

SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Sikkim honours its teachers on their day

GANGTOK, 05 SEPT (IPR): The State level Teachers' Day celebration was held at Chintan Bhawan today with Governor Shrinivas Patil as the chief guest on the occasion. The Governor was accompanied by Minister for Human Resource Development Department (HRDD), RB Subba, HRDD advisor, OT Lepcha, Chief Secretary, Government of Sikkim, AK Srivastav, Additional Chief Secretary HRDD, GP Upadhyaya and officers of various departments.

Seven teachers from various schools of the State were conferred with the State Award comprising of Rs 50,000 along with certificates of recognition for rendering extraordinary services in their teaching career.

Similarly, 15 teachers were conferred with 'Commendable Award'



comprising of Rs 25,000 along with certificates.

The Governor while handing over the awards congratulated the awardees for making an impact in the lives of the children of the state.

Similarly National Awardees of 2016, Prithiman Rai (Retired Headmaster) and Chungjei Lakhpa were also honored with cash prize of Rs 1 lakh and certificates.

The Governor also launched two mobile apps called the Students Attendance Monitoring System and Mid-Day Meal and one web portal RMSA Online Monitoring System during the function.

In his address the Governor said that teachers are the true nation builders and are the pioneers for a progressive society. He appealed to the teachers to under-

stand the magnitude of their duties and stated that their hard work and guidance will take the State towards a bright future.

He pointed out the emphasis laid on education for illiterate people of the society with the concept of 'each one, teach one'.

"I hope all the people will carry this concept forward so that the State

can achieve 100% literacy by 2018," he said.

Earlier, a book published by the Human Resource Development Department was released by the Governor and two short films namely 'Children with Special Needs' and 'State Literacy Mission' highlighting the activities of the Department were also screened.

The function also witnessed the felicita-

STATE AWARDEES: Peyzor Bhutia, Chura Mani Sharma, Suk Dev Nepal, Harka Lall Rai, Pema Namgyal Bhutia, Shanti Giri and Deygee D. Bhutia

RECIPIENTS OF COMMENDABLE AWARD: Dhan Kumari Chettri, Laxmi Ghatani, Mandeep Acharya, Nima Tamang, Tek Bahadur Gurung, Birkha Bahadur Rai, Govind Pradhan, Ayodhya Ray, Sajan Kumar Malakar, Namgyal Dorjee Bhutia, Amar Kumar Kundu, Shyam Bahadur Rai, Nim Tshering Lepcha, Bashanti Sharma and Sudhir Pradhan.

tion of the state toppers of Class X and Class XII CBSE Board Examinations. Likewise, trophies were also awarded to Best Schools at Secondary level.



CM attends 2nd Conclave of North East Democratic Alliance

NEW DELHI, 05 SEPT (IPR): Chief Minister Pawan Chamling accompanied by Member of Parliament-Lok Sabha, PD Rai, attended the 2nd Conclave of North East Democratic Alliance [NEDA] at New Delhi today. Convened by Convener NEDA, the programme had the presence of president-Bhartiya Janta Party, Amit Shah, four other Chief Ministers and members of the other allied parties.

In his opening remarks, Mr Shah praised the achievements of Sikkim on being the first Nirmal Rajya, first Open Defecation Free State,

the cleanest State in rural areas and among the top ten in urban areas and on achieving the title of being the only Organic State of India. He congratulated the Chief Minister and the people of Sikkim on the same.

Mr Chamling took the opportunity to reiterate the early resolution of all the pending demands of the State before the Government of India and also finding permanent solution to the problem in Darjeeling hills on account of which Sikkim has suffered for the last 33 years. In response, the BJP president gave assurances that such problems would be resolved.

MHA gives financial powers to jt secys

NEW DELHI, SEP 5 (PTI): In an effort to speed-up projects, the Home Ministry has given financial powers to the joint secretaries who can now spend up to Rs 50 crore for executing works and purchasing land, an official said.

Joint secretaries have also been allowed to make procurement through open or limited tender up to Rs 20 crore and procurement through negotiated or single tender or proprietary contract up to Rs 5 crore.

This is for the first

time that such financial powers have been given to joint secretaries to bring greater flexibility in operations, reduce delays and facilitate quick decision on matters involving financial expenditure, a home ministry official said.

The decision has been taken by Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba, who assumed charge on August 31.

The joint secretaries can give expenditure sanction under infrastructure, civil, electrical works under approved

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India, China put behind Doklam, agree to move on

XIAMEN, SEP 5 (PTI): Putting behind the Doklam standoff, India and China today agreed to move forward in their ties with Chinese President Xi Jinping telling Prime Minister Narendra Modi that he wants to put the relationship on the "right track".

Days after the prolonged standoff in the Doklam area of the Sikkim sector was defused, the two leaders held an hour-long meeting which Modi described as "fruitful".

During their meeting here, the two leaders agreed that the two countries should make more efforts, including strengthening cooperation between their security personnel, to ensure that such incidents do not recur.

"Met President Xi Jinping. We held fruitful talks on bilateral relations between India and China," Modi tweeted after meeting Xi.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar said the approach was "forward-looking" during the "constructive" meeting in which it was reaffirmed that maintaining peace and tranquillity in the border areas was a pre-requisite for the development of India-China relations.

Asked if both the countries have left behind the Doklam episode, he said, "It was a forward-looking conversation...and not a backward-looking one." prime minister Modi and pres-

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State level Indrajatra celebration at Namchi

NAMCHI, 05 SEPT (IPR): The state level Indrajatra celebration organized under the aegis of Sikkim Newar Guthi (SNG) and Namchi Newar Shakha Guthi was celebrated at Namchi today. The chief guest for the occasion was Minister of Cultural Affairs & Heritage Department, GM Gurung alongside Chief Whip, Bikram Pradhan, chairpersons, advisors, councilors, representatives and executive members of SNG and public.

The festival was held in two phases, with the morning ritual puja conducted by Gurugi Sukbir Tulhadar wherein people offered prayers to Kumari Devi who is also known as the living goddess of the Newars at Gandhi Park followed by the traditional jatra which was taken around Namchi town culminating in a colorful cultural extravaganza at Central Park. The chief guest along with the dignitaries visited the puja pandal and took part in the puja and procession.

Addressing the gathering, Mr Gurung spoke about the significance of celebrating Indrajatra festival and extended his best wishes to the Newar community of the State. He emphasized the need to preserve traditions, cultures and rituals of the community. Further, he urged the youth to commit towards working for the upliftment of the community.

Crediting the leadership of Chief Minis-



ter Pawan Chamling for maintaining communal accord in Sikkim which permits diverse communities to live peacefully with one another, he urged the people to stand united against external forces who try to establish communal conflicts. Furthermore, he also highlighted various schemes tailored for the benefit of the students and public alike and

called upon the students belonging to the Newar community to take advantage of such initiatives. He also, spoke in brief about the health, education and tourism scenario in Sikkim and urged the youth to invest in such sectors in order to become self-reliant and self-sufficient.

During the course of the program, SNP felicitated its former presi-

dent, Khagendra Pradhan for his contribution towards preservation and popularization of Newar language, culture and Newari music in the state. Navin Pradhan was also felicitated on the occasion for his achievement in the field of body building and winning laurels for the state. The SNP also presented a token of appreciation to the chief guest.

Only when you eat lemon do you appreciate what sugar is

SUDIPTA CHANDA SILIGURI, 05 SEPT:

Three months since it exploded in the hills, the Gorkhaland movement is fast slipping into the abyss of an intra-party power squabble.

The Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM), which had triggered the movement, is now sharply divided into the Bimal Gurung and Binay Tamang camps and so are the people. The syndrome manifested amply on Tuesday when supporters of both camps brought out rallies at Kurseong opposing the other.

The split in the leadership has also introduced a split in loyalty among the people. While some are rooting for Gurung and his brand of politics, others are cheering Tamang and his prescription of withdrawing the bandh. Worringly for Gurung, backed by the state government, Tamang's remedy is slowly, but steadily gaining momentum.

On Monday it was Mirik that had illustrated courage to defy Gurung's fatwa of the bandh and made serious attempts to restore normalcy with a degree of success. On

Tuesday, the pattern spread to Kurseong, albeit haltingly.

Gurung must be aware how his absolute control over the hill people is slipping away through his fingers. But, such is the caprice of life that he can do nothing, but tolerate the turn of events simmering in his hideout, wherever that is.

The people meanwhile are showing a change in fealty. Under Gurung when life dealt lemons for them they made lemonade. Now, although not completely under Binay Tamang's camp, when life is

dealing them tomatoes, they are making Bloody Mary.

So which way would the separate state movement lead to from here on? Will the Gorkhaland Movement Coordination Committee (GMCC), the all-hill-party platform that was supposed to give direction to the movement exert authority and navigate the movement, which it has miserably failed to?

Barring the GJM, no single hill party is on date capable of leading the mass or speak for it. The GJM is falling apart and its top

leaders are on the run, the GMCC has proved impotent, the hill parties have trashed the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA). The mechanisms that could have brought the movement to a logical conclusion have either dried up or are in the process of withering away.

Agree or not, the state government has outsmarted the movement protagonists in their own game. There is a time for bluster and there is a time for reconciliation. The proposed September 12 talks would provide yet another

opportunity to call for truce with dignity. The question, would Gurung and his associates avail of it?

The September 12 talks might fail, which is acceptable since the Gorkhaland issue is a serious one and expecting a hunky dory outcome to such an issue in one sitting would be impractical. Negotiations can continue thereafter, but breaking the ice, engaging in meaningful dialogue and withdrawing the bandh is the need of the hour.

The writing otherwise is on the wall.

Governor's greetings on Pang Lhabsol

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 05 SEPT:

On the occasion of Pang Lhabsol, Governor Shrinivas Patil and the First Lady Rajanidevi Patil have extended warm greetings to the people of Sikkim.

In a press release received from Raj Bhavan, the Governor has said, "Pang Lhabsol, the indigenous Sikkimese festival with cultural and historical significance, has remained an integral part of Sikkimese identity over the decades.

Mt Khangchendzonga has always remained at the core of Sikkimese culture and is worshipped as our guardian deity. We seek blessings for our collective well being and continued protection from natural disasters, diseases and catastrophes. The festival is celebrated as the festival of unity by Sikkimese of all sects and faiths. May the day reverberate our commitment to preserve our identity and our unique way of living in harmony with nature."

MHA gives financial powers to jt secys

contd from pg01

schemes and projects up to Rs 50 crore.

They can also approve purchase of land through state governments, municipal bodies and urban authorities up to Rs 50 crore.

The joint secretaries can also give authorisation, expenditure sanction up to Rs 20 crore for purchase of operational vehicles of central armed police forces, Delhi Police and other security related organisations.

These financial powers were earlier exercised at the level of Union home secretary, special secretary and additional secretary.

