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**...A PRESCRIPTION WHICH POISONS DEMOCRACY**

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**NOLAN ALWAYS ENVISIONED BATMAN FILMS AS TRILOGY: CHRISTIAN BALE**

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# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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## Adhoc committee formed for Sikkim Yakthung Sablong Sangongbo

**GANGTOK, 19 NOV:**

A general meeting of all Limboo associations of Sikkim was convened at Limboo Bhawan here at DPH Road under the chairmanship of former MP Pahalman Subba today, a press release informs. The main agenda of the meeting was to form an interim adhoc committee of Sikkim Yakthung Sablong Sangongbo [Sikkim Limboo Literary Society].

The meeting unanimously decided to nominate SB Subba as president of this interim adhoc working committee with Nosang Limboo as vice-president, Gulsan Tamling as general secretary, BP Limboo as treasurer and Indra Subba as joint secretary.

13 other executive members including presidents of registered Lim-

boo associations of Sikkim were also nominated as ex-officio members of the committee at the meeting.

The meeting also resolved that the nominated interim members will remain in office for three months and fresh elections conducted as per the constitution of the Association as and when required. Addressing the meeting, MP Subba, Administrative Advisor to the Government of Sikkim, congratulated the new members of the Association and urged them to take the Limboo community to the next level.

He stated that this Association was perfect for visionary persons who wish to work for the welfare of the community and urged the youth to come forward and lead the association.

## Govt keen to assist FPOs set up processing units: CEO, Sikkim Organic Mission CII HELP SOUGHT TO SET UP ORGANIC SEED HUB

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 19 NOV:**

"The State Government is simplifying the procedure for putting up the processing units for Farmer Producer Organisations up to a certain limit and we will request Confederation of Indian Industry [CII] to help us form an Organic Seed Hub in Sikkim and help with capacity building of FPOs to develop food processing and agricultural sector in the state," Chief Executive Officer, Sikkim Organic Mission, Dr S Anbalagan, said while delivering a special address, "Value Addition & Technology intervention in Food processing Sector in Sikkim," at a workshop on Food Processing in Sikkim held



here today.

"The State Government has taken the responsibility of organic certifications and is trying to process online registration of FPOs which will help in mar-

ket linkages," he added.

There are also plans for creation of e-Portal, Mandis, Cold Chain and Cold Storage to support Sikkim's FPOs, he said.

Member CII Sikkim, CREDAI chairperson,

Naresh Agarwal, in his address, highlighted the importance and potential of PM Kisan Sampada Yojana, a Government of India initiative implemented under the Ministry of Food

Processing Industries (MoFPI), which could facilitate a comprehensive package modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet.

CII-Sikkim member, Sony Viridi, pointed out that Sikkim was rich in agriculture and now required value addition, creation of a value chain, increasing production and establishing of strong linkages between stakeholders, FPOs, State Government and CII.

Principal Advisor, CII-Delhi, Lt General [ret'd] Jai Prakash Nehra, said CII FACE [Food and Agriculture Centre of Excellence] will work

with the State Government by extending hand-holding support and help enhance services towards improving production through better technology, value chain & value addition of the sector by leveraging its industry connect.

Some recommendations were also made during the sessions in terms of organizing food processing unit visits to obtain exposure and learning for FPO's in Sikkim.

The workshop also included a panel discussion on Central and State Government Schemes to promote food processing and Access to the market and establishing linkages both in the domestic and global markets.

## CM attends Lhabab Duechen prayers in Namchi

**NAMCHI, 19 Nov (IPR):**

Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang [Golay] attended the concluding day of three-day Lhabab Duechen prayers at Dechen Choling Gumpa here today. He was accompanied by his wife, Krishna Maya Rai

The prayers, organised by the Duchi of the monastery, also had the presence of Tulku Dawa Sangpo.

The Chief Minister offered prayers at the monastery for the benefit of all sentient beings and for the prosperity of the state as well.

The Duchi Committee also felicitated the CM with a Letter of Appreciation and offered thanks



for his concern for the development and upliftment of the monastery.

Thereafter, the Chief Minister visited Urgen Tsheling Gumpa at Pabong in Temi Namphing constituency.

On the way to Urgen

Tsheling Gumpa, the CM also visited the Durga Temple located at Pabong in Namphing village. He interacted with the people and assured all possible support for the development of both,

the Durga Devi Mandir and Urgen Tsheling Gumpa.

The CM's entourage was accompanied by SP South, Prawin Gurung, Additional District Collector, Satyen K Pradhan and other concerned officials.

Ajmer, Rajasthan. 12 students participated in U-17 Badminton which was held from 11 to 15 Nov 2019 at Chindawara, Madhya Pradesh.

13 students participated in U-17 Girls Boxing, 10 students in swimming and 11 students in Basketball which was held from 17 to 22 Dec 2019 in New Delhi.

15 students participated in U-17 Boxing which is being held from 18 to 23 Nov 2019 at Aizawl, Mizoram and Karnal, Haryana.

10 students are participating in U-17 Archery which is to be held from 24 to 28 Nov 2019 at Kadapa. 20 students are participating in U-17 Football which is to be held from 18 to 22 Dec 2019 at Agartala, Tripura.

14 students are participating in U-17 athletics.

27 students are participating in U-17 Karate from 01 to 06 Dec 2019 at Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh. 26 students are participating in U-17 Taekwondo which is to be held from 17 to 22 Dec 2019 at Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh.

12 students are participating in U-17 table tennis.

## Girish 'n the Chronicles to jam with Megadeth's Chris Adler

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 19 NOV:**

Members of Girish and the Chronicles are to accompany legendary metal drummer, Chris Adler, in their live gig at Mumbai and Hyderabad through this month.

Chris Adler is considered as one of the best metal drummers of the world and is one of the founding members of the world renowned metalcore band, Lamb of God. He also played for Megadeth.

The first gig of the "Chris Adler Experience Tour" kicked off at Fandom, Bangalore, on 14 November.

It is informed that Chris Adler, for his live gigs happening next in Mumbai on 20 November and in Hyderabad on 24 November, is being accompanied by all members of Girish and the



Chronicles - Girish Pradhan, Suraz Karki, Yogesh Pradhan, along with Tony Das [Peepal Tree, Thermal and a Quarter] and Suneith Revankar [Bhayank Maut, Undying Inc].

The Bangalore gig at FANDOM kicked off with one of the most popular Lamb of God songs, "Laid to Rest".

This was followed by

majority of Lamb of God hits, with all the metal maniacs moshing and headbanging to glory. Towards the end, Chris Adler gave his thanks to the amazing crowd, and to India, for being so welcoming and for all the love and support. Chris Adler also thanked the rest of the band members for all the work, the music and for

backing him up on his India tour.

Chris Adler personally also appreciated the band members, and has positively mentioned on working on something together in the upcoming future.

The band is set to create the same craziness, in their upcoming gigs happening in Mumbai and Hyderabad.

## MONTH-LONG ANNUAL SCHOOL SPORTS CONCLUDES

*418 schools, more than 12,000 students, 11 disciplines*

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 19 NOV:**

After a gap of 12 years, Annual School Sports was organized in the State which saw the participation of more than 12,000 school students in various disciplines. The month-long competition began from 16 Oct at the Block level and finally concluded on 16 Nov with the completion of the State level competition.

The aim of organising these competitions is to provide a platform to all the student players at the National Level. The players who won the competition at the State Level participated in National School Games organised by School Games Federation of India.

In the National School Games, 196 students from Sikkim are participating in 11 disciplines (U-17) across different venues in India.

Department of Sports and Youth Affairs, Government of Sikkim, initiated the Annual School Sports on the direction of Chief Minister, P. S. Tamang and guided by Sports Minis-

ter, Kunga Nima Lepcha, a press release mentions.

The competition was held in 10 disciplines for both boys and girls, which were: Athletics, Archery, Badminton, Boxing, Football, Karate, Taekwondo and Table Tennis. Basketball Association of Sikkim and Sikkim Amateur Swimming Association conducted selection trials to select Basketball and Swimming players for National Level Competitions.

The games had the participation of students from standard 6th to 12th, all U-17. Students from 418 schools participated, out of which 173 were Junior High School, 133 were Secondary School and 107 were Senior Secondary School.

Block Level competition was held from 16 to 26 Oct, in 33 different venues at block centres in two phases. There was a total participation of 12,636 students out of which 8388 were boys and 4248 girls.

District Level Competition was held at Gangtok, Mangan, Namchi and Gyalshing. 1st phase of District Level Competition

included Boxing and Badminton from 23 to 31 Oct. The 2nd phase included athletics, archery, football, karate, taekwondo and table tennis from 03 to 07 Nov. There was total participation of 2990 students out of which 1838 were boys and 1152 girls.

The State Level competitions were held in two phases, the 1st phase comprised of Boxing and Badminton from 01 to 04 Nov and 2nd phase comprised of athletics, archery, football, karate, taekwondo and table tennis from 13 to 16 Nov. The games were held at different sport venues around Gangtok. Athletics was held at Khel Gaon, Boxing at White Hall, Archery at Tathangchen Ground; and Badminton, Football, Karate, Taekwondo and Table Tennis at Paljor Stadium. 110 officials were engaged to conduct the state level competition. There was a total participation of 375 students out of which 221 were boys and 154 girls.

According to the release, 20 students participated in U-17 Girls Football which was held from 21 to 25 Oct 2019 at



## Second phase NISHTHA training concludes at Chakung Centre

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 19 Nov:**

The second phase of NISHTHA training program which was started at Chakung Centre on 11 Nov concluded on 15 Nov. The training programme was meant for 130 teachers of Chumbong BAC, Soreng BAC and Daramdin BAC, a press release informs.

Key resource persons, Prashant Mani Kariki, Suman Singh and Dhana-pati Sharma conducted sessions on School Based Assessment, Initiatives in School Education and Art Integrated Learning respectively whereas KRPs, Deepika Subba and Chandrani Chhetri undertook sessions on School Safety and Personal Social Qualities respectively besides



taking sessions on pedagogy of different subjects of elementary classes.

State Resource Person, Suraj Kumar Sharma conducted a two-day programme on leadership for heads of primary and junior high schools.

Valedictory session was organised by the participants wherein Principal of Chakung SSS, Mamta Rani Rai was present as guest along with officials from three BACs.

All the participants were awarded certi-

icates on completion of the programme. The participants offered khadas and presented gifts to the resource persons during the valedictory session. The third batch is scheduled to start from 18 Nov, 2019.

## Stakeholder Meet on Childline service

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 19 Nov:**

Youth Development Society of Sikkim conducted a Stakeholder Meet on Childline service 1098 with Sub Division Departmental Heads, Panchayats, representatives from different organisations at Rangpo Tourism, a press release informs.

