

SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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FOOTBALLERS ON A CLEAN-UP DRILL

GANGTOK, 26 AUG: Like last month, footballers of different clubs and members of sports associations came together again on Saturday morning to clean the Paljor Stadium complex. The initiative has been taken by the Sports & Youth Affairs Department to encourage footballers and athletes to clean up Paljor Stadium on the last Saturday of every month. Sports & Youth Affairs Department Deputy Director [coaching], Thupten Rapgyal, who is also the in-charge of Paljor Stadium, believes that such initiatives inculcate a stronger sense of belonging and ownership among players towards the stadium.

Hurricane Harvey makes landfall in central Texas, 3 dead

HOUSTON, AUG 27 (PTI): Hurricane Harvey, the most powerful to hit the US in 13 years, left a trail of destruction as it swept through Texas today, pummelling the region with heavy rains and claiming at least five lives since making landfall on the US' Gulf Coast.

After a night of flash flood and tornado watch, Houston woke up to a catastrophic morning, yet more life-threatening flash flooding, heavy downpour as rescuers answered desperate calls for help all along the ravaged Texas coastline.

The actual toll from Harvey remains unclear as rescuers were still trying to reach people stranded across the region.

But the National Weather Service (NWS) said five people lost their lives in the Houston area in unconfirmed flood-related deaths. Fourteen people have also been injured.

With winds topping 130 mph, Harvey is the first Category 4 storm to make landfall in the US on Saturday since Hurricane Charley struck Florida in 2004, and the first to hit Texas since Hurricane Carla in 1961.

The hurricane dumped more than 20 inches of rain in the Houston area, causing "life-threatening catastrophic flooding" in southeastern Texas, The National Hurricane Centre reported.

Though there were multiple hazards present across the area, the

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SAATHI trains 119 more students to battle against addiction

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 27 AUG:

SAATHI (Sikkim Against Addiction Towards Healthy India) conducted its seventh offsite training camp for the year 2016-17 and the 16th since the programme started back in 2013, at the Indian Himalayan Centre for Adventure and Eco-Tourism (IHCAE) at Chemchey in South Sikkim for 119 students from the government senior secondary schools of Samdong, Khamdong, Kitam and Yangyang. The camp was held from the 24 to 26 August.

SAATHI is a project initiative under Chief Minister's Youth Empowerment Mission, 2013, aimed at combating substance abuse through the intervention of peer educators and counselors at the school level.

A SAATHI press re-



lease highlights that the latest training was also part of an ongoing endeavor to curb drug abuse issues amongst school age children. Students at the training were accompanied by Teacher Coordinators of the respective schools and the SAATHI Project Team.

Over the two and a half days of the camp, various motivational and technical sessions on drugs along with learning based fun and physical activities were conducted with the students.

The session on the

Medical aspects of drugs was taken by Reshma Subba, Psychologist from Namchi District Hospital, the inspirational and life skills session was facilitated by Pravin Khaling, a counselor and a motivational speaker followed by an experience sharing session by Udai Chandra Rai from Serenity Home, Gangtok.

Finally the newly-launched SAATHI App was presented and demonstrated to the students by the SAATHI Project Team. Other activities included team building

sessions, planning sessions, meditation, nature walk, physical training and talent hunt.

The camp was also addressed by Col. (retd.) DN Bhutia, Secretary Rājya Sainik Board, and also the Chief Administrator of Indian Himalayan Centre for Adventure and Eco-Tourism.

The camp saw a positive response from the students as most of them pledged to be peer educators and help the greater cause of fighting against drugs in the State, the release informs.

Tanzi-Bikmat GPU thanks senior citizens, briefs them about developmental and welfare schemes



SUMMIT REPORT
NAMCHI, 27 AUG:

A daylong briefing cum felicitation and counselling for senior citizens of Tanzi-Bikmat GPU was held on Saturday at the Gram Prashasan Kendra there.

The programme was chaired by the area MLA (Namthang Rateypani), Tilu Gurung, and was also attended by Zilla Panchayat member, all Gram Panchayat representatives as well as PRI

representatives from different GPUs.

The Programme was organized by Tanzi-Bikmat GPU in collaboration with the State Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (SIRD&PR), RMDD, under Namthang Block.

The main objective of the programme was to brief the senior citizens about the various developmental activities carried out in the Gram Panchayat during 2016-17.

In his introductory remarks, Zilla member Gokul Rai spoke about the importance of preparing a Gram Panchayat "policy for senior citizens" in consonance with the government policy. He stressed that the GPU should ensure welfare of senior citizens and improving the quality of their lives.

The RDA in turn spoke about the various developmental activities

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BDO Yangang is South DAC's employee of the month

SUMMIT REPORT
NAMCHI, 27 AUG:

BDO (Yangang), Saloni Pradhan, has been selected as Employee-of-the-Month of South District for the month of September. Her selection was made by the Executive Committee of South district. She has been feted as one for "executing extraordinary works in past months," an official communiqué informs.

The executive committee invites nominations from departments along with professional details of the nominated



candidates during the last week of every month for this recognition. Based on these nominations and the accompa-

nying explanations, the employee of the month is selected.

For September, Abhishek Kharel (Training Officer, IRDD), BK Rai (DE, Power Dept) and Saloni Pradhan (BDO Yangang) were nominated by different head of departments.

The BDO Yangang was nominated by ADC Dev Rabong and SDM Yangang for Employee of the Month (September 2017). After discussions, the Executive Committee headed by DC South de-

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Spiritual pursuit, entertainment or good business?

SUDIPTA CHANDA
SILIGURI, 26 AUG:

Haryana, Punjab and Delhi witnessed unbridled violence throughout Friday over the conviction of a rape accused godman. Inquiries would follow hereafter, responsibility would be fixed and heads will roll.

Crimes have been committed and so punishment is due. But, to see such a large number of people swayed off their senses in sheer frenzy over the conviction of a person charged with as heinous a crime as rape, gives goosebumps!

And, the person is supposed to be the incarnation of some god or the other and is a self-styled messiah of other



faiths too as his nomenclature 'Ram-Rahim' suggests.

There is no religion involved here and therefore nothing dignified. The very appearance of the person in question and his traits clearly spell here is an extremely

crafty individual, who has seen through the people's psyche and is merrily taking them for a ride without compunction, minting millions, or is it billions, on the sidelines.

What makes the finer senses wonder is how count-

less people can fall for such playacting by a brash individual dressed like some character out of fantasyland. And what is painful to notice is how the same people can go to the extent of laying down their lives or take some as has now been proven, to prevent his conviction.

The godman and his entire scheme of projecting himself as a spiritual leader, social worker, actor, singer and director in one word can be described as sordid. Yet the blind faith illustrated by his followers for such a grimy character is amazing.

Perhaps this is the way of our country. When people endear someone or something, reason takes a back-

seat. It is blind emotion all the way thereafter. The object of reverence becomes sacrosanct, inviolable and accusing it of any wrongdoing is blasphemy.

Now for the brass tacks. Such godmen, as the country witnessed in the past too, are often in cahoots with certain influential layers of the society. It is a convenient arrangement through which the mass projecting some godman like Ram-Rahim or his ilk.

These godmen gradually grow into cult figures and bring with them a sizeable support base that no political leader can ignore. Elections

after all are won through numbers. And so the cults thrive.

Unlike political parties, these godmen have an iron grip over their followers. Political parties' whips are often ignored by their very own, but one whip from the godmen and all their followers would drink from the same trough. Who in his senses would therefore antagonize such a repository?

And this is how they grow in size and stature till the persona of some godmen comes unstuck linked either with arms case, sex racket or rape incident as has happened with Ram-Rahim.

But, till then, it is good business.

SKM retains Golay as prez, confirms Kunga Nima as acting president

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 27 AUG:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha yesterday released a new list of central office-bearers, central working committee and district committees. PS Tamang [Golay] has again been entrusted the responsibility of party presidency while Kunga Nima Lepcha has been nominated acting president of the party.

An SKM press release issued by its publicity secretary, Bikash Basnet, informs that Navin Kariki and MP Subba have been appointed working presidents and Arun Uprety the secretary general of the party. Sangha MLA Sonam Lama has appointed chief coordinator while TN Dhakal is senior vice-president.

Former Ministers TM Rai, Sonam Kaleon and Namka Gyaltsen and former Namchi Municipal Council Chairman, Budha Bir Tamang have meanwhile appointed as advisors.

The release informs that the list includes more than 200 office-bearers in different committees and frontal organisations and 93 in the central working committee of the party.

The SKM acting president released the list at a high-level meeting of the party on Saturday at the party head-office. He appealed to all party workers to join forces to take the party programmes forward and reinforce the vision of a new Sikkim of the party president.



Chai?

Given that Temi Tea is toasted as the “champagne of teas”, one wonders why tea cultivation has not expanded beyond the Temi Tea Estate in Sikkim. Hold that thought, because an effort is afoot to introduce tea to more slopes in the State. Around two years ago, around a lakh and a half tea saplings were planted on an experimental basis in the eight villages of Linkey, Parakha, Machong, Lossing, Rinke, Barapathing, Rolep and Lamaten in East district. Thirty farmers have cleared space for these plantations and the saplings were brought from nurseries in Assam and are certified as Organic. The saplings have another five years to go to mature, but the advance feedback is promising. In the picture here is a farmer from Tekabong-Parakha, government teacher Thakur Prasad Pokhrel, who planted tea saplings on a one acre plot. [REBYNA RANA]

ASDLF convenes meeting in Mangan

SUMMIT REPORT

DIKCHU, 27 AUG:

The All Sikkim Democratic Front (ASDTF) vice convener cum in-charge, Santosh Lohia, convened a meeting with business persons of Mangan bazaar at the SDF party office here on 26 Aug.

The meeting was chaired by SDF vice-president for North Sikkim, MB Thapa, accompanied by



Sikkim Bihari Jagran Manch vice president, Md. Allaudin, senior and younger youth of the business community of Mangan bazaar.