There are around 20 joint secretaries in the home ministry handling different divisions, and the financial powers have been given to them for the first time.



HARMONIUM BRIDGE ON DIKCHU-MANGAN ROAD IN NEED OF URGENT REPAIRS

MANGAN, 05 SEPT: A fracture running across wooden plates of the Harmonium Bridge at Dikchu-Mangan road in North Sikkim has been posing a threat to vehicles using the bridge, especially heavy vehicles. Further, nuts and bolts holding the bridge together have also loosened making it unsafe for heavy vehicles carrying load to ply over the bridge. [Wangchuk Bhutia]

India, China put behind Dokalam, agree to move...

Contd from pg01

ident Xi talked about inter-governmental mechanisms such as joint economic group, security group and strategic group which can help both countries move forward, Jaishankar said.

The two leaders also emphasised on the need to make efforts to enhance and strengthen the mutual trust between the two sides, he said, adding that it was felt that "the security and defence personnel must maintain strong contacts and cooperation and ensure that the situation which happened recently does not recur."

Jaishankar said it was natural between two neighbours or large powers to have differences but they should be handled with mutual respect and efforts should be made to find common ground in addressing them.

He said that there was a reaffirmation of the Astana spirit that the two sides will not allow differences to become disputes.

There was a very strong affirmation at the leadership level that it is in the interest of both the countries to keep this relationship on an upward trajectory, the foreign secretary said.

In his initial remarks during the meeting, Modi congratulated Xi on hosting a "very successful" BRICS Summit, saying that the conference was a success in making the grouping more relevant in a fast-changing world.

Xi told Modi that, "China would like to work with India to uphold the five principles of peaceful coexistence (Panchsheel), advance political mutual trust, mutually beneficial co-operation and move forward the development of bilateral relations along the right track," according to Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang.

Geng, while briefing reporters in Beijing, said that during the meeting, "President Xi stressed that China and India are each others' opportunities not threats."

"We hope India can view China's development in a correct and rational way," Geng quoted Xi as saying.

Asked whether the recent standoff at Dokalam figured in the talks, Geng said, "Xi pointed out that China and India should respect each other, seek common ground and shelve differences to ensure peace and tranquillity in the border areas."

The Modi-Xi meeting comes amid diplomatic efforts by the two sides to overcome the bitterness caused by the 73-day face-off between their troops in the Dokalam area.

The Chinese and the Indian troops were engaged in a standoff since June 16 after the Indian side stopped the construction of a road by the Chinese Army.

On August 28, India's External Affairs Ministry announced that New Delhi and Beijing have decided on "expedient disengagement" of their border troops in the disputed Dokalam area.

Geng, in his remarks said, "As far as I know, Prime Minister Modi agreed that the two sides should work together to ensure peace and tranquillity in the border areas."

During the meeting, Xi told Modi that if the bilateral relationship can grow in a sound and steady way it would serve the interests of the two countries and also serve the joint aspirations of the region, according to Geng.

"Xi stressed that China and India are each other's important neighbours and two important markets and emerging countries," Geng said.

The Chinese President said that "in recent years the two sides reached wide consensus on developing bilateral relations including strengthening partnership. The two sides have been moving forward and making headway upholding this principle," according to Geng.

Geng quoted Xi as telling Modi that, "We need to show to the world that the peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation is the only right choice between the two countries. The two countries should shelve differences and seek common ground and together ensure peace and tranquillity at the borders."

Xi also called for alignment of strategies to expand economic co-operation.

"On the economic and social development, the two countries have great potential for cooperation which should see greater synergy in strategy alignment, expand cooperation in infrastructure connectivity as well as international affairs," the Chinese president said.

"Together we can move the international order in a more equitable and reasonable way," Xi told Modi, according to Geng.

Sports Minister visits Bhaichung Stadium, expresses dissatisfaction over work



SUMMIT REPORT

NAMCHI, 05 SEPT:

Sports and Youth Affairs Minister, RB Subba, Department Secretary, SD Dhakal along with the Engineering Cell of the department visited the construction site of Bhaichung Stadium at Namchi today.

The visit comes after the state government sanctioned an additional Rs 15 crore for the construction of the stadium, the total cost of which has now reached Rs 48 crore. The highly anticipated project was initially sanctioned at Rs 33 crore and since its construction started in 2012 has faced delay with only 40-50% construction completed till today.

During the visit today, Minister Mr Subba expressed dissatisfaction over the construction works stating that, "The state government has invested a lot in the construction of Bhaichung Stadium but the results are very disappointing."

The Minister also enquired about the delay in construction works with department engineers and discussed several public complaints with the Department's Engineering Cell.

It was revealed that ARC Tech Consultancy Agency, the agency which was paid a whopping Rs 4.6 crore in the initial stage of the construction to render its services to the project coordinators of the stadium is neither in touch with the SYA engineering cell nor the project contractors.

The department engineers and the contractors informed that the SYA engineering cell is yet to rectify the size of the football field to ensure proper road diversion which according to them is the cause of delay in completion of the project.

The Minister then asked the Department Officers to immediately send a notice to ARC Tech Consultancy Agency to consult with the SYA engineers and come up with a plan. He also asked the project contractor to meet the Chief Minister Pawan Chamling and brief him about the construction work.

However, the project contractor said that he has worked according to the directions given by the SYA Department. He has claimed that if the department releases funds he will complete the project by the end of 2018.



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Over 130 pilots, 430 crew members of AI likely to be grounded

MUMBAI, SEP 5 (PTI): The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is likely to ground over 130 pilots and 430 cabin crew members of national carrier Air India for allegedly skipping the mandatory pre and post-flight alcohol test.

These crew members had regularly been "evading" the breath analyser test over a period of time for flights to and from certain destinations such as Singapore, Kuwait, Bangkok, Ahmedabad and Goa, sources close to the development told PTI here.

Aviation regulator DGCA has already served an ultimatum to the Air India management over the alleged safety violations by the airline's crew members ahead of the enforcement action, they said.

As part of the DGCA's safety regulations, all pilots and cabin crew must undergo breath analyser test before and after flights.

The queries e-mailed yesterday on the issue to Air India spokesperson went unanswered.

Notably, aircraft rules prohibit crew members from taking any alcoholic drink 12 hours prior to the commencement of a flight.

"The DGCA already brought it to the notice of Air India management that its 132 pilots and 434 cabin crew have evaded the mandatory breath analyser test, which is to be taken both before and after operating a flight. It is a safety violation and it (DGCA) is taking a suitable action against these crew members," a source said.

Since the grounding of such a large number of crew members could cripple the airline's narrow body operations, the DGCA is likely to enforce its action in a phased manner, said another source.

Significantly, the DGCA had in February suspended the flying license of Air India's then executive director for operations, Arvind Kathpalia, for three months after an internal probe found him "guilty" of skipping the breath analyser test for one particular flight. Kathpalia is now head of operations and a Board member at the disinvestment-bound Air India.



SMIT students' startup impresses at Elevate 100

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 05 SEPT:

A startup company launched by some students of Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology [SMIT], Majhitar, which goes by the name AfterglowTech [OPC] Private Limited has won laurels at the recently held event 'Elevate 100', an initiative of the Department of Information Technology & Biotechnology, Government of Karnataka which aims to provide a comprehensive entrepreneurship platform for startups and fast-track entrepreneurship.

A press release received from Sikkim Manipal University informs that AfterglowTech [OPC] Pvt Ltd has been selected as one of the

most promising startups from 1800 companies across India at Elevate 100, organized by the Government of Karnataka, on 29-30 Aug at Hotel Lalit Ashok in Bengaluru in Karnataka after four layers of selection process. The company will be receiving grants of up to Rs 35 crore as part of the initiative.

Incepted in the year 2017, Afterglow Tech (OPC) Pvt Ltd is engaged in manufacturing, wholesaling, trading and retailing excellent quality street light, light control switch, etc. Located at Bengaluru, the company has developed a state-of-the-art infrastructural facility. The company is engaged in design of low cost and

energy efficient street lamps. The streetlamps have constantly proved to have energy savings of approximately 60-65% compared to the conventional streetlamps that are being deployed.

The short-listed startups will also have access to the government's start-up fund besides access to government venture capital funds, pilots, private venture capital funds, world class accelerators and mentors. Afterglow Tech will be deploying its smart street lights across the SMIT campus in the coming months and are focused on bringing this technology to Sikkim as well as north east. With 'Commitment to Excellence' being the motto,

the company is focused on enabling smart cities in India currently working with government and private organizations, the release adds.

The company was registered in 2016 under Sikkim Manipal University Technology Business Incubator, SMIT [SMUT-BI-SMIT] with a student of Information Technology Department, Ashish Anand, as the CEO of the company and founder members, Shailesh Verma and Shaddab Ahmed.

As part of the Manipal University Technology Business Incubator [MUTBI], SMUTBI-SMIT has been encouraging and mentoring students to take up the initiatives of startups and join the competition with the

mainstream part of the country at the Sikkim Manipal University Technology and Business Incubator.

The incubator at present has six startups at its early stage of gestation. All the companies have been registered under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India and is been funded by the Dr Ramdas Pai and Dr Vasanthi Pai Endowment Fund. Amongst the many achievements, one provisional patent has been granted in the field of Artificial Intelligence based cycle to one of the group. This year, SMIT expects to double the number of startups in the campus and register another five companies.



NYK volunteers call on Governor

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 05 SEPT:

Governor Shrinivas Patil today granted audience to a group of 42 National Youth Volunteers and four trainers from Nehru Yuva Kendra, Gangtok, at Ashirvad Bhavan. The group was led by State Director Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan Sikkim [NYKS], Nabin Naik.

A press communiqué received from Raj Bhavan informs that the youth were in Gangtok for the 15-day National Youth Volunteers Induction Training Programme

organised by NYKS Sikkim from 22 Aug.

In a brief function, the youth participants presented a short cultural presentation and shared their experience of the training.

The Governor, while addressing the volunteers, lauded the initiative of NYKS Sikkim to impart leadership training to the youth from different parts of the State. He urged the volunteers to use their learning in productive work and set an example in society. He also asked the volunteers to understand the duties

and responsibilities of citizens in a democratic society.

Stating that balancing rights and duties will help us to be real citizens of this country, the Governor urged the volunteers to study the diversity, culture, history, geography of our country to inculcate the national character from within. He specifically urged the volunteers to take up Saakshar Bharat Mission as their own mission in their respective villages to achieve the target of 100% Literate State status in the next one year.

CM's greetings on Pang Lhabsol

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 05 SEPT:

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling and Tika Maya Chamling have extended their warm greetings and best wishes to the people of Sikkim on the occasion of Pang Lhabsol.

The CM, in a press release, has said, "May the mighty Mt Khangchendzonga as our guardian deity continue to bless and protect Sikkim and the Sikkimese people."

He has wished for happiness, prosperity and good health for the people of the State.