Childline Service is a project under Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India and supported by Childline Foundation Mumbai.

Currently Childline 1098 services are functional in more than 365 locations, across 31 states, receiving over 2.5 million calls annually, working with a network of 682 grass-root partners and a staff of 2500 people.

The meeting was attended by CDPO, Yamini Pradhan, PHC Rangpo In-charge, Dr Manoj Mishra,



Central Pandam GPU vice president, Meera Darjee, All Rangpo Taxi Welfare Drivers Association president, Roshan Mangar, SHO Rangpo, Suresh Chhetri, Keshang D Bhutia, Mani Kumar Gurung Executive Secretary YODESS, Bal Krishna Lohar, Team Leader Rangpo Childline, Jharna Gurung.

In the meeting, the delegates especially discussed child labour and trafficking. Regarding

Child line 1098 it was mentioned that Childline is a national, 24x7, free, emergency phone service for children in need of care and protection. Any child/concerned adult can call 1098 to access the childline service at any time.

Child line Gangtok is a collaborative organization for East district (Sikkim) which is running under the super-

vision of "Association for Social Health in India Sikkim Branch". Child line Gangtok works in coordination with ICPS (Integrated Child Protection Scheme), Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim. Childline Gangtok has two support sub-centres, one at Rangpo and another one at Rongli, East Sikkim, which is run by Youth Development Society of Sikkim.

## Vegetable Producer Groups formed in Regu

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 19 Nov:**

A mobilization meeting for Organization of Vegetable and Producer Groups (VPGs) among SHGs of Regu block under the State Rural Livelihood Mission (SRLM) was held at Rolep GPU and Chujachen GPU on 18 Nov, 2019.

The meeting was attended by RDD Commissioner-cum-State Mission Director/SRLM, Dr P Senthil Kumar and the Mission Team of SRLM including Deputy CEO (SRLM), Project Manager, Livelihood, BPMs, DPMs, APMs and other block staffs, Panchayat president of Chujachen and Pasu/Krishi Sakhis and Vegetable Producer Group SHG members of the concerned GPUs.

In both these meetings, SMD cum Commissioner explained the various schemes and programmes under the State Rural Livelihood Mission and its significance with regard to upliftment of the rural economy through participation of the villagers especially the women through formation of Self Help Groups.

At the outset, he highlighted the significance of the Pancha Sutra of NRLM and the importance of following the



pancha sutra in their activities and therefore the need for all members to remember it by heart. He explained in detail, the different funds available for the SHGs including Start Up funds, Revolving Funds ad CIF funds and encouraged all members to take full benefit of these provisions.

Then he focused on the formation of Vegetable Producers Groups. After detailed discussion on the importance of formation of PGs, the process, the membership and the advantages of PGs, the vegetable producing members of the SHGs agreed to form vegetable producer groups in their respective wards.

Accordingly, these three Vegetable Producer Group members have to have a seasonal vegetable calendar at the earliest after proper identification of which vegetable grows in which season.

The Vegetable Producer Group members shall put all effort to pro-

duce vegetables in large scale and to do grading of the vegetables according to their quality. The PG groups should come together and create expert groups among themselves for e.g. potato expert group, beans expert group, carrot expert group etc, under Vegetable Producer Group, so that expert groups can provide full information about particular vegetable on which they are mainly focusing on.

They should gather full information on that vegetable from the Agriculture and Horticulture departments. The PG groups will receive necessary support from SRLM team to create a marketing link with SIMFED, Sikkim Supreme and other buyers for selling their vegetables in bulk quantity regularly.

The team insisted that the PG members should come together and collectively study the problems of pest causing damages to the crops,

how to tackle them and other problems faced during vegetable cultivation.

The SRLM assured the PGs that SRLM will provide a hut/facility for field level processing and grading and also a custom hiring center. These custom hiring center will be provided with equipments, which are required by the groups such as land tilling machines, water pump, vegetable collection and grading center etc which otherwise could not be afforded by them individually. SRLM Kishi sakhis will be provided training on Business Development Plan which focuses on how to make a progressive plan on bettering the business activity of PGs with each coming year.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by representatives of SHGs on behalf of all the three SHG Vegetable Producer Group members and Progressive farmers and other participants. She whole heartedly thanked the SRLM team and SMD cum Commissioner for being the source of encouragement and motivation to form two Vegetable Producer Groups in Regu block under SRLM.

## Kufri Sindhuri potato distribution in West Sikkim

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 19 Nov:**

Krishna Vigyan Kendra conducted a distribution & training programme on Potato variety Kufri Sindhuri at Hee Bermiok and Okhrey Angden village of West Sikkim on 17-18 Nov, 2019.

The programme was sponsored by ICAR-ATARI Zone VI, a press release informs.

As per the Agriculture Minister, LN Sharma, potato distribution programme is planned for 8 constituencies of West district, the release mentions. He has passed strict directions that the distribution should be done in places where potato is cultivated and only to progressive pota-



to growers.

SMS Horticulture, Sangay Palmoo Bhutia highlighted organic cultivation of potato and characteristics of Kufri Sindhuri.

The programme, chaired by Power Min-

ister, MN Sherpa, was attended by 55 progressive farmers of Daramdin constituency and 35 progressive farmers of Gyalshing Bermiok constituency.

The programme had the presence of officers

from Agriculture department, Suraj Chhetri (ADO), Vivek Sharma (BTM), Dawa Sherpa (BTM), Passang Sherpa (ATM), Phurba Diki Sherpa (TA), Chandra Chhetri (FM) and CLC members.

## IHRC Sikkim Chapter celebrates 9th Foundation Day



**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 19 Nov:**

International Human Right Council Sikkim Chapter celebrated the 9th Foundation day at Rangpo today, a press release informs.

The celebration was attended by State in-

charge IHRC, Choteylall Prasad, state president, Ganesh Sharma, general secretary, Bal Bahadur Baraily, Youth vice president, Kishore Sharma, women coordinator, Cheena Chhetri, Rebekah Limbu along with others

members.

During the programme, members highlighted the IHRC national and State body's decisions to organise Anti-Drugs Awareness Programme in different parts of the state.

State vice president, Karma Choda and Dr Ashish Lama, State joint secretary, Nawang Bhutia and District vice president East, Ratan Kumar Limbu were provided with Certificate of Membership of Executive Body.

## Sikkim journo runs Pinkathon in Guwahati

**ARPAN PRADHAN**  
**GANGTOK, 19 Nov:**

Sikkim's Dichen Ongmu Bhutia, a reporter with Sikkim Express, ran the biggest women's marathon of the country, Pinkathon, at Guwahati in Assam.

Ms Bhutia successfully completed the 10km run within the stipulated time.

Speaking to SummitTimes from Guwahati, she shared that the marathon was a once in a lifetime experience for her. Pinkathon is organized to raise awareness about breast cancer.

"It was a lifetime experience to meet so many women from different age-groups and



from different states who had come together for a cause. I am very happy that I took part in this," Ms Bhutia said.

The Guwahati edition of the Pinkathon was the fifth edition of the marathon started by model

and actor Milind Soman.

The Guwahati edition of Pinkathon was held on 17 November and saw a large participation from all over the country.

Ms Bhutia mentioned that she was inspired to participate in the mara-

thon after marathon runners from Sikkim took part in the same event in the year 2017.

Young Marathon Runner from Sikkim, Bharati Gurung, is the one who encouraged me to run the Pinkathon, she said.

## Minister interacts with Martam-Ghaiyabari residents



**HEE MARTAM, 19 Nov [IPR]:** Gyalshing Bermiok MLA, Minister Lok Nath Sharma interacted with residents of Martam Ghaiyabari ward this afternoon and listened to their grievances individually.

Earlier, he attended the Shreemad Bhagwad Saptaaha Gyan Mahayagya being organised at the Block Administrative Centre, Hee-Martam, and greeted the religious preachers and scholars there.

## Three more teams through to next round of Sikkim United Cup

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 19 Nov:**

Word of Life Church [Lingding], Shiloh Church [Lower Martam] and Gitang Dagbari [West Sikkim] entered the next round of the ongoing Sikkim United Cup here at Paljor Stadium on Tuesday.

In the first match of the day, Word of Life Church defeated Shiloh Church 3-1 with Asbin Mangar of Shiloh Church being adjudged the Man of the Match.

In the second match, SHC-Kalimpong failed to

turn up for the match and Shiloh Church won by walkover.

In the last match of the day, Gitang Dagbari registered a convincing 5-1 victory against EPCS Saramsa. Divakar Rai of Gitang Dagbari was adjudged the Man of the Match.

On 20 November, United Christian will take on HCPC-Bojoghari in the first match at 11.00am, which will be followed by Agape Church and Word of Life Church squaring off at 1pm.

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CLASSIFIEDS

### GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

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

For details contact: 9083826462

### FLAT FOR RENT/LEASE

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

For more details: 9083826462 /9832556698

### GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

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

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

Contact: 9800201335

### LAND FOR SALE

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



## Balachaturdashi Mela Cup Open Football Tourney kicks off in Legship



**LEGSHIP, 19 Nov [IPR]:** Balachaturdashi Mela Cup Open Football Tournament kicked off at the community ground at Legship today.

The inaugural match was played between Mini Boys [Legship] and YB-FA-Gyalshing.

Education Minister Kunga Nima Lepcha was

present as the chief guest to declare the tournament open.

The Minister, while referring to the demands placed by the area MLA, his Cabinet colleague LN Sharma, assured to address demands seeking establishment of a rock climbing facility in the area and stressed the



need to maintain fitness in life and remarked that adventurous sports and culture can be considered as prime requirements in sports scenario.

Minister Sharma, in turn, acknowledged the efforts made by residents to establish a community playground despite the difficult terrain.

He also proposed establishment of a Sports Hostel and Rock Climbing Centre in the area to capitalize on the geographical terrain here.

The programme was also attended by Additional District Collector, SDM and officials from District Administrative Centre, Gyalshing.

## Aadhaar Seva Kendra at Bidhan Nagar operational

Gangtok, 19 Nov (PIB): "Aadhaar Seva Kendra" at Sector-5, Bidhan Nagar has started working. This Aadhaar Seva Kendra will remain open on all week days from morning 9.30 to evening 5.30 hours.

The new enrolment and mandatory biometric update for the children at the age of 05 and 15 is free and for any other correction, a nominal fee of Rs. 50 has been fixed. Any resident may avail new enrolment, update/mandatory biometric update or correction facilities available at this Aadhaar Seva Kendra.

UIDAI has facilitated people to book an online appointment

ment through its website from ask.uidai.gov.in.

