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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Temi Tea fetches record price of Rs 4000 per kg at public auction



ARPAN PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 03 AUG:

For the first time ever, Temi Tea sold for a whopping Rs 4000 per kg at a public auction held on 02 Aug. Star Tea, Kolkata made a successful bid and purchased 135 kgs of Temi Tea in the auction which was held under aegis of J Thomas & Co. Pvt. Ltd., the largest and oldest existing tea auctioneers in the world, handling about 200 million kg of tea annually.

The normal whole leaf from summer second flush usually sells at an average of Rs 2000-2800 per kg so

the price of Rs 4000 for a large quantity of 135 kg is a huge achievement.

Experts believe that while the scarcity of Darjeeling tea could have contributed to this hike yet the J Thomas tea experts have in their reports shown Temi as one of the best in its category of high elevation orthodox black tea.

It may be noted that public auctions are different from private tea estate level auctions wherein specialty and small quantity teas are picked up, for instance, white tea 5 kg sold earlier by Temi at about Rs 25,000 per kg.

Wholesale onion price soars to Rs 25/kg at Lasalgaon

NEW DELHI, AUG 3 (PTI):

Onion prices today rose more than two-fold to Rs 25/kg at Lasalgaon in Maharashtra, Asia's largest wholesale market for bulb crop, due to tight supply of old stock and likely fall in output of the new kharif crop.

Maximum wholesale onion price stood at Rs 9.20/kg in the year-ago period in the same market, as per the data maintained by a government research body NHRDF.

Lasalgaon sets price trend for other mandis across India. Already, retail rates have inched up in the national capital, ruling in the range of Rs 30-35/kg today.

Nasik-based National Horticultural Research and Development Foundation (NHRDF) Director P K Gupta said: "There is tight supply situation."

The existing demand is met through old rabi stocks, which has started depleting, owing to exports and limited supplies from Madhya Pradesh in view of state government

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Deferment of Kailash Mansarovar yatra affected 392 pilgrims: Govt

NEW DELHI, AUG 3 (PTI):

A total of 392 pilgrims selected to travel to Kailash Mansarovar via the Nathu La route in eight batches were affected due to the deferment of the yatra, the Rajya Sabha was informed today.

"The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra via the Nathu La route has been deferred this year after the Chinese government cited unfavourable conditions to ensure the safe and smooth conduct of the yatra on this route. The government is engaged with the Chinese government on this matter," Minister of State for External Affairs V K Singh said in a written reply.

There were 4,442 applicants who registered this year for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, of

which 1,454 applicants were shortlisted against existing slots, he said.

Beijing denied permission to the pilgrims to undertake the yatra from the Nathu La route, demanding it will only allow it if India moved its troops from the Doklam area near Sikkim.

The Chinese and Indian soldiers are engaged in a standoff position in the area since June 16 after the Indian side stopped the construction of a road being built by the Chinese army.

Singh also said that the ministry has suggested to the Sikkim Tourism Development Corporation (STDC), which collects payment for the travel, to favourable consider refunds requests from these travellers.



Lok Sabha mourns Bhandari's passing away

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 03 AUG:

Speaker, Lok Sabha, Sumitra Mahajan, made references to the passing away of former Chief Minister of Sikkim, Nar Bahadur Bhandari, who was also member of the Eighth Lok Sabha, in the

Parliament today. Obituary reference was also made to Sontosh Mohan Dev, a member of the Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, Thirteenth and Fourteenth Lok Sabhas. As a mark of respect to the memory of the departed members, MPs stood in silence for

a short while, a Bulletin of the Lok Sabha informs. Mr Bhandari passed away on 16 July last month. Apart from serving as Chief Minister of Sikkim for three terms, he was also a Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha, in 1984 as an Independent candidate representing Sikkim.

The Guardians of Animals

PALZOR MACHUNGPA
GANGTOK, 02 AUG:

There is 'Superman', 'Batman', 'Ironman' and even 'Antman' - the man-made celebrated saviors of humanity. They have their own movie franchises and they are celebrated around the globe with little kids aspiring to be a 'Peter Parker' or a 'Clark Kent' in their own rights. However, there are many real-life heroes who have selflessly dedicated their lives to saving and nurturing animals in Sikkim. Their work and humanity are the best introduction they could or should ever have. While there are several renowned organizations working for the welfare of animals, these citizens are selfless groups of animal lovers who have stood by their cause and have helped countless animals survive. Meet the 'Animal' fathers and 'Animal' mothers of Gangtok!

They call themselves 'The Guardians'. A group of people who believe heroism lies in nurturing and taking care of animals including stray dogs, 'The Guardian' was formed in 2015 and since its establishment the group has helped 50-60 dogs in and around



Gangtok. The group which has 12-15 active members now donate their pocket money to the cause to vaccinate, feed and treat animals, especially stray dogs and cats.

"Our members also sell Do It Yourself (DIY) items to generate funds for the cause. Besides that we also collect donations," says Deepika Tamang, one of the active members of the group.

Apart from a few animal loving donors, the group gets no aid from the government and the members donate their own pocket money to keep the

group functioning. From collecting funds to buying medicines to feeding the animals, the group manages every single activity all by themselves.

"We have so much to achieve but financial constraints have held us back. We are trying our best to help as many strays with the little fund we have," Deepika shares.

The group has been also turning savior for pedigrees and dogs who are lost or, at times, run away from home. They treat them, get the fear out of their minds, make them

fit for adoption and get them re-adopted through Sikkim Anti-Rabies and Animal Health (SARAH) Programme in the capital or through their Facebook page.

"We love dogs regardless of their breeds. If someone wants to adopt one they can contact us through Facebook. We then give them options from which they can choose. They can come to SARAH or we take the dog to their new parents," informs Deepika.

When asked about the trend of people buying expen-

sive dogs of a foreign breed she says, "We do admit that people are obsessed with foreign breeds but we do not think it is the real reason for their preference. People do not keep pets at home for security these days. Keeping foreign breeds has become more of a fashion rather than a social need."

'The Guardians' recently volunteered for two activities. The group participated in a road vaccination and sensitization drive from Saramsa Garden to Ranipool last week. With help from SARAH, the group vaccinated 56 stray dogs and 06 pet dogs.

On the occasion of Drukpa Tsheshe the group volunteered in a de-worming and feeding drive from District Court to Namrang. Organized with the help of animal lovers, the group fed 35 dogs and sensitized the residents of Gangtok about brutality against animals.

"Man is a gregarious animal and cannot survive alone. The most important thing that people can do is to know the roles (economical, socio-cultural) played by animals in the society. For that matter stray dogs act as social bodyguards," Deepika says (mic drop").



सौहार्दताको साइनोमा बाँधेर सबैमा सश्रद्धा कृतज्ञता जापन

जन्मले हाम्रो परिवारको मात्र नभएर कर्मले सम्पूर्ण नेपालीभाषी भारतीय समाजको अभिभावक बन्न पुगेका हाम्रा परम आदरणीय पिता स्वर्गीय नर बहादुर भण्डारीको देहवसान पछि मर्माहत बनेका समस्त सिक्किम जनाता, भारतीय नेपालीभाषी नागरिक एवं अन्य समुदायका बाबाका तमाम शुभचिन्तकहरूमा हामी आन्तरिक हृदयबाट कृतज्ञता व्यक्त गर्न चाहन्छौ। मेरो धन मेरो मलामी हो भनेर बाबाले भन्नु हुन्थ्यो... उनको अन्तिम यात्रामा सहभागी बनेर बाबालाई धनी बनाउने सबै सबै प्रति हामी ऋणी छौ। उहाँको मृत्युलाई राजनीतिदेखि माथि राखेर राज्य सम्मान सहित दाह संस्कार गरेकोमा हामी सिक्किम सरकारप्रति पनि कृतज्ञता व्यक्त गर्न चाहन्छौ। उनको मृत्युपछि हामीलाई असंख्य शोक सम्वेदना पत्र, श्रद्धाञ्जली पत्र आदि प्राप्त भईरहेको छ, जसको व्यक्तिगत कृतज्ञता सम्भव छैन। यसले हाम्रो परिवारलाई यस घडीमा मनोबल दिँदै शोक सम्वेदना पत्र, श्रद्धाञ्जली पत्र पठाउने सबै सबैमा हामी यस पत्र मार्फत कृतज्ञता व्यक्त गर्दछौ। दिल्लीको संसद भवनमा बाबाको नाममा शोक-पत्र पढेर केही क्षण मौन रही श्रद्धाञ्जली दिएकोमा हामी देशका त्यहाँ उपस्थित तमाम आदरणीय सांसदहरूप्रति ऋणी छौ। बाबाको शरीर बागडोगरा एयरपोर्टबाट बाहिर निकालेदेखि शुद्धिकार्यसम्म हाम्रो घर त्रिभुला कटेज वरिपरि रहेर शुद्धिकार्य सुचारुरूपले चल्न सहयोग पुर्याउनु हुने सिक्किम प्रहरी विभागलाई भने हामी अन्तर्मनबाट धन्यवाद दिन चाहन्छौ।

अन्तमा परिवारका सबै सदस्यगण जसले आ-आफ्नो स्थानमा रही बाबाको आत्मा शान्तिको निम्ति निरन्तर दिन-रात शुद्धीकार्यसम्म धार्मिक संस्कार र मान्यतालाई पालन गरे, सबैप्रति हामी सदैव ऋणी रहने छौ। दुखको घडीमा बाबाको अन्तिम दर्शन गर्न आउने जनातालाई सही हेर-विचार नपुगेको हुनसक्छ, दाह-संस्कारपछि हामीलाई सान्तवना दिन आउने सबैसँग हाम्रो सम्पर्क नभएको हुनसक्छ, हामीबाट उचित दृष्टि कसैलाई नपुगेको हुनसक्छ, किनभने दुखद घडीमा यस्तो हुनु स्वभाविक हो। यसले हामीलाई सान्तवना दिन आउनुहुने कसैप्रति पनि हामीबाट झुट्टी हुनपुगेको छ भने त्यसको निम्ति हामी सपरिवार सबैसँग क्षमा चाहन्छौ।

अब बाबा हामीमाझ हुनुहुन्ना तर बाबाले तपाईंहरू सबैसँग राख्नुभएको सौहार्दताको साइनो कहिल्यै मर्न छैन। हामी त्यहि साइनोले बाँधिएका छौ। बाबाको सौहार्दताको साइनोले बाँधिएको तमाम तपाईंहरूमा हामी सश्रद्धा कृतज्ञता व्यक्त गर्दछौ।

भण्डारी परिवार
त्रिभुला कटेज
चर्च रोड, गान्तोक, सिक्किम

Sikkim Police warns public about online fraud

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 03 AUG:**

Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Law and Order, Akshay Sachdeva has appealed to the Panchayats, School, College Teachers, Non Governmental Organizations and Media to raise awareness among the public regarding online fraud and internet imposters following a bunch of cases registered at different police stations of Sikkim related to online fraud.