Truck looted and bombed at 27 Mile



SUMMIT REPORT

KALIMPONG, 27 AUG

A truck going towards Sikkim was looted and targeted with arson, a bomb was reportedly hurled at it, on NH 10 on midnight Friday, it

is informed.

The vehicle was stopped at 27 Mile by around two dozen masked people, who after looting Rs 10,000 in cash from the occupants, directed the driver and

his helper to get out of the vehicle. Both fled from the scene and heard a blast shortly after.

The area falls under Rambhi police post and two vehicles have already been torched here

as part of the latest agitation. A team of Rambhi Police inspected the truck and the damage on Saturday morning. Meanwhile, CID bomb squad and forensic teams also visited the area.

BBBP awareness for adolescent girls at Tingvong



SUMMIT REPORT

DIKCHU, 27 AUG:

An awareness programme for adolescent girls and self help groups under the “Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao” initiative was organised by Block Task Force, Dzongu Tribal Project on Saturday at Tingvong in Upper Dzongu, North Sikkim.

Adolescent girls, mainly from Tingvong Secondary School and Namprik Primary School, were among the participants.

Delivering the welcome speech, Netuk Lepcha, CDPO (Dzongu) explained the theme of the programme while resource person Yeshey Ongmu Bhutia, the Child Protection Officer, detailed the rights of the children and the

salient features of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, Juvenile Justice Act and child marriage.

Medical Officer, Passingdang PHC, Dr. HK Rai, delivered tips on health and hygiene and also touched on MDR Tuberculosis which is growing in most of the villages.

SDM Dzongu spoke on the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao programme.

A quiz competition was also held among the gathered students.

The function had Zilla member Tingvong GPU, Chungden Lepcha, as chief guest who suggested that a lady teacher be nominated for POCSO Act related awareness and cases and thanked the organizers for the awareness camp.

Hurricane Harvey makes ...

contd from pg01

greatest threat to life and property remained the ongoing extreme rainfall and subsequent flash flooding.

Tornadoes spawned by Harvey damaged more than 50 homes in Fort Bend County, struck a commercial centre near Katy and tore through Cypress, while parts of the Houston region were evacuated ahead of record river floods.

“It’s catastrophic, unprecedented, epic - whatever adjective you want to use,” said Patrick Blood, a NWS meteorologist. “It’s pretty horrible right now.”

Forecasters said Harvey’s onslaught was just the beginning. The National Hurricane Centre (NHC) in Miami warned “catastrophic flooding” was likely to occur in the days ahead.

As many as six million people were believed to be in Harvey’s path as it is the heart of America’s oil-refining operations. The storm’s impact on refineries has already pushed up gasoline prices.

ATMs cash out too often in Singtam



SUMMIT REPORT

SINGTAM, 27 AUG:

Despite there being more than ten ATMs in Singtam bazaar, cash withdrawals remain difficult for people here to avail since these machines are never all in operation dispensing cash for customers. It is

almost as if the banks have found a rhythm of having their ATMs working on alternate days! And that too with limits on withdrawals and limited currency value denominations. It is only rarely that ATMs do not run out of cash within hours.

BDO Yangang is South DAC’s...

contd from pg01

clared Ms Pradhan as the Employee of the Month.

Her photo will be displayed in front of DC Office for the entire month in a move to recognize her diligence and to inspire others.

The district office has detailed nine achievements of the officer as the extraordinary works she has achieved through her office.

Under her watch, Yangyang BAC became the first BAC in the district to introduce bio metrics attendance at every secondary and senior secondary school.

Ms Pradhan’s efforts also led to the installation of CCTVs at all Secondary and Senior Secondary Schools to secure the campuses from unwanted damage.

“Due to her positive efforts, Yangang BAC is the only BAC which has received awards in each category in 2017 as Best ICDS award (Samrok ICDS), Best PHSC Award (Lingmoo PHSC) and Best School Award (Lingmoo Senior Sec School) conferred by District administration on 15 August 2017. Yangang BAC is only BAC which achieved such recognition,” the list of her achievements prepared by the South DAC details.

She was also instrumental in ensuring construction of more than 500 toilets from the 14th FC Fund to make the BAC Open Defecation Free. “Due to her promptness, Yangang was the first ODF Block in South Sikkim and South

Sikkim the first ODF District in the country,” it is informed.

Recently conducted “freedom from open defecation week” from 9th to 15th August in grand manner, organising marathon Race, Rally, distribution of T-shirts, mugs banners spreading the msg of Sawtchh Bharat swatch Sikkim.

Apart from detailing several other achievements of the officer, the South DAC has also recognized her for having “always shown transparency in accounts of independence and other events.”

“South District Administration congratulates her for this recognition and hope it will spread positive energy in every officer for doing work with dedication,” the official communiqué concludes.

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India lift SAFF Under-15 C'ship

KATHMANDU, AUG 27 (PTI): Lalrokima and Vikram struck in the second half to guide India to SAFF Under-15 Championship title win as the visitors edged past hosts Nepal 2-1 in the final, here on Sunday.

The India team, which had players from AIFF's Regional Academy, trailed by a goal at the interval but Lalrokima and Vikram's timely strikes saved the day for India.

Ravi came close to scoring in the 14th minute while Harpreet's header missed the target narrowly soon after. Ravi shot it straight into the keeper's hands as India launched one attack after another.

India looked like the team more likely to score but Nepal earned a penalty against the run of play in the 40th minute.

The penalty was converted and the hosts headed to the dressing room leading 1-0 at the interval.

India could have equalised right at the beginning of the second half but the players could not finish off their chances. Givson's free-kick struck the cross bar in the 56th minute as luck continued to elude the boys.

Finally, Lalrokima struck in the 58th minute to draw parity. The goal infused life into the game as India roared in search of their second goal.

Sailo's effort was saved while Vikram hit it just wide as India bombarded the Nepal goalfront. But the Nepali defence stone-walled every effort until captain Vikram netted the ball in the 74th minute to put India into the lead.

"Congratulations to the boys and entire staff. The manner the boys have played is a clear indication of how a structured Youth Development Programme can raise the bar," AIFF President Praful Patel said.



CAEPHT hosts national youth parliament comptt

SUMMIT REPORT GANGETOK, 27 AUG:

With the aim of proving that everything can be resolved through debate rather than arguing, the 14th National Youth Parliament Competition (group level) was organised by the Central Agricultural University, Imphal at College of Agricultural Engineering and Post Harvest Technology (CAEPHT), Ranipool, on Saturday.

Students from the college

participated in a 55 minute youth parliament session discussing different types of government bills with special reference to health, women's empowerment and agriculture.

MP, Lok Sabha, PD Rai, was present as the chief guest and spoke with delight on the format and intent of the programme.

"The images of the parliamentary session were effectively portrayed by agriculture students covering all the major

problems prevailing in the country today. The team has done their homework well," he commented.

Speaking on how the Parliament functions, Mr Rai underlined that the Parliament was one place where all the problems are resolved through debate, a virtue which also keeps the country together.

National Youth Parliament group coordinator Dr AK Patibanda explained the rules of the

competition and stated that the competition was simultaneously held in different colleges of India among 16 groups.

During the programme, the students and teachers also took the pledge on the Swachhta campaign.

The event was also attended by CAU research director Dr CA Shrinivasmurthy and Sikkim University professor Dr Komal Singha as guests of honour and CAEPHT Dean Dr RP Mishra.

NC to defend Article 35A in apex court as private party: Omar

JAMMU, AUG 27 (PTI): The opposition National Conference (NC) is in talks with top legal luminaries of the country to defend the Article 35A in the Supreme Court as a private party, its working president Omar Abdullah has said.

Addressing a rally in Poonch district yesterday, he accused the PDP-BJP government in Jammu and Kashmir of putting up "weak defense" in the case while countering the challenge to Article 35A in the apex court.

"The PDP-led government cannot be trusted on this crucial and sensitive issue that relates to identity, dignity and existence of people of the State," the former chief minister said.

He said the NC would not let Article 35A to go at the strength and commitment of the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.

"The machinations of the BJP to repeal this provision through judicial process will not be allowed to succeed," he said.

Omar accused both

the PDP and the BJP of using the issue of Article 35A as per their "specific agendas".

"While the BJP is playing to galleries across the country by whipping up passions on this issue, the PDP is trying to involve the defenders of Article 35A by pretending to be serious in safeguarding this constitutional guarantee.

"We just cannot trust the PDP, as lust to remain glued to power may make Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti to give up and compromise with

the interests of the people," he said.

He cautioned against the conspiracies being hatched by the BJP to dispense with Article 370 and Article 35A as per their well-stitched strategy.

However, he reiterated the resolve of the people, irrespective of caste, creed, region or religion to thwart all these conspiracies.

The former chief Minister said the laws enacted 90 years ago

have withstood the test of time in preserving the identity of the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh besides preserving their legitimate rights.

"The PDP and BJP were using Article 35A as a double-edged weapon against the people of Jammu and Kashmir - first to erode the special status of the state and second, to divert the attention of the people from governance deficit and their failure on all fronts," he alleged.

NAFA – dedicated to Nepal's finer arts



NITESH R PRADHAN KATHMANDU, 26 AUG:

Bal Mandir is an old durbar considerably shaken by the devastating earthquake that had struck Nepal in April 2015. Since then, this government-maintained durbar has been empty. Once it housed offices of several government agencies including the office of Nepal Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA).

The NAFA office has now been shifted to the adjacent vacant land near the Bal Mandir.

During a recent visit to Nepal, I wanted to do more than what a tourist would, this brought me to Bal Mandir. On hearing that I hailed from Sikkim and that I am a journalist, the member secretary of the organisation, Navaraj Bhatta, was gracious enough to meet me.

"NAFA was formed after a long struggle of artists in 2010," he said.

After a long struggle of Nepali artists, the government formed this autonomous body through the Legislative Parlia-

ment of Nepal.

There are six departments of the Academy - Traditional arts, Painting, Sculpture, Folk Arts, Handicrafts and Architecture/other creative arts.