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## Temi Tea Mr Sikkim finalist Anand Lamichaney

**NITESH R PRADHAN  
GANGTOK, 19 Nov:**

Anand Lamichaney from Singtam is a passionate model and an aspiring actor. Will Temi Tea Mr Sikkim 2019 Manhunt be his ticket to glory?

Why Mr Sikkim Manhunt?

Firstly Sikkim is my birth place and I am so blessed to be a part of Mr Sikkim Manhunt as its giving an opportunity for the youth to showcase their talent and also its one of the top and well known pageant show in Sikkim who gives their best of the best facilities to guide and polish their participants.

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

The best quality that I possess is, I am

an entertainer for e.g. I can entertain crowd by show casing my talents i.e. dancing, singing, free style rapping, acting, editing overall with all this I believe in winning their heart.

What if you win or lose the competition?

Winning and losing is the part of the competition but I am definitely here to win this competition with my hard work and dedication.

So if I win this title I will definitely take this achievement to the next level and make my state proud.

If I lose then I will surely be disheartened but that doesn't mean its the end of life, so I will build myself more, work on my flaws and never lose the hope.

Define yourself.  
I am a person who



always believe in staying humble, happy and posi-

tive in life. There are ups and

downs in life but I follow one line and i.e. 'After every sad day, comes a glad day'.

What is that one thing that can unite humanity?

The first thing which comes to my mind when we say humanity is being kind and supportive because it's always the best to work together.

I believe in this famous slogan i.e. 'United we stand, Divided we fall' it says that if we are together and supportive we can deal with any situation.

Any Appeal?

It's your support and my hardwork can help me to win the title of Mr Sikkim Manhunt 2019.

From my side I am giving my best of the best just want a support from your side.

## Lok Sabha MP attends Asia Pacific Summit 2019

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 19 Nov:**

Member of Parliament, Indra Hang Subba attended the first day of the Asia Pacific Summit 2019 hosted by Royal Government of Cambodia and co-organised by Universal Peace Federation and Civil Society Alliance Forum at Phnom Penh, Cambodia, a press release informs.

The theme of the summit is "Addressing the Critical Challenges of our times: Peace, Reconciliation, Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity and Universal Values".

The Summit is being attended by delegates from more than 50 nations in Asia Pacific Region and throughout the world including current and former heads of the state, speakers of the parliament, parliamentarians, leaders from the world's great religions, women leaders, representatives of media, academia, business, arts, youths and other civil society organisations.

The MP is attending the Asia Pacific Summit as a member of the Indian delegation led by Bhubaneswar Kalita, the release mentions.

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STORY TO  
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## DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH SIKKIM UNIVERSITY

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

## THE TEMPEST



**DATE: 26TH NOVEMBER, 2019**

**TIME: 3PM ONWARDS**

**VENUE: MANAN KENDRA AUDITORIUM**



**SIKKIM UNIVERSITY**

SU/REG/Estt/F-2/09/2018/Vol II/1292

Date: 18.11.2019

### APPOINTMENT NOTICE

Sikkim University, a central university established by an Act of Parliament in 2007, invites applications from Indian citizens having requisite qualification and experience for various Non-Teaching positions. Detailed advertisement giving requirements for each post is given on our website [www.cus.ac.in](http://www.cus.ac.in)

Interested candidates may submit the online application form on or before 20.12.2019.

Sd/-  
Registrar

davp 21318/11/0011/1920

Tender no. ITBP/13BN/ENGR/BOP/LATOK/2019-9118-19

DTD-14-11-19

### 13<sup>th</sup> Bn ITB Police Force, Notice Inviting e-Tenders

On behalf of President of India, Commandant, 13<sup>th</sup> Bn ITBP, Lingdum, PO: Ranka Daje, East Sikkim invites e-procurement tenders under two bids system for the works:-

- 1- Name of work :- Const. of (i) MI Room (ii) Jawan Barrack, (iii) Kitchen & Dining Hall for jawan (iv) GO's Accommodation and (v) SO's Accommodation at BOP Latok (Nakula) (Height=17200 ft) of 13th Bn ITB Police, Lingdum, Distt. East Sikkim(Sikkim) (Site of work not motorable )
- 2- Estimated Cost Rs. 4,84,59,433/- = Earnest Money Rs. 9,69,189/- Period of completion - 36 (Thirty six) Months.

Last date and time of submission of Bid : 05.12.19/1330 Hrs.

All details, regarding the subject Tenders are available on our website [www.itbp.gov.in](http://www.itbp.gov.in) and [www.eprocure.gov.in/cppp/](http://www.eprocure.gov.in/cppp/). If any change/ modification in the tender enquiry will be intimated through our websites only. Bidders are therefore requested to visit our websites regularly to keep themselves updated.

Sd/-  
Commandant, 13 BN ITBP

davp 19112/11/0378/1920

## 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

## INSTALLATION OF READING CORNER/LIBRARY

CONTRIBUTE BOOKS OR CASH  
AND HELP US TO LAY  
**A FOUNDATION FOR  
BETTER FUTURE**

AT

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## Noninvolvement Feeds Arrogance

*...a prescription which poisons  
democracy*

The dictionary defines “noninvolvement” as a lack of emotional engagement and failure or refusal to become involved.

In most contexts, this term takes a more policy/ political term in that it applies to nations in the line of “nonalignment”. When so practiced, it is mostly a good thing so long as it is about distancing from “politics” and not humanitarian situations because had it been followed, USA would not have been fighting so many wars instigating the creation of monsters like ISIS and then so overtly undermining the significance of the UN... or even ignoring the science of climate change for that matter, or not even opting for a fig leaf excuse in ignoring the brazen murder of a journalist by an offensive regime on foreign soil.

The same principle, however, does not apply to the citizenry with the same merits. In fact, noninvolvement among a people has the opposite effect of what it does on nations. When a people refuse to engage, democracy gets reduced to election cycles, accountability is replaced by bombast and the sense of service among representatives is subsumed by the arrogance of “leaders”. When things come to such a pass, policy decisions become dik-tats, the noxious fringe crawls out from under the rocks and dances madness in the public domain. And no, social media activity does not really qualify as involvement; if anything, it is a false equivalent for public participation because what it seeks to do is abuse/ shout discourse into meek acceptance or vent into an echo chamber and think humanity has been served. No one changed the world by staring into their smartphones. And as the troll army wins more and more battles, it helps create a mob of bots programmed not to analyse or challenge but applaud the demagoguery of flag-waving chauvinists and end up subverting democracy so much that the idea of supreme and all-powerful leaders does not offend anymore and no one even blinks when the term in office of an elected government is referred to as “rule”.

A people self-assured in their ignorance make for easy pickings when it comes to seeding fears because when one refuse to get involved and hence get informed, they cannot handle complexities anymore and gravitate towards the black & whites of the alt-Right. We know we are in trouble when hate can be peddled as righteousness and not even get called out. You know democracy is being compromised when dictation replaces consultation and no one has a problem with it.

Democracy is supposed to ease people’s minds, allowing them their disagreements and differences and still providing the space where they can be themselves without having to constantly look over their shoulders. Fail to remain involved, and every expression of democracy becomes conditional and violence punctuates the lives of lay people more often than should ever be allowed. We have seen this trend gather pace in the recent past when suspicions, bans, deregulation, demonization (okay, also demonetization), forced nationalism, increased supervision bordering on surveillance and pulpit-mongering have come to define governance and gain meek acceptance. Arrogance is an undesirable quality in anyone, but when it comes to leaders, it is dangerous. And we continue feeding it with our noninvolvement.

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# University under siege: a dangerous new phase for the Hong Kong protests

AMANDA TATTERSALL  
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While thousands of Hong Kongers have protested “like water” for the past six months – flowing through the city with seemingly spontaneous movements – the past week has seen a shift in strategy. Last week, students escalated their actions yet again by occupying most of Hong Kong’s universities.

The last remaining occupation at Polytechnic University remains under siege by the police force. Police say surrender is the only option for the students and have threatened to use live ammunition if they are attacked.

WHY UNIVERSITIES ARE SANCTIFIED SPACES

The siege comes off the back of months of ratcheting police violence in response to the protests, including the use of live rounds, water cannons and nearly 6,000 canisters of tear gas.

The protesters, meanwhile, have remained mobile and flexible, which has allowed them to keep going for so long. This adherence to being “like water” has helped overcome the limitations that demonstrators faced in previous protests.

The government, for example, was able to wait out the 79-day Umbrella Movement in 2014, banking that protesters would eventually find the daily grind of occupying city streets too difficult.

The Tiananmen Square occupation in 1989, likewise, was vulnerable to a Chinese military crackdown because the protesters were congregated in a central place.

The current university occupations in Hong Kong – and the shift away from “being water” – happened not out of choice but necessity.

Universities are sanctified spaces in Hong Kong. As education providers, they are symbols of freedom and are formally protected under Hong Kong law. In a city of limited democracy, the law deems universities to be private property, meaning there is a protocol preventing police from entering



campuses unless it’s an emergency.

When several police officers were found inside the University of Hong Kong in July, for example, the police issued an apology.

Hong Kong’s universities also represent what the protesters are fighting for. They are a space for democracy-building, and it’s no secret that many students have used the protection of campuses to organise. Some dormitories have become spaces for storing medical supplies and equipment to respond to police violence.

Then, last week, these safe spaces were threatened when police officers began moving on several campuses across the city to make arrests. The subsequent student occupations arose as a defensive posture to protect universities - and everything they represent - from state intervention.

Students have been actively supported by academic and administrative staff, who have closed campuses in an attempt to de-escalate the situation, acted as mediators with police and criticised the government for its “ineffective” response to the protests.

But unlike the fluid occupations of Hong Kong streets, shopping malls and the airport of previous months, the students found themselves fixed inside the universities. The police soon sensed an advantage, and at Polytechnic University they formed barricades around the campus.

USING ARREST AS A FORM OF INTIMIDATION

The siege has had a military quality. For the first time, police deployed a LRAD sound device, a controversial weapon previously used in the Iraq war.

The students, meanwhile, have retaliated with petrol bombs and bows and arrows. When some have tried to flee, they have been bombed with tear gas and pushed back onto campus.

As of today, the university is still blockaded with more than 100 students believed to be inside. There have been multiple police invasions and retreats. New flanks of protesters have surrounded the police cordon. Older residents are forming human chains to get medical supplies to the site.

Police have threatened that every person left inside the university will be arrested. Protesters have been told they will be charged with rioting, which carries a maximum punishment of 10 years in jail.

Mass arrest has been used in an attempt to force protesters to back down for a while now. Hong Kong police reported this week the total number of arrests for the duration of the protests is so far 4,491 (more than 750 of them children).

