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# SummitTIMES

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O N T O P O F T H E N E W S

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## Bengal invites GNLf for talks on Darjeeling on 29 Aug

**KOLKATA, AUG 22 (PTI):** Extending an olive branch, the West Bengal government today invited the GNLf for talks on August 29 on the Darjeeling stalemate, but snubbed agitation spearhead GJM.

"I received a letter from the Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF) last night and within 24 hours we have responded.

Doors for a dialogue have to be always kept open," Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee told a press conference at the state secretariat after returning from a visit to flood-affected areas of north Bengal.

She said that the state government accepted the proposal of the GNLf, a constituent of the Gorkhaland Movement Coordination Committee (GMCC), for a dialogue and fixed August 29 for the discussion at the

state secretariat.

But Banerjee made no mention of agitation spearhead Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM).

Miffed with the West Bengal government for responding to GNLf's appeal for talks, GMCC convenor and GJM vice president Kalyan Dewan said a dialogue can only be successful if the main stakeholders of the Gorkhaland movement are invited for talks.

"Responding to GNLf's appeal is nothing but an effort to undermine the GJM and GMCC," Dewan told PTI.

Describing the request of the GNLf to hold dialogue as a "good and constructive gesture", Banerjee said, "Major political parties and development boards, which have been involved in development work

in the hills, will be invited for the meeting."

The chief minister said, "The state government is for development and always open to hold talks to restore peace in the hills."

Banerjee said only the GNLf till now had expressed its willingness for talks to end the indefinite shutdown in Darjeeling.

The agitation entered its 69th day today.

"A stalemate is continuing in the hills. Any other major political party apart from the GNLf, which is in favour of peace and willing to participate in talks, is welcome. My government is always ready for talks," she said.

Recalling that meetings were earlier held to initiate a dialogue, Banerjee said, "I

had held a meeting with the chairmen of different (development) boards."

She said, later, state Chief Secretary Malay Kumar Dey also held a meeting but not all representatives of various parties participated in it.

Banerjee said there would be discussion on the destruction and vandalism which affected normal life and tourism.

"The police and general public have shown restraint.

A few people have lost their lives in the current unrest. Many government and private properties in the hills were destroyed during this period. There will be discussions on them also," she said.

She said that normalcy was being restored slowly in different parts of Darjeeling and Mirik. Dewan said, "The

Gorkhaland movement is led by the GJM and it is the GJM which called the indefinite shutdown over two months back. The GJM is also the main stakeholder of the GMCC. If the state government wants the talks to be fruitful, it has to officially call the GJM and GMCC for talks."

"The GNLf may be a constituent of the GMCC but it is not the main stakeholder with whom talks can be held," he said.

Dewan said, "Responding to GNLf's appeal is nothing but an effort by the state government to undermine the GJM and GMCC."

Yesterday, GJM joint secretary Binay Tamang had requested both the state and central governments to initiate talks at the earliest to restore peace and normalcy in the hills.

## SC bans 'triple talaq'

**NEW DELHI, AUG 22 (PTI):** In a path-breaking verdict, the Supreme Court today banned the 1,400 year-old practice of instant 'triple talaq' among Sunni Muslims and set it aside on several grounds including that it was against the basic tenets of the Holy Quran and violated the Islamic law Shariat.

A five-judge Constitution bench, by a majority of 3:2 in which the Chief Justice J S Khehar found himself in a minority, said in a one line order: "In view of the different opinions recorded by a majority of 3:2, the practice of 'talaq-e-biddat' triple talaq is set aside."

The three separate verdicts totalling 395 pages, written for the majority by Justices Kurian Joseph and R F Nariman, did not concur with the minority view of the CJI and Justice SA Nazeer that 'triple talaq' was a part of religious practice and the government should step in and bring in a law.

The three judges, Justices Joseph, Nariman and U U Lalit, expressly disagreed with the CJI and Justice Nazeer on the key issue whether triple talaq was fundamental to Islam.