"NAFA facilitates the creation and exhibition of artworks along with study and research of various genres of art," he detailed.

However, he said that after the devastating earthquake, restoration of heritage has been challenging. "Works have started with international help along with heritage department," said the secretary.

NAFA has also successfully put Nepali artists in international platforms with various cultural exchange programs.

"We have displayed our work in many parts of India including in the Surajkund Mela but never Sikkim," he said.

He shared that he looks forward to check the formalities and bring the best of Nepali arts to Sikkim and vice-versa.

Tanzi-Bikmat GPU thanks...

Contd from pg01

undertaken by the gram panchayat during the financial year 2016-17 and the problems faced by the GP.

The programme was also addressed by Deputy Director SIRD&PR Chandra Kala Rai who spoke on health and sanitation as well as zero waste and the SBM programme.

The MLA detailed the schemes being implemented by the government

through Social Welfare Department for the welfare of senior citizens. She spoke about the Senior Citizens' Pension Scheme, schemes being implemented by the Department of Social Welfare under Financial Assistance Section for welfare of Senior Citizens by the state government and further thanked the Gram Panchayat and SIRD & PR for organising such a programme at the village level.

The programme also included the felicitation of senior citizens as well as Zilla and Gram Panchayat members with appreciation letters and tokens of gratitude for their contributions towards the holistic development of village.

The programme included a cultural programme by students and also featured recreation and entrainment activities for senior citizens.

North Eastern India's

ACCELERATOR ACADEMY

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SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

informed, inquisitive, relevant

Awaiting Collaborations

If people don't network, their issues will get hijacked

Gangtok is cleaner than most State capitals in India, much cleaner than any other hill station. And the Gangtokians appear happy with that much because one is yet to see any community-level initiative to improve civic conditions any further. For instance, it had to be the State Government which gave the nod to a proposal which came from a foreign funding agency to declare MG Marg a “litter & spit free zone”. The declaration was easy, it was the implementation that tested the patience of the enforcers. It has succeeded, but again as a top-down initiative, and with it, much before the rest of India was told to go swachh, Sikkim had added another USP to its appeal. Of course, no tourist is going to come to Gangtok only to see a the nation's first litter & spit free zone, but it will be initiatives like this that will add up to provide that larger argument which will convince visitors to choose Gangtok over, say a Shimla for their summer vacations. It would have been so much more palatable and welcome if the “zone” had come on public initiative. Why did it have to be the State which had to enforce the new stipulations? Why couldn't a local NGO have pursued the concept and convinced the locals to stop littering and spitting at MG Marg?

The problem lies with the fact that Gangtok, although it is the most urban of spaces in the State, is still also closed and uninvolved, populated by Gangtokians who are isolated not only in their lifestyles, but also their thinking. They complain that the UD&HD garbage collection trucks do not detour to their residences often enough, but will never come together to work out a solution for locality garbage disposal problems on their own. They will be scandalised when reports of a fire in a school in South India hits the headlines and will worry about the safety of their children, but will wait for the State Government to draw up a legislation making the schools safer. And then they will forget to keep track. They will not come together as parents and pressure the respective school managements to instal the safety mechanisms. They will complain of drunken driving on weekends until one of their own gets challaned for driving under the influence of alcohol and then it will be about how overbearing the cops have become. And through all this, they will not convince their neighborhood bars to collect car keys and refuse to hand them over to inebriated drivers or unless the group has a sober hand for the wheels. After all, it does not take a rocket scientist to identify the problem areas and suggest remedial measures when it comes to working out how communities can work together to make living better. The oft-expressed need for a civil society in Gangtok is not misplaced, the problem is, it does not appear to be forming; not until Gangtokians stop reacting only to personal discomforts and ignoring community issues. The problem with such an attitude is that when real issues crop-up, because the people are not interested in understanding them in their entirety, they get hijacked by people we all know popularly as “vested interests.” When this happens, there is a lot of noise, but no resolution. It is for the people to decide whether they want to continue living in this cacophony or opt for saner collaborations.

SUNIL PRADHAN

All Sikkim Subjects are Indian Citizens but all Indian Citizens are not Sikkim Subjects. This delineation of peoples sums up the legal status of Sikkim Subjects in the contemporary. Not so in the distant past, the erstwhile Buddhist theocratic kingdom of Sikkim did not possess any form of written nationality law (Hutt 2003:93) to normalize its residents as late as 1961. In the absence of apparent nationality law in Sikkim prior to 1961, it seemed probable that the residents in Sikkim who payed taxes to the Sikkim Durbar were rendered acquiescent to the customary laws of Sikkim. The ‘subjectification’ of customary laws on communities defined subjecthood of persons in Sikkim. The Sikkim Darbar promulgated the first ever codified nationality law referred to as the Sikkim Subject Regulation in 1961 to regulate its nationals within its territory. Upon Sikkim's ‘absorption’, the Sikkim Citizenship Order, 1975 facilitated transition of ‘Sikkim-Subject’ into Indian citizen. However, Sikkim Citizenship Order, 1975 was a mere adaptation of Sikkim Subject Regulation Act, 1961 as it facilitated Indian citizenship to those Sikkim Subjects whose names figured prior to 26 April, 1975 as per SSR, 1961. Sikkim's subjecthood is a legal status of India's Sikkimese citizens. This practice has been continued by successive Indian governments often giving a legal cover under the guise of Sikkim Citizenship Order, 1975 and its subsequent amendments.

Emphasis must be made on Sikkim's unique citizenship clause governed by Sikkim Subject Regulation not just on the grounds that Sikkim's entry into the fold of nation state is recent, but because Indian laws on citizenship as mandated by the Indian constitution abound with practices of providing the model of ‘differentiated citizenship’ or multicultural citizenship and even the Marshallian model of universal citizenship. The Indian law on citizenship renders citizenship rights to all its disadvantaged groups, immigrants and its national minorities. However, if one is to contextualize Sikkim citizenship provisions in the larger Indian context it is best illustrated through similar special status conceded to the states and residents of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of the Indian constitution and also to the North-Eastern states like Nagaland and Mizoram under Article 371A and 371G of the Indian Constitution. It is here that Sikkim's unique Sikkim Subject clause finds semblance within the regime of citizenship practices in India and as a matter of fact Sikkim's special status is governed by Article 371F of the Indian Constitution. Here is why non-Sikkim Subject Indian citizens residing in Sikkim should not ‘decry’ discrimination in

Subject and Citizen: “Sikkim Subjects” in Indian Democracy

the name of employment opportunities in public services and access to flush entitlements attached to the idea of Sikkim Subject. This territorial form of citizenship is indeed a unique Indian practice of bestowing citizenship to its ‘original’ habitants within definite territorial jurisdictions of states within India albeit under different nomenclatures and in Sikkim's case it is governed by Sikkim Subject. In many of the north east states, this territorial form of citizenship is governed by Sixth Schedule status where ‘original’ inhabitants are enumerated as Scheduled Tribes. Sikkim's territorial form of citizenship status is therefore regulated by Sikkim Subject status and governed by special provisions of Indian Constitution. As citizens residing in Sikkim and elsewhere in India, Sikkim Subjects simultaneously subscribe to the universalist model of citizenship attributed to TH Marshall, and within the territory of Sikkim state Sikkim Subject simply prescribe the special status provisions as illustrated by the special provisions of the Indian Constitution.

Sikkim's experiences with citizenship ought to be in context within the larger subject citizen debate in India and those prevailing in many of the non-western democracies. Unlike the experiences of western democracies on citizenship the trajectory of citizenship journey in India is a colonial attribute. The colonial state in India denied citizenship rights to natives simply on the grounds that the natives were not ‘civilized’ enough to be governed by western civic virtues. Hence, natives were considered incapable of attaining the status of citizens because they were subjects of an empire founded on the pedestal of ‘civilizing mission’. Post independence the journey of Indian citizenship has been a mere representation of colonial mimicry of western mannerism. The citizenship as a body of practice in India as a western import has therefore developed a distinct Indian quality one of which is Sikkim Subject. The ideals of western citizenship does not conform with the ideas of non-western knowledge subject particularly with many of the non-national cultural communities (tribals in north east etc and Sikkimese people) because of their relative isolation from the British rule as they were self governing communities. As self governing communities they were not subject to colonial governmentality or any form of modernizing state power. The incorporation of non national cultural communities by successor (of colonial state) and independent Indian state as a new modernizing state power, the journey of Indian citizenship rendered otherwise ‘free’ and ‘liberated’ Indian citizens also the status of subjects

(subjects of community knowledge and customary laws and in Sikkim's case subject of Sikkim's old law). Therefore distinction between ‘Sikkim-Subject’ and other categories of Indian citizens has to be understood in the larger context of Govt. of India's wisdom in maintaining the legal category of ‘Sikkim-Subject’ after Sikkim's absorption to the Union of India. This has also allowed the Indian state to distinguish legal and historical Sikkimese residents from later immigrants (Vandenhelsen cited in Shneiderman and Tillin 2015: 23) migrating from neighbouring regions within India and from countries in the immediate neighbourhood.

The maintenance of the legal category of Sikkim Subjects is such that it would enable GOI and GOS to limit influx of ‘other’ Indian citizens and ‘aliens’ belonging to similar cultural groups inhabiting the geographically contiguous region in Eastern Himalayas from permanently settling in Sikkim to access facilities the state provides to its legal residents. This practice altogether has set precedence for GOS to successfully monitor allotment of entitlements to legal category of ‘Sikkim Subject’ (Shneiderman and Tillin 2015:24). As mentioned earlier, this territorial form of citizenship practices in Sikkim resonates with the experiences of North-East India where similar provisions of ‘differentiated citizenship’ and special status abound. This attribute is also prevalent within the autonomous regions governed by Sixth Schedule autonomy of the Indian Constitution. This is further demonstrated through examples of fiscal concessions extended to Sikkim Subjects by GOI in the form of Income Tax (IT) exemption to those categories of people who are qualified as ‘Sikkimese’ as per Sikkim Subject Regulation Act, 1961. In the North-East of India tribals are granted fiscal concessions by the Indian state, whereas non tribal citizens are bereft from exemption.