In a press release issued today, the ADGP has cited the example of a lady who was cheated of Rs 3 lakh through Facebook by a person who claimed to be a UK resident. Sikkim Police Department has appealed to the public not to get lured and tempted by lucrative offers online.

"Further, members of public are advised that they must report and verify any such proposal received on Facebook, SMS at the police station," reads the release.

Ambulance caught carrying contraband substances

GANGTOK, 03 AUG: An ambulance belonging to the Sombaria Primary Health Centre has been caught carrying contraband substances today. Police intercepted the ambulance at Melli check post at 1.45 p.m. and found 72 Spasmodic capsules and 5 bottles of Phencyrex cough syrup in the vehicle. The vehicle was driven by government driver Phur Sangay Sherpa (42 yrs).

New school building of Tamatam JHS inaugurated

**SUMMIT REPORT
YUKSAM, 03 AUG:**

MLA of Yuksam-Tashiding constituency, Sonam Dadul Bhutia, who is also the Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Management & Development Department, formally inaugurated the newly constructed school building at Tamatam in Gerethang GPU under Yuksam-Tashiding constituency in the presence of Zilla Upadakshya-West, Laxmi Prasad Kafley, on 02 Aug. The three-storied building has an auditorium hall on the top floor.

The inauguration ceremony was followed by welcome song by students of Tamatam Junior High School and presentation of the school report by Headmaster, Sanman Subba, who also requested the government for provision of fencing and digital classroom for the school.

Mr Subba highlighted the achievements made by the school and said that there are



three students who have been selected through Chief Minister's Merit Scholarship and are now studying in schools outside the State along with many others selected through

different scholarships.

Speaking on the occasion, Zilla Upadakshya-West, Laxmi Prasad Kafley, underlined that the new building is an asset for the coming gener-

ation and that this property has been created due to the priority given to education by the government.

Addressing the function, Area MLA, Sonam Dadul Bh-

tia, dedicated the new school building to the people of the constituency, especially to the people of the Tamatam area. He expressed his happiness and satisfaction over schools of his constituency doing well in all fields. He further commended the efforts made by school teachers for the overall development of students & schools.

Mr Bhutia, speaking on the commitment to quality education at all levels, commented that the heads of schools and teachers of his constituency have been delivering their responsibilities in a much better way.

"Education is one of the most important aspects of life that each and every one must have in order to bring development in a community. In this new era, one must be provided with quality education to tackle all problems in life," he underlined.

Responding to various de-

mands placed by the school, the MLA assured to look into the demand for provision of fencing at school and digital classroom.

Tamatam School also felicitated the Area MLA and the Zilla Upadakshya by presenting them with citation letters for their contributions and dedication towards development of the constituency.

During the programme, the school administration and the School Managing Committee felicitated Late Makar Sing Limbu, Late Suk Dal Limbu and land donor for the school, Pem Dichen Bhutia, along with four former headmasters of the school and Gram Panchayat members of Labing-Gerethang GPU.

A cultural programme was presented by students from various schools of Labing-Gerethang GPU including Gerethang Secondary School and Tamatam Junior High School.

Two-week TB survey conducted in South Sikkim

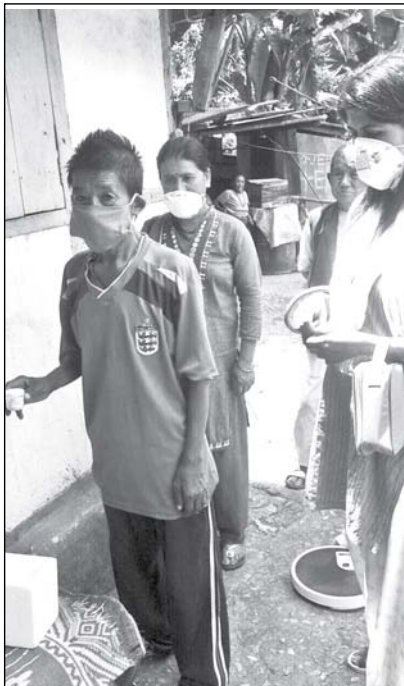
**NITESH R PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 03 AUG:**

Tuberculosis, especially the multi-drug resistant variants of the disease, has been a serious cause for concern in the State and in order to facilitate early detection and monitoring of the disease, the District TB Centre conducted a two-week long survey of active case finding.

The survey covered a population of 3828 combining Adarshgaon under Tokal Bermiok Primary Health Centre and Daragaon under Jorethang Community Health Centre. From the covered population, 2575 were screened out of which 28 people were found to be symptomatic.

The team was divided into three groups wherein the first group was headed by District Programme Coordinator-Revised National TB Control Programme [RNTCP], Riwang Bhutia, second group by TB HIV Coordinator-RNTCP, Gyan Prasad Pradhan, and the third group by District Public Private Mix Coordinator-RNTCP, Prajit Gautam.

The 3rd phase of the survey will be held at Ravangla from 04-18 Dec.



IJAC proposes measures for mitigating economic impact due to Darjeeling unrest

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 03 AUG:**

The Investigative Journalism Award Committee, Sikkim held a board meeting today at Rumtek chaired by the committee's chairperson, S. K Bardewa. The meeting was called in view of the warning issued by the Gorkha National Liberation Front of accelerating the Gorkhaland movement from 08 Aug onwards.

The meeting passed various resolutions regarding the harassment faced by Sikkim vehicles in Siliguri and the apathetic attitude of the Centre towards the State, a press release from the IJAC chairperson, S.K Bardewa informs.

With regard to the economic impact of the unrest in West Bengal, IJAC board members decided to suggest to the Government of Sikkim to make the State economically self-reliant by adopting the following measures at least in the field

of tourism and educational sector by establishing its own infrastructures.

The IJAC board members recommended a proposal for onward submission to the state government for urgent implementation that all the Sikkimese proprietors of all tourism infrastructures within Sikkim like Hotels, Resorts, Casino, Restaurants, Parks etc. should be stopped from leasing out their property to outsiders mainly those from West Bengal.

Such a step would also rejuvenate the employment sector as well as tourism in the state, the release adds.

Therefore the present agitation in Bengal should be taken as a blessing to help us infuse ideas that can accelerate the state's economy to help us become self-reliant, reads the release.

Mr Bardewa suggested that the government should immediately decide to introduce two 50-seater tourism heli-

copter service, one for Gangtok and another for Namchi or Pelling as deemed fit on subsidized tourism promotion tariff rate basis in collaboration and agreement with the Central government.

Thirdly, the board members suggested that the tourist entry point to Sikkim, which is currently Rangpo, needs to be diversified to Uttaray, Maney Bhanjyang in West Sikkim areas adjacent to the Western Nepal border and another from Rhenock Aritar route (Khasa) in East Sikkim adjacent to the Bhutan border should be opened up without further delay in consonance and agreement with the Centre.

Lastly, the IJAC, has suggested that all the MLAs of Sikkim should rush to Delhi before 08 Aug and officially present the economic grievances of Sikkimese people under the guidance of the Governor, Shrinivas Patil, before it is too late, reads the release.

Tadong school's NSS unit launches Swachhta Pakhwada

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 03 AUG:**

The National Service Scheme unit of Tadong Senior Secondary School has started a Swachhta Pakhwada programme in the school premises and surrounding areas.

During the inaugural ceremony of the programme on 01 Aug, students and staff of Tadong SSS pledged to continue contributing towards the cleanliness movement of the State and keep the environment in and around the school clean and hygienic.

Programme officer,



Babita Chettri, along with NSS volunteers of Tadong SSS carried

out cleanliness drives in the school on 02-03 Aug.

Ms Chettri has informed that the unit will continue to conduct such

drives and spread awareness amongst all regarding cleanliness.

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SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

informed, inquisitive, relevant

 A collage of the SummitTIMES newspaper front page, showing various news articles and headlines.

Gangtok on Friday, 04 August

Temp: 26°C / 18°C
Forecast: Cloudy with a shower or thunderstorm in the area.
Sunrise: 06:00 AM
Sunset: 06:22 PM

Welfare Minister attends felicitation programme at Sumbuk Kartikey

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 03 AUG: Welfare Minister Tulshi Devi Rai attended a felicitation cum health awareness programme for senior citizens organized by Sumbuk Kartikey GPU under Melli Constituency today. She was present as the chief guest for the programme, informs a press release.

On the day senior citizens of the GPU were felicitated and a health check-up of senior citizens was also conducted by the PHSC under the Gram Panchayat. The Minister also distributed some schemes under Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare Department, adds the release.

You can contact SummitTIMES @ 03592-208698

Press Club of Sikkim turns 15 with felicitations and awards

SAGAR CHETTRI GANGTOK, 03 AUG:

Press Club of Sikkim celebrated its 15th Foundation Day here today. Although the anniversary fell on 17 July, it was postponed owing to the period of mourning observed in Sikkim on the passing away of former Chief Minister Nar Bahadur Bhandari.

Rescheduled to today, the events of the day included felicitations and awards for journalists, some entertainment and an exchange of ideas between the ministers in attendance at media-persons.