Everyone arrested is subject to at least 48 hours detention. Some have been held in a controversial, remote detention facility, where detainees

have alleged abuse in custody.

One explanation for all the arrests is that police are trying to remove key leaders from the front lines. Academics also see it as a form of intimidation.

As Ray Yep Kin-man, a City University political scientist, has noted: “In the past two months, some arrests were made even without strong evidence. I think police are adopting the strategy of arresting people to deter others from taking part in the protests.”

Beyond arrest, the students have reason to be concerned. Many occupiers have written letters to their loved ones, fearing they will die. Democracy supporters and religious leaders are pleading for them to be released safely. They fear some protesters may refuse to leave, choosing instead to make a last stand.

The Hong Kong government’s approach is to try to deescalate the protests through fear. But the university siege, the now-overturned ban on wearing masks and the threats of live ammunition all show that Hong Kong’s protesters will not back down based on threats or violence.

Only meaningful changes to how the police work and how the government operates will end this battle for Hong Kong.

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# How the Armenian diaspora forged coalitions to push for genocide recognition

MARIA KOINOVA  
THECONVERSATION.COM

When Turkey’s president Recep Tayyip Erdoğan visited the White House on November 13, he said a landmark resolution passed by the House of Representatives in October recognising the Armenian genocide had “hurt deeply the Turkish nation”, and had the “potential to cast a deep shadow over our bilateral relations”.

In 1915, the collapsing Ottoman Empire massacred an estimated 800,000 to 1.5m Armenians, but Turkey denies this was a genocide.

A subsequent resolution introduced in the US Senate also aimed at genocide recognition was blocked by the Republican senator Lindsay Graham after a meeting with Trump and Erdoğan. But the landmark House of Representatives resolution is nevertheless a significant step in an effort to recognise the massacres as a genocide for which the Armenian diaspora have fought for more than a century.

Although there have been previous mentions of the 1915 atrocities as a “genocide” by US legislators, and most US state legislatures have passed their own recognition, the House resolution formally acknowledges the Armenian genocide.

It states that “it is the policy of the US” to commemorate the Armenian genocide through “official recognition and remembrance”, and to refuse association with genocide denial. It also asks the government to “encourage education and public understanding” of its facts, including to treat Armenian genocide in the context of “modern-day crimes against humanity” in order to prevent them.

These have been longstanding goals of the Armenian diaspora, which continues to seek official acknowledgement of the genocide in the US and across the globe. So far, 32 countries have recognised the Armenian genocide, in addition to the European parliament, the Council of Europe, the Catholic church and the International Association of Genocide Scholars, among others.

The diaspora has taken a lead role in pushing for the recognition of the 1915 genocide, particularly as Armenia itself has historically taken a back seat in this quest. It was a Soviet republic until it declared independence in 1991, and during the Soviet era the goal of genocide recognition was associated with diaspora parties based in the West and the Middle East that were banned from operating

within Soviet territory.

The first Armenian post-communist government clashed with the diaspora over diverging foreign policy priorities. It sought to restore some neighbourly relations with Turkey, while the diaspora insisted on the pursuit of genocide recognition. Diaspora circles and local opposition eventually prevailed, and soon after a 1998 change in government, Armenia infused genocide recognition in its foreign policy.

ARMENIAN DIASPORA IN US

Revered or attacked for its central mission of genocide recognition, the Armenian National Assembly of America (ANCA) has been a major lobby in the US since 1972. It maintains strong relationships with legislators in the two houses of Congress, and the Armenian caucus, a group of legislators pursuing common objectives on Armenia-related issues.

ANCA has a strong organisational structure of grassroots chapters across the US, launches regular campaigns among citizens, and holds annual gala dinners. As my ongoing research shows, diaspora activists in Europe see ANCA as an important institution not simply for the US, but more widely, as it serves as a paragon to others with its lobbying practices.

Several high profile congresspeople, instrumental in the recent vote in the House, have been connected to ANCA, while driven to act on behalf of their Armenian-American constituencies. They have emerged from the Democratic Party and primarily from California, where over 150,000 Americans of Armenian descent live in Los Angeles and tens of thousands of others in Glendale and Fresno. The sponsor of the recent bill was Adam Schiff, the representative of a congressional district in California with the largest Armenian-American constituency in the country.

The politics of pushing for recognition of the Armenian genocide also relates to strategic friends and foes among other diaspora communities. Some Jewish diaspora organisations recognise the genocide, even if Israel still refrains from doing so. The American Jewish Committee (AJC) supported the House resolution prior to the vote in October. During the events marking the 100th anniversary of the genocide in 2015, AJC joined the commemoration to “pause in mournful tribute”. The Jewish Council for Public Affairs recognised the Armenian

genocide in 2015, while the Holocaust Museum in New York hosted an exhibition for that centennial.

CHRISTIANS AND KURDS

My research in Europe, recently published in the Ethnic and Racial Studies journal, shows that the Armenian diaspora has also built coalitions with other groups to pressure Turkey against genocide denial.

Most notable are alliances with Assyrians and Pontus Greeks, smaller Christian communities. They are much less organised than the Armenians, but were also dispersed by Ottoman violence during the same period. Such coalitions have changed the nature of the campaign for recognition: not simply recognition of the Armenian genocide, but to counter wider atrocities. More recent recognitions in Sweden, the Netherlands and Germany also acknowledged these smaller groups.

Armenians have also formed on and off coalitions with Kurds, especially in Europe where Kurds are numerous and well mobilised. These coalitions have been more instrumental, pressuring Turkey to stop genocide denial and other human rights violations – something required of Turkey if it wants to join the European Union. Combining energy for a common cause has not been easy here, as Armenians still remember that Kurds participated in the 1915 genocide, though many Kurdish organisations have acknowledged their participation in it and have already apologised.

In Armenia, some analysts and members of the opposition see the diaspora as standing in the way of efforts to improve bilateral relations between Armenia and Turkey. This is because diaspora groups demand that Turkey recognises the Armenian genocide as a precondition for meaningful negotiations between them.

Campaigning for genocide recognition has been a matter of survival for diaspora Armenians, creating common identities among them for generations in the absence of the Armenian state. Genocide recognition is also a source of hope for obtaining future reparations from Turkey. The Armenian diaspora has stood up for a principled issue and brought attention to mass atrocities that must never be repeated.

*[the writer is Reader in International Relations, University of Warwick and Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Global Cooperation Research, University of Duisburg, University of Warwick]*



## 16 farmers arrested in Mathura for stubble burning

**MATHURA (UP), Nov 19 (PTI):** Sixteen farmers have been arrested for allegedly burning stubble and two lekhpalas suspended for dereliction of duty in Uttar Pradesh's Mathura district, officials said on Tuesday.

District Magistrate Sarvagya Ram Mishra said a total fine of Rs 13.05 lakh is being realized from the guilty farmers through tahsil.

While 300 cases of stubble burning have been identified, two lekhpalas (revenue officer) have been suspended for failing to prevent the farmers from burning their crop residue, the DM told reporters.

He said the lekhpalas were responsible for preventing stubble burning but they failed in their mission, resulting in punitive action against them.

The district magistrate said farmers were given full opportunity for preventing stubble burning.

Through 'Kisan Pathashala', they were not only apprised of hazardous effects of stubble burning, but also tutored on alternative use of stubble, Mishra added.

He said, these 'pathashalas' have helped reduce stubble burning cases.

While last year 1,046 cases of stubble burning were identified using satellite images, the number has gone down to 459 so far this year, he said.

## TMC member speaks on pollution wearing mask in Lok Sabha

**NEW DELHI, Nov 19 (PTI):** Seeking to emphasise the seriousness of air pollution, Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) participated in a discussion in the Lok Sabha on air pollution and climate change wearing a mask on Tuesday.

She demanded that the government should also launch a "Swachh Hawa Mission" (clean air mission) on the lines of the Swachh Bharat Mission.

Ghosh Dastidar started speaking on the issue wearing a pollution mask, but later took it off.

She said it was time that the government took note of the seriousness of the problem and initiated steps.

## Please don't allow next Doklam in Arunachal: BJP MP

**NEW DELHI, Nov 19 (PTI):** Please don't allow the next Doklam in Arunachal Pradesh as China has encroached more than 50 km of land of the state, BJP member Tapir Gao claimed in Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

Whenever the president, prime minister, defence minister or home minister visits the state, objections are raised by China, he said raising the issue during Zero Hour.

He said China raised objections by conducting an official press conference when Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited Tawang area of the state on November 14, 2019.

"I request the House and media to voice protest against this," he said.

"If a repeat of Doklam takes place, it will happen



in Arunachal Pradesh because China has encroached 50-60 km of the state," he claimed.

Troops of India and China were locked in a 73-day stand-off in Doklam near Sikkim last year after the Indian side stopped the building of a road in the disputed area by

the Chinese Army.

Indian troops intervened to stop the road as it posed a security risk to Chicken Neck, the narrow corridor connecting India with its north-eastern states.

The standoff ended on August 28, 2017 following a mutual agreement under which China

stopped the construction of the road and India withdrew its troops.

This is not the first time that Gao has made the claim.

Earlier in September this year the MP had claimed that the Chinese Army intruded into Arunachal Pradesh's remote Anjaw district and

constructed a bridge over a stream.

However, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju had later insisted that there was absolute peace on the Indo-China border along his home state of Arunachal Pradesh.

"There is absolutely no problem. There is peace along the border," he had said.

Explaining the circumstances, Rijiju had said, "When there is no demarcation of boundary, so if their (Chinese) army comes in, we say intrusion. When our forces go that side, they call it intrusion."

India and China share a nearly 4,000-km border, which is not clearly demarcated, leading to incursions by the two sides into each other's territory.

## Google removes app promoting secession: Punjab govt

**CHANDIGARH, Nov 19 (PTI):** Google has removed the anti-India mobile app '2020 Sikh Referendum' from its Play Store after the Punjab government took up the matter with the IT giant, an official said here on Tuesday.

The app is not available anymore on Google Play Store for mobile phone users in India, a Punjab government spokesperson said.

Sikhs for Justice, a group based abroad and banned by India, has

been lobbying for Punjab's secession through its 2020 Sikh Referendum campaign.

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh has accused Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence of being involved in the campaign.

Earlier this month, he asked state government officials to approach Google and also coordinate with central government agencies to ensure that the new app is pulled out.

A notice under sec-

tion 79(3)B of the Information Technology Act was sent to Google on November 8, seeking removal of the app created by ICETECH.

The app asked mobile users to register themselves, in an apparent attempt to show support for secession. A government statement said a website, "yes2khalistan", was also launched for the same purpose.

An analysis of the app and the website at Punjab's DITAC Lab

found that the data of people who register was stored in the server of the website created by the banned Sikhs for Justice, it said.