This form of citizenship practices based on Sikkim Subject Regulation sets apart Sikkim's experiences from the rest of the country. At this juncture, all stakeholders must understand the uniqueness of the special provision of Indian Constitution. This attribute of the Indian Constitution sets apart India from the rest of the post colonial states in the world. This has ensured integration of peoples within the larger cosmology of ongoing nation building process in India. Hence, nation building process in India is not complete and continues to this day, and the debate on subject citizen in Sikkim reinforces the contemporary stage of nation building process in India. Another example of this post colonial reality is India's engagement with Naga people through ongoing Peace Talks to ensure their

participation as Indian citizens and simultaneously as a subject of Naga knowledge world view. Here again, importance must be attached to India's integrationist approach of national consensus in nation building processes as against assimilation techniques employed by many countries in the developed west leaving little for its national minorities to exercise autonomy over land and resources. The GOS and all stakeholders must invoke time and wisdom to reflect independent India's engagement of integrating non-national communities as Indians by extending autonomy to exercise self governance over land and resources within its territory as in certain parts of north-east India and J&K. This is replete in Constituent Assembly Debates while framing the Indian Constitution in post independence years (December 1946 - January 1950). The experience of Indian state in dealing with several entities between these years such as mentioned above made Sikkim's transition as a state with special status under Article 371F bereft of technical predicaments and is worth an acknowledgement.

Assertion or any expressions which canvas diverse and mosaic Sikkimese cultural communities as one is Sikkim Subject. The shared meanings of Sikkimese populace exemplify an idea and belief that Sikkim Subjects are indeed a special category of Indian citizens or simply citizens with special status. The reported loopholes (‘fake’) within the architecture of Sikkim's citizenship laws therefore should not be addressed through electoral mobility (potential of vote bank politics) often resulting in ensuing patron client relationship between the state and ‘alleged fake’ Sikkim subjects. This predicament requires pragmatic and robust solution to dispense ideas to isolate this particular issue in discussion from the concern of vote bank politics. One must understand that Sikkim Subject epitomizes the living symbol of Sikkimese aspiration and offers a bridge between Indian belonging and belonging to Sikkim. Lastly, the message that every Sikkim Subject must map is that, Sikkim the 22nd constituent state of the Indian Union in essence remains the successor state of the erstwhile kingdom of Sikkim. Here again the important message that all stakeholders must grapple with is that Sikkim Subjects as Indian citizens are not the same as all other Indian citizens.

[The Author is a Doctoral Fellow at the Centre for Comparative Politics and Political Theory, JNU, New Delhi. The Author currently works as an Assistant Professor at the Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research, Jamia Millia Islamia (A Central University), New Delhi.]

India at 70: after the celebrations, single-party dominance menaces democracy

KAILASH KUNHI KRISHNAN
theconversation.com

Seventy years ago, Jawaharlal Nehru's famous “Tryst with Destiny” speech not only marked India's independence from British rule but also expressed the vision for a united, democratic, egalitarian and modern country.

Not long after, that vision of the India's first prime minister, as well as the values that guided the freedom struggle, was written in the constitution that Indians gave themselves. That constitution, its principles and the robust institutional architecture it put in place, helped India weather multiple challenges over the years.

Now the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) appears is determined to erase Nehru's legacy. To get the better of its political rivals and consolidate itself, the BJP has manipulated national institutions to short-circuit competition, undermine and even exclude its challengers.

In 2014, the BJP promised a radical rupture from the incumbent Congress Party-led United Progressive Alliance-II (UPA-II) and rode to power on the sentiment that “good days are just ahead”. From 2009 to 2014, the UPA-II government was marked by not just by economic downturn and sluggish policymaking but also cronyism and corruption.

Today, under the premiership of Narendra Modi, the optimism of 2014 is fast evaporating as an “it's my way or the highway” mode of governance shows a culture of one-party dominance violating both standard operating procedures and “dharma” – right conduct in the exercise of duty in Hindu philosophy – to get the better of its political rivals.

DHARMA LOST

It was presumed by some that the BJP's experience in the states and as the main opposition party for more than a decade would have given it a more magnanimous perspective. With its massive mandate and its quest for recognition, it was imagined the party would show greater generosity to its opponents as well as respect for the moral values embedded in the constitution.

One of the major election campaign planks of the BJP in 2014 was cooperative federalism. The issue of centre-state relations has been a core factor in the politics of the states beyond Hindi speaking areas of north and central India. The states anticipated a better deal since, as chief minister from 2002 to 2014 in western India's Gujarat, Modi was highly critical of the functioning of the central government and even blogged of the “systematic disruption of our country's federal structure both in letter and spirit.”

In power, however, his party, like the Congress in the past, has proved to be a “reluctant federalist.” When in the opposition, the BJP was critical of Congress and its use of governors as instruments of the ruling party. However, within a month in office, the NDA-II government threw federal niceties out of the window and replaced the UPA-II appointed-governors with its own.

CONTROLLING STATES

Over the last three years, the central government has unhesitatingly used Article 356, an emergency provision in the constitution that puts a state directly under the centre, via the office of the governor and the

centre's administrative and financial muscle, to further the party's partisan ends.

States such as Arunachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Tripura, Tamil Nadu, Nagaland, Delhi, and Puducherry, proved to be sitting ducks for central meddling. These intrusions are gross violations of the federal spirit and are not good exemplars of cooperative federalism.

In Arunachal Pradesh, for instance, the governor convened a meeting of the state legislative assembly without consulting the government, in which only BJP and rebel Congress legislators participated. In Uttarakhand, the central government imposed Art. 356 just a day before the chief minister was to assert his majority in the assembly. In both cases, the BJP had encouraged defectors to topple the ruling Congress governments.

The Inter-state Council (ISC), a constitutional forum for inter-governmental engagement met more frequently when state-based parties called the shots rather than when the Congress or the BJP dominated. Though Modi has hailed the ISC as the “most significant platform for strengthening centre-state relations”, his government chose not to use it as a platform to involve the states in national-level decision making.

PARLIAMENT UNDERMINED

The BJP's attempts to manoeuvre to a position of strength and checkmate the opposition has also undermined parliament. For instance, the NDA-II introduced a potentially institution-weakening step by passing a controversial bill in a way that allowed it to bypass the opposition – this was contrary to the spirit of the constitution and serves merely to further corrode government-opposition relations.

Finally, over the last three years, the government has been intolerant of criticism and has often “shot the messenger” while ignoring the message. Unfavourable judgements of public policy and functionalities as well as positions that oppose those of ruling cadre are often interpreted as a threat to the nation.

On different occasions, party spokespersons, as well as government ministers, have sought to restrain the right to free speech in the name of preserving national security.

For instance, when student groups on certain university campuses took a position on armed struggles that was contrary to the government stand, they were dubbed as anti-national.

The government, directly and indirectly, has been extremely critical of media organisations and individuals who have not toed the government line.

Bypassing the opposition, curbing the freedom of expression, violating the rights of states can at best win pyrrhic victories. There are certain obligations for rulers in office and to not follow those canons is a corruption of the terms of office. Constitutions are negotiated constraints designed to serve particular purposes and produce specific results. It is normal that not everybody is happy with the existing arrangements. Dharma, however, demands that you work within the institutional logic. To ignore the complexity and subtlety and invent practices that undermine the institutional order violates the spirit of the constitution: the bedrock of this democracy celebrating seven decades of independence.

[the writer is Associate professor, University of Hyderabad]

Three arrested in Darjeeling

DARJEELING (WB), AUG 27 (PTI): Three persons were arrested here for their alleged involvement in arson and violence that took place in the hills in June, the police said today.

The three persons, who are active supporters of Gorkhaland movement, were arrested last night.

The situation in Darjeeling hills remained tense, although no incident of violence was reported since last night as the indefinite strike demanding a separate state in the hills entered its 74th day.

The Internet service in the hills remains suspended since June 18.

The GJM, the GNLF and other hill parties are set to join the August 29 meeting convened by the state government to discuss the situation in the hills.

The meeting of the Gorkhaland Movement Coordination Committee (GMCC), which was scheduled to be held today in Kalimpong, was cancelled.

Sharp differences have emerged within the GMCC, which was formed by all the hill parties on June 20 to take forward the Darjeeling agitation, as some parties who didn't receive the invitation are against attending the talks, GMCC sources said.

The GJM yesterday had decided to attend the August 29 meeting after the party received an official invitation from the state government urging it to attend the talks. A five member delegation of the GJM led by party convener Binay Tamang will attend the meeting.

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Uncertainty over Durga Puja in Darjeeling hills

DARJEELING, AUG 27 (PTI): The indefinite strike in the hills for the past two months has made the Durga Puja celebrations in September-end uncertain.

With no sign of the shutdown being called off, most of the Durga Puja organizers in the hills have either cancelled the plans for the Puja or have decided to hold it in a small way.

The Durga Puja, the biggest festival of Bengal, is scheduled to be held from September 26-30.

The indefinite shutdown

in the hills, which started on June 15 over the demand of separate state of Gorkhaland, entered its 74th day today.

According to the officials of the Bengali association, Kurseong, which has been organizing Durga Puja at the century old Raj Rajeswari Hall for the past one hundred years, the budget for organizing Durga Puja has been slashed.

The British era heritage Hall run by the association was set ablaze by miscreants in July.

"Initially we had decided

against organizing the Puja this year, as there was a lot of uncertainty. We are yet to place the order to make the Durga idol. So this time we'll organize it in a very small way. We have to make a marquee and the Durga idol will be much smaller in size," a member of the association told PTI.

None of the members of the association wished to be named as they are afraid of backlash from pro-Gorkhaland activists.

Subhomoy Chatterjee, a member of Bengali associ-

ation, Darjeeling said "this year we'll be organizing Durga Puja, but our budget is low, as neither have we collected Puja subscription from the locals nor has any proper sponsor.