The verdict was immediately welcomed by leaders across the political spectrum, social activists and top jurists who hailed it as a victory of "gender equality" and a "giant step" for women, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying it has granted equality to Muslim women.

Echoing similar views, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, who had advanced Centre's stand against the practice as Attorney General, welcomed the ruling saying it was a step towards achieving the ultimate goal of a uniform civil code (UCC).

He said the government's stand was "completely vindicated" and the judgement has restored the dignity of the Muslim women who can now march to progress like other citizens of the

country.

His successor K K Venugopal also welcomed the verdict which upheld the stand of the NDA government, while legal luminary Soli Sorabjee said "it is a progressive judgement which has protected the rights of the women and now no Muslim man can divorce his wife through this method."

With triple talaq being set aside, now Sunni Muslims, among whom the practice was prevalent, will not be able to take recourse to this mode as it would be "void ab initio" (illegal at the outset).

They are now left with two other modes of securing divorce - 'talaq hasan' and 'talaq ahsan' after the apex court today set aside the 'talaq-e-biddat' or triple talaq.

Under 'talaq ahsan', a Muslim man can divorce his spouse by pronouncing 'talaq' once every month in three consecutive months, which would be signified by menstruation cycles.

As per 'talaq hasan', divorce can be given by pronouncing talaq "during successive tuhrs (menstruation cycles)" with no intercourse during any of the three tuhrs.

Writing the majority judgement, Justice Joseph said "I find it extremely difficult to agree with the CJI that the practice of triple talaq has to be considered integral to religious denomination in question and that the same is part of their personal law." This view was shared by Justices Nariman and Lalit who were part of the majority.

Referring to the verses of the Holy Quran, Justice Joseph said, "They are clear and unambiguous as far as talaq is concerned. The Holy Quran has attributed sanctity and permanence to matrimony.

"However, in extremely unavoidable situations, talaq is permissible. But an attempt for reconciliation, and if it succeeds, then revocation



## Employee strike impacts banking operations, some ATMs go dry

**NEW DELHI, AUG 22 (PTI):** Banking operations were hit today by the nation-wide strike called by employees of public sector banks to protest against the government's proposed consolidation move and to press for other demands. Operations such as clearing of cheques, money transfer, cash remittances, and deposits and withdrawals at branches were hit across public sector banks and some old generation private sector banks, as per the reports received from various parts of the country.

However, branches of new generation private banks like ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank and Axis Bank were functioning as usual.

The impact of strike was seen in major business centres like Mumbai, Kolkata, Patna, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Pune and Jaipur, while some ATMs in small cities went dry, according to reports from various parts of the country.

The Indian Banks' Association (IBA) had already informed customers that functioning of branches and offices may take a hit due to the one-day strike. It had also asked banks to take measures in advance to

minimise the impact.

The strike has been called by all unions under the aegis of the United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU).

The UFBU is an umbrella body of nine unions, including the All India Bank Officers' Confederation (AIBOC), the All India Bank Employees Association (AIBE) and the National Organisation of Bank Workers (NOBW).

AIBEA General Secretary C H Vekatachalam said government is talking of consolidation, amalgamation and merger of banks at a time when India needs more banking services.

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## Two Sikkim schools nominated for Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar 2016-17

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 22 AUG:** Sonam Choda Lepcha Memorial Secondary School at Lingdong in Upper Dzongu [North Sikkim] and Hee-Yangthang Senior Secondary School [West Sikkim] have been nominated for Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar 2016-17 at the National level. The award will be presented to these schools by Minister of Human Resource Development Department [Government of India], Prakash Javedkar, in New Delhi on 01 Sept.

A press release issued by Sonam Choda Lepcha Memorial SS informs that both the schools had an evaluation score of 82% in ranking among all Indian schools in recognition



of best and excellent practices in sanitation and hygiene being carried out routinely and the undertaking of significant

steps towards fulfilling the mandate of Swachh Vidyalaya campaign.

The final field validation report was

done by two officials from NEERAM team, MHRD-Delhi in collaboration with UNICEF on 28 May.