SummitTimes Consulting Editor, Pema Wangchuk Dorjee, was conferred the Kanchenjunga Kalam Puraskar for the year 2017 while the Lagansheel Yuva Patrakar Samman was accorded



to Associate Editor, Samay Dainik, Arjun Rai, for his over a decade long contribution to journalism in Sikkim.

Two senior journalists, Rad-

ha Pradhan and Bhanuraj Thapa were also felicitated today.

The function had Tourism Minister Ugen T Gyatso Bhutia as chief guest accompanied

by Information & Public Relations Minister, AK Ghatani, as the guest of honour.

In his address, Tourism Minister highlighted that

journalists shoulder a big responsibility towards the society, something that earned them accolades and brickbats. He also stressed that politicians and journalists, the two arms of democracy, because they were also the closest and directly representative of the people, needed to work together, keeping check and complementing each other in equal measure for people to enjoy the best representation and accountability.

He congratulated journalists of the State for their continuous contributions towards the State.

The Minister stated that the present government has provided a healthy environment for the development of journalism in the State and assured that the State govern-

ment will continuously extend full support and cooperation for the welfare of the journalists and for the development of journalism in the State.

Meanwhile, congratulating the journalists honored today, the IPR Minister urged them to continue with their good work and contributions towards the society. He also appreciated the efforts of the PCS for recognising the contribution of journalists through such awards and felicitations.

Responding to issues placed by the PCS, the Minister assured to work on all issues on priority basis.

The function started with the welcome address by PCS president, Bhim Rawat, and concluded with vote of thanks presented by PCS general secretary, Puran Tamang.



Bhutia film 'Bya-Kay' released

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 03 AUG (IPR):** A Bhutia film called 'Bya-kay', directed and produced by Bhachung Tsechudarpa in association with Arithang Gyaltsen Tshogpo was released by Chief Minis-

ter, Pawan Chamling at Vajra Hall today.

The movie screening started with the film's crew members offering bouquet and khadas to Mr Chamling after which DVD copies of the movie were officially released.

Mr Tsechudarpa gave a brief overview of the movie and said that the word bya-kay comes from the Bhutia word 'bya' meaning chicken and 'kay' meaning to offer.

Mr Tsechudarpa said that the film was a trib-

ute to the customs and heritage of Sikkim and an attempt to educate the younger generation about the different facets of our traditions. He expressed hope that a small initiative like this would help in conserving local

traditions.

The movie screening was also attended by Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Hishey Lachungpa, Sikkim Legislative Assembly Speaker, K.N Rai along with Cabinet Ministers and public.

Interact Clubs of 7 schools visit orphanage



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 03 AUG:

Interact Clubs from seven schools of Gangtok namely West Point Senior Secondary School, Tashi Namgyal Academy, Enchey SSS, Paljor Namgyal Girls' School, Bojoghari SSS, Kye De Khang School and Tathangchen Secondary School visited Balika Niketan, an orphanage located at Metro Point in Tadong, on 02 Aug, a press release informs.

Members of the Interact Clubs actively participated and interacted with the children of the home. They prepared food for the children and presented some stationery, packed food items and toiletries to the children. The initiative was supported by Sridevi Group of Institutes-Ban-

galore, the Director of the Institute, Raju V, was also present for the occasion.

Installation of the Interact Club Council, Gangtok, was also held during the programme wherein Anmol Dewapati was nominated as the chairperson of the council with Prakash Sundas as advisor.

Further, the Council includes seven members each from one school. Abishek Chettri from West Point SSS, Inal Rai from Kyi De Khang School, Mebal from PNG, Dolker from TNA, Junnu from Enchey SSS, Syamul from Bojoghari SSS and Ganesh from Tathangchen SS have been selected as members, the release adds.

A cultural programme was also presented by the children of Balika Niketan.



Rongyek JHS golden jubilee celebrations begin

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 03 AUG:

Rongyek Junior High School's Golden Jubilee celebration 2017 which falls in the month of October began today with an inter-school football tournament at Junior High School level.

Attending the programme as chief guest was senior citizen of De-

chiling, TT Wangdi, along with Panchayat Secretary-Rongyek, Rinzing Bhutia, general secretary-Boys' Football Club, Nima Thendup, Deputy Registrar-Co-operation Department, TT Bhutia, Golden Jubilee Celebration Committee, SMC members and the general public.

The inaugural match

concluded with Rongyek scoring a win against Bhusuk 6-3.

The tournament that concludes on 12 Aug will have the participation of Junior High Schools namely Rongyek JHS, Lumsey JHS, Namong Arithang JHS, CS Rai JHS, 4th Mile JHS, Bhusuk JHS, Burtuk JHS, Upper Syari JHS and Lingding JHS.

Cleanliness fortnight at Singtam School

SUMMIT REPORT SINGTAM, 03 AUG:

National Service Scheme (NSS) club and the students of Singtam Senior Secondary School are observing



Swachhata Pakhwada, a cleanliness initiative which was kicked off from 01 Aug. The initiative which entered its

third day today is scheduled to continue till 15 Aug. Through the fortnight-long campaign, students will organize clean-

liness drives in the school premises and throughout Singtam along with awareness programmes.

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SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Identify Strengths... Relearn... Remember

Since have time to spare, some random musings

There is trouble at Doklam. How things change. A decade ago, Sikkim's border with China was the venue for a new beginning, rather a new introduction to Sino-Indian relations when trade across Nathula was resumed after a hiatus of over four decades. It was a significant development not only for the opportunities it opened up for Sikkim which continues to enjoy exclusive access to this border trade, but also for the immense shift it registered in how China viewed Sikkim. China, it may be recalled, has not recognized Sikkim's merger with Sikkim and would continually record Sikkim as a separate country in all its maps. In 2006, when, following a pact between India and China, border trade was opened between Tibetan Autonomous Region of China and Sikkim, it was de facto acceptance of the merger. The thorn that China would occasionally twist in India's side had been removed. That was the case eleven years ago. The engagement improved further when the Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra was opened through Nathula as well. Then Doklam happened. And while this might have thrilled the hawks and reinforced their paranoid projections, it has reflected rather poorly on MEA's preparedness and threatens to derail the gains Sikkim had made riding on the backs of the bonhomie that was coursing through Nathula.

This section has already spoken about the trouble and the situation at Doklam and media across the country continues to generate commentary and analysis, so, this time, we change course and muse a bit, especially since Sikkim has a lot of time at its hands now, on the positives that this border was once pregnant with. Hopefully, that potential has not been terminated and will resuscitate soon.

There will be very few who support the Chinese system, but even fewer will be able to deny the business acumen of Chinese people. Communist China may deny its people democracy as we know it, but there is no dearth of success stories born out of the free hand given to innovation and enterprise behind the bamboo curtain. China has also done what India ignored – played to its strengths. India made the mistake of launching into industrialization when it was agriculture that needed to be firmed up first. The migration this shift in priorities triggered to urban areas is now manifesting in dwindling agricultural growth in the country. China on the other hand focused on agriculture and building commune lifestyles for half a century. Then, when it was time to open the economy, it played to its strengths again. The biggest [and at that perhaps the only] asset that China had was its captive [take a pun if you will] workforce. China became the developed world's sweat-shop, the manufacturing backroom that produced anything on order, delivered on time and did it for a pittance. Dollars flowed in, industries came up. Now, China has switched to the next level. Just as its size was a current asset, China had its innovative skills and scientific institutions as strengths from posterity. This region after all gave the world paper, gun powder and the concept of paper currency when Europe was still in medieval times. The country is now pushing research, its scientists were the first to segregate the rice genome, research into cloning is big business in China now and the country is eyeing the IT sector which is why they want a direct link with Bangalore (again, the ethics is problematic, but that we will leave for another time).

Sikkim can learn from this template. In fact, it should. Just like India outpaced China fifty years ago, Sikkim was also much better placed than the neighbouring Himalayan kingdoms of Bhutan and Nepal at that time. Somewhere along the way, the State stopped grooming its human resource in a planned manner. The State's planners have already initiated an ambitious skill-enhancement drive. What this move needs to be complemented with is serious introspection on what Sikkim has by way of assets in human resources, ecology, land etc. so that these assets can be worked to contribute to the economy. Hydel and tourism potential are too obvious; the planners need to look deeper. Sikkim has to look back, into history, and understand its traditional skills. A great repository of knowledge is getting lost and in reviving the connection Sikkim will not only save a way of life, but also gain economically. Biotechnology, herbal science, organic cultivation, high altitude survival, these are Sikkim's traditional strengths and popular mantras of the modern world. Sikkim can either re-educate itself, or wait till some university student researching the topic arrives here to teach the Sikkimese the same and embarrass everyone with the ignorance the State has grown so comfortable with.

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Opinion

Why do human beings speak so many languages?

MICHAEL GAVIN
theconversation.com

The thatched roof held back the sun's rays, but it could not keep the tropical heat at bay. As everyone at the research workshop headed outside for a break, small groups splintered off to gather in the shade of coconut trees and enjoy a breeze. I wandered from group to group, joining in the discussions. Each time, I noticed that the language of the conversation would change from an indigenous language to something they knew I could understand, Bislama or English. I was amazed by the ease with which the meeting's participants switched between languages, but I was even more astonished by the number of different indigenous languages.

Thirty people had gathered for the workshop on this island in the South Pacific, and all except for me came from the island, called Makelua, in the nation of Vanuatu. They lived in 16 different communities and spoke 16 distinct languages.

In many cases, you could stand at the edge of one village and see the outskirts of the next community. Yet the residents of each village spoke completely different languages. According to recent work by my colleagues at the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History, this island, just 100 kilometers long and 20 kilometers wide, is home to speakers of perhaps 40 different indigenous languages. Why so many?

We could ask this same question of the entire globe. People don't speak one universal language, or even a handful. Instead, today our species collectively speaks over 7,000 distinct languages.

