday to meet senior party leaders to drive home their point that the talks should not hurt Manipur’s interests, Goswami said.

Babul Supriyo faces protest during visit to cyclone-hit areas

KOLKATA, NOV 13 (PTI): Union minister Babul Supriyo on Wednesday faced massive protests and was asked to go back by a group of people when he reached South 24 Parganas to take a stock of the situation in cyclone ‘Bulbul’-hit areas.

Supriyo, who said on Tuesday that he had been asked by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit the storm-affected areas in West Bengal, claimed that the agitators were activists of the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC).

Shortly after he reached Namkhana, one of the worst-affected places in the state, protesters stopped his convoy and showed him black flags.

The Union minister, despite clarifying that he was in the district to look into the ground-level situation, was asked to go back by the protesters.

“I knew I would face protests during my visit (to cyclone-hit areas). The agitators were all TMC activists,” Supriyo said.

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

email us: news@summittimes.com

GA holds protest march, Tejashwi missing from the stir

PATNA, NOV 13 (PTI): The five-member Grand Alliance along with the Left parties on Wednesday took out protest march here against “anti-people” policies of both Central and the state governments, though RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav gave a miss to the stir.

RJD, the major constituent of the opposition grouping in Bihar, however, said Yadav could not participate in the “Aakrosh march” because of his engagements in the ensuing Jharkhand polls and also legal matters.

RLSP chief Upendra Kushwaha, who played a pivotal role in organising the march on behalf of alliance, had on Tuesday claimed that all the prominent leaders of the grouping will take part in the march.

Apart from Kushwaha, former chief minister and Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) president Jitan Ram Manjhi, Bihar Congress president Madan Mohan Jha and Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP) chief Mukesh Sahni attended the march in Patna which ended at Collectorate after starting from Gandhi Maidan.

CPI state secretary Satya Narayan Singh

and CPI(M) leader Arun Mishra took part in the agitation along with their partymen.

The alliance leaders, however, could not give their memorandum to District Magistrate Kumar Ravi as he was not present in the office and a junior officer was sent to receive it.

The leaders decided not to give memorandum to any other officer than the DM as it was an “insult” to them.

The five-parties alliance- comprising RJD, Congress, RLSP, HAM(S) and VIP- held peaceful protest march at all the district headquarters town of the state during the day.

Asked if he was leading the march, Kushwaha, who is a former union minister of state, said “its not like that. This is neither Kushwaha’s programme nor that of my party. It is an agitation programme of all the Grand Alliance partners and left parties...There is no question of any particular individual leading the march.”

Manjhi, whose party had earlier said that it would not join the march, attended it.

The HAM chief said

that he had said that he would not be part of the march because of some confusion. Manjhi, however, reiterated his demand for forming coordination committee for taking decisions and better functioning of the grand alliance.

“Our demand for coordination committee is absolutely legitimate. I have given a December target (deadline) for the formation of the committee,” Manjhi said. The HAM president, however, refused to comment on Tejashwi Yadav’s absence from the march, saying that “I have nothing to say on it. Tejashwi may not have come because of his own reasons.”

RJD resorted to tokenism by sending its spokesman Mrityunjay Tiwary to the agitation in the state capital.

Asked why is Tejashwi Yadav not present in the march, Tiwary said he could not participate in the stir as he was engaged with his legal battles and ensuing assembly polls in Jharkhand.

He further said RJD’s state unit chief Ram Chandra Purvey was busy in a party’s crucial meeting with regard to its organisational polls.

IPFT to hold demonstration in Delhi for ‘Tipraland’

AGARTALA, NOV 13 (PTI): The Indigenous Peoples Front of Tripura, an ally of Tripuras ruling BJP, would stage a demonstration in Delhi on December 2 to press for their five point charter of demands including a separate state of ‘Tipraland’ for the tribals, a party leader said on Wednesday.

IPFT assistant general secretary and convenor of the Tipraland demand committee, Mangal Debbarma said party leaders would also meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to discuss their charter of demands.

“Around 500 IPFT members including ministers and MLAs would stage a demonstration in front of Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on December 2. Our main demand is “Tipraland’- a separate state for the indigenous people living in the state.

We propose that the new state be formed by carving out of the TTA-ADC areas”, Debbarma told PTI.

The Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADDC) constitutes two-third of the state’s territory and is home to the tribals, who constitute one-third of the state’s population.

The other demands of the party include empowerment of the TTA-ADC by amending the sixth schedule of the



constitution, proper repatriation of the 35,000 displaced Brus from neighbouring Mizoram now sheltered in six rehabilitation camps for the last 22 years, smooth and peaceful conduct of the 28-member tribal council election due next year. “We would start our journey to New Delhi on November 28 and will stage protest rally and sit-in demonstration on December 2. The Centres decision to split Jammu and Kashmir implies that the present government is not against forming new states”, Debbarma said.

The IPFT formed an alliance with the BJP before the Assembly elections held in February last year. The party has two ministers in the Biplob Kumar Deb ministry and eight legislators in the 60-member state Assembly. The BJP has 36 MLAs.