SKM extends Pang Lhabsol greetings

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 05 SEPT:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha acting president, Kunga Nima Lepcha, has extended best wishes and greetings to the people of Sikkim on the occasion of Pang Lhabsol. In an SKM press release, the acting president has stated that Pang Lhabsol is an important festival to pray to local deities for protection, peace and good health in Sikkim. He has asserted that the young generation should understand the importance of the festival and keep it alive.

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Former Secretary SK Bardewa urges CM to restore tourism in Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 05 SEPT:

In a letter addressed to Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, former Secretary of Administrative Reforms Commission, Government of Sikkim, SK Bardewa has requested the CM to initiate action to restore tourism in Sikkim before the onset of Dasain later this month.

Briefing the CM about the impact of the unrest in Darjeeling on tourism in the state, Mr Bardewa has said that the state has suffered huge losses this year.

"Tourism industry at this time in Sikkim is at the retarded growth having effected by the Darjeeling unrest and the same at the depressed point never witnessed earlier in the history of Sikkim," reads the letter.

Mr Bardewa has also applauded the hard work of Ministers like DT Lepcha, NK Subba and Ugen Gyatso for their efforts in reviving the declining tourism sector of the State.

The depressed point and the economic slumber which the Sikkim tourism industry is witnessing now; if it is not revived by open declaration immediately will create only bad economic depression in tourism not only for the forth-coming and future tourist season but will

certainly have a negative impact on the upcoming Panchayat election also," Mr Bardewa has said.

According to the letter, Mr Bardewa and other tourism stakeholders have already apprised several Ministers about the current scenario of tourism in the State.

"We also had a talk with Advisor & Consultant- Sikkim Tourism, PK Dong Saheb- and all the important tourism stakeholders even outside Sikkim especially at Siliguri," reads the letter.

Mr Bardewa on behalf of the 'depressed tourism stakeholders and hard workers like the drivers, guides, tour operators and hoteliers' has requested Mr Chamling to appeal to the Governor Shrinivas Patil to declare 'Sikkim Tourism always open' to ensure better result and atmosphere for conducting the Panchayat election.

Mr Bardewa and the tourism stakeholders of the state have also congratulated Mr Chamling for receiving One World Award (OWA) in Germany for Sikkim Organic Movement earlier this year.

Mr Bardewa has further requested Mr Chamling to conduct a press meet at New Delhi and in Germany to promote Sikkim tourism on a global scale and invite travelers to visit Sikkim.

Sonam Wangdi should study history of Sikkim: SRP

SAGAR CHETTRI

GANGTOK, 05 SEPT:

Sikkim Republican Party has suggested that former Chief Secretary, Sonam Wangdi, study historical documents of Sikkim before making any representation in the future. This is in reference to a letter written by Mr Wangdi to the Union Home Minister and others on the demand for Scheduled Tribe status for 11 communities of Sikkim.

In the letter, Mr Wangdi has alleged that the 11 communities of Sikkim are 'immigrants' and hence do not qualify to be given ST status.

The party has also questioned the silence of the state government on such representation targeted at the majority communities of the State.

Addressing a press conference here today, SRP president, KB Rai, alleged that the Sikkim Democratic Front party, in its 25 years in power, has failed to erase the

label of 'immigrants' given to majority communities of Sikkim.

He added that Mr Wangdi refers to the verdict of the apex court in the letter but it is the government that is at fault for failing to remove the word 'immigrants' till date. He added that the counter affidavit filed by the state government was responsible for this verdict.

According to Mr Rai, referring to the majority communities of the State as Nepali instead of Gorkha is creating problems time and again. There is enough evidence to prove that the majority communities of Sikkim have been here for a very long time, he stated.

"We will now be writing to the Centre with all historical documents of Sikkim that Sikkim Gorkhas are the original inhabitants of Sikkim. We also plan to approach the court for the same," Mr Rai informed.

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Protecting Children from Sexual Offences

Begin by ensuring that the “compromise” culture does not touch their cases

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act has been around for a while, having been notified in June 2012, following which, inadequacies of the existing Indian Penal Code and the absence of any stringent legislation to effectively address and tackle the heinous crime of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children was resolved to a large extent. Until POCSO Act was notified, child sex abuse crimes were dealt with under laws framed for rape, outraging the modesty of women and unnatural offences. These laws were clearly not nuanced enough to address the problem or look out strongly enough for victims of such abuse. Meanwhile, child sex abuse was so rampant that the need for a specific law to deal with such violations was finally deemed urgently necessary and was finally introduced in the year 2012. Statistics bear out how desperately such law was required. Across the country, the number of cases registered under POCSO Act increased from 8,904 in the year 2014 to 14,913 in the year 2015. Admittedly, not all cases of child sex abuse are still being reported, but had this Act not been around, nearly 15,000 more such cases would have gone unreported. Sexual abuse of children, however, is not a recent phenomenon. It has clearly been around ever since sexual predators have been around which is why it falls on the entire society to ensure that the POCSO Act is routinely tweaked to plug all loopholes and consistently followed up to check on its efficacy and to inform course correction required to not only punish those who prey on minors, but also to keep more of the children informed and safe.

This brings us to an anecdote shared by a Sikkim Police cop at a recent interactive meeting convened to discuss the POCSO Act. Journalists writing about such crimes are left deeply disturbed despite being several steps removed from the incident and rarely making the effort to speak with the victims. In comparison, the rage, disgust and anguish that cops have to confront when they respond to distress call from children cannot even be fathomed. It was apparent that the cop was deeply affected by the number of cases he has processed under the POCSO Act, but what had left his even more deeply disturbed and disgusted was a conversation he once had with parents of one of the victims. These parents had apparently approached him with a request to “compromise” the case since they were being offered a sizeable “compensation” by the offending party and because of the immense pressure being brought on them to “settle” the case. On that day, his anger was directed at the parents, but stay with the incident for a while, and it becomes clear that it is societal failure at work here. “Compensating” victims and “compromising” cases is too common a response in Sikkim for it to have not been deployed in POCSO cases as well. Furthermore, most of the victims thus far have come from underprivileged families and their abusers have most often been better heeled. The victims are already at a disadvantage, but instead of continuing their trauma, the society at large and the system in particular need to get more involved.

As things stand, there are no specific provisions for the protection of the victim and his/ her family from “pressure” and intimidation. But that does not mean that no protections exist. Influencing or buying out witnesses is a punishable crime as is perjury, and it is perhaps time that the Courts cracked the whip more strongly whenever such suspicion arises. The agencies charged with effective implementation of POCSO Act can help out by keeping regular tabs on the progress of such cases in the Courts. Even in Sikkim, there have already been instances of accused walking free on technical grounds like witnesses either turning hostile or giving conflicting statements and even victim testimonies not being consistent enough to ensure a conviction. Such aberrations should immediately set off the warning bells and special investigations undertaken to ensure that no coercion or influence was exerted to sink the case. POCSO cases cannot be settled out of court, but that has not proven a strong enough deterrent for those trying to “settle”. They have devised this trick of scuttling cases by influencing witnesses and even victims. This cannot be allowed for any case, more so for those booked under POCSO Act, because the victim's PTSD will further deepen as will their feeling of guilt and low self esteem. We already failed the children when we did not see the warning signs of initial abuse, and fail them again when we allow the abusers to walk free. Hence, the conduct of everyone involved - from the investigating agencies to counselors to lawyers to families involved - should be looked into in every acquittal to ensure that there was no foul play. Sikkim has few enough cases to invest resources and manpower to such an exercise, and it should.

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Will whoever controls gene editing control historical memory?

JULIE LOUISE BACON
theconversation.com

In July, Harvard scientists used a gene-editing technology first developed in 2013 to programme bacteria to do something astounding: play back an animation of a galloping horse.

The GIF animation was generated from an iconic image series created in 1878 by the motion-picture pioneer Eadweard Muybridge.

The breakthrough involved the scientists translating image pixels into genetic code, which they fed to the cells one frame at a time. The bacteria incorporated and reproduced the sequence in their DNA, demonstrating the possibility of using living cells as information recording and storage devices.

The tech world was, predictably, agog. But beyond the hype, scientists’ goal of applying the technique to human cells has deep philosophical implications.

A future in which our bodies are used as hard drives could, in effect, change the entire way we conceive of human history and perceive life.

THE ORIGINS OF HISTORY

Today, it is impossible to imagine a world without history: from the vast array of chronicles housed in the world’s libraries to the countless traces of the past accumulating in the data farms that support the digital cloud, history surrounds us.

But it wasn’t always this way. Starting around 4000 BCE, the rise and spread of city-states, from Mesopotamia to Ancient Greece, radically changed the relationship between humans and our physical world.

New patterns of governance and information technology produced what’s now called “historical time”, a regime of truth based on evidence and analysis that’s codified in written documents and housed within the walls of archives. These new systems of authority gradually supplanted the sense of time that had previously defined the reality of ancient peoples: the seasons, oral traditions, myths and rituals.

With the onset of historical time, change no longer appeared cyclical. The concept of progress emerged, establishing a vision of humankind moving forward, shaping the world, building knowledge and recording evidence of this journey.

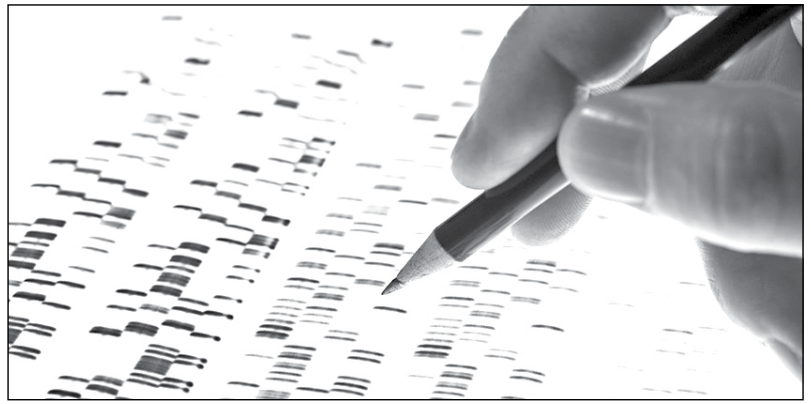
But, of course, the whole notion of progress depends on power. Someone (or more likely a certain subset of people) must select the perspectives that count as knowledge. Which events are memorialised and which disappear from history?

Thus history is far from neutral. From antiquity onward, those controlling history were a privileged few, nearly always men of political power or professional status. Access required literacy and social mobility.

With the Age of Reason came a broad-based questioning of this power. In his 1784 essay “What is Enlightenment?”, Immanuel Kant argued the importance of challenging the authority and legitimacy of practices and norms that restrict the power to reason for oneself.

Soon after, in 1792, Mary Wollstonecraft published *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*. Her argument for the education and representation of women in civic life signalled the absence of female voices from history.