And these languages are not spread randomly across the planet. For example, far more languages are found in tropical regions than in the temperate zones. The tropical island of New Guinea is home to over 900 languages. Russia, 20 times larger, has 105 indigenous languages. Even within the tropics, language diversity varies widely. For example, the 250,000 people who live on Vanuatu's 80 islands speak 110 different languages, but in Bangladesh, a population 600 times greater speaks only 41 languages.

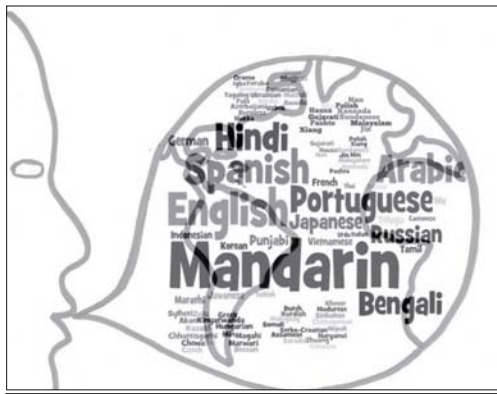
Why is it that humans speak so many languages? And why are they so unevenly spread across the planet? As it turns out, we have few clear answers to these fundamental questions about how humanity communicates.

SOME IDEAS, BUT LITTLE EVIDENCE

Most people can easily brainstorm possible answers to these intriguing questions. They hypothesize that language diversity must be about history, cultural differences, mountains or oceans dividing populations, or old squabbles writ large – “we hated them, so we don't talk to them.”

The questions also seem like they should be fundamental to many academic disciplines – linguistics, anthropology, human geography. But, starting in 2010, when our diverse team of researchers from six different disciplines and eight different countries began to review what was known, we were shocked that only a dozen previous studies had been done, including one we ourselves completed on language diversity in the Pacific.

These prior efforts all examined the degree to which different environmental, social and geographic variables correlated with the number of languages found in a given location. The results



People currently speak 7,000 languages around the globe.

varied a lot from one study to another, and no clear patterns emerged. The studies also ran up against many methodological challenges, the biggest of which centered on the old statistical adage – correlation does not equal causation.

We wanted to know the exact steps that led to so many languages forming in certain places and so few in others. But previous work provided few robust theories on the specific processes involved, and the methods used did not get us any closer to understanding the causes of language diversity patterns. For example, previous studies pointed out that at lower latitudes languages are often spoken across smaller areas than at higher latitudes. You can fit more languages into a given area the closer you get to the equator. But this result does not tell us much about the processes that create language diversity. Just because a group of people crosses an imaginary latitudinal line on the map doesn't mean they'll automatically divide into two different populations speaking two different languages. Latitude might be correlated with language diversity, but it certainly did not create it.

CAN A SIMPLE MODEL PREDICT REALITY?

A better way to identify the causes of particular patterns is to simulate the processes we think might be creating them. The closer the model's products are to the reality we know exists, the greater the chances are that we understand the actual processes at work.

Two members of our group, ecologists Thiago Rangel and Robert Colwell, had developed this simulation modeling technique for their studies of species diversity patterns. But no one had ever used this approach to study the diversity of human populations. We decided to explore its potential by first building a simple model to test the degree to which a few basic processes might explain language diversity patterns in just one part of the globe, the continent of Australia.

Our colleague Claire Bowers, a linguist at Yale University, created a map that shows the diversity of aboriginal languages – a total of 406 – found in Australia prior to contact with Europeans. There were far more languages in the north and along the coasts, with relatively few in the desert interior. We wanted to see how closely a model, based on a simple set of processes, could match this geographic pattern of language diversity.

Second, rainfall will limit the number of people that can live in a place; Our model assumed that people would live in higher densities in areas where it rained more. Annual precipitation varies widely in Australia, from over three meters in the northeastern rainforests to one-tenth of a meter in the Outback.

Third, we assumed that human populations have a maximum size. Ideal group size is a trade-off between benefits of a larger group (wider selection of potential mates) and costs (keeping track of unrelated individuals). In our model, when a population grew larger than a maximum threshold – set randomly based on a global distribution of hunter-gatherer population sizes – it divided into two populations, each speaking a distinct language.

We used this model to simulate language diversity maps for Australia. In each iteration, an initial population sprang up randomly somewhere on the map and began to grow and spread in a random direction. An underlying rainfall map determined the population density, and when the population size hit the predetermined maximum, the group divided. In this way, the simulated human populations grew and divided as they spread to fill up the entire Australian continent.

Our simple model didn't include any impact from contact among groups, changes in subsistence strategies, the effects of the borrowing of cultural ideas or components of language from nearby groups, or many other potential processes. So, we expected it would fail miserably.

Incredibly, the model produced 407 languages, just one off from the actual number.

The simulated language maps also show more languages in the north and along the coasts, and less in the dry regions of central Australia, mirroring the geographic patterns in observed language diversity.

And so for the continent of Australia it appears that a small number of factors – limitations rainfall places on population density and limits on group size – might explain both the number of languages and much of the variation in how many languages are spoken in different locations.

APPLYING THE MODEL ELSEWHERE

But we suspect that the patterns of language diversity in other places may be shaped by different factors and processes. In other locations, such as Vanuatu, rainfall levels do not vary as widely as in Australia, and population densities may be shaped by other environmental conditions.

Undoubtedly, a wide variety of social and environmental factors and processes have contributed to the patterns in language diversity we see across the globe. In some places topography, climate or the density of key natural resources may be more critical; in others the history of warfare, political organization or the subsistence strategies of different groups may play a bigger role in shaping group boundaries and language diversity patterns. What we have established for now is a template for a method that can be used to uncover the different processes at work in each location.

Language diversity has played a key role in shaping the interactions of human groups and the history of our species, and yet we know surprisingly little about the factors shaping this diversity. We hope other scientists will become as fascinated by the geography of language diversity as our research group is and join us in the search for understanding why humans speak so many languages.

[the writer is Associate Professor of Human Dimensions of Natural Resources, Colorado State University]

The abandoned route through India, Myanmar and China: why the Stilwell Road should be restored

MIRZA ZULFIQUR RAHMAN
theconversation.com

A derelict border crossing steeped in history cuts across the rolling mountain ranges from India to Myanmar. It is at the junction of three distinct geographical regions: the Eastern Himalayas; the verdant floodplains fed by the Brahmaputra river; and the Patkai hills. This route meanders towards the Chindwin river, the largest tributary of the Irrawaddy, which defines the plains of Myanmar.

The Pangsau Pass stands at this border crossing between India and Myanmar, bearing witness to waves of migrations over the centuries. Across the Pangsau Pass, in the Sagaing region of present-day Myanmar, lies Pangsau village.

The residents there are a mix of ethnic Bamar, mainly considered Burmese (the dominant ethnic group in Myanmar), ethnic Tangsa Nagas who also inhabit parts of the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, and some other Eastern Naga tribes.

The nearest proper town inside Myanmar from the village is about 60km away. It is connected by a dirt road, the old Stilwell Road, which is now almost inaccessible during the rainy season.

At Pangsau Pass, every Friday is designated as “Burma Day”, when the villagers can cross to India. They visit the market in Nampong to buy essential items for the week. Some people cross on foot, others on rickety motorbikes.

Indian citizens are allowed to visit Pangsau village on the 10th, 20th and 30th day of every month, on what are known as “India Days”. Most Indian visitors are tourists, and there is a market held in Pangsau village on these days.

The Arunachal Pradesh state government and the local market coordination committee decide on these access days in consultation with the Indian Army, which patrols the border. Pangsau market sells a host of local Burmese products and vegetables, and there are local eateries with Burmese

delicacies. These are mostly local leafy vegetables with sticky rice and rice noodle soups.

Burmese sticky rice is very popular among the border communities in India. Many Indian tourists also visit the Lake of No Return, where several Allied Forces warplanes crashed during World War II.

Men roam in longyi (male attire), trying to sell their products. Women and children wear bright patches of thanaka on their faces, a yellowish-white cosmetic paste, made from ground bark, a common sight in Myanmar.

The Stilwell Road was constructed under the leadership of General Joseph Stilwell of the US Army between 1942-45. It began in Ledo, Assam, and ended in Kunming, in the southwestern province of Yunnan in China, spanning 1736 kilometres.

This provided an alternative route for Chinese soldiers fighting the invading Japanese during the concluding stages of the war.

The section of the road that links India and Myanmar has been disused ever since the war ended, and is described by the Chinese as “barely useable”.

But the origins of the route go back long before Joseph Stilwell. This was the way Chaolung Sukapha, the first Ahom king, entered the plains of Assam in 1228 AD. He established the Ahom kingdom (1228-1826), which began a period of stability and prosperity in present-day Assam. Several waves of migration happened after that, and they included the six major Tai groups of Assam. The Singphos have also used the route for centuries.

The many ethnic groups of the region have this route etched in their collective imaginations. The Tai-Phakey community, which numbers about 2,000 people in Assam, migrated from Hukawng Valley in Myanmar through the Pangsau Pass. They have managed to preserve the old form of Tai language, and medieval scriptures in their Buddhist monastery.

According to several members of the community that I met during fieldwork, they have been able to

preserve their cultural and linguistic heritage because the closed borders make them feel isolated from their culture. So they preserve all they have left.

As you approach Ledo, a huge billboard announces the beginning of the Stilwell Road to Kunming, installed by a former Assam minister.

This is indicative of the shared aspirations of the people of this region to open up to Myanmar and southwest China. The Pangsau Pass Winter Festival, held intermittently over the past few years, has also demonstrated strong cultural links across the region.

The main rationale for re-opening the road is connecting people across these shared borders, along with the exchange of ideas and goods. But there is less interest shown by the Indian government.

The presence of several insurgent groups in northeast India deters New Delhi from restoring the road. Some Indian insurgent groups are based across this border in Myanmar, with active cross-border operations. The Kachin insurgency against the Myanmar government is also based there.