## West DC chairs coordination meeting with HoDs

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 22 AUG:** A coordination meeting was chaired by DC West, Kapil Meena with all Head of Departments (HoDs) of the District Headquarters today for discussing action plans to address various pending issues related to efficient and pro active administration. All di-



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## A step in the right direction, but plenty more needed

**SUDIPTA CHANDA**

**SILIGURI, 22 AUG:**

The divorce is finally complete. The country, courtesy the Supreme Court, has divorced itself of 'talak-e-biddat', aka, triple talaq (instant divorce). The judgement is a genuine victory for gender equality and dignity that has sent a cheer across the length and breadth of the country.

Tinkering with religious matters is like walking on eggshells. An ounce of pressure beyond the tolerance level can cause irreparable damage. But, religion, rituals and democrati-

c rights are separate matters with little room for confusion.

No wonder then, the Supreme Court has found the practice of triple talaq "whimsical, capricious and arbitrary". Six months down the line the Parliament is incumbent to frame a law against the practice and till then, the practice stands struck down. A red letter day indeed in keeping with the spirit of democracy and the Constitution.

Alleging the verdict intruded on their religious practices and threatens the pluralistic fabric of the nation, resistance

will brew in certain quarters. The argument that personal laws cannot be re-written in the name of reforms and the validity of the Muslim personal law cannot be tested as it derives from the Quran, will also be proffered.

But, such opposition of the historic judgement is diametrically opposite to the worldwide trend on triple talaq.

Several Muslim countries or countries that follow the Sharia Law including Pakistan and Bangladesh have banned the practice of triple talaq. Turkey and Cyprus have in-

troduced secular family laws and so have Tunisia and Algeria. Triple talaq is also invalid in Iran under the Shia Law.

Muslim women of the country will now breathe easy. No more instant divorces over the cell phone or social media. No more uncertain future if a marriage hits a rough patch. Fundamental right at last has been established, but not before countless fell victim to the whim of triple talaq. However, it is better late than never.

With the triple talaq issue now settled, it is also time

to focus on equally inhuman trends such as dowry practice and violence against women in general in this country. If women of the Islamic community were saddled with the arbitrary blight of instant divorce that has ruined countless lives so far, domestic violence arising out of dowry practice is a genuine stain among sections of the majority community.

If abolishing triple talaq is in the interest to safeguard the fundamental right of Muslim women, stringent action should also be taken against all

those violating the dowry ban or resorting to post marriage violence on the dowry issue. Practiced surreptitiously, the system in one word must go.

That aside, violence against women irrespective of community is on the rise. Several such incidents in the recent past have rocked the nation. The authorities that be should ensure steps to discourage such unsavoury activities as severely as possible.

Ending triple talaq alone would otherwise not guarantee the fundamental rights of women in this country.

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## Three booked under POCSO

**GANGTOK, 22 AUG:**

Three persons from Bermiok Nampthing, South Sikkim have been accused of raping two minor girls on 21 Aug. According to a police report filed at Temi Police Station, the accused persons took the minor girls to a waiting shed and committed the crime. The three accused persons, two in their 20s and one 17-year-old boy have been booked under Protection of Children From Sexual Offences Act, 2012. The police have arrested the 17-year-old juvenile and one 22-year-old man. The third accused (26) is absconding. Efforts are being made to trace him. The victims on the other hand were forwarded to the hospital for medical examination.

## Man accused of sexually assaulting granddaughter

**GANGTOK, 22 AUG:**

Singtam Police on 21 Aug booked a 70-year-old man on charges of sexually assaulting his 11-year-old granddaughter. The incident was reported to the police station by the Ward Panchayat of Ralang, East Sikkim who said that the accused person's son 'verbally reported' the incident to him. The accused was then arrested and booked under Protection of Children From Sexual Offences Act, 2012.

## Sangha delegation calls on President Kovind

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 22 AUG:**

A Sangha delegation along with Sangha MLA, Sonam Lama, called upon President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, at Rashtrapati Bhawan today and congratulated him on behalf of the Sikkimese people.