The book’s emancipatory message was, however, soon subsumed by new forces. The power to systematise reality expanded dramatically in the



Harvard’s recent CRISPR experiment isn’t just a new frontier for science – it’s also a new take on how we conceive of human history.

19th century, with industrialisation, technological developments and the spread of the scientific method.

Photography brought a seeming realism to the documenting of history. Charles Darwin transformed our concept of the origins and timelines of the species and Sigmund Freud described how an individual’s past shapes their psyche.

These spectacular developments continued in the 20th century. Enabled by modern computing, scientists explored time at a cosmic scale (the theory of relativity) and explained life at a molecular level (the discovery of DNA).

In this great tide of change, some 180 years after Kant and Wollstonecraft, a wave of critical movements finally took history to task.

Among these critiques was Michel Foucault’s analysis of systems that regulate our physical body and mental states. From *The Birth of the Clinic*, his 1963 work on the rising authority of medical knowledge, to his 1975 publication on institutions that discipline society, Foucault studied the Western desire for total oversight, famously citing the Panopticon prison model.

From the critical vantage point, the impact of power – and of the technologies it employs to represent, monitor and control individuals and populations – becomes clear. Feminists spoke of the male gaze. Postcolonial theorists pointed to orientalism. And environmentalists have shown how human progress is destroying the physical world.

Hence the risks of this recent application of CRISPR: envisaging history as a biological resource rather than a space of social memory is a dramatic shift that leaves history open to radical new forms of exclusion and control.

FUSING TECHNOLOGY AND BIOLOGY

The scientists’ interest in “molecular recording” in humans and the production of “cell historians” promises to take the management of life, time and the visual arena to new levels. In doing so, they raise the prospect of a Panopticon within.

Today, progress is increasingly defined by the power of digital technologies to integrate different aspects of human life and abolish the gaps between us. We’re told that social networks, big data and the digital world make us safer, more productive and connected.

But not everyone agrees. The sociologist Zygmunt Bauman argues that globalisation and the in-

formation economy makes for a liquid reality that fragments our attention span, dissolves relationships and produces cultural amnesia.

The Harvard team proposes an image of history that is not a record of culture – the ensemble of ways of living, transmitted across generations – but a sum of the material states of humans. This removes the record of social life that conditions how bodies live.

The scientists emphasise the technique’s use in modelling diseases and creating therapies. Those benefits may be real, but so too is what Foucault describes as biopower: the use of wide-ranging technologies to administer and dominate human life.

If scientists can embed information in living human cells and extract data, behaviour can be regulated at the deepest levels. Who will decide how the power of molecular recording is wielded, and who has access to the information?

The ways in which history is made, shared and accessed determine how its power operates and reality is produced. As we both subscribe to and are uploaded into the net of digital reality, the issue of control over data raises new questions of agency.

The fact that political and market interests drive the application of science in technology – with their stealthy logic of monitoring, expansion and profit – exacerbates questions of control.

As the Harvard team’s use of bacteria shows, we’ve come a long way since the single-cell, bacterium-like form that in all likelihood spawned the wonder of life on the planet today. Their gene-editing project demonstrates technology’s capacity to systematise time in new ways.

It epitomises the conditions of the Network Ages: the compression, acceleration and dispersion of life.

But as the richness of life and historical memory demonstrate, culture is more than information, and the diversity of life exceeds technological measure. Can we trust that scientific leaps will produce a future where diversity is supported and divergence is possible?

To answer that question, we must do more than simply laud new technologies like CRISPR. We must examine how power can function commensurate with these techniques’ newly expanded reach.

[The writer is Lecturer in Art, Curating and Cultural Theory, UNSW]

Ancient footprints in Crete challenge theory of human evolution – but what actually made them?

ROBIN CROMPTON & SUSANNAH THORPE
theconversation.com

Researchers have discovered some 50 footprints at Trachilos in Crete that are nearly 6m-years-old. It looks like they may be from a hominin – a member of the human species after separation from the chimpanzee lineage. But, as the authors point out themselves, the findings are highly controversial – suggesting human ancestors may have existed in Crete at the same time as they evolved in Africa.

So what should we make of it all? If the footprints are confirmed to be from a hominin – additional studies are needed before we can know for sure – it is unquestionably exciting.

The oldest footprints confirmed as hominin are the Laetoli series, which date to 3.65m years. The Laetoli series, found in Laetoli, Tanzania, are now known to have been made by the early human ancestor Australopithecus. It was up to six feet tall had foot function pretty much indistinguishable from our own.

THE CANDIDATES

So what kind of two-legged creatures have roamed Europe or nearby countries? We have abundant fossil evidence of great apes in Europe at the time of the Trachilos footprints, but no confirmed cases of hominins. Apes go as far back as 13m years ago, such as *Pierolapithecus* from Barcelona. Two million years later, the pongine or orangutan relative *Hispanopithecus* lived in the same region. Excellent skeletons of both indicate they were probably partially walking upright.

The ape *Dryopithecus* and the possible hominin *Graecopithecus* from Greece were also around.

The latter is about 7m years old, but unfortunately no skeleton has been found except for skull and teeth. Slightly older at about 9m-years-old are the very complete postcranial skeletons of *Oreopithecus* from Italy, which was unquestionably walking on two legs – and probably in trees as well as on ground. We don’t know for sure, but it might also be a hominin.

In Kenya, there was *Orrorin*, also slightly older than Trachilos. It lived in trees but walked on two legs, completely upright. *Orrorin* was quite likely a hominin or a very close relative of the common ancestor of chimpanzees and humans, although human-like in all ways. Importantly though, we unfortunately lack evidence of the feet, so we cannot compare it with the Trachilos footprints.

Slightly younger than the Trachilos prints, *Ar-dipithecus* from Ethiopia, is a generally accepted member of the human lineage. Like *Orrorin* it could have been close to the common chimpanzee-human ancestor, but looked more like a modern human: *Homo sapien*. It is becoming increasingly clear that the common ancestor of humans and chimpanzees had limbs and trunk (a postcranial skeleton) much more like our own than like those of living chimpanzees.

GORILLA PRINTS?

So what or who made the Trachilos prints? They are certainly convincing as real footprints, from the few pictures provided in the paper. The age estimate of 5.7m years also seems correct. The prints do have a narrow heel compared to our general idea of what human footprints look like, as the authors note. But that could easily be matched by the shape of human footprints walking in wet mud,

such as in an estuary – which may have been the case. They have a big toe placed quite close to the others, like our own, but so do the feet of gorillas.

Gorillas now appear to be in some respects a good model for what the gait (and ecology) of the earliest human ancestors might have been like, moving on two legs on the ground as well as in the trees.

The fact is that human footprints and foot function vary enormously between steps as a consequence of the complexity of our anatomy and ability to make choices from a large range of functional strategies to maintain stability. Human foot pressure, which is the way force is applied over the sole of the foot to the ground, overlaps with that of orangutans and pygmy chimpanzees, and probably even more with that of gorillas. So in some circumstances a human foot could look like that of a gorilla.

If all 50 of the Trachilos prints were made freely available to other scientists as high resolution laser scans, we would have a decent sample to assess their variability and compare them to other fossil and recent footprints and foot pressure records. And indeed, the researchers behind the study told *The Conversation* they are aiming to release all their data at some point.

This would give us a good chance of saying who made them. As it stands, they could as well be those of gorillas – which separated from us over 10m years ago – as those of a member of our own human lineage such as *Oreopithecus* or *Orrorin*.

[Robin Crompton is Honorary Research Fellow at the Institute of Ageing and Chronic Disease, University of Liverpool; Susannah Thorpe is Reader in Zoology, University of Birmingham]

CM did not address NEDA meet claims BJP Sikkim

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 05 SEPT:**

Bhartiya Janta Party Sikkim unit has alleged that 'false and misleading' information regarding the Chief Minister Pawan Chamling addressing the NEDA (Northeast Democratic Alliance) meeting held in New Delhi today is being shared on social media and by Information and Public Relations Department and other sources.

In a press release issued today, the party has said that the Chief Minister did not address the meeting and left the meeting midway since he had to leave for Germany.

"We advise IPR department and other sources not to issue press releases without proper verification and authenticity," the release states.

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Power demand in NE to rise by 4,000 MW in 5 years: official

SHILLONG, SEP 5 (PTI): The demand for power in the North East region will rise to the tune of 4,000 MW in the next five years with increase in electrification, North Eastern Council economic adviser W Synrem said today.

"It is projected that the demand of power in the region will substan-

tially increase to the tune of 3,500-4,000 MW in a span of five years, as we progress towards electrification in villages and increase the number of industries," Synrem said at a conference here.

As of March this year, he said, 40,140 villages (96 per cent) out of the 42,435 villages in the region have been electri-

fied, even as Sikkim and Tripura have achieved 100 per cent, while in Arunachal Pradesh, it is only 77 per cent.

The North Eastern Regional Power Committee, in its report for October last year, had stated the power requirement for the region was 2,553 MW with availability of 2,525 MW, resulting in a

shortfall of 1.1 per cent (28 MW).

"Many towns and villages are yet to be electrified, and those who are electrified, do not get electricity 24 hours in a day," Synrem said.

He said NEC has contributed to generation of 694.5 MW of power, and another six renewable resources energy proj-

ects with capacity of 6 MW are expected to be completed within this financial year.

The NEC has also taken up survey and investigation works of potential hydro projects in the region.

"Out of 1,678 MW carried out for investigation, 873 MW have been completed, and 805 MW

are in various stages of implementation," Synrem said.

He said, the NE region has a long way to go in terms of power generation, as only three per cent potential has been tapped till date, according to the Central Electric Authority, which has indicated that only 2,000 MW has been generated

from a total capacity of 63,257 MW.

The NEC has entrusted the Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd to survey and implement the Rs 11,348.5-crore North Eastern Regional Power Sector Investment Programme, funded by the Centre and the World Bank, he added.



West Bengal's Marwari Yuva Manch wins national level cricket tourney

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 05 SEPT:**

Paschim Bengal Sikkim Prantiya Marwari Yuva Manch were crowned the champions in the recently held National Level Cricket Tournament, organized by All India Marwari Yuva Manch, in Jaipur, Rajasthan, a press release informs.

Eight states namely Sikkim, West Bengal, Odisha, Bihar, Assam, Jharkhand, Delhi and Chhattisgarh along with the neighbouring country of Nepal participated in the tournament.

The West Bengal team led by its vice president, Rakesh Dhramsingka and assistant secretary, Sandeep Sharma,

bagged the champion's trophy after defeating the team from Assam. West Bengal's Umang Agarwal was adjudged Man of the Match.

It may be mentioned here that the West Bengal team had been victorious at the Marwari Yuva Manch Premier League and had lifted the champion's trophy in 2016.