China has shown interest in opening up the route, but India's hesitation is also based on the fact that some part of it involves the contested territory of Arunachal Pradesh. Boundary talks between India and China about the status of Arunachal Pradesh have been going on for years now, with 19 rounds of talks completed in 2016.

It may be complicated, but it is imperative for both New Delhi and Yangon to work towards opening up the road, given China's continued strategic engagement in the Kachin region of Myanmar.

A joint development of these borderlands, which have historically been hubs of migration and exchange, will augur well for the region as a whole.

[the writer is Researcher in International Relations and Politics, Development Studies and Borders, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati]

When even gods face questions and have no answers

SUDIPTA CHANDA
SILIGURI, 03 AUG:
Never before was the man questioned on his commitment and performance. Unusually for him, he is being hauled over the coals now for lack of performance! India's living God, Sachin Tendulkar is back in the news, but for all the wrong reasons. Questions are being raised on the justification of his Rajya Sabha nomination given the cricket icon's poor attendance in the country's upper house. Sadly, for once Tendulkar, who had extricated the country from many tight spots through sheer application during his cricketing days, has no answers. Former President Pratibha Patil had approved Ten-



dulkar's nomination to the Rajya Sabha in 2012 on the recommendations of the UPA II government, which was welcomed with open arms by the Opposition. But, the going has not been smooth thereafter for the former cricketing superstar. If accounts of reports dating back to April are taken into consideration, Sachin had till then attended Rajya Sabha only 23 out of the 348 days since his nomination in

2012. He was of course passively present in Rajya Sabha on Tuesday following questions on the continued absence of nominated members in Parliament by Samajwadi Party MP Naresh Agarwal. Going by that same report of April collated by Factly.in, a data journalism portal, the expenditure incurred on Tendulkar till then in salary and expenses was Rs 58.8 lakh. A hefty sum by any standard with nothing to show in terms of outcome. When Sachin's bat spoke a positive energy spread across the country and when he speaks people listen attentively. No one will forget his emotional speech while bidding farewell to interna-

tional cricket. Prior to that and after, his mature answers to questions were never by rote or frivolous. And so, the master blaster had the opportunity of being heard in Rajya Sabha and by extension the country had been an active participant. His suggestions on how to develop the country's sports infrastructure and provide more opportunity to the nation's youth would have been nuggets of gold. He could have also been instrumental in improving the country's sports budget, minimizing corruption in the sports world, brought in more corporate social responsibility to expand sports culture to the rural areas and helped bring a more pro-

fessional approach towards sports in general. But, he chose to remain aloof. For countless of Sachin's admirers it is depressing to hear that a section of politicians is calling for Sachin to resign from Rajya Sabha if he is not serious about his parliamentary obligations. To most, Sachin can do no wrong. But, that probably was restricted to the cricket field. Life is different where even the gods face questions. However, Tendulkar can take heart from one direction. His is not the worst performance in terms of attendance in the Rajya Sabha. Film actress Rekha eclipses him with only 12 days' attendance so far also since 2012.

Naga village chiefs meet PM, support peace process



NEW DELHI, AUG 3 (PTI): A delegation of village chiefs of Nagaland met Prime Minister Narendra Modi here today and extended support to the Naga peace process, which they hoped

would be taken to its logical conclusion. The 15-member delegation from the Nagaland GB (Gaon Burahs) Federation told the prime minister that all civil society organisations and tribes have stated their desire

for peace, the PMO said in a statement. The Nagaland GB Federation is a body of village chieftains of all the Naga villages. The members of the delegation expressed their wholehearted sup-

port to the prime minister for the Naga peace process, the statement said. They also expressed the hope that Prime Minister Modi would take this process to its logical conclusion, it added.

Modi said he was happy to receive the delegation and to note that they came with a message of peace, the PMO said. The prime minister thanked them for their words of appreciation and support.

Shun use of force in Darjeeling: BJP to Bengal govt

NEW DELHI, AUG 3 (PTI): The BJP today asked the West Bengal government to shun use of force in the tense Darjeeling, saying the crisis there could not be resolved through bullet. Union minister S S Ahluwalia, who represents the hilly region in the Lok Sabha, also sought a "high-level" probe into the alleged police firing in Darjeeling in which three protesters were killed, calling it "unpardonable." Addressing a press conference in which he was accompanied by members of the Gorkhaland Movement Coordination Committee (GMCC), Ahluwalia also expressed hope that peace will be restored there before August 15. "The crisis in Darjeeling cannot be resolved through bullet. Repres-

sive measures and brutalities of police are not the solution," he said, making an appeal to the state's Trinamool Congress government and the GMCC for bringing peace and ending violence. This 50-day long crisis can only be resolved through political dialogue and for that peace was needed to be restored in the town, he said, requesting GMCC members to end their fast and call off their strike. "Gorkhas are known for their honesty and loyalty for the country. They never hesitate in sacrificing their life for the nation. So I would also request them to call off their fast and end the strike," Ahluwalia said. As the MP of Darjeeling, he will submit a memorandum on behalf of the GMCC to the prime minister and the home minister.

Lunar eclipse on Aug 7 to be visible...

Contd from pg01
phase will start at 10:52 pm. The partial eclipse ends at 12:48 am while the penumbral eclipse ends at 2:20 am on August 8. A penumbral lunar eclipse occurs when the Sun, the Earth, and the Moon align in an almost straight line. In this scenario, the Earth blocks some of the Sun's light from directly reaching the Moon's surface and covers all or part of the Moon with the outer part of its shadow, also known as the penumbra. "The interesting thing about lunar eclipse timings is that anywhere on Earth from where the Moon is visible during eclipse, the time will be the same. This is in contrast to a solar eclipse in which the timings of the contacts change as the location changes on Earth," Rathnashree said. Also, the US and Canada can view the total solar eclipse, but cannot see the lunar eclipse. The Nehru Planetarium will be setting up telescopes to help visitors observe the Moon before the eclipse and the partial phases of the eclipse, at the Teen Murti lawns from 9 pm on Monday night.

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Wholesale onion price soars to Rs 25/kg at Lasalgaon

contd from pg01
buying, he said. That apart, new crop from kharif season of 2017-18 is also expected to be less, as acreage is seen down by 30-40 per cent in states, especially in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra due to less and late rains besides low prices ruling at the time of sowing. The arrival of early

kharif crop has begun in Andhra Pradesh. But, the full swing arrival of kharif crop would begin from September onwards. Till then, the pressure on availability and prices would continue, agri-experts added. About 30-40 per cent of the country's total production comes from the Kharif season and the rest from rabi season.

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12 teams to participate in I-Day football tourney at Singtam

YOGEN THATAL
SINGTAM, 03 AUG:

To commemorate the 71st Independence Day, the Independence Day Celebration Committee of Singtam is organizing Late Laxuman Pradhan Memorial Open Football which will commence from 04 Aug here at Golitar football ground in Singtam, East Sikkim.

Twelve teams from in and around Singtam including home team, JVC Football Club of Singtam, will be participating in the tourney.

In the opening match on 04 Aug, JVC Singtam will play against Sumin FC. The programme will be attended by Parliamentary Secretary-cum-MLA of Arithang, Shyam Pradhan, as chief guest.

The cash prize for the tourney this year is Rs 70,000 and Rs 40,000 for the winner and the runners up, respectively.

The tournament will also feature an inter-school boys and girls football tournament which will commence from 06 Aug.

Opp to move privilege motions against Swaraj in RS tomorrow

NEW DELHI, AUG 3 (PTI): Opposition parties will tomorrow move privilege motions against External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj in the Rajya Sabha for allegedly misinforming the House on India's foreign policy.

According to sources, leaders of different political parties will move two privilege motions against Swaraj for allegedly "providing wrong information on the Bandung Asia Africa relations conference and about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Lahore visit in 2015".

The sources said that while Swaraj claimed that she had not delivered any speech in the Bandung conference, the opposition parties have downloaded a purported speech and will attach it as proof.

The second privilege is for allegedly "misinforming the House on Modi's 2015 Lahore visit, claiming that there was no terror incident after that".

The opposition, however, seeks to differ saying the Pathankot terror attack happened immediately after Modi's visit and there were five other incidents after that too.

Incidentally, the issue was raised in the Rajya Sabha today with Congress leader Anand Sharma and Trinamool leader Derek O' Brien saying that Swaraj had delivered her speech at Bandung despite claims to the contrary.

Anand draws with Nakamura in Sinquefield opener

ST. LOUIS (USA), AUG 3 (PTI): Five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand played out an easy draw with nemesis Hikaru Nakamura of United States to kickstart his campaign in the Sinquefield Cup, a part of the Grand Chess tour.

Among the chess elite, Nakamura has troubled Anand like no one else in classical chess in the past few years and the Indian decided not to go for the blood despite his white pieces. The end result was a rather dull draw.

For the records, it was the Anti-Berlin by Anand and Nakamura had little troubles in equalising. The American tried to make some headway in the centre but Anand gave nothing away and it was a balanced position when the two players decided to repeat and signed peace after 30 moves.

It was an otherwise lively start to the super tournament as the first round witnessed as many as three decisive games.

The four Russian speaking Grandmasters were pitted against each other and that itself provided the major share of decisive results in the opener.



cisive results in the opener.

Sergey Karjakin was a class act against compatriot Peter Svidler, while Levon Aronian of Armenia continued with his excellent form to beat Russian Ian Nepomniachtchi.

French Grandmaster Maxime Vachier-Lagrave landed a crushing blow to the aspirations of Wesley So of United States while the much followed game between American Fabiano Caruana and World Champion Magnus Carlsen of Norway ended in a draw.

Vachier-Lagrave, Karjakin

and Aronian emerged as the early leaders in the 10-player round-robin tournament while Anand, Nakamura, Carlsen and Caruana share the fourth spot on a half point each.

Svidler, Nepomniachtchi and Wesley So are at the bottom in the USD 300000 prize money tournament.

Aronian seems to be carrying on from where he left. The Armenian has won the last two super tournaments he played in and it seems he is not done yet for the year.