A press release issued by Mr Lama informs that during the course of interaction, the Sangha MLA appraised and updated the President on various issues pertaining to Sikkim including

the Limboo Tamang Assembly seat reservation in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly, Sikkim Subject Certificate digitization, Darjeeling Sikkim merger issue and the need to restore seat reservation to the Sikkimese of Nepali origin in the SLA.

The delegation has also expressed concern over the deteriorating situation in the Darjeeling Hills and the hill people's pursuit to live in a more dignified political set up within the framework of the Union.

Simultaneously, Mr Lama submitted a unanimous protest against any move that tantamounts to merging Darjeeling with Sikkim and clarified that Sikkim's further submergence is not acceptable to the Sikkimese people.

Further, he has submitted several memorandums to various Union Ministers and other Union authorities.

The memorandums included scrapping of anti-Sikkimese Buddhist 97 MW Tashiding HEP

in West Sikkim addressed to the Ministry of Environment & Forest [Government of India], a memorandum regarding permission to the 17th Karmapa Ogyen Trinley Dorje to visit Sikkim and immediate CBI investigation against all the corrupt government functionaries of Sikkim directed to the Prime Minister, President & Ministry of Home Affairs and another regarding seat reservation in the SLA addressed to the PM, the release adds.

## Freedom from Open Defecation Week competitions conclude at Pakyong

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 22 AUG:**

The valedictory function of various competitions organized by Block Administrative Centre, Pakyong, in collaboration with Wandering Soul of Sikkim [WSS] as part of the 'Freedom from Open Defecation Week' was held today in Pakyong, East Sikkim, a WSS press release informs.

Dikling Senior Secondary School won the Block Level Inter School Quiz Competition with St Xavier's School, Pakyong holding the second position. Kunshang Lamu Tamang and Shaniwa Rai of St Xavier's School secured first and second positions, respectively, in



the Block Level Elocution Competition on the topic 'Sikkim's Sanitation Success and Ideas to sustain it'.

Avinay Chettri won

the Inter School Painting Competition with Kiran Panchkoti of Namchey-bong Secondary School in the second position while Jyoti Sharma won

the quiz for Anganwadi Workers followed by Tika Devi Khatiwara securing the second position.

During the pro-

gramme, bamboo dustbins to be installed in and around Pakyong were displayed and launched.

Pakyong Gram Panchayat President, Januka Dhakal, attended the function along with Additional District Collector [Development]-Pakyong, Roshni Rai, Block Development Officer-Pakyong, Chiran Rizal, Rural Management & Development Department functionaries of Pakyong, Gram Panchayats, teachers, students and the local public.

The Wandering Soul of Sikkim, in the release, has expressed gratitude to Pakyong BAC for providing an opportunity to collaborate with them in organising these events.

## Man accused of duping woman of Rs 5.3 lakh

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 22 AUG:**

A man from Ghoom Kitam, South Sikkim has been accused of cheating and raping a 35-year-old woman from Jorethang, South Sikkim on the false promise of marriage. The victim filed a case against the accused at Namchi Police Station on 21 Aug. According to the police report, the victim and the accused reportedly had a physical relationship for two years. However, the accused allegedly stopped calling and visiting her since December

2016. The accused had reportedly borrowed Rs 5.3 lakh from the victim, telling her that he needed money for his contractual work. When the victim tried to trace the accused, she found out that he was married to another woman in Namchi and subsequently reported the matter to the police. The victim was medically examined and a case was registered against the accused at Namchi Police Station. However the accused had already fled from Namchi. Efforts are being made to trace the accused.

## BJP Sikkim alleges favoritism in allotment of houses at Naya Bazaar

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 22 AUG:**

Bharatiya Janta Party Sikkim has alleged favoritism by the ruling party in the allotment of houses in the newly built housing colony at Naya Bazaar in West Sikkim. The party has demanded allotment of houses to genuine beneficiaries who are being relocated from the slum area of Naya Bazaar.