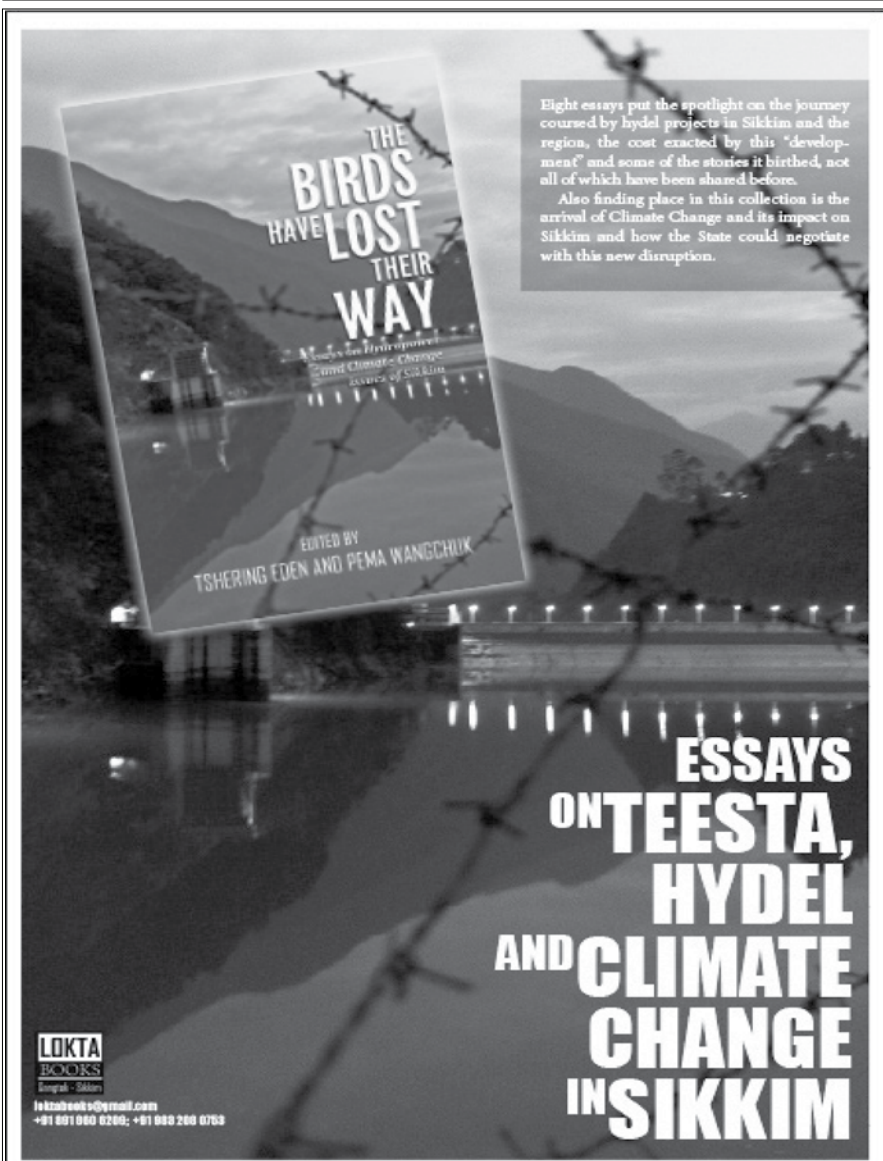
“We met Union Home Minister Amit Shaha on July 14 last in Delhi and we thought that our de-

mands would be fulfilled, but nothing was done”, he said. A 10-member delegation of the party led by state Forest minister and IPFT General Secretary, Mevar Kumar Jamatiya met Shaha in Delhi on July 14 last and submitted a memorandum demanding demarcation of the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council.

He said the Central government had already decided to elevate the status of the tribal council into a territorial council for its empowerment.

“But, we are yet to know how the elevated tribal council would be empowered, what more rights and funds would it receive. This point would figure in our discussion during our meeting with Shah”, he said.

Debbarma claimed that a high-level committee was formed by MHA just before the February 2018 Assembly elections to formulate ways to develop the tribal council areas in the state.



Asprilla reveals drug trafficker's offer to kill rival player

BOGOTA, Nov 13 (AFP): Former Newcastle United forward Faustino Asprilla has claimed a drug trafficker offered to murder ex-Paraguay goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert after an on-field clash between the South American pair. Speaking in a documentary about his life, due to be screened at the end of the week, the former Colombia international said the extraordinary offer came in 1997.

That was just three years after defender Andres Escobar was gunned down in his home city of Medellin by suspected drug cartel members after scoring an own goal at the World Cup that year.

"But you're mad! What will happen to Colombian football? It's not possible. No, no, no!" was Asprilla's response, the 50-year-old told the documentary makers. Asprilla and Chilavert had both been sent off during a World Cup qualifier in Asuncion -- won 2-1 by Paraguay -- ahead of the 1998 tournament.

Afterwards, Asprilla says he received a phone call from Julio Fierro, described by Colombia's attorney general's office as a drug trafficker. Fierro invited him to a hotel in Asuncion along with fellow former Colombia international Victor Hugo Aristizabal. There, Fierro was waiting for them "with 10 people, drunk, and with pure Paraguayan women." "We were annoyed because we'd lost when the man arrived (and said) 'we need you to authorize these two guys to stay here in Paraguay, Asuncion, they want to go and kill that fatty Chilavert'," said Asprilla.

He told them that what happens on the pitch stays there and that the issue was over.

But the "hitmen" insisted and asked him, "give us the order." Fierro's body was discovered in 2004 in what authorities believed to have been a settling of scores. The 1990s was a sorry period in Colombian football.

Several teams, including America, Millonarios and Envigado received mafia funding and were duly punished for it. Before even Escobar was assassinated, the Colombian team had been threatened during the 1994 World Cup.

Midfielder Gabriel Gomez left the tournament after playing one match because threats were made against him and his family should he play in the second game against hosts the United States.