Initially, we had thought that we would cancel the Puja as there was a lot of threats, but later we have decided that we'll organize it in a small way,"

The Bengali association in Darjeeling has been organizing the Puja at the Nipendra Narayan Bengali Hindu hall for the past one hundred years.

The total number of Durga Puja organized in various parts

of the hills is around 10-15.

Apart from these two century old Durga Puja in the hills, most of the other small Puja committees have decided against organizing a Puja to avoid the ire of Pro-Gorkhaland supporters and due to lack of preparation that is needed to organize the five-day long festival.

"This time we are not at all prepared to organize a Puja. Let's see if the shutdown is called off in the next one week, we might plan something," said a member of Puja committee of Kalimpong.

Contrary to the Durga Puja celebrations in the plains, where most of the Pujas are theme based, Durga Puja in the hills are organized in a traditional way.

Senior GJM leader and Darjeeling MLA Amar Singh Rai, too was apprehensive about the fate of Durga Puja in the hills.

"I really don't know whether it will be organized or not. But I am hopeful that it will be organized in a small way. And I'll extend all sort of support to organize it," Rai said.

Violence in name of faith won't be tolerated, guilty will be punished: PM

NEW DELHI, AUG 27 (PTI): Talking tough, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today asserted that violence in the name of faith of any kind won't be tolerated and the guilty would be punished, in a clear reference to the mayhem caused by the followers of self-styled godman Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh.

He said nobody has the right to take the law into own hands and everybody will have to bow before the law.

Invoking Lord Buddha and Mahatma Gandhi to remind about the country's tradition of non-violence, Modi said the Constitution prepared by BR Ambedkar provides scope for redressal of all kinds of grievances and justice to all.

"On the one hand, the country is in the midst of celebrating festivals and on the other, when news of violence from any part of the country comes in, it is only natural of be concerned," the prime minister said in his monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat' which he began with this issue.

Though he did not take any names, he was clearly referring to the mayhem caused by the followers of Ram Rahim,

chief of Dera Sacha Sauda, in Haryana after his conviction in a rape case on last Friday.

"Ours is the country of Buddha and Gandhi. It is the land of Sardar Patel who gave up his all for the unity of the nation. For centuries, our forefathers have imbibed community values, non-violence, mutual respect these are inherent to us," Modi said.

He highlighted the concept of 'Ahimsa Parmo Dharmah' (non-violence is the biggest religion).

"From the ramparts of the Red Fort, I had said (in the recent Independence Day address) that violence in the name of faith will not be tolerated, whether it is communal belief systems, whether it is subscribing to political ideologies, whether it is allegiance to a person or customs and traditions," the prime minister asserted.

"No one has the right to take the law into one's own hands in the name of one's beliefs," he added.

"I want to assure my countrymen that people who take the law into their own hands and are on the path of violent suppression, whether it is a person or a group, neither this country nor any government will tol-



erate it," he said.

He said everybody will have to bow before the law which will "fix accountability and the guilty will unquestionably be punished."

Followers of Ram Rahim went on the rampage in Panchkula and some other parts of Haryana on last Friday after a CBI court convicted him of rape in a 2002 case.

During his 30-minute broadcast, the prime minister also spoke about a number of other issues like richness of the country's diversity, asked people to undertake 'Cleanliness is Service' campaign ahead of the Gandhi Jayanti and mentioned about schemes like Jan Dhan for empowerment of the poor.

In the context of the upcoming 'Teacher's Day' on September 5, the birthday of former President Dr.

Radhakrishnan, he suggested that people should make a resolve to 'Teach to Transform, Educate to Empower, Learn to Lead'.

Modi pointed out that India has a rich cultural heritage, spanning thousands of years, and in this context, talked about the festivals which are replete with diversity.

He said India is a land of diversities which are not limited to cuisine, lifestyle and attire but can be seen in every walk of life.

He hailed Muslim organisation Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind, saying its volunteers had recently cleaned 22 temples and two mosques affected by floods in Gujarat, setting a "fine" and "inspiring" example of unity.

"When we look at our cultural traditions, social customs, historical events, there would hard-

ly be a day left in the year which is not connected with a festival," he said.

He said the Indian festivals follow the almanac of nature and there is a direct connect with nature.

"Many of our festivals are linked straightaway with farmers and fishermen."

He mentioned festivals like 'Samvatsari', celebrated by the Jain community yesterday, as also Ganesh Chaturthi, Onam, Navaratri in Gujarat, Durga puja in Bengal and Eid-ul-Zuha. He extended his greetings to the nation regarding these occasions.

"The festival of Samvatsari is symbolic of forgiveness, non-violence and brotherhood," Modi said.

"Kshama Veerasya Bhushanam", that is, forgiveness is the adornment of the brave. The one who forgives is valiant. And Mahatma Gandhi always said, that

forgiveness is the quality of great men," Modi said.

He also quoted Shakespeare's play 'The Merchant of Venice', saying it explained the importance of forgiveness as it spoke about "Mercy is twice blest, It blesseth him that gives and him that takes". It means the forgiver and the forgiven both stand to receive divine blessing.

Referring to Ganesh Chaturthi, he said this mega festival stands for unity, equality, integrity and honesty. "My heartiest greetings to all of you on the occasion of Ganeshotsav," Modi said.

Onam, which is mainly celebrated in Kerala, showcases the rich cultural heritage of the state and gives the message of love and harmony, awakens new hopes and aspirations, and gives new confidence to the people, he said.

Festivals like Navaratri in Gujarat and Durga puja in Bengal are tremendous tourist attractions, he added.

"In this series of festivals, Eid-ul-Zuha will be celebrated in a few days from now. Heartiest felicitations and best wishes to all countrymen on the occasion of Eid-ul-Zuha," the prime minister said.

He said festivals are symbols of faith and belief and in the 'New India', "we should transform them into symbols of cleanliness as well."

"Public cleanliness must be insisted upon not just in our homes but in our villages, towns, cities, states and in our entire country cleanliness has to be inextricably linked to our festivals," Modi said.

He asked people to undertake 'Cleanliness is Service' campaign, 15 days ahead of the Gandhi Jayanti to mark the third anniversary of the launch of 'Swachh Bharat' programme.

On the eve of the third anniversary of the launch of Jan Dhan Yojna, the prime minister also said that 30 crore new families have got such accounts in which almost Rs 65,000 crore have been deposited.

He said banks have conducted surveys about how the common man has benefitted from Jan Dhan Yojna as also from insurance schemes like Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojna and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojna, from RuPay Card and Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojna and these surveys have thrown up "inspiring stories".

RJP-Nepal registers with EC to take part in local polls

KATHMANDU, AUG 27 (PTI): Nepal's Rastriya Janata Party Nepal, a key Madhesi party, today registered with the Election Commission for the provincial and parliamentary elections to be held next month.

The disgruntled Rastriya Janata Party Nepal (RJP-N) recently decided to take part in the local level polls to be held on September 18 after the

Constitution amendment bill tabled in the Parliament failed to get through as it could not garner required two third majority votes.

The party had boycotted the first and second phase of local-level elections, expressing reservation to taking part in the polls without having their demands being fulfilled.

The local-level polls are being held in Nepal

for the first time in almost two decades. Millions of Nepalese voted in the first two phases of the polls as the Himalayan nation takes a crucial step towards cementing democracy amid political turmoil.

A team led by party coordinator Mahatha Thakur registered the party at the Election Com-

mission after submitting required legal documents yesterday, the party said in a statement.

The Commission had set August 27 the deadline for the political parties to get registered.

According to the Election Commission, 56 political parties have been registered so far and RJP-N was the 55th to register.

The team also held discussions with Chief Election Commissioner Ayodhee Prasad Yadav and other commissioners regarding the polls to be held in the Province 2. They also discussed the upcoming Federal and Provincial polls announced for November 26.

Following the discussions, leader Rajendra

Mahato briefed reporters that the party was registered as per its decision to participate in the upcoming elections.

Nepal has been witnessing political instability. Some Madhes-centric parties opposed the elections on the ground that the new Constitution be amended to accommodate their views: more

representation in the Parliament and redrawing of provincial boundaries.

Madhesis, mostly of Indian-origin, launched a prolonged agitation between September 2015 and February last year against the implementation of the new Constitution which they felt marginalised the community.



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM EXCISE (ABKARI) DEPARTMENT GANGTOK

No: 818/ Ex (Abk)

Dated: 25.8.17

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed tenders are invited from registered and reputed firms for the supply of Chemicals, Glassware and Instrument for use at Excise (Abk) Laboratory Chantarat Rangpo for the year 2017-18. The detail list of required items can be downloaded from Sikkim Government website www.sikkim.gov.in. The documents should reach the office of the Special Commissioner Excise by **23rd September 2017**.

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Sindhu loses epic final, settles for silver at World Championship

GLASGOW, AUG 27 (PTI): PV Sindhu's gallant effort to become India's first ever World Champion ended in a heart-wrenching defeat against Nozomi Okuhara in an epic final, here today.

In a nerve-wracking final, which tested the physical and mental strength of both the players, Sindhu lost 19-21 22-20 20-22 after battling hard for one hour and 49 minutes.

Their bodies falling apart as the match progressed but both Sindhu and Okuhara used every ounce of energy left with them to make it an epic contest.

After closing the second game by winning an incredible 73-shot rally, Sindhu saved one championship point in the decider but it was the Japanese who had the last laugh.

Nevertheless, Sindhu fought like a true champion and kept her promise that she would strive to change the colour of her medal, having won



two bronze from past editions. Although she would have hoped for a gold, which no Indian has ever won at the World

Championship. For India, it still was a historic edition since for the first time country's shuttler are returning with two medals. Saina Nehwal had won a bronze yesterday after losing her semifinal.

What's in a name: an American 'Duke', an English 'French'

HAMBURG, AUG 27 (PTI): "Names are not always what they seem", so said a certain Mark Twain.