The Cyber Crime Centre of Punjab's Bureau of Investigation then moved to get the app removed and the website blocked, and sent Google the notice.

The state government also approached the Cyber Law Division of the Department of Electronics & Information and Technology at the Centre,

asking it to invoke a rule that allows blocking of such websites.

Inspector General of Police (Crime) Nageshwar Rao, who is in charge of the state's State Cyber-cum-DITAC Lab, raised the issue with the Google India's legal cell on November 9.

The state government said Google India was then convinced that its platform was abused by the banned association for committing illegal and anti-national activities.

## VHP to launch campaign to reach out to MPs on citizenship bill

**KOLKATA, Nov 19 (PTI):** The Vishwa Hindu Parishad is set to launch a Citizenship (Amendment) Bill campaign to win the support of parliamentarians, especially TMC MPs, who are vehemently against the proposed legislation.

The VHP leadership has decided to kickstart the 'Sangsad Sampark Abhiyan' in New Delhi from November 25 to Dec 13, when MPs of both the Houses will be in attendance for the winter session of Parliament, VHP national assistant secretary Sachindranath Singha told PTI.

VHP functionaries from various parts of the country have already reached New Delhi for the campaign, he said.

The aim of the 'Reach out to MPs' programme is to interact with the lawmakers and try to "convince" them to support the bill, said Singha, who is also the co-convenor of the campaign.

"The aim is to reach out to MPs cutting across party lines, especially the



opposition lawmakers, to raise awareness about the need for CAB, highlight the plight of refugees and try to convince them to back the bill, whenever it is tabled in Parliament," he said.

The programme will also seek to raise awareness about building the Ram Mandir at Ayodhya, following the recent Supreme Court verdict, the VHP leader said.

Singha said, "special stress" will be on the TMC MPs who have been voicing their displeasure

against the bill "just to appease" the minority vote bank.

"We would try to give special stress to those TMC MPs having their origins in Bangladesh, just like the lakhs of Bengalis who had moved to West Bengal during the Partition and Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971.

"Therefore, we expect that TMC lawmakers whose forefathers had come to India as refugees, will understand the plight of displaced people," Singha said.

Reacting to the VHP move, a senior TMC MP said it can meet lawmakers in West Bengal is unlikely to change its stand on the contentious issue.

In the session that began on Monday, the government is set to push for the passage of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, a key BJP plank which is aimed at granting nationality to non-Muslim immigrants from neighbouring countries.

The legislation seeks

to grant Indian citizenship to Hindus, Jains, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Parsis from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan if they have fled their respective country due to religious persecution.

West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee had on Monday reiterated her opposition to the bill, terming it as a "trap" to exclude Hindus and Bengalis as legal citizens of the country.

The government had introduced the bill in its previous tenure as well, but could not push it through due to vehement protests by opposition parties.

The bill had lapsed following the dissolution of the last Lok Sabha.

## Time for government to recognise contribution of artistes: Rishi Kapoor



**MUMBAI, Nov 19 (PTI):** Actor Rishi Kapoor says it is important to recognise the role of artistes and cinema in the country as they have contributed immensely to its cultural, financial growth.

The 67-year-old actor completes 50 years in the industry next year.

Asked whether he looked at his career with fulfilment, Rishi told PTI, "That is something the people have to say. I don't. But I have to wait for you people to say that this man has been working for 50 years, but no one does that (talk about contribution)."

"The government doesn't. That's the tragedy. The government changes but this sadness remains."

The actor said its about time a culture is set in where people from the field of arts, culture and even business are given their due recognition from the government.

"I can talk about entertainment tax, how much we contribute. If cinema wasn't there, a large chunk of money in the national treasury wouldn't have been there. I am tired of saying this... acknowledge the role of artistes and cinema in the country. But they land on deaf ears, what can I do," he added.

Rishi will be next seen in "The Body" co-starring Emraan Hashmi and Sobhita Dhulipala. The film is scheduled to be released on December 13.

## 10 agencies authorised to tap phones: Govt tells LS

**NEW DELHI, Nov 18 (PTI):** The CBI, the ED and the Intelligence Bureau are among 10 central agencies upon which the power of telephone interception is vested and they have to take the Union Home Secretary's approval before putting anyone on surveillance, the Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday.

Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy said that Section 69 of the Information Technology Act, 2000, empowers the central government or a state government to intercept, monitor or decrypt or cause to be intercepted or monitored or decrypted, any information generated, transmitted, received or stored in any computer resource in the interest of the sovereignty or integrity of the country.

"This power of interception is to be executed

as per the provisions of law, rules and SoPs. Easy such case is approved by the Union Home Secretary in case of central government and by the Home Secretary of the state concerned in case of the state government," he said in a written reply to a question.

The competent authority in the central government has authorised 10 agencies for the purpose: Intelligence Bureau, Central Bureau of Investigation, Enforcement Directorate, Narcotics Control Bureau, Central Board of Direct Taxes, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, National Investigation Agency, R&AW, Directorate of Signal Intelligence and Delhi Police Commissioner.

The government's reply came in response to questions related to tapping of WhatsApp calls and messages.

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## PSBs reported frauds of over Rs 95,700 cr in Apr-Sep

**NEW DELHI, Nov 19 (PTI):** Government owned banks reported frauds of over Rs 95,700 crore in the first six months of the current fiscal, the Parliament was informed on Tuesday.

"According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI), frauds as per year of reporting, as reported by Public Sector Banks (PSBs), during the period from April 1, 2019 to September 30, 2019 is 5,743 involv-

ing a total amount of Rs 95,760.49 crore," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in the Rajya Sabha.

In the written reply, the minister further said that comprehensive measures have been taken to curb the incidence of frauds in banks, including freezing bank accounts of 3.38 lakh inoperative companies.

Meanwhile in reply to another question, Minister of State for Fi-

nance Anurag Thakur said with the increase in limit of withdrawal to Rs 50,000 for customers of Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank, 78 per cent of depositors of the bank will be able to withdraw their entire account balance.

As on September 23, 2019 (date of imposition of RBI directions), total depositors of PMC Bank were 9,15,775.

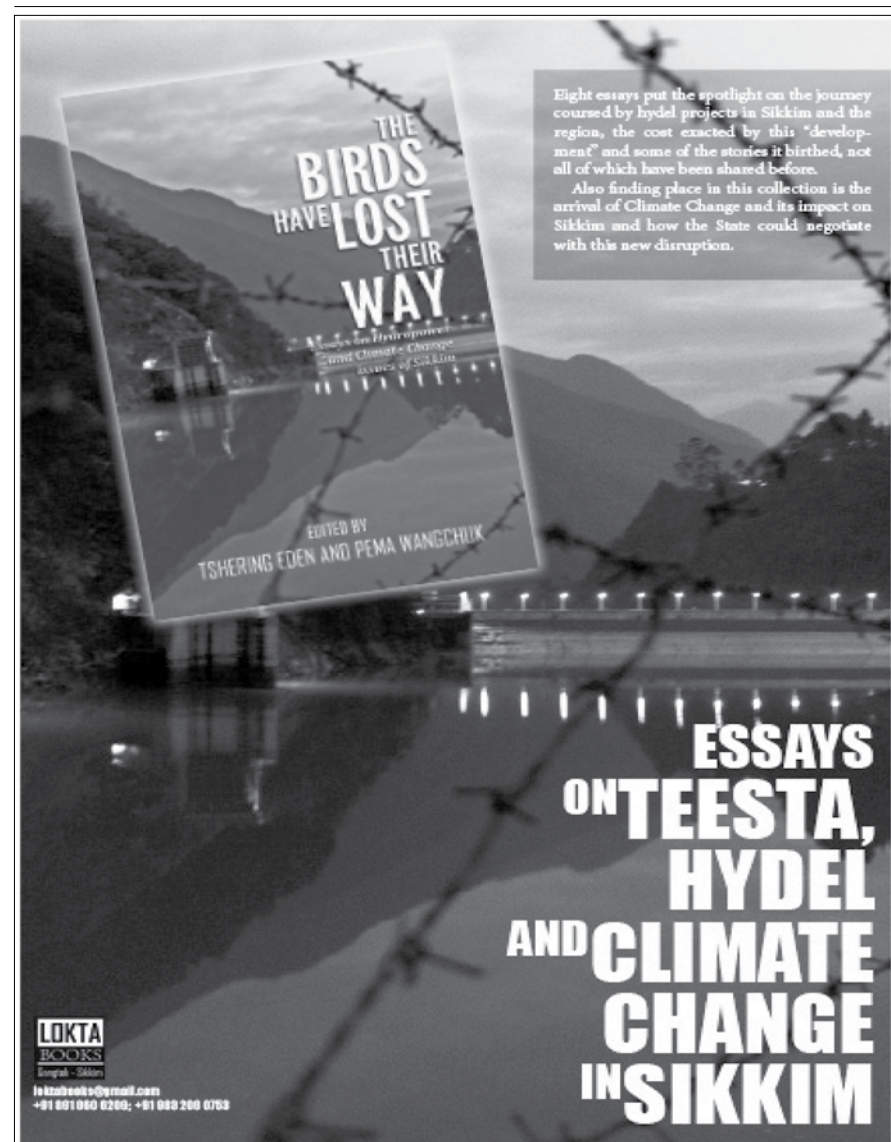
The statutory inspection of the bank

with reference to its position as on March 2019 conducted by RBI revealed large group exposure toward Housing Development and Infrastructure Limited (HDIL) Group companies to the tune of about Rs 6,226.01 crore. Out of the total exposure of Rs 6,226.01 crore as on March 31, 2019 to the HDIL group, only Rs 439.58 crore was disclosed to RBI and remaining Rs 5,786.43 crore remained undisclosed, he said.

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Three killed as Iran unrest shows no signs of subsiding

Three security personnel have been killed by “rioters” in Iran, the latest deaths in protests that showed no sign of subsiding Tuesday despite a wave of arrests and an internet shutdown.

The deaths take to at least five the number of people confirmed to have been killed in the nationwide demonstrations that erupted on Friday against a shock decision to impose petrol price hikes.

The situation on the streets remains unclear largely due to the government-imposed internet outage which has entered a third day.

On Tuesday morning, AFP journalists saw two petrol stations in central Tehran gutted by fire and damage to other infrastructure including a police station and pedestrian overpass.

But they were prevented from filming as hundreds of riot police stood guard at entrances to major squares in the Iranian capital with armoured vehicles and water cannon.

When the demonstrations broke out on Friday, drivers stopped their vehicles on major thoroughfares in Tehran to block traffic.

They soon turned violent and spread to more than 20 cities and towns across Iran, with banks, petrol stations and other public property set alight and shops looted.