The coach Francisco Maturana also received a death threat should he pick Gomez. The team's spokesman at the time said there was nothing uncommon about players receiving threats.

Asprilla, known affectionately as "Tino," made his name in Europe for Italians Parma, winning the now-defunct European Cup Winners' Cup in 1993. Three years later he moved to Newcastle, who were flying in the English Premier League and looking set for a first championship title in nearly 70 years.

But the Colombian's arrival seemed to unsettle the team, despite his obvious talents, and they were pipped to the trophy by Manchester United, inspired by their own mercurial forward Eric Cantona.

Boult to play for MI, Rajpoot for RR in 2020 IPL

NEW DELHI, Nov 13 (PTI): New Zealand fast bowler Trent Boult will play for Mumbai Indians in next year's Indian Premier League while domestic pacer Ankit Rajpoot will represent Rajasthan Royals after they were successfully traded by their respective franchises. According to an IPL statement, Boult will play for Mumbai Indians after being traded by his current team Delhi Capitals, while Rajpoot has been traded successfully by Kings XI Punjab.

Boult made his IPL debut in 2014 and played for Delhi Capitals in the 2018 and 2019 season. He has 38 IPL wickets from 33 games.

Rajpoot, a right-arm fast bowler who joined KXIP in 2018, has played 23 IPL matches and has 22 wickets in his kitty.

Rajpoot put in one of the most memorable bowling performances ever when he claimed 5 for 14 in a league game in the 2018 season against Sunrisers Hyderabad. He is the only uncapped player to claim a five-wicket haul in the IPL.

Katy Perry plans record-breaking show at women's T20 final

SYDNEY, Nov 13 (AFP): American popstar Katy Perry announced Wednesday she will be performing at the final of the Women's Twenty20 World Cup in Melbourne next March before an expected record crowd on International Women's Day.

"Aussie Aussie Aussie Oi Oi Oi!" Perry said in an Instagram post using the Australian sporting chant. "Let's break some records - join me in Melbourne on March 8, 2020 for the ICC @T20WorldCup Women's Final. We'll Roar in support of these awesome women on International Women's Day!"

The International Cricket Council said Perry would perform both before and after the final in "what is anticipated to be the biggest women's cricket match of all time."

It said it was an opportunity to set a new world attendance record at a women's sporting fixture. The current record crowd of 90,185 was set at the 1999 FIFA Women's World Cup final in Pasadena, California.



Interesting to see how old pink ball behaves with dew around: Kohli

KUSHAN SARKAR

INDORE, Nov 13 (PTI): The pink ball swings more than the red one but how it would behave after getting old, especially when dew will be a factor, is keeping India skipper Virat Kohli intrigued ahead of team's historic day-night Test against Bangladesh.

The pink ball Test is still a few days away but Kohli, on the eve of the series-opener, was busy answering questions related to the second Test starting November 22.

"I think it's a new way to bring excitement to Test cricket. The pink ball I played yesterday, I felt it swings a lot more as compared to the red ball because there's extra lacquer (quote of paint) on the ball which doesn't go away too fast. And the seam holds upright quite a bit," the skipper's initial observation seemed in sync with what his deputy Ajinkya Rahane had assessed.

Kohli said they are yet to figure out how the old ball will behave during November evenings in Kolkata.

"If the pitch has extra help for the bowlers, then they will be in the game, especially fast bowlers throughout the course of the Test match. I don't know how the old ball behaves because with the dew and the



lacquer going off, it will be interesting to see how much the old ball does," the skipper said.

However he made it clear that for a pink ball to be effective, it is important to have lively tracks.

"With the pink ball having enough life in the pitch will be very important factor." The Indian team did not practice with the pink ball under lights but did take a few throw-downs on Tuesday to adjust to the colour of the new ball.

"I hadn't played with the pink ball before. I was given an

opportunity to try and I wanted to. So that was my mind-set behind playing with the pink ball. You require extra concentration to pick the pink ball suddenly when you're playing with the red ball.

"It was to work on the reflexes a little bit as well. Because when you play with the red ball in the net and you arrive at the pink ball, it gets very difficult to pick, which can be the case in the game as well. To get into that zone was the reason behind it," he explained.

The skipper also main-

tained that while the hype about the day-night Test is understandable, the focus of his team is firmly on the first game. A testimony to that was no 'pink ball' training on the eve of the match.

"In Test cricket, I don't think you can afford to take focus away. Not even one session, not even one over. With the red ball you need to be absolutely precise in your focus, every game that you play, every ball that you play, every situation that you are in. Our prime focus is tomorrow's Test match.

"We are looking forward to that first and then we will focus on the pink ball later," he made it clear.

When the question of having permanent Test venues popped up once again, Kohli said he prefers having a structure for traditional format.

You don't want centres like Indore to host Test matches, a scribe asked pointedly.

"I said that because if you look at the ratio, a stadium like Indore attracted a decent crowd but a lot of others didn't. And it can't be that one stadium gets games and the others don't.

"Indore is the kind of place where if you play a T20, you won't find a single empty seat. And in One-dayers it won't be empty at all. It's not about taking away matches from them. Just a vision about how we can get together and raise Test cricket," he said.

On the opposition, Kohli termed Mustafizur Rahman as the man to watch out for.

"He is a very good bowler so he's going to be a threat, a key player for Bangladesh. He's an experienced bowler. He knows the Indian batsmen as well, having played the IPL. So, it's a challenge but we must look forward to those challenges," Kohli said.