All of north-east will be with BJP, allies by 2018: Shah

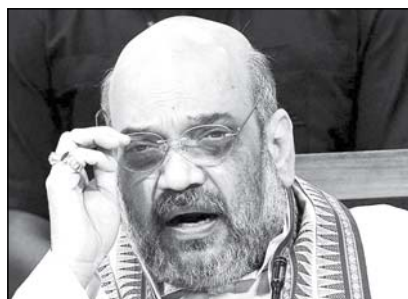
NEW DELHI, SEP 5 (PTI):

Sounding the bugle for the coming Assembly polls in three north-eastern states, BJP chief Amit Shah today said he was confident its alliance NEDA would soon rule the entire region, building on the development work done by the Narendra Modi government there.

Shah chaired a strategic meeting of the six-party North-East Democratic Alliance (NEDA), which was attended by the chief ministers of five states -- Assam, Manipur, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland -- from the region.

"The BJP-led NEDA is in power in five states but I am confident that in the coming days, the alliance will be in power in all the eight states in the north-eastern region," he said at the inaugural session of the NEDA conclave here.

At present, the BJP is in power in Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh, while its allies rule Nagaland and Sikkim.



Assembly elections are due in three non-NEDA states -- Tripura, Meghalaya and Mizoram. Elections in Tripura, where the Left is in power, will be held later this year. Congress-ruled Mizoram and Meghalaya will go to polls early next year.

He said the region was top priority for Prime Minister Modi. Development in the eight states was essential for the overall growth of the country, he added.

"The development work done by the Modi government in the last three years for the long-neglected north-eastern region is

several times more than the work done by Congress-led governments in the last 65 years," Shah said.

The work had not finished but just started, he added.

Citing numerous initiatives of the Modi government for the region, Shah said a Union minister visited one of the eight states in the region every 15 days.

He termed the land boundary agreement with Bangladesh a milestone in the history of the north-east and said the government was committed to the overall development of the area.

The BJP president ex-

pressed the confidence that all eight chief ministers would be from the alliance at the next NEDA meeting.

Emphasising the importance of NEDA, he said, "It is not only a political platform but a platform to culturally unite all eight north-eastern states and increase their involvement in national affairs".

Talking to reporters, NEDA convener Himanta Biswa Sarma later said it was confident of seeing a "Congress mukt" (Congress-free) north-east by November 2018.

Sarma, a minister in the BJP government in Assam, has been a key figure in expanding the party's footprints in the region.

Safe borders, inclusive development and national integration were on the agenda of the day-long NEDA meeting.

North-east states have used the NEDA platform to sort out boundary, law and other disputes, Sarma said at the meeting.

Rotary Club felicitates teachers of Buddha Bharti Bhuvan Mohan Mandir

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 05 SEPT:**

Rotary Club of Siliguri Central felicitated the teachers of Buddha Bharti Bhuvan Mohan Mandir at Adarshpally in Siliguri today on the occasion of Teachers' Day, a press release informs.

The teachers were presented with khadas, pens and boxes of sweets while gifts and sweets were also distributed to the children.

President Amit Marodia, in his speech, thanked the management for giving permission for conducting the programme and highlighted on the im-



portance of teachers in the society. He urged

the children to respect their teachers and also

pledged to renovate the school in the near future.

Sabitri Chamling thanks Sikkim for support

**PRAKASH CHETTRI
NAMCHI, 05 SEPT:**

Former GTA Sabhasad, Sabitri Chamling (Rai) today extended her gratitude towards the Sikkim government and general public of Namchi. Speaking with this correspondent over the phone, Ms Chamling said that she will always remain indebted towards Sikkim for giving her a new lease of life.

"I don't know what case the West Bengal Police had made against me and if they had been successful in taking me to Bengal after my arrest from Sikkim, I am not sure if I would be alive," she said.

She thanked Sikkim police for

its prompt action and ensuring their safety here in Sikkim. She alleged that she was picked up by the Bengal police at gun point where she was denied any right to protest such action.


"I have come to know that Sikkim always keeps the law above all and every individual is equal under the law in Sikkim," said Ms Chamling further adding that this is exactly what the people of Darjeeling Hills are fighting for.

"People of Sikkim and rest of the country have come to know how the Bengal government is treating us and working to suppress our voices. How our innocent youth are dying fighting for


their rights but our agitation is Gandhiwadi and our demand is constitutional. In such times of need, the support from Sikkim is appreciated and will be remembered by every Gorkha living in Darjeeling," she further stated.

She thanked every individual who came in support of her during the last four days.

Meanwhile, a group of youth from Sikkim today burnt the effigy of West Bengal Chief Minister, Mamta Banerjee and her Cabinet Minister Gautam Deb at the same place where West Bengal police allegedly shot dead Dawa Bhutia near Bhangyang, South Sikkim.




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Issued by: SPD/SSA, HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

By Brace of Balwant: India beat Macau 2-0 in Asian Qualifier

MACAU, SEP 5 (PTI): Substitute striker Balwant Singh's opportunistic second half double strike helped India beat Macau 2-0 in a group league encounter of the Asian Cup qualifying round, taking their unbeaten run in international matches to 11.

The former Mohun Bagan goal poacher found the target in the 57th and 82nd minutes, respectively, as the 'Blue Tigers' won their third successive match in the qualifying tournament, maintaining their pole position in the group with nine points.

With nine points from three games, India are now firmly in contention to seal a berth for the 2019 edition of the tournament.

Ranked 96th in the FIFA list, India were overwhelming favourites against minnows Macau -- currently ranked 183rd.

However, the home team managed to defend their citadel in the first half, which that ended goalless. It was Balwant, who replaced Eugenesen Lyngdoh post change of ends, broke the deadlock.

In the 57th minute, it was side-back Narayan Das, who had overlapped down wide right and sent a floater inside the box.

Balwant timed his jump to perfection as he angled his header with a marker on tow.

The second goal in the 82nd minute was more to do with a defensive lapse as Balwant showed his predatory skills, snatching a ball from the opposition defender just outside the corner of the 18-yard box.

From the corner of his eye, he saw that custodian Ho Man Fai was out of charge and his neat placement ensured an unassailable lead for the visiting team.

It wasn't one of the best matches for India's lead strike duo of Sunil Chhetri and Jeje Lalphekhlua as they were man marked by the home team defenders.

In the first half, the only notable scoring chance was in the 37th minute -- a rasping left-footer from Lyngdoh, which hit the horizontal.

PARIS, SEP 5 (AFP): Germany fired six past Norway while England fought back after an early scare to beat Slovakia in European World Cup qualifying on Monday.

Timo Werner scored a double in Germany's 6-0 rout of the Norwegians in Stuttgart to leave Joachim Loew's world champions with a perfect eight out of eight record atop Group C.

But with second-placed Northern Ireland beating the Czech Republic 2-0 in Belfast Germany will have to wait until their next match, away to the Irish on October 5, to seal automatic qualification to Russia.

Werner, booed by his own fans in Germany's 2-1 win in Prague against the Czechs last Friday, came off to a standing ovation this time after netting in the 21st and 40th minutes.

After struggling to beat the Czechs, this was a far more polished performance, with Arsenal midfielder Mesut Ozil's



10th minute opener sparking the rout.

Paris Saint-Germain star Julian Draxler netted the second with Werner's brace putting them four goals up at the break.

Schalke midfielder Leon Goretzka grabbed Germany's fifth with Werner's replacement, the 32-year-old veteran Mario Gomez, rounding off a productive night.

It was the perfect antidote after Friday's laboured trip to Prague marred by a group of 200 right-wing German fans chanting Nazi-era slogans.

"That showed the beautiful side of football," said head coach Loew, who had said Friday's scenes in Prague "shamed Germany", following Werner's ovation after his two goals.

"It was a huge amount of fun to play here and we played our part in that with some great combinations and goals."

The Northern Irish guaranteed themselves at least a place in the play-offs thanks to Jonny Evans' second international goal eight years after his first and his West

Bromwich Albion teammate Chris Brunt's 41st minute freekick.

"I thought I might have been offside," Evans admitted.

"I thought I'd head it anyway and see what happens. I saw it go into the net and I don't remember much after that!"

Manager Michael O'Neill praised his men after yet another solid defensive display.

"We're in a great position now. We're guaranteed second place and seven clean sheets out of eight is a phenomenal record."

At Wembley, England were stunned when Stanislav Lobotka gave Slovakia a third-minute lead after a costly error by Marcus Rashford.

But the 19-year-old atoned in style when setting up the equaliser for Eric Dier and then netting a sumptuous 20-yard winner in the second half.

Victory sent England five points clear of Slovakia in Group F -- Gareth Southgate's side need only two points from their last two games against Slovenia and Lithuania to seal qualification.

"To come from behind against a side with very good footballers, particularly in midfield, we had to show character," said Southgate.

"Marcus Rashford showed, like the rest of the team, great character. He made the mistake for their goal, but he kept persevering."

Scotland kept alive their hopes of a play-off place with a 2-0 home win over Malta, the goals coming from Christophe Berra and Celtic striker Leigh Griffiths.

Gordon Strachan's team are alive and kicking on the road to Russia in fourth place, on 14 points.

Elsewhere, Poland held on to the Group E summit, beating Kazakhstan 3-0, with Denmark going second on the strength of a 4-1 win in Armenia.

Eight years on, Federer has Del Potro record to set straight

NEW YORK, SEP 5 (AFP): Eight years after losing to Juan Martin del Potro in the US Open final, Roger Federer locks horns again with the giant Argentine in New York still convinced he should have won the match which ended his five-year reign as champion.

Del Potro was just 20 years old when he downed the Swiss legend 3-6, 7-6 (7/3), 4-6, 7-6 (7/4), 6-2 but Federer believes that he was the dominant force in that 2009 showdown.

"The only time when he was really better, in my opinion, was the fifth set. Obviously that was good enough to beat me that day," said Federer on Monday after seeing off Philipp Kohlschreiber 6-4, 6-2, 7-5 to set-up Wednesday's quarter-final with Del Potro.

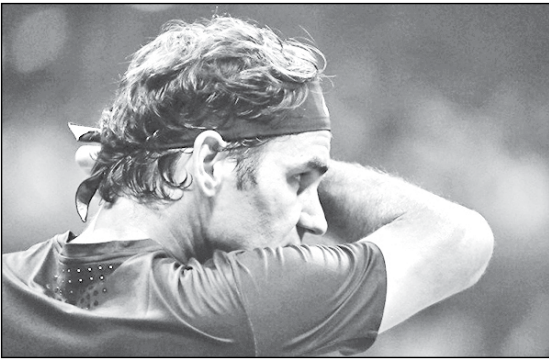
"I felt like that I left that match with a lot of regrets. Probably feels like one of those matches I would like to play over again.

"Feel like I would probably win it somehow because I should have been up maybe two sets to love."

Federer leads Del Potro 16-5 in their head-to-head record although his win in Miami this year represented the first time the pair had met in four years.