And his words seem to ring true at the 19th World Boxing Championships here, where a 'Duke' is turning out for the Americans, a 'French' is part of the English team, the Russians have their very own 'Muslim', and a 'Blizzard' is travelling with the Australians.

The Sporthalle in Hamburg is nothing short of a melting pot right now with close to 250 boxers from 75 countries exchanging blows inside the ring but mingling quite well outside.

And for some of them, just their name has been enough to generate curiosity. Take for instance, Muslim Gadzhimagomedov, a light heavyweight (81kg) boxer with the Russian team.

Gadzhimagomedov had finished a silver-medallist at this year's European Championships.



"His last name means Mohammed and yes, the first name is, well, yes that's his first name," grinned the Russian team's media liaisoning officer Natalya Tokmogasheva, the only English-speaking member of her contingent, on being asked about Gadzhimagomedov.

The Russian team is not alone in having boxers of interesting names. England's lightweight (60kg) national champion is Calum 'French', while the Americans boast of a 'Duke' Ragan (56kg).

Then there are Tyler 'Blizzard' and Sam 'Goodman' in the Australian

while Blizzard, a youth Commonwealth Games silver-medallist in the flyweight 52kg category, too fizzled out after losing to Israel's David Alavverdian in his opening bout.

But they are not the only ones with striking last names in the Australian team. In fact, the Aussies easily top the charts for interesting last names here.

Apart from Goodman and Blizzard, the team from Down Under also has a Clay Waterman. The light heavyweight boxer completes a trioka of rather amusing names in the team and it becomes a quartet if one throws Joseph Goodall into the mix.

They are all among the budding crop for their respective countries and just about beginning to find their foothold in the international circuit, but their names have managed to help them stand out from the crowd, at least for the time being.

Manoj, Kavinder continue India's good run at Boxing Worlds

HAMBURG, AUG 27 (PTI): Manoj Kumar drew from his huge reservoir of experience, while Kavinder Bisht relied on sheer tenacity for hard-fought opening victories on another good day for India at the 19th World Boxing Championship here.

Manoj defeated Moldovan Vasili Belous 3-2 in an exhausting welterweight (69kg) contest. Kavinder, on the other hand, edged past Japan's Ryusei Baba in a similarly draining flyweight (52kg) bout, which ended 3-2 in his favour.

How - ever, there was slight disappointment too as Asian Games bronze-medallist Satish Kumar (+91kg) bowed out of the competition after losing his opening contest to Azerbaijani's two-time world champion Mahammadrasul Majidov 5-0.



The Indian was slightly under the weather going into the contest, having suffered a bout of viral fever before coming here.

Kavinder was the first to take the ring for the country, which had all its bout in the evening session for the second day in a row.

The Asian Championships quarter-finalist started rather cautiously and spent the opening three minutes getting a measure of his opponent. However, Kavinder's approach allowed Baba to land some clear blows, giving him the early advantage.

Kavinder, however, made a quick recovery and became the aggressor in the second round. His right hooks connected quite well and disturbed Baba's rhythm. Kavinder upped the ante further in the final three minutes to get the decisive nod from the judges

in his favour.

Kavinder will next be up against third-seeded Algerian Mohamed Flissi. Flissi is a two-time World Championships medallist, having bagged a silver in 2013 followed by a bronze in the 2015 edition.

Manoj was the next man in and in complete contrast to Kavinder, he gave it his all in the first two rounds. The 31-year-old former Commonwealth Games gold-medallist was in his elements from the word go and used his reach to good effect against Belous.

The faltering Moldovan had little or no response to offer in the first two rounds and resorted to throwing wild swings at the Indian. The burst did tire out Manoj in the last round and Besoul tried to grab the advantage at this stage.

However, Manoj had done the job by then to ensure that the final verdict went in his favour.

"Both Manoj and Kavinder had tough bouts in a very different way. But they knew how to manoeuvre and they did just that," India's Swedish coach Santiago Nieva told PTI after the two bouts.

"The results have been good so far but there is a long way to go," he added.

Awaiting Manoj in the second round is fourth-seeded Venezuelan Gabriel Maestre Perez. Perez had won a bronze in the 2013 World Championships and he is also a Pan-American Games gold-medallist.

Satish contested the last bout of the day and even though he gave a good account of himself, the judges ruled overwhelmingly in favour of his more decorated rival.

Basu Bati a favourite haunt for directors of thriller movies



KOLKATA, AUG 28 (PTI): The moment one steps into Basu Bati, a 141-year-old mansion, an eerie feeling creeps in with its dark, deserted rooms flanked by stately columns and arches creating an ambience horror.

No wonder, the building, located in Baghbazar in north Kolkata, has become the favourite shooting spot for thriller and peiod movies.

Basu Bati, founded by the Basus (not the painter Nandalal Bose family), the

then zamindars of Gaya in the 19th century, had guests like Swami Viveknanda, Rabindranath Tagore and was a rallying point against the 1905 anti-partition movement.

Just yesterday, the trailer launch of the film "Shob Bhooturey" took place at the building and director Birsha Dasgupta said he was very impressed by the atmosphere.

The mansion earlier hosted director Srijit Mukherjee whose much-ac-

claimed "Baishe Srabon" was shot there.

Shob Bhooturey actor Abir Chatterjee said it seemed to him while shooting at the place that the walls were whispering something in silence.

Period film 'Elar Chaar Adhyay', based on Tagore's eponymous work, had also been shot in the house and a Durga idol was installed in the 'Thakur Dalan' (place of deity worship in household) in 2012 during a shooting sequence.

Love in the time of hate: social activist's call to conscience

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, AUG 27 (PTI): One of the defining moments of the recent racial tensions in the US was a march of tens of thousands, denouncing white supremacists, spectacularly swamping a rally featuring far-right speakers in Boston.

Hate crimes in the name of faith and caste have swept several parts of India, too, but there have been few large-scale solidarity moves with targeted communities and against the recent spate of lynchings, barring some such as the 'Not In My Name' marches.

In these circumstances, a cross-country journey of "love,

atonement and solidarity" by social activist Harsh Mander may come across as romantic and high on idealism.

Love in the time of hate -- to twist the title of novelist Gabriel Garc a M rquez's peerless work -- would perhaps best describe his latest radical initiative.

Mander, who quit the civil services following the 2002 Gujarat riots, finds the silence of the majority disquieting, but also sees potential in that vacuum which he hopes to fill through his upcoming 'karwan-e-mohabbat' (KeM), caravan of love, weaving acts of solidarity and atonement.

"The lynchings represent a

new phase in targeted violence because communal violence is still limited by geography and time but lynchings are not. A member of the targeted community is made to feel vulnerable at any place at any time, at workplace or home. And that has created an enormous sense of fear among them," Mander, 62, told PTI.

His 'karwan' will roll out from Assam on September 4, reaching out to families affected by lynchings in the state.

It will travel to states including Jharkhand, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi, Rajasthan and Gujarat, where the KeM plans to celebrate

those who in 2002 saved lives -- who, Mander believes, outnumber those who killed.

But could the soft-spoken, unassuming author-activist's belief on the good sense of the majority be misplaced?

"We are discovering that there is much more hate in our hearts than we had expected. I believe this battle is now about hearts and minds. The electoral battle is merely the reflection of what is going in inside our hearts and minds," he said.

The prominent civil society activist fears that if India hurtles down the path it is currently on for another few years, it will be a different country.

"My worry is about the Muslim minority going into a sense of submission that they have to live here as second class citizens," he said.

The campaign has been trying to raise funds through crowdsourcing and has gathered around Rs 4.2 lakh so far.

Mander, who will wind up the journey in Porbandar, Gujarat, on October 2, will be accompanied by other activists, all travelling by road, underlining 20th century German playwright Bertolt Brecht's memorable lines.

In the dark times, will there also be singing," Brecht wrote. "Yes, there will also be singing. About the dark times."

| NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES |
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| DEAR OSTRICH EVENING |
| Draw Time : 8:00 pm onward |
| Draw No:4 DrawDate on:26/08/17 |
| 1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 888 51206 (Including Super Prize Amt) |
| Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 51206 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS) |
| 2nd Prize Rs.9500/- |
| 18669 20492 27708 29341 37947 |
| 40387 41950 50676 88622 94235 |
| 3rd Prize Rs.9000/- |
| 29862 33681 37717 51293 73301 |
| 85746 89852 94099 97758 99399 |
| 4th Prize Rs.1000/- |
| 0534 0755 0913 1992 3630 4426 5658 6160 6447 8554 |
| 5th Prize Rs.500/- |
| 0707 4406 4829 5530 5893 6141 6765 8739 9005 9279 |
| 6th Prize Rs.250/- |
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| SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES |
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| DEAR GENTLE |
| Draw No:4 DrawDate on:26/08/17 |
| 1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 95J 13813 (Including Super Prize Amt) |
| Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 13813 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS) |
| 2nd Prize Rs.9500/- |
| 03645 06481 15899 22508 26504 |
| 29732 29955 41483 46652 49861 |
| 3rd Prize Rs.9000/- |
| 12260 19339 27972 29881 54421 |
| 64361 78213 84786 89823 98892 |
| 4th Prize Rs.1000/- |
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| 9138 9195 9233 9332 9411 9483 9550 9653 9755 9807 |
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| Draw No:4 DrawDate on:26/08/17 |
| 1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 93E 21602 (Including Super Prize Amt) |
| Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 21602 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS) |
| 2nd Prize Rs.9500/- |
| 07091 33842 40703 43494 59072 |
| 84763 92331 93371 96249 97710 |
| 3rd Prize Rs.9000/- |
| 13303 13830 14980 18482 42954 |
| 54579 78273 88380 91396 96456 |
| 4th Prize Rs.1000/- |
| 0183 0438 3458 3770 3818 3987 6999 8159 8553 9217 |
| 5th Prize Rs.500/- |
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| 6th Prize Rs.250/- |
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Bangladesh sends back 90 Rohingya despite violence