Salazar denies abuse, admits 'callous' language

LOS ANGELES, Nov 13 (AFP): Disgraced running coach Alberto Salazar denied subjecting former members of his Nike Oregon Project to abuse or gender discrimination on Tuesday but admitted using "callous" language against athletes in the training group.

Salazar, who was banned for four years last month for a range of doping offences, has faced stinging criticism from several former runners over methods used in his controversial Oregon Project, which has now been disbanded.

Last week, former US runner Mary Cain said she had suffered physical and mental abuse at the training camp as a result of Salazar's demanding regime.

Cain, a former high school prodigy who was tipped for middle-distance greatness, said she had suffered suicidal thoughts and started cutting herself as life in the training group took its toll.

In an op-ed in the New York Times, Cain detailed how she had faced pressure to become "thinner and thinner and thinner," eventually causing her to stop menstruating for three years.



Another former runner, Olympian Amy Begley, said Salazar barred her from the training group in 2011, complaining she was "too fat" and "had the biggest butt on the starting line."

In a statement to The Oregonian newspaper Tuesday, Salazar acknowledged using insensitive language but insisted it was part and parcel of life as an elite athlete.

"On occasion, I may have made comments that were callous or insensitive over the course of years of helping my athletes through hard training," Salazar said.

"If any athlete was hurt by any comments

that I have made, such an effect was entirely unintended, and I am sorry.

"I do dispute, however, the notion that any athlete suffered any abuse or gender discrimination while running for the Oregon Project."

Salazar said his emphasis on weight was related to "what (an athlete's) target training weight and performance weight should be to attain peak performance while maintaining an overall good well-being."

"That's part of elite sport," Salazar said.

"Maybe that needs to change. Indeed, I have always treated men and

women similarly in this regard -- to treat my female athletes differently I believe would not be in their personal interests or in the interests of promoting their best athletic performance."

Nike shut down the Oregon Project in October when Salazar was banned for four years for an array of doping offenses that included trafficking in testosterone, tampering with the doping control process and administering illicit infusions of the fat-burning substance L-carnitine.

Salazar has denied wrongdoing and vowed to appeal the ban.

Saina, Sameer bow out of Hong Kong Open

HONG KONG, Nov 13 (PTI): Indian shuttlers Saina Nehwal and Sameer Verma were ousted from the Hong Kong Open after suffering contrasting defeats in the opening round of the USD 400,000 event here on Wednesday.

Eighth seed Saina, who claimed the Indonesia Masters in January this year, suffered her fifth first-round loss in the last six tournaments, going down 13-21 20-22 to China's Cai Yan Yan for the second successive time. She had lost to Cai at China Open last week.

World no.16 Sameer fought for 54 minutes before going to Wang Tzu Wei of Chinese Taipei 11-21 21-13 8-21 in the opening match. It was his third successive loss in the opening round.

Saina and Sameer are both

scheduled to play Gwangju Korea Masters Super 300 tournament next week.

Saina lacked the wherewithal to put up a fight against Cai in the opening game and fell behind from the very start. She couldn't catch up with the Chinese, who moved to a comfortable 11-4 lead at the break and kept surging ahead to win the first game.

In the second game, Saina was 3-0 up initially but Cai reeled off seven straight points at 2-4 to jump to a 9-4 advantage. The Indian narrowed the gap but Cai was ahead 11-9 at the breather.

After the interval, the Chinese jumped to a 17-11 advantage. However, Saina managed to fight back and grab a game point at 20-19 but the Chinese once again

managed to nose ahead.

Sameer, on the other hand, managed to take one game away from the world no.26 Wang after meekly surrendering the opening game.

Wang was 7-4 up and then surged to 15-5 in a jiffy to eventually close the opening game.

In the second game, Wang led 3-0 early on but this time Sameer put up a fierce fight to open up a slender 11-10 lead, which he capitalised to roar back into the contest.

However, Sameer was completely blown away by Wang in the decider. The Taiwanese shuttler zoomed to an 8-0 lead and then grabbed a 15-2 advantage, a gap which the Indian failed to bridge in the end.

Emily Gielnik fires Matildas past Chile for second time in a week

ADELAIDE, 13 Nov [AP]: Emily Gielnik's first-half goal proved the difference as Australia secured their second win over Chile in four days, albeit with another unconvincing display against the No 37-ranked South Americans in Adelaide.

Sam Kerr, whose immediate club future is expected to be announced imminently, laid on the only goal of the game on 23 minutes for Gielnik, who finished neatly from an acute angle.

But Kerr passed up a good chance to get her own name on the score-sheet before the break when the Matildas captain saw her spot kick, which she had won herself, saved by Chilean goalkeeper Natalia Campos. The Europe-bound Kerr nearly atoned for that miss when she struck the bar soon after the restart but try as they might, the Matildas could not add to Gielnik's strike.

On her penalty miss, Kerr said: "You've got to pick yourself up and you can't dwell on things. Obviously the first camp back there are a few cobwebs. But we're happy with the two wins and a clean sheet tonight."

The 10,342-strong attendance at Hindmarsh Stadium is the largest to watch a women's football international in Adelaide. The previous Adelaide benchmark was 5,168 for a 2006 fixture against China – the last time the Matildas played in the South Australian capital.

Most came to witness the near-peerless Kerr, who was dynamic despite her misses as Australia swept the two-game series against the Chileans.

Coach Ante Milcic made four changes to his starting line-up from

last Saturday's 2-1 win in Sydney before a crowd of 20,029 – an Australian record for a women's international.