The Armenian played an idea

that his opponent had prepared in the English opening and got a small advantage in the early stages of the middle game.

Nepomniachtchi just could not handle the consistent pressure thereafter and succumbed in just 29 moves.

Vachier-Lagrave benefited from the time pressure on Wesley So. The endgame that arose after an intense battle was slightly better for the Frenchman but the latter blundered on the 40th move to hand the point in a platter.

Karjakin was precise in his execution against Svidler. A solid-looking middle game suddenly had wild complexities wherein Karjakin came up with a smart exchange sacrifice to tighten the noose. Svidler fought on but it did not yield much success.

Results round 1: V Anand (Ind) drew with Hikaru Nakamura (USA); Fabiano Caruana (USA) drew with Magnus Carlsen (Nor); Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra) beat Wesley So (USA); Sergey Karjakin (Rus) beat Peter Svidler (Rus); Levon Aronian (Arm) beat Ian Nepomniachtchi (Rus).



Easy loans from 'state bank of tomato', courtesy UP Cong

LUCKNOW, AUG 3 (PTI): The Uttar Pradesh Congress has started the 'state bank of tomato', with facilities like easy loans for buying tomatoes, attractive interest rates on its deposit and locker facility, as a novel way to protest the soaring price of the vegetable.

The 'bank', which is being operated from the Youth Congress office at Mall Avenue in the state capital, has today, on the second day of the protest, got some 18 buyers and is evoking keen interest among the people.

Former party spokesperson Anshu Awasthi, who is leading the campaign as the 'bank's chief manager', said they have some interesting schemes like doubling the tomatoes deposited with it, 80 per cent loans for buying the vegetable especially for the poor.

"Seeing the response, we have started another 'branch' in Aliganj here... We got some 11 kg of tomatoes deposited with us and have given away one-and-a-half kg on loan in which the buyer will be paying back in instalments of Rs 10 each," Awasthi said.

Some shopkeepers are depositing tomatoes with us, he said adding the 'bank' will operate from 10 am to 5 pm.

"The idea is not just to lodge protest but also to create awareness among the people about the soaring price of the vegetable," he said.

Party spokesperson Dwijendra Tripathi said this is a form of protest against the soaring prices of tomatoes and to draw attention on the hardship faced by the common people because of it.

Oppn asks govt to spell roadmap on dealing with China

NEW DELHI, AUG 3 (PTI): The Opposition today accused the government of having no stable foreign policy and asked it to spell out its roadmap to deal China amid the border stand-off which it wanted to be resolved diplomatically.

During a discussion

on "India's foreign policy and engagement with strategic partners" in the Rajya Sabha, the Opposition parties said they are with the government in the face of "unusually aggressive" position adopted by China but wanted the country to be strength-

ened further militarily to ward off any threat.

The Opposition parties also accused the government of spoiling relations with the neighbours and felt that India should not be isolated in the process of isolating Pakistan.

"As we engage with our partner countries,

please ensure that there is balance. We should ensure that we engage with all of them. But we should ensure that there is strategic balance," said Congress leader Anand Sharma while initiating the discussion.

Sharma, former Minister of State for External

Affairs, said there should be no dilution or deviation from the country's laid down foreign policy.

Referring to the border stand-off with China, he said the neighbouring country is being "unusually aggressive" and the "doors of diplomacy seem to be closing".

"When it comes to country's national interests, we stand as one and there is no division. It is clear...Diplomacy must be given a chance. We believe in making all possible diplomatic channels to de-escalate the situation on borders," he said.

"De-escalation does not mean retreat. It is safeguarding India's interest," he said.

Targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Sharma said he had "not uttered a word" on what he has talked with Chinese President Xi Jinping during their meetings in Astana (Kazakhstan) and Hamburg (Germany).

"It is his (PM's) duty to tell us. He cannot remain silent on matters of India's sensitive interests," he said

Sharma also noted that National Security Adviser Ajit Doval had visited China recently and wondered whether after that "a window has opened that this stand-off would be resolved."



I-Day football tourney kicks off at Temi

SUMMIT REPORT
NAMCHI, 03 AUG:

Dil-Karma Memorial State level women's football tournament and Chitra Laxmi Memorial men's football tournament,

organized by Temi Namphing Independence Day Celebration Committee, kicked off today at Temi Senior Secondary School ground in South Sikkim.

Minister for Roads

& Bridges Department, GM Gurung, attended the event as chief guest.

The first women's match was held between Temi SSS and Dentam Rising Star while Temi

Tea Estate played against Temi SSS in the men's tournament. Dentam Rising Star won the women's match by 5-1 and Temi Tea Estate won the men's match by 3-2.

INVITES APPLICANTS FOR

LDC COACHING

GENERAL ENGLISH 85M	GENERAL AWARENESS 35M	BASIC COMPUTER KNOWLEDGE 15M	VIVA 15M
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9735030778 / 03592-20828



China's old age population crosses 230 million in 2016

**KJM VARMA
BEIJING, AUG 3 (PTI):** China's rapidly increasing old age population has reached 230.8 million or 10.8 per cent of the total population by the end of last year, according to official figures released today.

China had more than 230.8 million people aged 60 or above, 16.7 per cent of the total population, at the end of 2016, the Ministry of Civil Affairs said.

Of the 230.8 million, 150.03 million were 65 or above, or 10.8 per cent of the total population, according to a report released by the ministry.

By international standards, a country or region is considered to be an "ageing society" when the number of people aged 60 or above reaches 10 per cent or more.

China's old age population above 65 years will reach 255 million by 2020 putting heavy

stress on geriatric care services, China's planning body said earlier.

Bracing for the demographic crisis China last year relaxed the four decades old one child policy by permitting two children for couples.

The ministry said China has 140,000 nursing homes holding a total of more than 7.3 million beds at the end of 2016, with a year-on-year increase of 20.7 per cent and 8.6 per cent respectively. However, there are only 31.6 beds for every 1,000 senior citizens.

According to the report, China had about 460,000 orphans at the end of 2016, with 88,000 living in government-funded agencies, with the rest being cared for by relatives or private orphanages.

Some 19,000 Chinese orphans were adopted by domestic or overseas families in 2016, the ministry said.

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

India may face deadly heat waves within decades: study

BOSTON, AUG 3 (PTI): Nearly 1.5 billion people in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh are likely to face deadly heat waves within the next few decades due to climate change, exposing them to unsurvivable temperatures and widespread food crisis, an MIT study has warned.

Scientists predicted that by the end of this century climate change could lead to severe summer heat waves in South Asia, a region of deep poverty where one-fifth of the world's population resides.

There is still time to avert such severe warming if measures are implemented now to reduce the most dire consequences of global warming, researchers said. However, without significant reductions in carbon emissions, the heat waves could begin within as little as a few decades to strike the fertile Indus and Ganges river basins that produce much of the region's food supply, they said.

The areas likely to be hardest hit in northern India, Bangladesh and southern Pakistan are home to 1.5 billion people. These areas are also among the poorest in the region, with much of the population dependent on subsistence farming that requires long hours of hard labour out in the open and unprotected from the Sun.

"That makes them very vulnerable to these climatic changes," said Elfatih Eltahir, from MIT.

While the projections show the Persian Gulf may become the region of the worst heat waves on the planet, northern India is a close second, Eltahir said, and eastern China, also densely populated, is third. The highest concentrations of heat in the Persian Gulf would be out over the waters of the Gulf itself, with lesser levels over inhabited land.

The new analysis is based on recent research showing that hot weather's most deadly effects for humans comes from a combination of high temperature and high humidity, an index which is measured by a reading known as wet-bulb temperature.

This reflects the ability of moisture to evaporate, which is the mechanism required for the human body to maintain its internal temperature through the evaporation of sweat.

Trump endorses merit-based immigration system

LALIT K JHA WASHINGTON, AUG 3 (PTI): US President Donald Trump has endorsed a legislation that would drastically cut the number of legal immigrants allowed into the country and implement "merit-based" visa scheme which could benefit highly-educated and technology professionals from countries like India.

The Reforming American Immigration for Strong Employment (RAISE) Act would scrap the current lottery system to get into the US and instead institute a points-based system for earning a Green Card.

Factors that would be taken into account include English language skills, education, high-paying job offers and age.

If passed by the Congress and signed into law, the legislation could benefit highly-educated people and technology professionals from countries like India.

"The RAISE Act will reduce poverty, increase wages, and save taxpayers billions and billions of dollars. It will do this by changing the way the US issues Green Cards to nationals from other countries. Green Cards provide



permanent residency, work authorisation, and fast track to citizenship," Trump said at a White House event to announce his support to the RAISE Act.

The bill, Trump said, "would represent the most significant reform to our immigration system in half a century."

Standing along with two top authors of the bill -- Senators Tom Cotton and David Perdue -- Trump said the RAISE Act ends chain migration and replaces the low-skilled system with a new points-based system for receiving a Green Card. This competitive application process will favour applicants who can speak English, financially support themselves and their families and demon-

strate skills that will contribute to our economy, he said.

The RAISE Act prevents new migrants and new immigrants from collecting welfare and protects US workers from being displaced, he added.

"That's a very big thing. They're not going to come in and just immediately go and collect welfare. That doesn't happen under the RAISE Act. They can't do that. Crucially, the Green Card reforms in the RAISE Act will give American workers a pay raise by reducing unskilled immigration," he said.

"It has not been fair to our people, to our citizens, to our workers," Trump said of the current immigration system.

Trump said this legislation will not only restore America's competitive edge in the 21st century, but it will restore the

sacred bonds of trust between America and its citizens.

"This legislation demonstrates our compassion for struggling American families who deserve an immigration system that puts their needs first and that puts America first," he said.

Noting that the current system is "an obsolete disaster", Senator Cotton said that it is time for it to change.

"First, we bring over a million immigrants into this country a year. That's like adding the population of Montana every single year; adding the population of Arkansas every three years. The vast majority of those workers -- or those immigrants come here not because of their English-language abilities or their job skills, or their job offer, or their educational attainment," he said.