Despite his disappointment at losing the 2009 championship match, Federer admits that having also defeated Rafael Nadal in the semi-finals, Del Potro was overall a worthy winner.

Federer had already won the French Open, to complete the ca-



reer Grand Slam in 2009, before going onto to win a sixth Wimbledon.

He also became a father for the first time.

"Making the finals here was actually a good run. But it ended my five-year reign in New York," he said.

Federer believes that had Del Potro remained fit he could have become world number one after that breakthrough.

For Del Potro, beating Federer should have meant he had the world at his feet.

Sadly, it was his wrists which proved the problem as he went on to undergo four surgeries.

After his 2009 triumph, he was to miss a total of 10 Grand Slam tournaments.

At one stage last year, his world ranking, once as high as four in the world, slumped to 1,045 and he

even considered retiring.

Federer said he was happy to see the likeable Del Potro back on tour and the feeling is mutual.

"I admire him, too. Everybody loves him," said Del Potro.

"It's going to be an interesting match to play. It will be the first time after eight years again in the central court of this tournament.

"I know how to play if I want to win, but always is a pleasure to play the greatest guy in history."

Now the 28-year-old hopes to recover in time for Wednesday's clash having needed to save two match points to defeat Dominic Thiem 1-6, 2-6, 6-1, 7-6 (7/1), 6-4 in the fourth round on Monday.

He even admitted he had come close to quitting the match as a fever had left him with breathing difficulties.

"I feel tired, but we cannot do magic," he said.



Vatican clears canonisation process of nun Rani Maria Vattali

BHOPAL, SEP 5 (PTI): The Vatican has cleared the canonisation process to promulgate the "decree of the blessed" on nun Rani Maria Vattali, who was stabbed to death in Madhya Pradesh 22 years ago, the public relation officer of MP Catholic Church said today.

A representative of the Pope will come down to Indore Catholic Diocese to officially announce her the "blessed" on November 4, PRO of the Church Father Maria Stephen told PTI.

The Blessed, a rare sacred title, is considered to be a prelude to beatification of sainthood as was the case with Mother Teresa, he added.

In case of canonisation of sainthood, an extraordinary miracle will be required, he added.

The Pope has cleared the Franciscan Clarist Nun to be called the "blessed" recently. She was a member of Syro-Malabar Franciscan Clarist Congregation, the Bhopal-based cleric said.

Rani Maria Vattali, popularly known as Sister Rani, then 41, was stabbed around 50 times on board a bus in which she was travelling in Dewas district on February 25, 1995, the cleric said.

Hired assassin Samunder Singh

stabbed her, as some landlords in MP's Indore region were upset with her work for uplift of landless people, he said.

Singh was sentenced to life in prison after he was found guilty of killing the nun. Later, his sentence was commuted due to his good conduct during imprisonment, he added.

In 2002, Nun Paul, who belongs to the same congregation of nuns that Rani belonged to and happens to be the biological sister of the deceased as well had visited Singh in jail to accept him as her brother, he said.

Then Indore Bishop George Anathil initiated the cause for Sister Rani's canonisation process of the blessed in 2001 by setting up two panels - historical and theological, to examine her life, he said.

The two commissions submitted their findings to the three-member diocesan inquiry tribunal in June 2005 to carry forward the process, he recalled.

She was found to have led a heroic life of Christian virtue. Thereafter, her name was sent to Vatican Congregation for the Causes of Saints, which reviewed the gathered information and recommended that the Roman pontiff declare the candidate "venerable", he said.

India set for total domination on Sri Lanka tour

COLOMBO, SEP 5 (PTI): India would aim to cap off their super successful Sri Lanka tour with another ruthless victory in the one-off T20 International here tomorrow.

Any other result than India's resounding win looks highly unlikely tomorrow, considering the visitors' rampaging run in the preceding Test and ODI series, where they whitewashed the hosts 3-0 and 5-0 respectively.

The game provides India an opportunity to fine-tune team combination ahead of the upcoming T20 home series against Australia and New Zealand. In total, India would play nine T20

Internationals this home season and all contests will be a three-match series.

India are on an experimentation drive ahead of the 2019 50-over World Cup and one name they

could have tried here is Rishabh Pant, who was not named in the squad.

It is all the more surprising since the selectors had an opportunity to send him for this stand-alone game when Shikhar Dhawan returned home to tend to his ailing mother this past weekend, leaving Ajinkya Rahane to open the innings in the fifth ODI.

Pant has previously featured in two T20Is against England and West Indies, but was kept out of this tour on account of his poor run for India-A in South Africa, as stated by chief selector MSK Prasad after the team selection.

In the lone T20 against West Indies at Jamaica, Virat Kohli had opened the innings with Dhawan with Pant slotting in at no.3. As such, their dual absence will necessitate atleast a couple changes from the Indian skipper.

Rohit Sharma slots back in automatically, for he didn't travel to the Caribbean earlier whilst KL Rahul and Manish Pandey will be expected to bring up the middle order.

Kedar Jadhav scored a much needed half-century in the final ODI, and he could be afforded another chance to prove his credentials as India prepare for a long limited-overs schedule at home.

Hardik Pandya was rested for that fifth match on Sunday, and he too is expected to return to the playing eleven.

Pandya hadn't featured in India's last T20I against the West Indies, with Kohli opting for five full-time bowlers back in July. His return to the playing eleven could allow for a bowling combination similar to the ODIs, with four full-time options to choose from.

Jasprit Bumrah is a shoe-in of

course, whilst it remains to be seen if Shardul Thakur will get another go after proving expensive in the last match at Bhuvneshwar Kumar's expense.

Kohli does like to field leg-spinners in the shortest format, and he played both Yuzvendra Chahal and Amit Mishra against England at both Nagpur and Bengaluru. He is expected to repeat this trick with Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav this time around.

Even so, there were no sure hints coming forth as the Indian team enjoyed an additional off day ahead of the game and did not practice.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka have made a few changes to their original T20 squad after suffering the 5-0 whitewash. Leg spinner Jeffrey Vandersay and seam-bowling all-rounder Dasun Shanaka are prominent additions.

Pacer Suranga Lakmal makes a comeback after injury, as he had been ruled out ahead of the second Test in August. Mystery spinner Akila Dananjay has also been added to the squad.

Vandersay had made an impression for Sri Lanka in the World T20 last year, but suffered from injury issues since and hasn't been a regular feature of the side.

Surprisingly, left-arm leg spinner Lakshan Sandakan has been left out of the squad.

Pacers Vishwa Fernando and Dushmantha Chameera have also been left out after unimpressive showings in the recently concluded ODI series. Lasith Malinga has been picked again, however.

The Lankan team management had talked about resting Kusal Mendis as he was fatigued, and he has been duly left out.

The spotlight will be on skip-

per Upul Tharanga though.

This will be his first T20 match in-charge after Angelo Mathews gave up captaincy post the loss to Zimbabwe prior to the Indian tour.

Tharanga was suspended during this ODI series due to poor run-rate, but refused to step down after the ODI defeat.

Instead, he has taken a six-month sabbatical from Test cricket and was omitted from Lanka's preliminary squad announced on Monday for the Pakistan series.

This is being as a sign that he wants to concentrate on the limited-overs formats and a bid to overturn Sri Lanka's fortunes in ODIs and T20s at least.

As per the ICC rankings, the gap between the two sides is smaller (ranked no.5 and 8) for once, and the task is cut out for Tharanga to showcase what he can do in this one-off game.

Pak envoys debating foreign policy following new US strategy

ISLAMABAD, SEP 5 (PTI): A group of selected Pakistani envoys, including those in India and China, today began debating key foreign policy issues in an effort to chalk out a response to the new US strategy for Afghanistan and South Asia.

The three-day conference was inaugurated by Pakistan's Foreign Minister Khawaja Asif. The conference could allow various Pakistani envoys to harmonise their understanding of the foreign policy issues facing the country, particularly after the US president last month publicly rebuked Islamabad for harbouring terror groups.

The new US strategy, outlined by Donald Trump, seeks a greater development role for India in Afghanistan. Other issues to be discussed at the meet may include the BRICS declaration in China's Xiamen city yesterday, calling Pakistan-based terror groups a security concern in the region.

Pakistan's ambassador and high commissioners in the US, Russia, China, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Afghanistan, Iran, and India were attending the conference, the Foreign Office said. Its spokesman said in a brief statement that the envoys "will deliberate over a range of bilateral, regional and global dimensions of Pakistan's foreign policy."

Diplomatic sources here said Asif in his opening remarks said there was no military solution to the ongoing conflict in neighbouring Afghanistan. He urged the envoys to discuss Pakistan's India ties and the situation in Kashmir, and suggest how Islamabad should highlight the issue.

The sources said the envoys would discuss potential strength of Pakistan's foreign policy and options available in view of the "current geo-political and regional situation".

They would also suggest options for a comprehensive policy to safeguard Pakistan's interests in wake of new US strategy for the region. Pakistan Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi will chair the concluding session, when the policy formulations would be presented to him.

Putin warns of 'global catastrophe' over North Korea impasse

XIAMEN (CHINA), SEP 5 (AFP): Russian President Vladimir Putin warned today of a global catastrophe unless a diplomatic solution is reached over North Korea, but rejected US calls for more sanctions as "useless", widening a split among major powers over how to rein in Pyongyang.

Putin's comments appeared to draw the lines for a clash at the United Nations pitting Moscow and Beijing against Washington and its allies.

The US yesterday demanded the "strongest possible measures" against North Korea for detonating what Pyongyang said was a hydrogen bomb that could be



mounted on a missile.

The announcement dramatically upped the stakes in its standoff with the international community over its banned weapons programmes, which have seen it subjected to

seven sets of UN Security Council sanctions so far.

As well as the US, South Korea and Japan, plus permanent Security Council members France and Britain, have called for stronger measures

against it, with several arguing for a potentially crippling oil embargo.

But Putin made clear that Russia was opposed to further interdictions, and while China - North Korea's patron and close

est political and economic partner - has yet to be drawn on the issue, it tends to resist placing pressure on Pyongyang.

Putin, speaking after an international gathering in China, said Russia condemned North Korea's "provocative" actions.

But he called for dialogue and warned against other actions that could escalate the crisis.

"Resorting to just any sanctions in this situation is useless and inefficient," he told reporters in the Chinese city of Xiamen following a summit of the five-nation BRICS club of emerging economies.

"All of this can lead to a global planetary catastrophe and a great

number of victims."

World powers are scrambling to react to the latest ominous advance in the North's rogue weapons programme, which has sent global tensions soaring.

US President Donald Trump has approved in principle the sale of "many billions of dollars' worth of military weapons and equipment" for South Korea, the White House said Monday.