The tinkering had scant impact on the fluency of the Matildas, who produced a first half domination punctuated by Gielnik's strike. Played into space by a shrewd Kerr pass, Gielnik's first-time shot somehow eluded Campos at the near post.

Ellie Carpenter and Tameka Yallop failed to convert further chances until Kerr took centre stage on the cusp of half-time. After a trademark dash forward, Kerr had a shot saved and the ball rebounded to near the edge of the area where Campos, scrapping for possession, brought the Australian down to give away a penalty.

But Kerr's shot from the spot, low to the left, was well-covered by the keeper, leaving the hosts 1-0 up at the break despite basking in two-thirds of possession.

Australia continued their domination in a second half notable for another Kerr close-call – in the 48th minute her curling right-footer smacked into the crossbar. But despite their general dominance, the world No 8 Australians almost paid a hefty price for their profligacy in front of goal.

From a dead-ball in the 58th minute, Chile's Daniela Zamora had only keeper Lydia Williams to beat but her strike was blocked by the Matildas custodian. And 77 minutes in, Williams had another nervy moment when Chilean Carla Guerrero's speculative 25m shot deflected from Kerr and looped toward goal, hitting the top of the cross-bar.

Bolivia moves to end power vacuum as Morales condemns 'sneaky coup'

A senator proclaimed herself Bolivia's interim president Tuesday in an effort to fill the power vacuum left by the abrupt resignation of Evo Morales, who immediately condemned the move as a "sneaky coup."

Lawmakers had been summoned to formalize the resignation and confirm deputy Senate speaker Jeanine Anez, 52, as interim president.

Instead, Anez declared herself interim president when the session failed to reach a quorum of lawmakers, many staying away amid blockades and continuing protests by Morales supporters.

The Constitutional Court later endorsed her appointment. "We want to call new elections as soon as possible," Anez said in a speech to Congress, with only Morales opponents present.

"It's a commitment we have made to the country and of course, we will fulfill it," she said.

Later, clutching a bible and wearing the presidential sash over her black jacket, the senator addressed supporters from the balcony of the government palace.

Anez said earlier she was confident that enough senators would reach the Senate to form a quorum -- 19 of the 36



were needed to do so.

Tweeting from exile in Mexico, Morales immediately condemned what he called "the sneakiest, most nefarious coup in history." Morales called Anez "a coup-mongering right-wing senator" and said she had "declared herself... interim president without a legislative quorum, surrounded by a group of accomplices."

Leaders of the biggest party, Morales' Movement for Socialism (MAS), had requested guarantees to be able to attend the session, but stayed away.

- New clashes - Security forces fired tear gas in street clashes in La Paz immediately after the Congress session.

Carlos Mesa, the centrist candidate defeated

by Morales in the tainted October 20 presidential elections, tweeted his congratulations to Anez, who has promised a new government would be installed by January 22. Powerful opposition figure Luis Fernandez Camacho, regional leader in eastern department of Santa Cruz, announced he had lifted strikes and blockades called three weeks ago in protest at Morales' disputed re-election.

Morales resigned after losing the support of the security forces, leaving the country suddenly rudderless. Dozens of officials and ministers also stepped down, some seeking refuge in foreign embassies.

Anez found herself next in line to take over after the resignations of vice president Alvaro Garcia Linera,

the Senate president, and the speaker of the lower house of Congress.

- 'STRUGGLE' CONTINUES -

Earlier Tuesday, Morales vowed to continue "the struggle" after arriving in Mexico where he has been granted political asylum. Morales thanked left-wing ally and Mexico President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, saying "he saved my life," and vowed to remain in politics despite having left his homeland.

Grinning and waving as he left the Mexican military plane that had picked him up from Bolivia late on Monday night, Morales was welcomed by Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard.

On Monday, the armed forces pledged to help police take back the

streets from violent groups that have wreaked havoc since the controversial October 20 election that saw Morales win an unconstitutional fourth term.

Security forces deployed in La Paz on Tuesday, where Morales supporters marched through the center to congregate in San Francisco Square near the Congress.

Bolivia's attorney general, Juan Lanchipa, said Tuesday that seven people have died in unrest since the election, raising the previous toll of three. The United States meanwhile warned its citizens against travel to Bolivia, ordered its diplomats' family members to leave and authorized non-emergency employees to depart due to the unrest.

Morales, 60, a former coca farmer who was Bolivia's first indigenous president, said his opposition rivals, Mesa and Luis Fernandez Camacho, "will go down in history as racists and coup plotters." He was Latin America's longest-serving leader until Sunday.

Morales had initially tried to hold onto power and call new elections following an Organization of American States audit that found "irregularities" in virtually every area reviewed and questioned "the integrity of the election results."

New Zealand holds off further cuts to record low rates

WELLINGTON, NOV 13 (AFP): New Zealand's central bank held interest rates at a record low on Wednesday but said it was ready to step in with stimulus to support the struggling economy.

The Reserve Bank of New Zealand kept borrowing costs at 1.0 percent, confounding forecasts for a cut to 0.75 percent.

Officials said that since its last reduction in August economic developments "do not warrant a change to the already stimulatory monetary setting at this time", although the immediate future did not look promising.

"Economic growth continued to slow in mid-

2019 reflecting weak business investment and soft household spending. We expect economic growth to remain subdued over the remainder of the calendar year," the bank said in a statement.