The demonstrations erupted after it was announced the price of petrol would be raised by 50 percent for the first 60 litres purchased over a month and 200 percent for any extra fuel after that.

Iran’s economy has been battered since May last year when President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew the US from a 2015 nuclear agreement and reimposed crippling sanctions.

- Ambush -

Footage of masked young men clashing with security forces has been broadcast on state television, which rarely shows any signs of dissent.

In a new video aired Monday night, a man can be seen firing what appears to be an assault rifle as others hurl stones apparently at security forces in the western city of Andimeshk.

In the latest bloodshed, assailants wielding knives and machetes ambushed and killed three security personnel west of Tehran, the ISNA and Fars news agencies reported late Monday.

## Denmark beat Republic of Ireland to Euro 2020 spot despite late Doherty goal

**PAUL DOYLE**  
**DUBLIN, 19 NOV [THEGUARDIAN]:** For their group finale Ireland produced their best performance of the campaign but, agonisingly for them, it was not quite good enough. They brewed up a mighty storm but precision eluded them and so, in the 73rd minute, did concentration. That allowed Martin Braithwaite to step in to send Denmark to Euro 2020 with their first shot on target.

Ireland nearly forced a late twist after Matt Doherty headed an equaliser five minutes from time but, for all their valiance, scoring twice proved to be beyond the hosts.

Still, they were clapped off by a home crowd who appreciated how close they had come to a sensation.

There were reasons to justify hopes that Ireland could reach the finals through play-offs in March. They could meet Wales or Northern Ireland, among others, depending on the result of Wales’s match against Hungary on Tuesday.

“I’m immensely proud of the performance,” said Mick McCarthy. “I’m disappointed with the result but that’s the only thing I’m disap-



pointed with.”

There was more than a hint of relief in Denmark’s celebrations; beforehand they had spoken as if they were very obviously superior to a side they know very well – but that conviction did not withstand this, the countries’ fifth draw in six meetings over the past two years. Ireland had most of the play and nearly all of the chances.

“We didn’t play well and we were lucky to get away with a draw,” said the Denmark manager, Age Hareide. “[Ireland] put on a lot of pressure but we didn’t play well at all. I don’t know what happened to us. I think we had nerves on the outside of our shirts. But solid defensive play saw us through the first half and the start

of the second half and then we scored. And then when they scored, they put a lot of pressure on.

“If [Ireland] keep playing like that, they will probably come through the play-offs.”

It was, then, an evening where Ireland failed to achieve their mission but emerged with their credibility enhanced. In the build-up the talk of replicating glorious feats of the past had carried a whiff of the ghost dance, little about the campaign having suggested a heroic performance was really imminent. Yet it nearly materialised.

They made a proactive start, showing a willingness to pass their way forward and to win the ball back quickly when they lost it. Ireland did not make any impression

whizzed high and wide but by half-time Danish minds could not have been doubt-free.

Ireland grew more threatening in the second period. Ciaran Clarke, a half-time replacement for the injured John Egan, had a header from a corner deflected wide in the 48th minute. The next corner spread panic in the box, Schmeichel fortunate to scramble the ball away.

Could Ireland summon the precision to translate their blustery menace into an all-important goal?

Doherty and Enda Stevens added to Denmark’s worries by joining in attacks. A burst by Stevens in the 66th minute led to McGoldrick slashing a shot over the bar from 10 yards.

Then, the decisive lapse. From a throw-in on the right Denmark were allowed to work Henrik Dalsgaard into space to pick out a cross from deep. Braithwaite ran away from Doherty on the blind side of Shane Duffy and poked into the net from close range.

Game over? Not quite. Ireland rallied and Doherty atoned by getting on the end of a cross by Stevens to slam a header into the net. Denmark, however, clung on.



## Israel sees Messi visit as victory, even as Argentina and Uruguay draw

**TEL AVIV, NOV 19 (AFP):** Lionel Messi scored a late penalty as Argentina drew 2-2 with Uruguay in a friendly held in Israel Monday, with the Jewish state considering the match a victory.

The game pitted Messi against his Barcelona teammate Luis Suarez, and it looked as though the Uruguayan had gotten the better of him as he scored one goal and set up another to give his team a 2-1 lead going into injury time.

But a ball into the box was handled by a Uruguayan defender, and Messi calmly slotted the resulting penalty home to ensure an engaging friendly ended all square.

The 32-year-old had earlier teed up Manchester City striker Sergio Aguero to make it 1-1, after Edinson Cavani had opened the scoring.

Suarez scored a free-kick from outside the box to give his side the lead before Messi’s late intervention.

The game had been dubbed by organisers as an important moment for Israel, following the cancellation of another Argentina match a year

earlier after pressure from pro-Palestinian campaigners.

Organisers dubbed it as a game about peace, but boycott campaigners called for it to be cancelled over Israel’s treatment of the Palestinians.

It was not immune from politics -- half-way through the first half the United States announced it no longer considered Israeli settlements in the West Bank illegal, a move condemned by the Palestinian leadership.

In the build-up to the game Uruguay coach Oscar Tabarez said he had been “very worried”

about the game after a flare up between Israel and militant groups in neighbouring Gaza last week.

The Israeli military said around 450 rockets were fired at its territory during the fighting and air defences intercepted dozens of them in mid-flight.

A ceasefire was declared on Thursday but remains fragile.

Sylvan Adams, an Israeli-Canadian businessman whose financial backing ensured the match was held in Israel, said he hoped to show another side of the Jewish state.

“In bringing per-

haps the world’s most famous athlete, Lionel Messi, to Israel, we are providing excitement for the entire country -- for Muslim, Christian and Jewish citizens of Israel,” he said in a statement to AFP.

“This is the ‘normal’ Israel that I know and love.” On the pitch at times it felt like the Messi show, with the crowd chanting his name and every mazy run greeted by vociferous cheering.

While not at his electric best, he showed moments of quality -- slaloming past defenders and forcing Uruguay goalkeeper Martin Campana into a number of smart saves.

### Alex Marquez to join brother Marc at Honda MotoGP team

**PARIS, NOV 19 (AFP):** Alex Marquez will ride alongside his older brother and six-time MotoGP world champion Marc at Honda next season, the team announced on Monday.

The 23-year-old Alex Marquez, who added the Moto2 world title this year to the Moto3 crown he won in 2014, has signed a one-year deal with the constructors’ champions.

“He will move from the intermediate class to partner eight-time world champion Marc

Marquez in 2020 for his debut season in the premier class,” Honda said in a statement.

The younger Marquez replaces three-time world champion Jorge Lorenzo, who retired after the weekend’s season-ending Valencia Grand Prix.

Alex has been riding for Kalex in Moto2. He won five races in the 2019 campaign, taking the title by three points from South African Brad Binder.

The announcement means that Briton Cal Crutchlow and French-

## Luis Enrique set for Spain return as Roberto Moreno walks away in tears

**SID LOWE**

**THECONVERSATION.COM**  
Luis Enrique is set to return as Spain’s manager on Tuesday, five months after giving up the post. He left because his nine-year-old daughter, who subsequently died, was seriously ill with bone cancer.

His former assistant, Robert Moreno, who took over as head coach in June and had previously run the side in Luis Enrique’s name, will leave immediately.

Moreno walked out of the Metropolitano stadium in tears and without a word following Spain’s 5-0 win over Romania on Monday night. The players did not speak to the media either.

It will be the fifth managerial spell for Spain since June 2018, all under president Luis Rubiales. Julen Lopetegui was sacked on the eve of the World Cup after agreeing to join Real Madrid following the tournament.

He was replaced by Fernando Hierro for the competition and he was followed by Luis Enrique, Moreno and now Luis Enrique again.

Luis Enrique left the team camp in March, on the eve of their meeting with Malta. He continued to manage the team from a distance, with Moreno on the bench on his behalf.

Moreno was named as the permanent manager with a contract until the summer, although in September he said he would stand aside if Luis

Enrique found himself able to return, insisting that friendship came above all else.

It was understood he would continue to form part of the coaching staff, returning to his former role as assistant. But the way it was finally managed appears to have made that impossible.

Rubiales had recently spoken to Luis Enrique about a return. When the media suggested that Moreno might be replaced, Moreno insisted that he laid more trust in what he had been told internally than what was said in the media and that his intention was to continue.

After Spain’s match with Malta on Friday, Rubiales insisted that he had faith in Moreno but he sought to put off talk of who would take the team at Euro 2020 and failed to confirm that the coach would keep the post.

That he had spoken publicly and failed to put a lid on speculation, instead deepening it, made Moreno aware of moves undertaken behind his back, precipitating events on Monday night.

Hurt not so much at Luis Enrique’s return but the way it was handled, Moreno did not speak in the press conference after the 5-0 win. He had not been in a fit state to do so and refused to appear before the media.

When Moreno departed he looked devastated.

## Pakistan consider debut for 16-year-old whose mother just died

**BRISBANE, NOV 19 (AFP):** He is only 16 and reeling from his mother’s death last week, but Pakistan believe express bowling sensation Naseem Shah can be a match-winner in the opening Test against Australia.

The exciting teenager is on the cusp of selection for the game at the Gabba in Brisbane starting Thursday after impressing with a fiery eight-over spell against Australia A in Perth.

If he makes the grade, Naseem will join a handful of others to debut at 16, including Indian legend Sachin Tendulkar.

The youngest-ever Test player listed by Cricinfo was Pakistan’s Hasan Raza in 1996, aged just 14, although his date of birth was later disputed.

“The best thing about Naseem Shah is the control he has on his bowling,” head coach Misbah-ul-Haq told cricket.com.au.

“He has a very good bowling action and knows which deliveries to bowl. He can bowl with a very good control. He knows his stuff and bowled really well in the first-class matches he played this season.

“He’s bowled well here too and is the standout bowler for us. The way he’s been bowling, he can be a match-winner for us,” he added.

Pakistan have a history of bleeding promising players early, ac-

counting for six of the 10 youngest to play Test matches.

But Naseem is also carrying the huge extra burden of his mother passing away.

“He spoke to his family and they said ‘this is where your mum would have wanted you to be,’” Pakistan Cricket Board chief executive Wasim Khan told the Sydney Morning Herald on why Naseem opted to remain in Australia.

“Everyone has rallied around him, keeping a close eye on him, making sure he’s okay.

“He’s got a few confidantes in the team that he can go to if he’s feeling low or not feeling great. He wanted to stick it out,” Wasim added.

Naseem has only played seven first-class games and while selectors clearly like what they see, how he copes in the heat of battle over five days against world-class batsmen such as Steve Smith and David Warner remains to be seen.

Seasoned campaigner Smith warned he won’t be afraid to exploit Naseem’s inexperience if the young gun gets the nod.