South Korea said it fired a volley of ballistic missiles on Monday to simulate an attack on the North's nuclear test site, followed Tuesday by major live-fire drills at sea. At an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council, US Ambassador Nikki

Haley said Washington would present a new sanctions resolution for debate in the coming days.

Declaring that "enough is enough," Haley said existing measures not worked and accused North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un of "begging for war" with the country's sixth and most powerful nuclear test.

Seoul estimated the blast's yield at 50 kilotons, more than three times the size of the bomb detonated over Hiroshima in 1945. Haley did not spell out what measures Washington was seeking, but diplomats said it could target oil supplies to North Korea - potentially dealing a major blow to its economy.

North Korea 'begging for war': Haley

LALIT K JHA WASHINGTON, SEP 5 (PTT): North Korea is "begging for war" with abusive use of missiles and nuclear threats, US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley has said, pushing for the "strongest possible measures" against Pyongyang following its sixth and most powerful nuclear test.

On Sunday, North Korea said it detonated a hydrogen bomb designed for a long-range missile and called it a "perfect success", inviting worldwide condemnation and promises of tougher US sanctions.

Haley said North Korean dictator Kim Jong-Un's action cannot be seen as defensive and he wants to be acknowledged as a nuclear power. "But being a nuclear power is not about using those terrible weapons to threaten others."

"Nuclear powers understand their responsibilities. Kim Jong-Un shows no such understanding," Haley told members of the UN Security Council during a meeting on North Korea. The Indian-origin US ambassador to the UN said that his abusive use of missiles, and his nuclear threats show that he is "begging for war".

"War is never something the US wants. We don't want it now. But our country's patience is not unlimited. We will defend our allies and our territory," she said.

The idea that some have suggested of a so-called freeze-for-freeze is insulting, she said.

"When a rogue regime has a nuclear weapon and an ICBM (Inter-continental Ballistic Missile) pointed at you, you do not take steps to lower your guard. No one would do that. We certainly won't," she said, adding time has come to exhaust all diplomatic means to end this crisis.

"Only the strongest sanctions will enable us to resolve



this problem through diplomacy. We have kicked the can down the road long enough. There is no more road left," she said.

Haley and her counterparts from Japan, France, the UK, and the South Korea requested the emergency meeting in response to North Korea's latest nuclear test.

"To the members of the Security Council, I must say: enough is enough," she said.

British Ambassador to the UN Matthew Rycroft said North Korea has created a deeply dangerous and unstable situation.

"The UK will work with our partners on this Council and beyond to tackle the challenge," he said.

Dialogue, he said, will always be the "end goal".

"But returning to dialogue without a serious sign of intent from Pyongyang would be a set up to failure. North Korea must change course to allow a return to dialogue. Were they to do so, the opportunity exists to end

this crisis.

Until that moment, we must stay the course on sanctions, and continue, as the Secretary-General has called for, to present a united front," Rycroft said.

Ambassador Koro Bessho of Japan said it was clear how belligerent and dangerous the North Korean actions were, posing a problem, not only for that country's neighbours, but the entire international community.

The sixth nuclear test had exhibited a magnitude of explosion far greater than the previous one and had raised the threat to an unprecedented level. In that context, he stressed the need for the Council to swiftly adopt a new resolution with further robust sanction measures. Firmly supporting the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, the Chinese Ambassador Liu Jieyi strongly urged Pyongyang to comply with international measures.

The situation on the Penin-

sula had deteriorated, he said, stressing that China would never allow chaos or war to erupt.

Haley told the 15-membered body that US will be circulating a draft resolution soon, with the expectation to have it passed by Monday September 11. The South Korean Ambassador Cho Tae-yul said the Security Council must respond to this serious provocation with the adoption of a new resolution containing much tougher measures, corresponding to the magnitude and gravity of the test.

"Now is the time to take measures that are strong and robust enough to compel North Korea to seriously engage in dialogue. The new resolution must include not only additional measures to further block funds that could possibly flow into North Korea's illegal WMD program, but also truly biting and robust measures such as cutting off crude oil and oil product supplies," he said.

Over 500,000 Pakistanis deported in last 5 years

ISLAMABAD, SEP 5 (PTI): Over 500,000 Pakistanis have been deported from 134 countries, including Saudi Arabia, the UAE, India and China, in the last five years, according to a media report today.

While it is commonplace for Pakistanis to be deported from Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and a number of European Union member states, many smaller and lesser-known countries have also booted Pakistani nationals for a number of reasons, the Express Tribune reported.

Some of the places where Pakistani nationals were kicked out from are countries like Laos, Togo, Port Louis, Liberia, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Botswana, Burundi, Madagascar, Malawi, Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, Mozambique, Angola, and Ethiopia.

In response to a question put forward by Senator Jehanzeb Jamaldini, the Interior Ministry placed before the Senate a list of countries from which Pakistanis have been deported and their annual breakdown from January, 2012 till June, 2017.

Of the 544,105 Pakistanis deported, 71,723 were expelled in 2012; 79,539 in 2013; 78,409 in 2014; 116,185 in 2015; 111,084 in 2016; and 87,165 in just the first six months of 2017. Saudi Arabia topped the overall list, followed by the UAE, Oman, Malaysia, the UK, Turkey, and Greece.

India deported 12 Pakistanis in 2012; six in

2013; 13 in 2014; 10 in 2015; five in 2016; and three by June this year. China deported 240 Pakistanis. Of these 26 were in 2012; 39 in 2013 ; 36 in 2014; 46 in 2015; 80 in 2016; and 13 by June this year.

The Interior Ministry started tabulating reasons for deportations from 2014. Overstaying visas, lost passports, passport retained by visa sponsors or employers, illegal immigration, entry refused, and other illegal entries are the most common of the over 115 reasons for which these people were sent back home by the authorities of these countries.

Data placed before the Senate shows an 280,052 Pakistanis were deported from Saudi Arabia. In 2012, a total of 17,369 Pakistanis were deported from the kingdom in 2012; another 33,351 in 2013; followed by 45,456 in 2014; 61,404 in 2015; and 57,784 in 2016.

The record from 2015 has already been broken this year; as 64,689 have been deported from January to June 2017. The UAE did the second-most deportations 10,235 in 2012; 9,597 in 2013; 8,434 in 2014; 8,690 in 2015; and 9,987 in 2016.

The Emirates had deported 5,115 Pakistanis by June 30 this year. Oman was third, having sent home a total of 20,416 Pakistani nationals during this period. It was followed by Malaysia, which deported 16,124 Pakistanis in this period.

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DEAR PARROT EVENING

Draw Time : 8:00 pm onward

Draw No:6 DrawDate on:05/09/17

1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 98G 84703
(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 84703 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9500/-

05181 22263 32098 39849 71525
84386 90024 91862 93510 95391

3rd Prize Rs.9000/-

10722 17285 27201 32888 41522
46083 60428 68494 88006 94282

4th Prize Rs.1000/-

0389 0626 3451 4643 5436 5508 6193 7424 8094 8241

5th Prize Rs.500/-

3033 3491 3710 4061 5263 5587 7628 7876 9400 9532

6th Prize Rs.250/-

0018 0019 0047 0259 0360 0380 0435 0762 0884 0893
1008 1159 1182 1364 1427 1532 1574 1616 1662 1757
1840 1943 2001 2049 2091 2295 2319 2548 2554 2596
2662 2848 2960 2991 3131 3242 3639 3935 3950 3964
4049 4180 4213 4245 4326 4339 4431 4457 4602 4633
4771 4902 5109 5234 5241 5507 5540 5607 5627 5884
5971 6006 6045 6099 6231 6246 6437 6596 6681 6737
6741 6802 7136 7203 7507 7724 7778 7917 7947 8031
8061 8093 8134 8168 8330 8433 8522 8549 8586 8593
8618 8669 8786 8924 9118 9405 9477 9591 9729 9932

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SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR LOVED MORNING

Draw No:1 DrawDate on:05/09/17

1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 92C 24189
(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 24189 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9500/-

00313 23760 26760 39733 47791
61548 71171 72827 82754 95546

3rd Prize Rs.9000/-

10940 17829 19440 24550 29781
33096 46786 68496 84466 89571

4th Prize Rs.1000/-

0616 2032 2718 2997 5929 7114 7700 8973 9113 9248

5th Prize Rs.500/-

0084 0274 0499 0614 1408 2845 3081 3908 7596 9545

6th Prize Rs.250/-

0321 0447 0517 0692 0950 1017 1080 1097 1106 1183
1194 1275 1332 1383 1385 1389 1399 1606 1727 1736
1844 1881 2074 2092 2141 2177 2228 2289 2337 2411
2586 2595 2812 2864 3048 3231 3284 3307 3340 3360
3418 3543 3580 3718 3719 3881 4302 4350 4557 4567
4584 4760 4883 4928 4942 4953 4979 5066 5105 5231
5389 5555 5640 5903 6022 6077 6391 6516 6659 6692
6702 6899 7055 7295 7344 7358 7472 7792 7854 7927
7957 7963 8001 8082 8125 8383 8386 8519 8678 8701
8742 8835 8865 8866 8986 9177 9245 9279 9871 9882

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DEAR SINCERE

Draw No:6 DrawDate on:05/09/17

1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 88E 65915
(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 65915 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9500/-

01680 14843 22823 61114 63906
69914 74986 83277 86325 90549

3rd Prize Rs.9000/-

28635 40439 42733 52556 55067
59436 62988 76949 90694 92331

4th Prize Rs.1000/-

0055 0160 1040 1856 2466 2522 3576 5774 6522 7536

5th Prize Rs.500/-

2261 3151 3563 3810 4049 4570 6915 7978 8023 8711

6th Prize Rs.250/-

0174 0330 0454 0481 0617 0642 0875 0897 1012 1118
1171 1210 1266 1473 1636 1667 1692 1878 2030 2188
2300 2345 2424 2470 2563 2623 2652 2668 2890 3273
3500 3511 3525 3544 3728 3757 3831 3836 4059 4100
4194 4321 4489 4540 4676 4756 4885 4933 5263 5358
5373 5598 5670 5696 5736 6145 6197 6271 6332 6344
6402 6413 6520 6546 6581 6628 7029 7077 7185 7341
7362 7363 7425 7480 7493 7525 7590 7613 7724 7932
7999 8124 8146 8312 8425 8449 8462 8560 8594 8966
9017 9051 9074 9084 9180 9202 9210 9241 9278 9675



PRINCE HARRY: The royal chats with schoolchildren at the Manchester City Football Club after the news broke that he's going to be an uncle again.