"Interest rates will need to remain at low levels for a prolonged period to ensure inflation reaches the mid-point of our target range and employment remains around its maximum sustainable level." It said it would "add further monetary stimulus if economic developments warranted".

Policymakers expected domestic economic activity to increase next year "supported by low interest rates,

higher wage growth, and increased government spending and investment".

However, Kiwibank chief economist Jarrod Kerr, who had expected a cut to 0.75 percent with a further reduction in February, said lending rates would likely rise by holding the official cash rate firm.

"We can expect to see higher lending rates by the end of the week," he said.

"The Kiwi currency would also lift with the relative rise in Kiwi interest rates, impacting the export sector." The central bank announcement saw the New Zealand dollar jump around 1.6 percent to 64.2 US cents.

Risks for all sides as Trump impeachment hearings swing open

WASHINGTON, NOV 13 (AP): The closed doors of the Trump impeachment investigation are swinging wide open.

When the gavel strikes at the start of the House hearing Wednesday morning, America and the rest of the world will have the chance to see and hear for themselves for the first time about President Donald Trump's actions toward Ukraine and consider whether they are, in fact, impeachable offenses.

It's a remarkable moment, even for a White House full of them.

All on TV, committee leaders will set the stage, then comes the main feature: Two seasoned diplomats, William Taylor, the graying former infantry officer now charge d'affaires in Ukraine, and George Kent, the deputy assistant secretary in Washington, telling the striking, if sometimes complicated story of a president allegedly using foreign policy for personal and political gain ahead of the 2020 election.

So far, the narrative is splitting Americans, mostly along the same lines as Trump's unusual presidency. The Constitution sets a dramatic, but vague, bar for impeachment, and there's no consensus yet that Trump's actions at the heart of the inquiry meet the threshold of "high crimes and misdemeanors."

Whether Wednesday's proceedings begin to end a presidency or help secure Trump's po-

sition, it's certain that his chaotic term has finally arrived at a place he cannot control and a force, the constitutional system of checks and balances, that he cannot ignore.

The country has been here just three times before, and never against the backdrop of social media and real-time commentary, including from the president himself.

"These hearings will address subjects of profound consequence for the Nation and the functioning of our government under the Constitution," said Democratic Rep. Adam Schiff of California, the chairman of the Intelligence Committee leading the inquiry, in a memo to lawmakers.

Schiff called it a "solemn undertaking," and counseled colleagues to "approach these proceedings with the seriousness of purpose and love of country that they demand." "Total impeachment scam," tweeted the president, as he does virtually every day.

Impeachments are rare, historians say, because they amount to nothing short of the nullification of an election. Starting down this road poses risks for both Democrats and Republicans as proceedings push into the 2020 campaign.

Unlike the Watergate hearings and Richard Nixon, there is not yet a "cancer on the presidency" moment galvanizing public opinion. Nor is there the national shrug, as happened when Bill

Clinton's impeachment ultimately didn't result in his removal from office. It's perhaps most like the partisanship-infused impeachment of Andrew Johnson after the Civil War. Trump calls the whole thing a "witch hunt," a retort that echoes Nixon's own defense. Republicans say Democrats have been trying to get rid of this president since he first took office, starting with former special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian interference to help Trump in the 2016 election.

Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was initially reluctant to launch a formal impeachment inquiry. As Democrats took control of the House in January, Pelosi said impeachment would be "too divisive" for the country. Trump, she said, was simply "not worth it." After Mueller's appearance on Capitol Hill in July for the end of the Russia probe, the door to impeachment proceedings seemed closed.

But the next day Trump got on the phone.

For the past month, witness after witness has testified under oath about his July 25 phone call with Ukraine's newly elected president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and the alarms it set off in U.S. diplomatic and national security circles. In a secure room in the Capitol basement, current and former officials have been telling lawmakers what they know.

China holding third Taiwanese man on security grounds: state media

BEIJING, NOV 13 (AFP): Beijing is investigating a Taiwanese man on suspicion of engaging in activities that endanger national security, Chinese state media reported Wednesday -- the third such case to come to light in three months.

Shih Cheng-ping, a retired professor at the National Taiwan Normal University and chief economist for Chinese conglomerate Huaxia Group, disappeared after entering the mainland in August of last year, according to Taiwanese media.

Ma Xiaoguang, spokesman of the State Council Taiwan Affairs Office, said Wednesday that Shih was being investigated "for suspected activities endangering national security," according to state-run People's Daily.

Shih is one of three Taiwanese residents that Beijing has confirmed it is holding on national security grounds after entering mainland China. In September, Beijing confirmed that Tsai Chin-shu, a Taiwanese scholar who headed an organisation promoting relations between Taiwan and China, was under investigation after he disappeared in July 2018, according to Taiwanese media. In the same month, China also confirmed a second case: Taiwanese democracy activist Lee Meng-chu, who went missing after crossing into China from Hong Kong in August. "We have always attacked criminal activities that endanger national security in accordance with the law," said Ma at Wednesday's press conference.

Hong Kong faces third day of chaos after night of rage



HONG KONG, NOV 13 (AFP): Hong Kong awoke to a third straight day of chaos Wednesday following a night of intense battles between pro-democracy protesters and riot police on a university campus that saw some of the most violent scenes in more than five months of unrest.

Morning commuters were faced with closed metro stations, a suspended rail line and dozens of cancelled bus services a day after police warned that the rule of law in the territory was on "the brink of total collapse".

On Tuesday, the Chinese University of Hong Kong campus was the epicentre of the protests. The clashes raged well into the night, despite faculty and staff trying to mediate, with flames lighting up the night sky and dense clouds of acrid smoke.