“He’s half my age. It’ll be interesting ... 16 is young,” Smith told reporters.

“I dare say you’d be pretty nervous at 16 playing a Test match, particularly away from home. He’s obviously got some skill if they’re picking him and you don’t take anyone lightly.

## Formula E: D’Ambrosio for improved show in new season

**MUMBAI, NOV 19 (PTI):** Mahindra Racing driver Jerome D’Ambrosio is optimistic of an improved show over last year when the Formula E season kicks off in Riyadh in Saudi Arabia in a few days time.

D’Ambrosio led the 2018/19 drivers’ championship in the initial part of season 5, having opened it with a podium finish and a win. “Well, obviously looking forward to it (the new season). We have improved as compared to last year and we

have made progress. Last year we managed to be competitive at times but at times we were not. We have managed to work on the package and structure to be more consistent and I’m looking forward to be on the track,” D’Ambrosio said here. D’Ambrosio and Pascal Wehrlein, who joined Mahindra Racing last year, will continue to spearhead the team’s on-track charge. Wehrlein, with one pole, six further Super Pole appearances, two fastest laps and a

podium on his Mahindra debut, proved among the fastest drivers on the grid.

D’Ambrosio also spoke on his chemistry with Pascal. “It was obvious his strength was qualifying and my strength was race craft. It is good to have drivers with different racing styles. Because, we are able to push each other in our respective weaknesses or strength and try to progress. It is a good balance between me and Pascal,” the 33-year-old Belgian said.



# Former Pak PM Nawaz Sharif leaves for London for medical treatment

**M ZULQERNAIN**

**LAHORE, Nov 19 (PTI):** Pakistan's ailing former prime minister Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday left for London in an air ambulance for medical treatment for multiple diseases, days after the Lahore High Court allowed him to travel abroad for four weeks and rejected the Imran Khan government's condition of furnishing an indemnity bond.

Sharif, 69, is accompanied by his younger brother Shehbaz Sharif, his personal physician Adnan Khan and other personnel.

The Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) (PML-N) supremo left for London via Qatar after arriving at Lahore airport, where the air ambulance equipped with an intensive care unit and an operation theatre had arrived from Doha.

PML-N spokesperson Marriyum Auranzeb told PTI that Sharif would be taken to Harely Street Clinic upon arrival in London for his treatment and, if required, he may

be shifted to the US (Boston) for further treatment.

She said that before the departure the doctors examined Sharif at his Jati Umra residence in Lahore and gave him a heavy dose of steroids and medicines to ensure that his condition remains stable during the travel.

Sharif's physician Khan said in a tweet late on Wednesday that an intensive care unit and an operation theatre had been set up in the air ambulance and a team of doctors and paramedics will also be on board.

Sharif is suffering from multiple health complications, including erratic platelet count, and was treated at his residence near Lahore.

On Saturday, the Lahore High Court allowed Sharif to travel abroad for four weeks for medical treatment. The four-week duration can be extended further on his doctors' recommendations.

The court also or-



dered the Imran Khan government to remove Sharif's name from the no-fly list or the Exit Control List (ECL).

On Wednesday last week, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government granted a one-time permission to Sharif for four weeks to travel abroad for his treatment provided he submitted indemnity bonds worth Rs 700 crore.

On Thursday, Sharif challenged this condi-

tion in the court terming it 'illegal' and a "trap" of prime minister Khan to use them (bonds) for his political gains.

He recently secured eight weeks bail on medical grounds from the Islamabad High Court in the Al-Azizia Mills corruption case in which he was serving seven years imprisonment. He also got bail from the LHC in the money laundering case.

He agreed to go to the

UK for treatment, heeding doctors' advice and accepting his family's request. He was scheduled to leave for London on a Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight on Sunday last week. However, he could not leave as his name figured in the no fly-list.

The former prime minister was lodged in the Kot Lakhpat jail but last month he was sent to the custody of the National

Accountability Bureau which is probing the Sharif family in the Chaudhry Sugar Mills corruption case.

In December last year, an accountability court had sentenced Sharif to seven years in prison in the Al-Azizia Steel Mills corruption case and acquitted him in the Flagship case.

The Sharif family has denied all corruption charges and termed them as politically motivated.

## Israel intercepts four rockets launched from Syria: army



**JERUSALEM, Nov 19 (AFP):** Israel's anti-missile defence system intercepted four rockets fired from neighbouring Syria on Tuesday, the army said.

"No hits on Israeli communities were identified," the army added in a WhatsApp message.

Meanwhile, blasts were heard close to Damascus airport in the Syrian capital, the official SANA news agency reported on Tuesday morning.

Around 450 rockets were fired into Israel last week from the Gaza Strip in the aftermath of a military operation against an Islamic Jihad commander, according to the Israeli army, but

no rockets were reported to have been fired from Syria.

Baha Abu Al-Ata, who Israel blamed for recent rocket fire into its territory, was killed in a strike on his home in Gaza City.

A ceasefire between Israel and the Islamic Jihad was agreed after 50 hours of clashes, but the deal remains precarious.

On the same day as strikes killed Ata, Syrian state media reported that an Israeli strike hit the home of another Islamic Jihad militant, killing his son and another person.

Islamic Jihad accused Israel of being behind the strike in Damascus. The Israeli army refused to comment.

## Hong Kong university protesters defy surrender warnings

Dozens of exhausted pro-democracy protesters occupying a Hong Kong university defied warnings to surrender Tuesday on the third day of a stand-off with police, as China sent fresh signals that its patience with nearly six months of unrest was running out. Fearing arrest or being shot at by police, a dwindling number of protesters remained huddled inside Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) as night fell.

The siege at PolyU began Sunday with many hundreds of protesters occupying the campus as part of a broader campaign of massive disruption across Hong Kong that began last week.

The ensuing confrontation turned into the most intense and prolonged of Hong Kong's pro-democracy crisis, which has seen millions take to the streets since June to voice anger at China's erosion of the territory's freedoms.

During the siege protesters had repelled police surges with a barrage of Molotov cocktails, arrows and bricks. Police in response threatened to use live rounds.

Some protesters escaped overnight on Monday by shinning down ropes from a footbridge to a road, where they were whisked away on motorbikes.

Others disappeared into manholes to try to probe the drainage system for a route out.

In an apparently co-ordinated effort to distract police, tens of thousands of people streamed towards the PolyU campus on Monday night as clashes simultaneously raged with police in nearby Kowloon district.



- New phase of violence -

Footage on Monday showed armoured police beating fallen protesters with batons as they lay on the ground.

One officer was filmed stamping on the head of a man who was already subdued.

Alleged police brutality is one of the central complaints of the protest movement. Senior officers insist their men are acting proportionately.

In her first public comments on the PolyU crisis, Hong Kong chief executive Carrie Lam said surrender was the only way to achieve a peaceful outcome.

"This objective could only be achieved with the full cooperation of the protesters, including of course the rioters.

"They have to stop violence, give up the weapons and come out peacefully and take the instructions from the police," she said.

Lam said children who surrendered would not be arrested, though protesters aged over 18 would face charges of rioting.

About 1,000 people had been arrest-

ed throughout Hong Kong over the previous 24 hours, Chief Superintendent Kwok Ka-chuen said on Tuesday afternoon.

This was roughly a fifth of all arrests since the unrest began in June.

Kwok said those arrested included some who had absented from the footbridge, as well as motorcyclists who helped them.

And in an apparent contradiction of Lam, Kwok insisted everyone would feel the force of the law.

"No excuse, no political demand or motive can spare anyone from legal liability," he said.

"Regardless of their age and causes, they are to face the consequences of their own actions."

- Determination -  
With police custody their best option, some inside PolyU were determined to fight on.

"Even if we surrender they will still put us to jail. It seems we have two options, but actually we only have one... which is jail," one of the protesters, a mechanical engineering student who gave his name as Matthew, told AFP inside the campus.

But their numbers were dwindling. AFP

reporters on site estimated up to 100 remained by late afternoon.

The new phase of mass disruption, which began last week, has caused chaos throughout the international financial hub, with schools closed, train lines disrupted and major roads blocked by barricades.

With the crisis deepening, China's ambassador to Britain upped the ante on Monday.

"If the situation becomes uncontrollable, the central government would certainly not sit on our hands and watch," Liu Xiaoming said. "We have enough resolution and power to end the unrest."

In another ominous signal, China insisted Tuesday it had sole authority to rule on constitutional matters in Hong Kong, which it rules under a special model giving the city greater freedoms than enjoyed on the mainland.

The warning came as it condemned a decision by the city's high court on Monday to overturn a ban on face masks worn by pro-democracy protesters.

Only China's parliament has the right

to rule on Hong Kong's Basic Law -- the city's mini-constitution, parliament spokesman Zang Tiewei said.

"No other institution has the right to make judgements or decisions," he said.

A mainland scholar who requested anonymity to speak freely about such a sensitive subject said while the parliament had the right to take away what it gave, the timing of the announcement was ill-advised.

"Such a statement would gravely affect people's views on the principle of 'One Country, Two System'."

Carrie Lam has repeatedly insisted that her unpopular police force can contain the unrest, and said Tuesday there was currently no need for the People's Liberation Army to intervene.

Protests started in June as a peaceful condemnation of a now-shelved China extradition bill.

They morphed into a broader movement to defend the city's unique freedoms, which were meant to be enshrined in the Basic Law when Hong Kong was handed over by Britain in 1997.

## New Zealand tightens foreign investment rules

Wellington, Nov 19 (AFP): Foreign investors hoping to buy New Zealand's strategic assets will now have to convince the government it is in the national interest, officials said Tuesday, while denying the rules targeted China.

New rules will for the first time give the government power to reject overseas investments in sensitive areas if it decides they could be detrimental to the country, Associate Finance Minister David Parker said.

He said the test would apply to crucial infrastructure including ports and airports, telecommunications and electricity networks, as well as firms developing military technology or supplying intelligence agencies.

"These powers will be used rarely and only where necessary for protecting New Zealand," Parker said in a statement, citing investments that could "pose a significant risk to our national security or



public order".

He said the new government power could also be used to veto foreign investments in media firms if they were a threat to democracy.

Previously, foreign investments have been screened on the basis of the buyer's character and financial capability to complete a proposed transaction.

However, intelligence agencies can already vet some infrastructure projects on the basis of national security.

The Government

Communications Security Bureau did this last year when it barred local telecoms firm Spark from using Chinese giant Huawei's equipment in its planned 5G network, citing "significant security risks".

Parker said the new powers were not aimed at investments from China, which is New Zealand's largest trading partner.

"The reforms will apply to all overseas investors, irrespective of where they are from," he said.