"In fact, only one in 15 out of a million new immigrants come here because of their job skills and their ability to succeed in this economy," Cotton said.

The RAISE Act will be re-orienting Green Card system, he added.

Senator Perdue said the current system does not work.

"It keeps America from being competitive, and it does not meet the needs of the economy today," he said.

"Today we bring in 1.1 million legal immigrants a year.

Over 50 per cent of our households of legal immigrants today participate in our social welfare system. Right now, only one 1 out of 15 immigrants who come into our country come in with skills that are employable. We've got to change that," he said.

Perdue said he looked at the at best practices before drafting the legislation.

"We looked at countries like Canada, Australia, and others. What we're introducing today is modelled on the current Canadian and Australian systems. It's pro-worker, it's pro-growth, and it's been proven to work. Both have been extremely successful in attracting highly skilled workers to those countries," the Senator said.

"We can all agree that the goals of our nation's immigration system should be to protect the interests of working Americans, including immigrants, and to welcome talented individuals who come here legally

and want to work and make a better life for themselves. Our current system makes it virtually impossible for them to do that," said the Senator.

According to Attorney General Jeff Sessions, the higher entry standards established in this proposal will allow authorities to do a more thorough job reviewing applicants for entry, therefore protecting the security of the US homeland. The additional time spent on vetting each application as a result of this legislation will also ensure that each application serves the national interest, he observed.

The American people deserve a lawful immigration system that promotes our national interest. The RAISE Act would give us a more merit-based immigration system that admits the best and the brightest around the world while making it harder for people to come here illegally," Sessions said.

"The bill would end programme known to be rife with fraud and abuse and finally improve the vetting process, making our country and working class wages much safer and stronger," said the Attorney General.



Russia has reacted angrily after a US bill imposing fresh sanctions was agreed overwhelmingly by the country's lawmakers. The bill, which also brings sanctions against Iran and North Korea, was described as "seriously flawed" by US President Donald Trump. But Congress voted for it by such an overwhelming majority that he was unable to veto it. President Trump's anger was mirrored in Moscow, where Russia's Prime Minister, Dmitry Medvedev, wrote on Facebook that the bill would bring "consequences". He said: "First, it ends hopes for improving our relations with the new US administration. "Second, it is a declaration of a full-fledged economic war on Russia. "Third, the Trump administration has shown its total weakness by handing over executive power to Congress in the most humiliating way.

Russia blasts US sanctions as 'economic war

MOSCOW, AUG 3 (AFP): Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev lashed new US sanctions as a "full-fledged economic war" on Moscow, saying they crushed hopes for repairing ties and demonstrated President Donald Trump's "total weakness ... in the most humiliating way."

Trump reluctantly signed off on the new sanctions Wednesday, bowing to domestic pressure after the White House failed to scupper the bill or water it down. Medvedev warned the move would have "consequences", saying "it ends hopes for improving our

relations with the new US administration."

"Second, it is a declaration of a full-fledged economic war on Russia," Medvedev said on his Facebook page.

Taunting the notoriously thin-skinned US president, Medvedev added: "The Trump administration has shown its total weakness by

handing over executive power to Congress in the most humiliating way".

Trump signed the legislation behind closed doors and his reluctance was on full display in an angry signing statement in which he called the legislation "significantly flawed."

"In its haste to pass this legislation, the Congress included a number

of clearly unconstitutional provisions", he said, including curbs on the president's ability to "negotiate" with Russia. "I built a truly great company worth many billions of dollars. That is a big part of the reason I was elected. As president, I can make far better deals with foreign countries than Congress," Trump claimed.

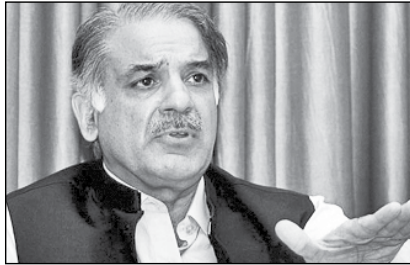
Pak EC bars Shehbaz Sharif from campaigning for by-election

ISLAMABAD, AUG 3 (PTI): Punjab Chief Minister Shehbaz Sharif has been barred by the Election Commission of Pakistan from taking part in his own by-election campaign to a National Assembly seat left vacant after the disqualification of his elder brother and former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

According to the code of conduct issued by the the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), constitutional dignitaries, including the President, the Prime Minister and the provincial Chief Ministers, have been barred from visiting the constituency or a polling station after the issuance of the schedule for the September 17 polls.

"All these public office-holders, including the Punjab chief minister who is a potential candidate for the by-election to Lahore National Assembly seat (NA-120), have been restrained from visiting the constituency or a polling station after the issuance of the poll schedule," it said.

The ECP also told candidates that their



election expenses should not exceed Rs 1.5 million and they must use a dedicated account for all transactions related to poll expenses, the Dawn newspaper reported.

The code of conduct came into effect this week immediately after the ECP announced the election schedule for Lahore National Assembly seat. The ECP warned that legal action would be taken against any individual found violating the rules.

Terming the ECP code of conduct "confusing", political observers wondered how the holder of a public office could be barred from taking part in his own election campaign even though the law permitted a legislator to contest election for

another house without tendering resignation.

A senior official of the ECP said a clear picture would emerge after the submission of nomination papers by 65-year-old Shehbaz for the by-election.

"This is a unique situation because if the Chief Minister of Punjab files nomination papers, he will not be campaigning for somebody else but for himself and this right can in no way be taken away from him," the official said.

Nawaz Sharif was disqualified by the Supreme Court on Friday in connection with the Panama Papers scandal. The 67-year-old veteran politician resigned from his position that evening.

Anthyesthyi Kriya

The Anthyesthyi Kriya of **Laxmi Rai**, who left for heavenly abode on **01 August**, falls on **Sunday, 06 August**. All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us to offer prayers for the departed soul at our residence at **Sangeeta Cottage at Burtuk**.

Leena Rai (elder daughter in law), Sandhya and Renu Bahadur Thapa (daughter and son in law), Subhash and Bina Rai (son and daughter in law), Sangeeta and Rinchen Pakhrin (daughter and son in law), Midas, Aanchal, Abhinav, Kenja, Kevin, Kaiaa and Cleon (grandchildren)

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR FALCON EVENING

Draw Time : 8:00 pm onward

Draw No:1 DrawDate on:03/08/17

1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 950 41982

(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 41982 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9500/-

14365 29639 35585 35911 42496

46311 47589 57978 77331 92568

3rd Prize Rs.9000/-

07898 16307 23437 49227 60085

69326 74286 84026 87167 95509

4th Prize Rs.1000/-

0669 2828 3279 3426 4559 7107 7180 7314 8121 9590

5th Prize Rs.500/-

2725 5689 5819 6540 7055 7827 7986 8257 8984 9246

6th Prize Rs.250/-

0063 0110 0160 0230 0413 0454 0456 0463 0707 0854

1064 1161 1277 1362 1507 1508 1622 1642 1717 1766

1791 1822 1884 2044 2056 2101 2227 2242 2243 2283

2289 2321 2328 2409 2507 2525 2787 2829 2940 3027

3202 3496 3749 4184 4285 4291 4475 4539 4570 4573

4670 4740 4779 5037 5061 5099 5126 5212 5250 5450

5489 5647 5711 5737 5748 5887 5890 6036 6063 6349

6359 6366 6451 6581 6756 6876 7029 7169 7304 7392

7478 7576 7612 7622 7775 7788 7942 8031 8062 8486

8724 8795 8850 9115 9677 9682 9858 9863 9902 9990

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KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR KIND

Draw No:1 DrawDate on:03/08/17

1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 84J 12086

(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 12086 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9500/-

35169 39232 59506 61415 63884

69050 73062 88831 91001 94759

3rd Prize Rs.9000/-

06393 17347 17386 48216 54366

65018 83308 85703 89821 94296

4th Prize Rs.1000/-

1722 2200 3238 3585 4431 5993 6083 6630 7537 8405

5th Prize Rs.500/-

1392 1556 2602 3033 3809 4950 6133 7100 8666 8757

6th Prize Rs.250/-

0037 0167 0190 0203 0423 0662 0708 0881 1337 1581

1721 1733 1784 1804 1904 2088 2132 2137 2215 2305

2339 2652 2665 2774 2796 2836 2978 3100 3160 3253

3319 3381 3470 3471 3539 3580 3650 3779 3810 3837

3854 3891 3915 3957 3962 3978 4397 4418 4500 4586

4640 4763 4779 4781 4822 4845 4993 5204 5250 5428

5634 5665 5759 5772 5842 5862 5888 6149 6288 6453

6659 6687 6815 6845 6920 7276 7316 7415 7669 7674

7695 7778 8007 8241 8529 8799 8824 8832 8840 8877

8935 8987 9000 9049 9209 9288 9310 9371 9539 9825

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MIZORAM STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR BENEFIT MORNING

Draw No:1 DrawDate on:03/08/17

1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 98J 48232

(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 48232 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9500/-

01184 01587 16328 30932 35422

44455 46933 59077 80390 91132

3rd Prize Rs.9000/-

00837 08923 12014 17125 21028

55998 59011 74118 78609 92420

4th Prize Rs.1000/-

0799 2660 4537 5242 6056 6138 7282 8681 9072 9683

5th Prize Rs.500/-

1113 1225 2754 3276 3517 4558 4920 4988 7914 8617

6th Prize Rs.250/-

0049 0092 0204 0563 0664 0711 0891 0927 0973 1062

1162 1179 1387 1461 1490 1558 1583 1643 1818 2204

2214 2228 2260 2325 2444 2461 2581 2678 2696 2726

2830 2847 3060 3136 3539 3597 3664 3691 3853 3962

4146 4162 4294 4487 4533 4565 4613 4636 4696 4741

4817 5039 5327 5458 5656 5830 6485 6547 6548 6563

6590 6671 6677 6750 6811 6837 6927 6991 7084 7188

7394 7536 7706 8112 8144 8179 8251 8287 8345 8364

8499 8591 8679 8783 8849 8852 8861 8926 8944 8975

9085 9087 9174 9234 9237 9584 9615 9799 9900 9961

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JUSTIN BIEBER ANNOUNCES BREAK FROM MUSIC IN LETTER, WRITING: 'I WANT MY HEART AND MIND TO BE SUSTAINABLE'

The singer says he has “let bitterness, jealousy and fear” run his life and that he now wants to start a new chapter.