Pitched battles also saw bricks being thrown on the streets of the Central business district and fires lit in shopping malls while tear gas, water canon and rubber bullets were used against protesters who responded with bricks and petrol bombs.

The clashes followed a particularly brutal day on Monday, when police shot a protester and a man was set on fire.

After months of largely confining their most disruptive protests to the weekends, protesters angry at Beijing's tightening control over Hong Kong have been pushing new tactics targeting the working week.

On Wednesday, road junctions

across the city were littered with debris and objects placed by protesters as they heeded overnight calls put out on messaging forums to hit their local neighbourhoods in a bid to keep the police stretched and distracted from the Chinese University campus.

In the district of Mongkok, one of the most regular flashpoint neighbourhoods in recent months, barricades made from debris and bamboo scaffolding could be seen for hundreds of metres, choking one of the city's main arteries. Pockets of protesters remained out and one man was beaten for taking photos of them.

In many neighbourhoods, main roads were devoid of traffic, trams and buses and locals formed long queues for taxis and buses.

The city's education authorities said parents could decide whether to send children to school "due to traffic and emergencies", while some international schools remained closed for a second straight day.

At the Chinese University campus, students held watch through the night, fearing police might return. Many slept on the campus sports track and in the bleachers. Others played football to pass the time as they took turns manning barricades on a bridge where the main battles earlier that night took place.

A 19-year-old volunteer medic, who gave his first name Marco, said he had lost count of how many

students he treated who had been struck by rubber bullets.

"Most of the cases I received from the frontline had been shot above their chest," he told AFP.

In Central, a district that is home to many blue-chip international firms and luxury shops, thousands of office workers occupied roads for hours on Tuesday chanting: "Fight for freedom, stand with Hong Kong!" Hundreds of hardcore protesters threw bricks and other objects before retreating when riot police fired tear gas in the shadows of high-end stores.

The scenes were a vivid illustration of how ordinary people are continuing to back the pro-democracy movement -- even as the radicals adopt more violent tactics.

Authorities have offered repeated condemnation but been unable or unwilling to find a solution to the crisis.

"Hong Kong's rule of law has been pushed to the brink of total collapse," police spokesman Kong Wing-cheung told a press conference on Tuesday as he defended the force against seething public anger.

Protesters, fuelled by Beijing's tightening control over the city, are demanding a right to freely elect their leaders, as well as an independent inquiry into what they see as police brutality.

But China has steadfastly refused to offer any concessions and has instead warned of even tougher security measures.

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BOSLEY AND SABRINA! Elizabeth Banks and Kristen Stewart embraced at the premiere of Charlie's Angels, held at the Regency Village Theatre in Los Angeles.

DC Universe renews 'Titans' for season three

LOS ANGELES, NOV 12 (PTI): Live-action drama series "Titans" has been renewed for a third season at DC Universe.

The third season of the first original series of the streaming platform will premiere in 2020.

The decision came just a few weeks ahead of the DC Comics show's second-season finale, which is scheduled to premiere on November 29.

"Titans" is backed by Weed Road Productions and Berlanti Productions in association with Warner Bros. Television.

The series was developed by Akiva Goldsman, Geoff Johns, Greg Berlanti, based on characters from DC.

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Sharad Kelkar boards ZEE5 series 'Rangbaaz Phirse'



MUMBAI, NOV 13 (PTI): Actor Sharad Kelkar has joined the season two of ZEE5 web-series "Rangbaaz".

Titled "Rangbaaz Phirse", the sophomore chapter is billed as a fast-paced, crime thriller that follows the story of an individual who is not a born-criminal but becomes one because of the circumstances.

Sharad, who most recently featured in Amazon web-series "The Family Man", joins Jimmy Sheirgill and Gul Panag in the ZEE5 show. Panag also starred in "The Family Man".

He will play Raju Thehat, an illegal liquor trader in Rajasthan who is fond of cars and women and has a strong hold in Jatt politics of the state.

"Raju Thehat is a solid character. For me, negative roles are challenging and I feel as an actor, doing different kind of roles is very important. 'Rangbaaz Phirse' is shaping up really well and I cannot wait for the audience to watch the series on ZEE5," Sharad said in a statement.

The nine-episode series will debut on ZEE5 on December 20.

Lata Mangeshkar 'Stable And Much Better,' Say Family

Lata Mangeshkar is 'stable and much better,' read a statement from the singer's family, who also thanked fans for their 'prayers,' reports news agency ANI. The statement reads: "Lata di is stable and much better. Thank you very much for your prayers. We are waiting for her to be at her best so she can be home soon." Ms Mangeshkar, 90, was taken to the intensive care unit of Mumbai's Breach Candy Hospital early Monday after reportedly complaining of breathing difficulty. Her family later said she was suffering from a viral infection. "She is still in the ICU and on ventilator. It will take some time for her to recover," a hospital insider told news agency PTI. Ms Mangeshkar's niece Rachana Shah told PTI yesterday that the singer would be discharged 'in a few days.'

Lata Mangeshkar had 'slowly im-

proved,' Breach Candy sources told PTI

so well that she is coming out of this setback. Being a singer, her lung capacity has pulled her through. Truly a fighter.

We will update everyone when Lataji gets discharged and comes home. (We) request that we give family the space they deserve at the moment," reported PTI. Ms Mangeshkar's sister Asha Bhonsle was photographed visiting her in hospital on Monday.