COX'S BAZAR (BANGLADESH), AUG 27 (AFP): Bangladesh has detained and forcibly returned 90 Rohingya migrants to Myanmar, police said Sunday, just hours after Myanmarese troops on the other side of the border had opened fire on people fleeing the country. Police intercepted a group of 70 Rohingya late Saturday after they crossed the "zero line" border zone, where Myanmar soldiers earlier fired mortars and machine guns at villagers making the dangerous dash from the northern state of Rakhine into Bangladesh. The villagers were caught roughly four kilometres inside Bangladeshi territory en route to a refugee camp in Kutupalong, where thousands of Rohingya already live in squalid conditions, said local police chief Abul Khaer. "All 70 were detained and later pushed back to Myanmar by the border guards,"



Khaer told AFP. Police said some of those detained had entered Bangladesh via the Ghumdhum border area -- where the Myanmar forces unleashed the barrage of fire just hours earlier. "They were pleading with us not to send them back to Myanmar," said one policeman on condition of

anonymity. Another 20 Rohingya were caught Sunday and sent back after crossing the Naf river, a natural border between Myanmar and Bangladesh, according to Ariful Islam, a commander with Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB). Another border officer, Manzurul Hassan Khan, said Sunday that fresh gunfire could be heard in villages across the border in Rakhine, a hotbed of religious hatred focused on the stateless Rohingya Muslim minority. More than 100 people have died since Friday as scores of men purportedly from the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) ambushed Myanmar police posts with knives, guns and

homemade explosives, killing at least a dozen security force members. Thousands of Rohingya have fled towards Bangladesh, but authorities there have refused to let most of them in, with an untold number of people -- mainly women and children -- stranded along the border zone. The impoverished country already hosts some 400,000 Rohingya refugees. Officials in Cox's Bazar, the district bordering Myanmar that is home to several large refugee camps, have been instructed not to allow any "illegal entry" by Rohingya, Abdur Rahman, a senior government official, told AFP. But Rohingya community leaders, local media and an AFP correspondent said despite heavy border patrols, at least 3,000 Rohingya refugees have managed to enter the country and found refuge in camps and villages since Friday. At least 100 mainly women and children arrived Sunday at a makeshift camp in Balukhali, according to an AFP correspondent at the scene, many bringing tales of horror from over the border. "They fired so close that I cannot hear anything now," 70-year-old Mohammad Zafar said of armed Buddhists who shot dead his two sons in a field. "They came with rods and sticks to drive us to the border yelling, 'Bengali bastards'," Zafar told AFP. Rahima Khatun said she spent the night hiding in the hills after Buddhists in her village torched Rohingya homes and set upon men with machetes and clubs. "We grew up with them. I can't figure out how they could be so merciless," she told AFP. Others reported being sent across the border by their husbands and brothers, who stayed back to fight the

army and Buddhist militias. Despite years of persecution, the Rohingya largely eschewed violence. But in October ARSA attacked a string of Myanmar border posts, sparking a military crackdown that left scores dead and forced 87,000 people to flee to Bangladesh. Northern Rakhine has been stalked by violence since then, with civilians trapped between security forces and the militants -- who are accused of conducting a shadowy assassination campaign against perceived collaborators with the state. In Rakhine itself six members of a Hindu family have become the latest victims of the violence. Their bullet-riddled bodies -- including three children and a woman -- were discovered on Sunday and brought to a hospital in Maungdaw, the main town in northern Rakhine.

'Curfewed yet caring': Sirsa feeds every empty stomach

SIRSA, AUG 27 (PTI): Su-shil Kandoi and his neighbours wake up around 4 am everyday to prepare breakfast for Army personnel, paramilitary forces, police and media persons, who are on the job near the Dera Sacha Sauda headquarters at Sirsa, popularly known as the "land of donors", in Haryana. Throughout the day, a group of people on motorbikes, gypsy cars and tractors serves snacks, tea, lassi and food to security and Army personnel. The Army is deployed in the vicinity of the Dera headquarters to maintain law and order in the nearby areas where curfew is in force since Thursday night.

There are around 120 social organisations engaged in social work in the Sirsa Assembly constituency, which has a population of around 2.5 lakh. Sirsa has a history of giving. People have also constructed a long wall called "Neki ki diwar" on the Dabwali road where locals keep items they do not need so that the needy could use them. Also, a "Roti Bank", which works on the principle of collecting food from contributors and distributing it among the poor, was launched here recently. Kandoi, who is a supplier of mustard oil, said there are 40 people in his group who serve tea, snacks, lunch and dinner to security personnel and media persons.

Petrol price up by Rs 6/litre since July; diesel Rs 3.67

NEW DELHI, AUG 27 (PTI): Petrol price has been hiked by Rs 6 per litre since the beginning of July and is now priced at its highest rate in three years with rates being revised in small dosages daily. Diesel price has increased by Rs 3.67 a litre and now costs Rs 57.03 a litre in Delhi, the highest in four months, according to data from state-owned oil companies. A litre of petrol costs Rs 69.04 a litre in Delhi, the highest since second-half of August 2014 when it was priced at Rs 70.33. State-owned oil companies in June dumped the 15-year old practice of revising rates on 1st and 16th of every month and instead adopted a dynamic daily price revision to instantaneously

reflect changes in cost. Prices of petrol and diesel have been revised at 0600 hrs everyday since June 16. Rates during the first fortnight dropped but have since July 3 been on the rise. Petrol price was at Rs 65.48 a litre on June 16 in Delhi and it dropped to Rs 63.06 by July 2. However, rates have since gone up every day except on four occasions when prices were cut by 2-9 paise per litre. Similarly, a litre of diesel was priced at Rs 54.49 on June 16 and it dropped to Rs 53.36 on July 2, thanks to the softening international oil prices. Since then, it has been on an upswing though the reduction in diesel rates have been on

a larger number of occasions than petrol. "Previously, everybody felt the pinch when rates would go up by Rs 2 or 3 per litre in one go. Now they are being increased by 1 paisa to 15 paise a litre everyday, hikes that have largely gone unnoticed," a senior oil company executive said. The daily price revision means an instantaneous transfer of a rise or decline in international oil price to the consumer instead of the previous practice of passing it on only after a fortnight. The previous practice of revision in the rate on 1st and 16th of every month, which began with deregulation of auto fuel on April 1, 2002, was based on average international oil price and foreign exchange rate in the preceding fortnight. "Many a time, international rates would fall for one week and then rise in the following. So, the net effect of this in the previous price revision policy was status quo or a marginal change in rate," he said. Petrol and diesel prices were deregulated or freed from government control from April 1, 2002, and the fortnightly revision in rates kicked in. The deregulation derailed a bit when international oil prices started to climb after 2004. Fortnightly revision continued but the revision was not completely in sync with the required price increase. Petrol price was finally freed in June 2010 and diesel in October 2014

Patriotic' rock shows soon at IITs, central univs

NEW DELHI, AUG 27 (PTI): Students at IITs and central universities across the country would soon groove to patriotic music by rock bands visiting their campuses. The HRD Ministry has asked these institutions to host music bands who would be performing patriotic numbers. As part of the programme named "Yeh India ka time hai", the government has identified certain bands which would be visiting campuses across the country and perform patriotic numbers, specially from Bollywood. "A private entertainment firm has been taken on board which has identified around a dozen rock bands. The shows will be planned in various institutions over the next month," a senior official said. The programme has been organised to celebrate 70 years of India's Independence and 75 years of the Quit India Movement this year.

CONTACT Summit TIMES

REPORTERS
NAMCHI
9832048410,
9775736596
SINGTAM
7699771651
MANGAN/
DIKCHU
9832612485/
9434011213
SILIGURI
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Kutse Shegu



The 49-day Kutse Shegu of our beloved father late **Norbu Thendup Bhutia** falls on **30th August 2017 [Wednesday]**. All friends, well-wishers and relatives are requested to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul at our residence at **Upper Samdong, Kambal, East Sikkim**. We also take this opportunity to thank everyone who stood by us during the time of our bereavement.

Tshering Doma Bhutia (Wife), Didup Bhutia, Gyalchen Bhutia, Sonam Cheda Bhutia (Sons), Kessang Bhutia, Susang Lepcha (Daughters-in-Law), Tshering Bhutia, Gyalmu Bhutia, Chum-jey Bhutia (Daughters) & all family members.
Contact: 9593386426, 9434632401, 9734973422, 9734158848

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1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 801 39950
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Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 39950 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
01180 11950 20905 24024 41336
61772 85101 90812 95911 98707
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
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4th Prize Rs.1000/-
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5th Prize Rs.500/-
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6th Prize Rs.250/-
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7613 7947 7955 8047 8161 8215 8224 8257 8261 8299
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Draw No:4 DrawDate on:27/08/17
1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 84D 87701
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Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 87701 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
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63605 66335 73715 88867 96878
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
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4th Prize Rs.1000/-
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5th Prize Rs.500/-
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6th Prize Rs.250/-
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1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 95D 32732
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Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 32732 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
00666 07838 25346 46029 48281
51072 67625 87574 91604 92565
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
00427 11870 14718 29362 32992
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4th Prize Rs.1000/-
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5th Prize Rs.500/-
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6th Prize Rs.250/-
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Films should raise adult issues with innocence: Ayushmann

MUMBAI, AUG 27 (PTI): After charming the audience as a sperm donor in his debut "Vicky Donor", Ayushmann Khurrana's next film is on the subject of erectile dysfunction, and the actor says adult issues should be dealt with innocence to avoid vulgarity.

RS Prasanna's "Shubh Mangal Saavdhan" is a love story of a young couple, Ayushmann and Bhumi Pednekar, whose parents come to know about the protagonist's erectile dysfunction.

In an interview with PTI, Ayushmann says, "I had asked Shoojit Sircar (director of 'Vicky Donor'), 'Why did you chose me for the role of a sperm donor?' he said, he wanted somebody who has a clean image and looks innocent. If that innocence is taken out of the subject then it may become cheap."

The actor says "Shubh Mangal Saavdhan" also required an innocent and a lovable person to play the character.