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# Mrunal Thakur joins Shahid Kapoor in 'Jersey'

**MUMBAI, NOV 19 (PTI):** Mrunal Thakur will star alongside Shahid Kapoor in the remake of Telugu hit, "Jersey".

The Hindi version will be directed by Gowtam Tinnanuri, who also helmed the 2019 Telugu original, starring Nani in lead role.

Mrunal's character has been described as an "anchor to Shahid's, who goes on an emotional journey against all odds to play cricket for the country in his mid 30's, when it's time for most people to retire from competitive sports".

The actor is excited to come aboard the film.

"When I saw the original film, I was bowled over by its passionate emotional journey. It felt like I had lived a full lifetime of experiences in those two plus hours.

"So deep was the affect of the film on me that I couldn't get it out of my heart the whole night, so I immediately watched it again the next day. I can't wait for Hindi audiences to experience a similar impact," Mrunal said in a statement.

The actor was last seen opposite John Abraham in "Batla House" and Hrithik Roshan in "Super 30".

Tinnanuri said Mrunal was the first choice for the female lead part and he is happy that she agreed to do the film.



"After Shahid came on board, I only had Mrunal on my mind for the lead opposite him. I loved her performance and confidence in 'Super 30' opposite Hrithik and felt she's perfectly fit for the part in 'Jersey' and will do full justice to the role," he said.

Produced by Allu Aravind, Aman Gill, Dil Raju, the film has a release date of August 28, 2020.

## Nolan always envisioned Batman films as trilogy: Christian Bale

**TORONTO, NOV 19 (PTI):** Christian Bale says "The Dark Knight" series, based on DC superhero Batman, was wrapped up in three films as director Christopher Nolan had conceptualised the franchise as a trilogy.

The actor played the Caped Crusader in three critically-lauded and commercially successful Batman films -- "Batman Begins" (2005), "The Dark Knight" (2008) and "The Dark Knight Rises" (2012).

Bale said the filmmaker would often tell him that after the third film is made, they would stop at it.

"We knew we had to reinvent it. I literally had people laugh at me when I told them we were doing a new kind of Batman. I think that the reason I worked was first and foremost Chris' take on it. But also we never were arrogant to assume that we had an opportunity beyond one film at a time. That's something that Chris always would talk about. He'd say, 'This is it. We're making one film. That's all we've got'."

"Then when they came and said, 'You want to go make another?' It was fantastic, but we still said, 'This is it. We will never get another opportunity.' Then they came and they said, 'OK, let's do a third one.' Chris had always said to me that if we were fortunate to be able to make three we would stop," Bale,



45, told the Toronto Sun newspaper.

The actor revealed they were approached to make a fourth film in the franchise but he stuck with Nolan's vision.

"They inevitably came to us and said, 'How about a No 4?' I said, 'No. We have to stick to Chris' dream, which was always to, hopefully, do a trilogy. Let's not stretch too far and become overindulgent and go a fourth.

"That's why we, well Chris, stepped away. After that I was informed my services were no longer required," Bale said.

### Rupert Grint Says He Always Saw 'Sparks' Between Emma Watson and Tom Felton (Exclusive)

Rupert Grint is looking back at his years on the set of the Harry Potter franchise, and opening up about the off-screen "sparks" that flew between some of his fellow castmates.

Recently, Emma Watson spoke about being single in a cover story for British Vogue, where she said she prefers the term "self-partnered."

Soon after, her Harry Potter co-star, Tom Felton, praised Watson and her term while speaking with MailOnline, and laughingly said, "I like it! It's the first I've heard of it, but it's great. I'm in the same category, to be honest with you, quite happily self-partnered."

Grint, however, admits that he could see the two stars hitting it off, if that came to pass.

"There was always something," Grint told ET's Rachel Smith while sitting down with his The Servant co-star, Nell Tiger Free, as the pair promoted their upcoming AppleTV+ thriller series. "There was a little bit of a spark."

Grint laughingly said he didn't want to stir up any drama or rumors, but admitted that there "were some sparks" indeed during the years together on set.

"But we were kids. It was like any kind of playground

romance," Grint added with a shrug. As for his time on set, he never really had any flirtations with his fellow co-stars. "I didn't have any sparks. I was spark-free."

Grint's relationship with the film franchise is unique, as shooting the eight-installment series made up a huge portion of his childhood and teenage years. In fact, he felt so close to the production that he never saw the films themselves, and only recently watched the first movie in the series, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone.

As for why it took so long to watch his movies, Grint explained, "You watch us grow up through all the awkward teenage stages, and it's not something that I've ever really wanted to revisit. [Although] It was a great experience, and I've got great memories."

As for a possible reboot or revival of the franchise, Grint said it might not be something he -- or his castmates -- are prepared to consider.

"It was an amazing period of our lives, but I don't think any of us would be keen to jump back into it just yet," Grint shared. "But never say never."

Currently, Grint stars opposite Free, Toby Kebbell and Lauren Ambrose in the upcoming psychological horror series The Servant.



**BABE ALERT!** The stunning model, Sofia Richie shows off her freshly touched-up mane after an appointment at celeb-favorite salon, Nine Zero One, in West Hollywood.

## Today's superhero films 'too noisy' and overshot, says Willem Dafoe

**NEW YORK, NOV 19 (PTI):** Actor Willem Dafoe believes the process of making superhero films changed dramatically from the time he portrayed Green Goblin in Sam Raimi's "Spiderman" to his most recent outing in "Aquaman".

During a panel discussion at 92Y in New York, the actor said working on Raimi's 2000 blockbuster felt like making an "independent film" at the time.

"'Spider-Man' was great fun because Sam Raimi made that like it was a little independent film. And also that was before a lot of the technology was in place, and comic book movies were fairly new, so it was exciting.

"There was nothing by the numbers, they didn't roll in the experts. Now it's become, the industry outgrew itself," Dafoe said.

But these days, the actor said, there is an element of grandiose in making superhero films, which often makes them "too long and too noisy", according to IndieWire.

"You have fun with some of the things that you get to do, because there's lots of hardware

and there's lots of crazy crane shots and those kind of things. That's fun. But stuff is overshot.

"They spend a lot of money on big set pieces, because that's what delivers the action, and I find them too long and too noisy. But let's not get into this. I don't want to bite the hand that feeds me. But, no, seriously, folks. Look, those aren't the movies I run to," Dafoe said.

The actor lamented that the makers adhere to set standards while making a superhero film, which actually serves as a restriction in creativity. "What I worry about is, those big movies, they need something to feed them. They need a surge, and they need people pushing the boundaries so they can go forward. Because they're not in the business of going forward, really, he added.

"They're in the business of business, and you can make beautiful things because they have a lot of resources. They can make fantastic things and they can make things that work all over the world because very few other countries have that kind of muscle to make these spectacular things," the actor added.

### Aries:

Seeds don't germinate overnight. It takes tender love and care to bring the saplings to life, Aries. You must be willing to provide nourishment consistently over a period of time. Ditto for your creative projects.

### Taurus:

An Esther Hicks quote to swear by: "the only true measure of success is the amount of joy we are feeling." Taurus, you have created a secure and abundant life for yourself, one that is providing you with the kind of wealth that was once a distant dream. But are you even getting a chance to enjoy the money you have put in the bank? Are you actively engaging in activities that raise your vibrations and bring a smile to your face? Something to think about when you find yourself in a rut today.

Tip: Engage in activities that bring you joy.

### Gemini:

If you wake up feeling like the most sensitive version of yourself, you've got the stars to blame. Stay away from toxic people and harsh environments until you've centred yourself. This is the only way to maintain that state of

Zen. Some of you may be experiencing misunderstandings in your interpersonal relationships. Don't assume, ask. Instead of imagining the worst, focus on clearing the air.

Tip: Centre yourself before you interact with the outside world.

### Cancer:

What are you going to do with all that money in the bank? You have created both wealth and abundance for yourself. Now is the time to kick back and enjoy the fruits of your labour. Remember, generosity is a virtue. Be sure to share the abundance with those who helped you get where you are today. When it comes to business, continue to make practical decisions.

### Leo:

"Do whatever brings you to life, then. Follow your own fascinations, obsessions, and compulsions. Trust them. Create whatever causes a revolution in your heart," wise words by Elizabeth Gilbert to help you expand your creative consciousness. Leo, dedicate the weekend to the one thing you love, whether it's sketching, journaling, dancing or whipping up magic with a lethal combination of flour, butter, sugar, and

eggs. What you will discover in the process: there's more to life than checking off that to-do list, impressing your boss, and bringing home that big, fat paycheck.

Tip: Let your inner child come out and play.

### Virgo:

Virgo, take some time to understand your relationship with the work you do. Are you satisfied with the path you have chosen for yourself? Do you feel motivated to wake up everyday and make a difference? The cards are asking you to put your energies where your passion lies. It's only when you create from a place of love, that success and abundance will flow freely into your existence.

### Libra:

What makes inhalation and exhalation so important and why are the yogis constantly talking about the power of the breath? Remember, the breath is the flow of 'prana' or the life force through the energy pathways. This movement not only reinvigorates our body, but also brings peace and mental clarity. Sounds like a win-win situation, Scorpio:

Here's some daily wisdom courtesy the internet: "If you give the situation no energy, it will disappear from whence it came." What are the things that have served their purpose in your life? How and where do you need to detach? Scorpio, take active measures when it comes to clearing your space. A good way to transcend the antics of the monkey mind is to become an observer of your thoughts. Make this a part of your daily practice, starting today.

Tip: Practice detached awareness.

### Sagittarius:

Thucydides was an ancient Greek historian who, among other things, developed a deep understanding of human nature. He once said, "The secret to happiness is freedom and the secret to freedom is courage." Let this continue to be your mantra today and every day. The Universe is extremely proud of the courage you have displayed and how you have emerged victorious despite the many curveballs thrown your way. PS: A new adventure is about to begin..

### Capricorn:

A Nicholas Spark quote that promises to give you perspective: "If it comes, let it come. If it stays, let it stay. If it goes, let it go." Capricorn, your circumstances are going to be anything but easy.

### Aquarius:

Wise words by David Frost, "Diplomacy is the art of letting someone else have your way." See how and where you need to flex your diplomatic muscles. Trust that you have the wisdom required to resolve this situation. As such, you're going to find yourself playing wise counsel. Could your stories awaken another to their power and potential? Don't shy away from sharing that personal anecdote, Aquarius.

Tip: Use diplomacy to resolve this situation.

### Pisces:

Dive headfirst into your creative projects today. Withdraw from the outside world so you can set up a date with the Muse and spend the entire day in the studio. You have a host of mind-blowing ideas at this point that are just waiting to take a concrete form, so why wait?