Lata Mangeshkar, popularly known as the 'Nightingale

of India,' is among the country's most prolific musicians and has received the Bharat Ratna, Padma Vibhushan, Padma



proved,' Breach Candy sources told PTI

'Friends' reunion special in works at HBO Max



LOS ANGELES, NOV 13 (PTI): "Friends" is coming back with the core six stars and the creators of the popular sitcom for an unscripted reunion special at HBO Max.

Sources told The Hollywood Reporter that the original team from Warner Bros TV is in negotiations to reunite on HBO's streaming platform.

The news comes in the 25th anniversary year of the beloved NBC series, starring Jennifer Aniston, Courteney Cox, Lisa Kudrow, Matt LeBlanc, Matthew Perry and David Schwimmer, along with series creators David Crane and Marta Kauffman.

Insiders said agreements with cast and creatives still need to be ironed out. When and if deals are sealed, the challenge will be to manage everyone's schedules. HBO Max and producers WBTV declined comment.

The show, that aired on September 22, 1994, was a phenomenon during its 10-year run and later went on to find cult status with new audiences through TV reruns and Netflix.

"Friends" officially leaves the streaming platform at year-end and will make War-

nerMedia Entertainment-backed HBO Max its new home.

According to sources, WarnerMedia and direct-to-consumer chairman Bob Greenblatt has been the driving force behind the reunion.

Once a while, devout fans launch online petitions to bring the series back, but to no avail, until now it seems.

Over the years, the cast and creators maintained a 'no-reunion' stand. However, "Friends" executive producer Kevin S Bright revealed last October that the team was painfully close to having an official reunion, but it wasn't meant to be.

NBC staged a mini reunion in 2016 to honour legendary director and producer James Burrows.

After much 'will-they-won't-they?', one of the stars, Aniston, last month said she was planning to do "something" with her "Friends" co-stars.

"We would love for there to be something, but we don't know what that something is. So we're just trying. We're working on something," she had said.

Kriti Sanon to reunite with Akshay Kumar for 'Bachchan Pandey'

MUMBAI, NOV 13 (PTI): Kriti Sanon is set to star opposite Akshay Kumar in "Bachchan Pandey", the makers announced on Wednesday.

Directed by Farhad Samji and produced by Sajid Nadiadwala, the film is slated for a Christmas 2020 release.

"We're extremely happy and elated to announce the charming @kritisanon is here to make our Christmas 2020 merrier than ever! Welcome back to the #NGEFamily with #BachchanPandey," the official account of production banner Nadiadwala Grandson Entertainment shared on Twitter.

This is Kriti's second collaboration with the trio of Akshay, Farhad and Sajid after her latest release "Housefull 4".

"Thrilled and beyond excited for this reunion! This Christmas is gonna be indeed a Merry Merry one! Can't wait to start," she wrote on the microblogging site.

Kriti will next be seen in Ashutosh Gowariker's ambitious period drama, "Panipat".

ARIES: If you continue to be controlled by the circumstances, your life will be a rollercoaster ride. Today, you are being asked to take control of the situation by standing up for what you believe. The need of the hour is to be strong-willed, not stubborn. Remember, the lessons you need to learn often pose as challenges. Be aware of the truth that is being revealed to you.

TAURUS: The information at hand is sacred. Resist the urge to share with others, especially those who have betrayed your trust in the past. Word of warning: there are foes masquerading as friends in your circle.

CANCER: Endings are just beginnings in disguise. Cancer. Know that if something is being taken away from you, it's for your highest good. Re-examine the foundation on which you have built your life. Letting go of the old will make room for fresh energy. But that doesn't make the changes any easier.

LEO: Leo, this is the week to expand your portfolio. But growth never comes easy. The price to be paid is your time and energy. Don't shy away from the hard work.

VIRGO: The initial stages are always the most important. This will determine the success of your venture. Some of you may be in the process of turning your hobby into a viable business. You are already gifted with

passion. Cultivating patience will change the game permanently.

LIBRA: You are your most radiant self this week, inspiring change and helping others reconnect with their soul purpose. This is also a time of manifesting your true desires, of watching things come to fruition unexpectedly. New worlds are opening up to you, Libra, and the choice to walk into them is all yours. But don't be in a haste to make your move.

SCORPIO: The Universe is constantly in motion, Scorpio. Things change at the blink of an eye and it is easy to miss out on

the good things. In the midst of this chaos, you're being asked to slow down and breathe. Withdraw from the world outside and step into the world that is inside.

SAGITTARIUS: Those who dare, win. This day demands drive, courage, and the will to win against all odds. The Universe wants to see your determination, Sagittarius. If you manage to prove your mettle today, everything you have been working towards will be yours. Remember to be clear about your goals before you start off. This will make it easier for you to navigate the challenges that stand in your way.

CAPRICORN: Capricorn, you're a multitasking maven. You have more gifts than one can count on both fingers. The cards are reminding you that you are underestimating your potential by playing it small. Embrace the opportunity to break past your own limitations and tap into the dynamic force with-

in. There is so much you will discover about yourself in the process. PS: Your creative juices are flowing freely, so use this to your advantage.

PISCES: Has going to war ever helped you resolve a crisis? Remember the old cliché when things get tough: 'Hurt people, hurt people.' No matter what transpires, you want to be the bigger person. Think things through before you say them out loud. Keeping your ego aside will help you find an amicable solution.

Tip: Measure your progress.

Tip: Pause before you make a fresh start.

Tip: Let courage and determination become your superpowers.

Tip: Make love, not war.