Justin Bieber has shared a message on social media where he explains why he is “taking time” from his career. Two weeks after cancelling the remaining 14 days of his Purpose tour, the Baby singer has once again shocked his Beliebers with a surprise announcement.

“I’m so grateful for this journey with all of you,” he wrote on Instagram.

“I’m grateful for the tours but most of all I am grateful I get to go through this life WITH YOU! Learning and growing hasn’t always been



easy but knowing I’m not alone has kept me going.”I have let my insecurities get

the best of me at times, I let my broken relationships dictate the way I acted towards

people and the way I treated them! I let bitterness, jealousy and fear run my life!!!” it

says.

In the note, the 23-year-old also thanks people who “in the past few years help me build my character back up reminding me of who I am and who I want to be.”

“My past decisions and past relationships won’t dictate my future decisions and my future relationships,” he wrote.

“I’m VERY aware I’m never gonna be perfect, and I’m gonna keep making mistakes.” I wanna be a man that learns from them and grows from them!! I want you all to know this tour has been unbelievable and has taught me so much about myself.

what's TRENDING

“I am reminded of how blessed I am to have a voice in this world. I’ve learned the more you appreciate your calling the more you want to protect your calling.”

After cancelling shows in the US and Asia, there were rumours online regarding Bieber’s reasons for doing so, with website TMZ claiming the singer had “re-dedicated his life to Christ”, showing a new cross tattoo on his face. The rumour was fuelled by Bieber’s recent posts with celebrity pastor

Carl Lentz, who TMZ says is the singer’s “new mentor”.

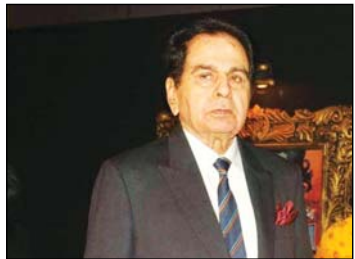
Now, Bieber says the real reason behind his decision to drop out of the tour was that his lifestyle had grown unsustainable.

“Me taking this time right now is me saying I want to be SUSTAINABLE,” he wrote.

“I want my career to be sustainable, but I also want my mind heart and soul to be sustainable so that I can be the man I want to be, the husband I eventually want to be and the father I want to be.

“This message is just an opportunity for you to know my heart.

LEGENDARY ACTOR DILIP KUMAR HOSPITALIZED AFTER SUFFERING FROM DEHYDRATION



Popular actor Dilip Kumar was admitted to hospital on Wednesday as he suffered from heavy dehydration. The legendary actor who will turn 95 this year has been in poor health due to age related problems. His wife Saira Banu accompanied him to the hospital. A source from the hospital said, “He was admit-

ted with dehydration. He is stable”.

The actor who was honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award and the Padma Vibhushan was last seen acting in the movie “Qila” which was released in the year 1998. Dilip Kumar is known for his hits like “Mughal-e-Azam”, “Devdas” and many more.

BOLLYBUZZ!!!



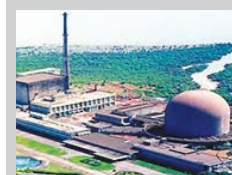
A mural depicting the late Linkin Park singer Chester Bennington has been unveiled by a freeway in Los Angeles, California. The 20-foot mural was painted onto the wall of a local pizzeria by artist Jonas Never, who spent two days completing the tribute to the singer. It shows the 41-year-old frontman topless with his tattoos on display, smiling and looking into the distance with a halo-like light around his head. The Linkin Park vocalist took his own life on July 20 at his home in Palos Verdes, California.



CASUAL CHLOE: Chloë Grace Moretz stepped out in L.A. looking casual recently.

TOP 10 SONGS ON BILLBOARD HOT 100 SONGS

- 1) Despacito- Luis Fonsi & Daddy Yankee's featuring Justin Bieber
- 2) Wild Thoughts- DJ Khaled featuring Rihanna & Bryson Tiller
- 3) That's What I Like- Bruno Mars
- 4) I'm the One- DJ Khaled featuring Bieber, Quavo, Chance the Rapper & Lil Wayne
- 5) Believer- Imagine Dragons
- 6) Unforgettable- French Montana's featuring Swae Lee
- 7) Shape Of You- Ed Sheeran
- 8) There's Nothing Holding Me Back- Shawn Mendes
- 9) Attention- Charlie Puth
- 10) Body Like A Back Road- Sam Hunt



04TH AUGUST WORLD HISTORY

1498: Christopher Columbus explored the Gulf of Paria (Venezuela) between Trinidad and South America.

1704: In the War of Spanish Succession, an Anglo-Dutch fleet captured Gibraltar.

1789: The Constituent Assembly in France dissolved feudal system by abolishing the privileges of nobility.

1875: The first Convention of Colored Newspapermen was held in Cincinnati, Ohio.

1914: Britain and Belgium declared war after German troops entered Belgium. The United States proclaimed its neutrality. Britain's entry also committed its dominions of Australia, Canada, Newfoundland, New Zealand and South Africa. AS WWI started the financial press helped to cover up news of a run on the Bank of England.

1944: Nazi police raided the secret annex of a building in Am-

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

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

sterdam and arrested eight people, including 15-year-old Anne Frank, whose diary became a famous account of the Holocaust. She died at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in the spring of 1945, just weeks before the camp was liberated.

INDIAN HISTORY
1845: Sir Pherozeshah Merwanjee Mehta, KCIE an Indian political leader, activist, and a leading lawyer of Bombay, who was knighted by the British Government in India for his service to the law was born. He drafted the Bombay Municipal Act of 1872, and is thus considered the 'father of Bombay Municipality'.

1942: The British government charged that Mohandas Gandhi and his All-Indian Congress Party favored "appeasement" with Japan.

1956: India's first nuclear reactor APSARA was commissioned.

LOCKHORNS - HOEST & REINER

"I WAS GOING TO GO HOME TO MOTHER'S WHEN I REALIZED I COULD JUST TELECOMMUTE."

ARCTIC CIRCLE - HALLATT

BABY BLUES - KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ARIES: You may feel especially emotional today, Aries, reacting strongly to just about every image you see, whether it's a war photo or a kitten on a doorstep. Spiritually, you're highly motivated and longing to know more about the world. You might find yourself thinking of making a pilgrimage. If you're serious, make your plans now.

TAURUS: Dreams and visions might come and go today, Taurus, as unconscious images surface. Some of these impressions could represent old traumas and phobias that have outlived their usefulness and need to be released. You could draw creative inspiration from these perceptions and use them as a basis for artistic projects. By day's end you

may feel emotionally lighter.

GEMINI: Social events or group activities could put you in touch with many people, Gemini, both close friends and casual acquaintances. A new person may come into your life who makes a difference. Issues may come up that you feel strongly about. You aren't likely to refrain from expressing your opinions. This is fine if you're tactful. Others will appreciate your honesty.

CANCER: Physically, Cancer, you should feel strong and energetic and ready to take on just about anything that comes your way today. This is good, as some powerful challenges may come up that bring new purpose to your life. Enthusiasm permeates

your being right now. You're likely to face with determination anything that comes your way, undeterred by the enormity of the task.

LEO: Romantic desire tempers spiritual passion today, and you may want to pursue both, Leo. Perhaps your romantic partner is as spiritually inclined as you, and you aspire toward the same ends. Much of the passion you feel wells from deep within. So if you're creatively inclined in any way, you may want to memorialize these feelings through writing, painting, or music.

VIRGO: If you're currently romantically involved, your relationship could move to the next level of commitment. You and your partner

could agree to be monogamous, get engaged, or set a wedding date. If you're already married, you might decide to have a child. If you aren't currently involved, Virgo, expect to attract someone soon. You're ready and signaling your availability loud and clear to potential partners!

LIBRA: An invitation to an important social event could come today, Libra. This may be a chance to meet important people who could advance your career in some way or who might be involved in a field that interests you. Your own energy and enthusiasm won't be lost on them. You will obviously be speaking from the heart when you discuss what's on your mind.

SCORPIO: A previously untapped

talent may emerge today, Scorpio. You could decide to train this talent and create a new skill that can help you with just about any type of work you'd be doing. This is the day to do this. You should be full of energy and enthusiasm, capable of assuming any formidable task. You should be feeling physically strong and well. This is a day of challenges and new enterprises.

SAGITTARIUS: Romantic passion might motivate you to improve your physical appearance, Sagittarius. You might decide to exercise, change your diet, and experiment with new clothes or haircut. You're likely to produce the results you want. With the vast amounts of energy and enthusiasm churning within

you today, you might surprise yourself - with this task or anything else you decide to do.

CAPRICORN: You might take on the world, Capricorn. Excitement, enthusiasm, and purpose could fill your soul, yet you may wonder where it comes from, as nothing has really changed since yesterday. Don't waste time wondering - just harness it! Tackle a class or exercise program. Start a project. This energy comes from deep in the unconscious. It should be channeled into the conscious world!

AQUARIUS: Information gleaned from friends could find you focusing on a new goal, Aquarius. You may have a lot of ideas about projects you

want to take care of, and today you may realize which one has top priority. Start moving! Whatever you do, find out what you need before you start. There's a chance you might waste time running from place to place looking for necessary materials.

PISCES: A possible change in direction might arise today. You could meet someone new or run into someone you haven't seen in a while who offers you a chance to change careers. Or it could become clear that you need to pursue your art or hobby full time. Whichever it is, Pisces, this is a great day to pursue it, even if you have doubts. Your past accomplishments afford you an advantage.