"Bhumi and I had to bring that innocence in our chemistry to deal with the subject. With this subject, innocence will work otherwise it won't work," he adds.

On his experience of re-teaming with his "Dum Laga Ke Haisha" co-star Bhumi, Ayushmann says, "It's great to be working with someone who is a friend, but you have to be good actors as well. I am glad people like our pairing onscreen."

The actor says he was not surprised when the makers approached him to play 'Mudit' in the film.

"It was very ironical when I got to know the subject, I felt life has come a full circle from a sperm donor to erectile dysfunction. This kind of film is required in today's day and age. People are patriarchal, they don't talk about problems and it's sad."

Ayushmann says the movie wants to spread the message that, "We can't brush this problem under the carpet, we have to be open up and talk about it."

Produced by Aanand L Rai, "Shubh Mangal Saavdhan" releases on September 1.

Ayushmann's last release "Bareilly Ki Barfi" has been getting him rave reviews both from the critics and audience, and he says he was hopeful that people would like it.

Gone with the Wind screening cancelled for being "insensitive"

LOS ANGELES, AUG 27 (PTI): A cinema hall in Memphis, Tennessee has cancelled the screening of the 1939 Hollywood classic "Gone with the Wind" as its content was deemed "insensitive" by the viewers.

The board at The Orpheum Theatre decided to take down the film after they received "numerous comments" that stemmed from a screening on August 11, reported Entertainment Weekly.

"While title selections for the series are typically made in the spring of each year, the Orpheum has made this determination early in re-



sponse to specific enquiries from patrons.

"The Orpheum appreciates feedback on its programming from all members

of the mid-south community. The recent screening of 'Gone With the Wind' at the Orpheum on Friday, August 11, 2017, generated numer-

ous comments. The Orpheum carefully reviewed all of them," read a statement from the theatre group.

The Victor Fleming-directed movie has also been dropped from next year's planned summer cinema series.

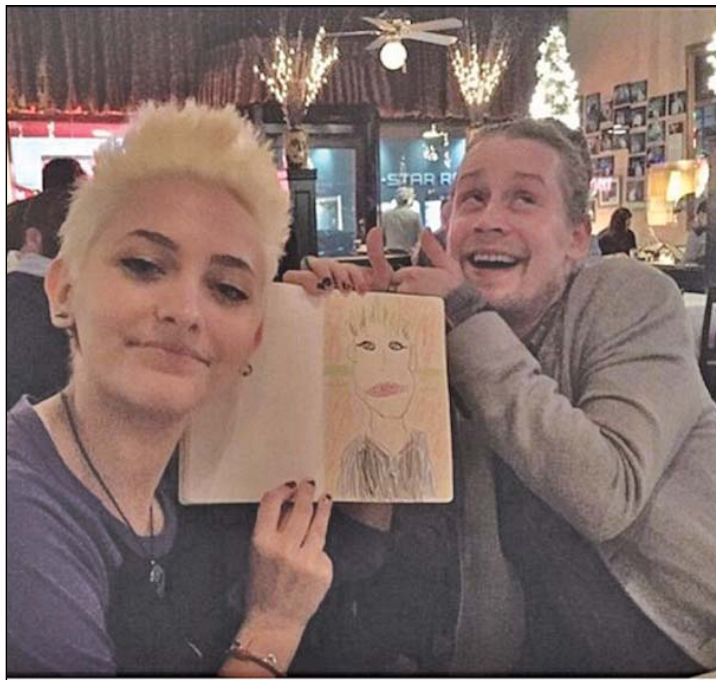
The statement continued that since the movie was found to have hurt the feelings of a larger audience, the group will not showcase the title from now on, till further notice.

"As an organisation whose stated mission is to 'entertain, educate and enlighten the communities it serves,' the Orpheum cannot show a film that

is insensitive to a large segment of its local population," the statement further read.

One of the users, who commented on the Orpheum's Facebook page, called the film "racist", while another remarked over news of the cancelled screening, saying "slowly but surely, we will rid this community of all tributes to white supremacy."

"Gone with the Wind", which won eight Academy Awards, including best picture and best director, features life on a Southern plantation during the Civil War and Reconstruction periods.



5.9k likes

arisjackson throwback to when the best godfather ever drew me

Paris pays birthday tribute to godfather Macaulay Culkin

LOS ANGELES, AUG 27 (PTI): Model-actor Paris Jackson paid an emotional tribute to godfather Macaulay Culkin on his 37th birthday.

The 19-year-old daughter of Michael Jackson posted on her Instagram Stories feed

a throwback photo of her wearing bunny ears and sitting on his lap and cuddling with him.

"Happy Birthday," she wrote. "I love you..."

On Friday night, Paris posted videos of her hold-

ing up a vinyl demo from Macaulay's parody music group The Pizza Underground and playing it on a record player.

Paris and Macaulay are close friends and even recently got matching tattoos.

the VALLEY of FEAR
A. CONAN DOYLE

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Dr. RAJEN UPADHYAY
Assistant Professor in History,
Namchi Govt. College

28TH AUGUST WORLD HISTORY

1743: Antoine Laurent Lavoisier, the father of modern chemistry, was born. He discovered "dephlogisticated air" which he called oxygen.

1789: The Constituent Assembly in Versailles, France, approved the final version of the Declaration of Human Rights.

1813: The Battle of Dresden was Napoleon's last major victory against the allied forces of Austria, Russia and Prussia.

1944: In World War II, Bulgaria announced that it had withdrawn from the war and that German troops in the country were to be disarmed.

1957: Ford Motor Company revealed the Edsel, its latest luxury car.

INDIAN HISTORY

1303: Alauddin Khilji of the

LOCKHORNS

- HOEST & REINER

"IF LIFE IS A JOURNEY, WHY IS IT YOU NEVER TAKE ME ANYWHERE?"



GAL GADOT'S CUTE BIRTHDAY MESSAGE FOR CHRIS PINE

LOS ANGELES, AUG 27 (PTI): Actor Gal Gadot shared a funny meme to wish 'happy birthday' to her "Wonder Woman" co-star Chris Pine.

The meme featuring Gadot and Pine shows them giggling during an interview.

Along with the video, Gadot wrote, "Happy Happy Birth-

day to my darling friend #chrispine. May you always shine bright and be such the special funny person you are. Wishing you all the best this world has to offer. Health, happiness and lots of giggles. Xo."

Gadot's Diana Prince will be lighting up the screen once in Zack Snyder's "Justice League", due out November 17.

ARCTIC CIRCLE

- HALLATT

BABY BLUES

- KIRKMAN & SCOTT

THE DAY AHEAD

ARIES: A miscommunication with a business or romantic partner might cause some ruffled feathers today, Aries. You can divert this by explaining the facts clearly whenever you give information. Make sure your partner understands what you're saying before they go and act on it! For your own part, don't be shy about asking what someone means. Remember, it's better to ask a stupid question than make a dumb mistake!

TAURUS: Do you work with a lot of documents, Taurus? If so, you might find today that some of the papers you need are missing. They might seem to have vanished into a black hole. Look everywhere, of

course, but chances are that someone has them and isn't aware of it. Don't be too shy to ask people about the papers. You could save yourself a lot of unnecessary effort this way.

GEMINI: A missed communication - or miscommunication - with a romantic partner could find you waiting in the wrong place, Gemini. If you're planning to get together with someone special tonight, make sure you get the full details of the location, including the exact address, cross street, and driving directions. Write it down! And don't forget to note the time.

CANCER: Today you could find that you've left something at home, perhaps a book or letter that you

need. There's no way around it, Cancer, you'll have to go back. This could make you late. Stay calm! This is a temporary irritation that will pass. Making yourself crazy over it will only stress you out. At lunch, treat yourself to a glass of wine or a soothing cup of tea.

LEO: You may need to spend a lot of time in the car today, Leo. You could hit traffic and miss some of the people you need to see. Irritations could quickly turn to anger if you aren't careful. Park your car and walk to some of the places. This will get you out of the crush of cars and work off your frustration at the same time.

VIRGO: Paperwork involving

money may need doing today, Virgo, and this could take you away from what you love most - working on your own projects and spending time with a love partner. Don't get too crazy over it or you might make mistakes. Correcting those errors would eat up more time. Take care of it methodically and quickly and you'll be able to get back to your life.

LIBRA: An unhappy visitor, probably a woman, could come to your home today, Libra. This person has a lot of anger right now and probably won't make much of a conversationalist. If you can't make your excuses, put on some music or perhaps a funny movie.

You might be surprised at the results! Some soothing chords or a few laughs might accomplish wonders. Be clever!

SCORPIO: Have you been expecting an important letter, Scorpio? If so, it may not arrive for a while. If it doesn't appear today, call the person who sent it and ask for a duplicate because the original could be lost in the mail. Better to have two copies than wait for one that will never come.

SAGITTARIUS: Money worries could have your nerves on edge, Sagittarius. It's better to focus on doing what you have to do to resolve your difficulties than it is to waste time fretting over them. Your

business head is operating at a high level today. If you stay focused, you can accomplish wonders. Formulate a plan of action and put it to work.

CAPRICORN: A lot of tedious paperwork is probably waiting for you, and you will want to get it done as quickly as possible. You might be distracted and irritated by everyone goofing off. Don't worry about everyone else. Concentrate on your own work. You will only cause further irritation by getting upset with everyone. You will be done with your tasks when they're just getting started on theirs!

AQUARIUS: Some facts that you may need for certain projects might prove elusive today, Aquarius. No

matter what website or periodical you consult, you'll probably come across some interesting stuff but not exactly what you're looking for. If the task isn't urgent, it might be a good idea to put it off for a bit. Otherwise you'll spend too much time looking for the impossible.

PISCES: You should pay attention to your dreams, Pisces, but tonight your subconscious might send you some garbled information that means next to nothing. If the message is obvious, pay attention to it, but if you have to perform too many mental gymnastics to discern what the symbols mean, they might mean nothing. Sometimes a dream is just a dream.