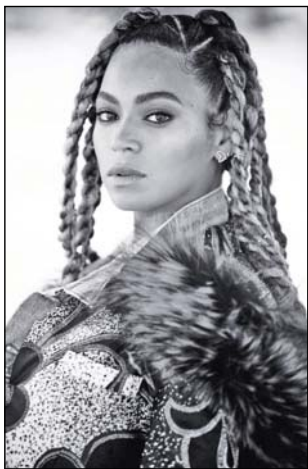
BIRTHDAYS

BEYONCÉ'S FRIENDS AND FAMILY SEND HEARTFELT MESSAGES TO THE BIRTHDAY GIRL

Beyoncé turned 36-years-old on 04 Sept and her friends and family flocked to social media to send some serious birthday love to the mom of three. Beyoncé's mom Tina Knowles, father Mathew Knowles, friend Kelly Rowland, and Adele were just some of the people who gave the b-day gal a shout out on Monday.

Bey's mama wrote, "36 years ago God Chose me out of all the women in the world to be your mother! How blessed could I be? Not because you are a super talented, smart business woman and one of the biggest superstars! Its because you are the kindest most generous, thoughtful, intuitive, loyal, humble, funny, grounded, grateful and loving human being."

She added, "I am proud to be your mom Happy Birthday Baby! I love you with my whole heart." Mathew Knowles took to Instagram this morning to post an emotional video from Houston. In the video, Mathew says, "Your city loves you, but more importantly—I love you. I love you with all my heart. I am so proud



of you. I just wanted to tell you happy birthday! Adele posted a snap of Bey with the caption, "Happy Birthday to the Queen @Beyonce We love you like no other x." Lady Gaga wished the gorgeous

gal a happy day, writing "Happy Birthday Honey B!!! To my 'Telephone' partner in crime, can you believe that was 8 years ago! #HappyBdayBeyonce." One of the Texan's besties, Kelly Rowland, posted an absolutely fierce video of the long-time pals, looking ever so fierce with the caption, "HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MY DAY 1! I LOVE YOU FOREVER & EVER BABE!!" Additionally, Kelly is featured with Serena Williams, Michelle Williams, Michelle Obama, Gloria Carter, Bianca Lawson and Angie Beyoncé as they recreate Bey's iconic big-hat, big-necklace look from her "Formation" video.

It's been a weekend chock full of celebrating. On 03 Sept, husband Jay-Z got the audience at the Made in America Festival in Philadelphia to serenade the songstress with "Happy Birthday." The queen was in Philly all weekend with her hubby, daughter Blue Ivy and two-month-old twins Sir and Rumi. Additionally both Jay and Bey's moms were at the fest. We hope you had a Happy BeyDay, Bey!

PARESH HAS FOUND THE IDEAL CAST FOR SALMAN KHAN AND AAMIR KHAN'S ANDAZ APNA APNA REMAKE

The remake of Salman Khan and Aamir Khan's 1994 classic, Andaz Apna Apna has been in news the longest time now. While speculations about the remake and the cast are doing the rounds, Paresh Rawal definitely has the some apt choices for Salman and Aamir's role.

When the actor was recently asked about the remake or sequel of the film, he said, "It should be touched only if there's a really great

script — something as funny as the original — in place." Initially the plans of making a remake with the original cast were in place. To this

the director of the film, Raj-kumar Santoshi said, "It's very difficult. For humour, you need innocence.



BOLLYBUZZ!!!

That time, these actors had the innocence. Now, it will look forced. It looks cute if a 20-year-old is chasing a girl. A

young girls looks vulgar." Hence, when Rawal was asked about who he thinks could

K-POP LEGEND SEO TAIJI HOLDS 25TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT, PASSES TORCH TO BTS

K-pop's a fully-fleshed industry in 2017, but in 1992 Seo Taiji (Jung Hyun Chul) & Boys shocked Korea's pop industry into its current state with "Nan Arayo" ("I Know"), a hip-hop leaning dance track that ignited the nation's crazy for idol-oriented music. On Saturday (Sept. 3), Seo took fans on a trip through his past hits before proclaiming boy band BTS his musical successors during his 25th anniversary Time: Traveler concert.

With 35,000 fans in attendance, Seo, known as the "President of Culture" in South Korea, went through the sonic history of his career, featuring the music of Seo Taiji & Boys, which served as the prototype for the multitude of K-pop acts to follow, and many of his solo hits. He performed two dozen songs from various eras of his career during the two and a half hour-long concert, reports the Korea Times. The show, part of Lotte Card's Moov: Sound Track vol. 2 project, was held on Sept. 2, the same day a special 25th anniversary album was released featuring Seo's biggest hits along with remakes of his songs by other Korean acts, including R&B trio Urban

Zakapa -- who served as concert openers along with rock band Gukkasten -- Crush, Heize, Suran, Younha, Eddy Kim, Loopy & nafla, and BTS.

With numerous songs of their own that address the hardships facing South Korean youth and society and hip-hop leanings on par with Seo Taiji & Boys', the latter acted as backup vocalists and dancers for eight songs of the concert, replacing Yang Hyun Suk, now the head of YG Entertainment, and Lee Juno as Seo's Boys for the night. During the show, Seo acknowledged BTS' thematic similarities to his music and their place as one of K-pop's most globally-renowned acts. "This is your generation now," declared Seo addressing BTS, reports the

Seoul Economic Daily. Throughout his career, there have been a variety of reiterations of Seo that have led to his reputation as a leader of cultural trends in South Korea. Seo pursued rock music early in his career, and became a member of the metal band Sinawe before forming Seo Taiji & Boys in the early '90s, during which he served as the frontman and primary songwriter of the genre-blending crew. The trio made history beginning in 1992, with hit after hit resonating with South Korea's audience and igniting the trend for youthful, dance oriented music from performance-focused groups. Following the act's breakup in 1996, Seo returned to his rock leanings in 1998 and has since released nine studio albums, including his most recent album, 2014's Quiet Night.

Despite being recognized as the start of the idol music trend, much of Seo's music, both as a soloist and while in Seo Taiji & Boys, has veered towards alt-rock, electro-pop, and nu-metal. His legacy spans generations in the country, where he's also considered one of the first fore-runners of popular music that criticized the South Korean government and addressed societal ills, resulting to being one of the most-censored musicians of his generation.



THIS DAY IN HISTORY

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06TH SEPTEMBER WORLD HISTORY

1866: Frederick Douglass became the 1st US black delegate to a national convention.

1941: Emperor Hirohito of Japan gave his sanction "with misgivings" to simultaneous efforts to negotiate peace with the US and to prepare for an attack if the efforts failed.

1944: During World War II, the British government relaxed blackout restrictions and suspended compulsory training for the Home Guard.

1948: Queen Juliana of the Netherlands was crowned, two days after the abdication of her mother, Queen Wilhelmina. Juliana abdicated in 1980.

1998: In Peshawar, Pakistan, an estimated 15,000 members of the Movement for the Enforcement of Islam in English marched against

the American missile attack in Afghanistan. The US did not inform Pakistan of the strikes that crossed Pakistani air space.

INDIAN HISTORY:
1657: Shah Jahan the Mughal Emperor of Hindustan suddenly fell ill which caused domestic struggle for succession.
1774: British Government supported Peshwa Raghunath Rao to re-conquer Pune.
1965: India and Pakistan began a second war over Kashmir. Pakistan paratroopers raided Punjab. It ended in a cease-fire that left India with control of two-thirds of Kashmir.
1997: Weeping masses gathered in Calcutta, India, to pay homage to Mother Teresa, who had died the day before at age 87.

LOCKHORNS

- HOEST & REINER



ARCTIC CIRCLE

- HALLATT



BABY BLUES

- KIRKMAN & SCOTT



ARIES: Be careful of letting a sour mood ruin your day, Aries. You may not feel particularly cheerful. This is liable to have a dramatic effect on everyone else. Be aware of the fact that your mood may not be an accurate reflection of reality, even though for the most part your world is centered on your moods and the dramatic swings they go through within one day.

TAURUS: Relationships may be a bit difficult, Taurus, so don't force pleasantry if it doesn't come naturally. Your motto today should be, "If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all." Perhaps this leaves you tongue-tied, but that's fine. If you need to spend the day alone, so be it. Don't be so-

cial if you don't feel like it. **GEMINI:** You may put other people's needs before yours, Gemini. There's an important balance between being selfish and being selfless. Don't sacrifice yourself to be a servant to others. It's important that you not think only of yourself without considering how your actions will affect others. You may swing toward the former today. This will only lead to resentment and deplete your emotional and physical resources.

CANCER: Be disciplined. Maintain your boundaries in order to keep from getting swept into other people's soap operas, Cancer. It may be fun to escape your problems by jumping into someone

else's life, but soon you'll find the extra weight is not only taxing but also won't solve your problems. You may need to say no to others, but that's fine. It's vital that you consider your needs.

LEO: Don't go overboard, Leo. You may get so carried away in the early part of the day that by evening you notice you've gone beyond your own boundaries. Regret may sink in, and you may feel guilty about things you said or did. Prevent this by thinking things through before speaking or acting. You have the power to impact people on a deep emotional level. Use this power wisely.

VIRGO: People may be trying to subtly communicate to you, but you

may not be aware of this because you're so caught up in your own difficulties, Virgo. You may feel like you're driving with the emergency brake on. You're so preoccupied with running smoothly that you're unaware of other cars on the road. Stop, release the brake, and drive.

LIBRA: You may feel like you aren't getting the attention you need or deserve, Libra. Because of this, you may resent the people you feel you should be getting it from. This attitude is likely to make people less likely to come to your rescue. Who wants to be around someone so needy and unhappy? Focus on yourself and your own healing before you take your issues to others.

SCORPIO: Try not to push away the very people who are there to help you, Scorpio. Dumping your problems on others may be the thing that does just that. Recognize your uncomfortable feelings, but don't burden others with them. Your happiness is your responsibility. You'll feel much better about yourself if you take care of your own discomfort. Then you'll attract the people you love.

SAGITTARIUS: Your adaptive powers are useful in that they give you a high tolerance for uncomfortable situations, Sagittarius. At times, however, this trait may not serve you very effectively. You may end up staying in a difficult relationship or unsatisfying job be-

cause you fear something new. Life is short. If you want to improve your situation, take responsibility for it. Be proactive.

CAPRICORN: You may feel lonely and isolated, like there's no one you can talk to, Capricorn. Your interactions may seem like giving a speech instead of having a discussion. Perhaps you feel like you're talking to yourself most of the time and no one is really listening. There's nothing wrong with you or the person you're talking to. It's just a phase. Don't get hung up on it.

AQUARIUS: Don't fall into the self-pity trap, Aquarius. You may have a tendency to mope around until someone notices and asks

what's wrong. If no one does, you might get angry and pretty soon feel like you have no friends. Your mood could worsen, and you might snap when someone asks you a reasonable question. Be careful of sliding down this slippery slope. **PISCES:** You're at an emotionally climactic time, Pisces. You may feel like someone is putting a damper on your feelings. Perhaps you're scared or shy. Perhaps you don't feel like you can express yourself the way you want to. If so, consider why. Do other people make you feel this way or are you uncomfortable with your own feelings? The issue may have more to do with your inner turmoil than with others.