A press release of BJP state-unit president, DB Chauhan, informs that

a BJP delegation led by vice-president, JB Darnal, submitted a memorandum to the Chief Secretary on the same on 21 Aug.

The party has alleged of suppression and favoritism by the area MLA in the allotment of houses. The release adds that the party will always stand by the people of Naya Bazaar until they get justice.

The release adds that in the memorandum the party has requested the CS to provide justice to the people of the area.

## Team from Assam's Kaziranga University on Sikkim visit



**YOGEN THATAL**

**SINGTAM, 22 AUG:**

Pro Chancellor of Kaziranga University of Jorhat-Assam, BK Khaitan, along with his wife, Brand Ambassador, T Romeo Hmar and Deputy Director, Bobby Roy, were received by State coordinator and publicity in charge for Sikkim,

Bimal Gajmer, at the tourist lodge in Rangpo, East Sikkim today.

In a brief interaction, the Pro Chancellor mentioned that the purpose for visiting Sikkim is to promote the University.

"Students from North Eastern States choose Universities in other parts of India and of-

ten face discrimination. Choosing a University like Kaziranga University which is much safer and closer to Sikkim will help students focus on their studies," informed Mr Khaitan.

On 23 Aug, a promotional programme of Kaziranga University will be held at the confer-

ence hall of Bal Bhawan in 5th Mile, Gangtok. The programme is being organized in collaboration with Anushchit Jati Kalyan Sangh. Parliamentary Secretary [HRDD]-cum-MLA, Shyam Pradhan, will be attending the event as chief guest, informed Mr Gajmer.



## Induction training of 45 National Youth Volunteers kicks off

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 22 AUG:**

The induction training of 45 National Youth Volunteers of the state officially kicked off today at Animal Husbandry

Center in Gangtok.

Sikkim Youth Development Board Chairman, K.P. Dahal attended the function as the chief guest. In his address, Mr Dahal congratulated Neh-

ru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, Sikkim for its continuous effort to train young minds of Sikkim. He also felicitated the NYV members with khadas, a press release informs.

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*Gangtok on  
Wednesday,  
23 Aug*

Temp: 28°C /17°C  
Forecast: Periods of  
clouds and sun with  
thundershower.  
Sunrise: 05:10 AM  
Sunset: 06:06 PM

## Employee strike impacts banking operations, some ATMs go dry

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Bank mergers would result in closure of bank branches as is happening in the case of SBI now after the merger of associate banks, he said, adding that creation of big banks through mergers would also increase risks for lenders.

AIBOC General Secretary D T Franco demanded that the government should immediately raise gratuity limit for bank employees to Rs 20 lakh.

Other demands of the unions include no write-off policy for non-performing assets (NPAs) of corporate loans, declaring wilful default of loans as criminal offence and implementation of recommendations of Parliamentary Committee on Recovery of NPAs, NOBW vice-president Ashwini Rana said.

The government should provide overtime for additional work employees did during demonetisation phase, he said.

The UFB, which claims membership of nearly 10 lakh across banks, requested the government for cost reimbursement of demonetisation to banks.

As many as 21 public sector banks control 75 per cent of the total banking business.

## Sikkim paragliders back from 2nd Asian Cup & Test Event Asian Games

REBYNA RANA  
GANGTOK, 22 AUG:

Paragliders from Sikkim, Arjun Kumar Rai and Nima Tamang have returned to the State after securing 65th and 67th positions respectively in category II at the recently held 2nd Asian Cup & Test Event Asian Games in Puncak, Indonesia, on 11-14 Aug.

Arjun [37] hails from Chakung in West Sikkim and was accompanied by Nima Tamang of Selep Tank area, Gangtok, for the test event of Asian Olympic Games scheduled to be held at Indonesia in 2018.

On the recent games, Arjun said, "Due to poor weather conditions, my performance wasn't up to the mark. The event was a test series for the next Olympic Games so acquiring a perfect position doesn't matter much. However, it was a good experience as it has boosted us more and helped us gain knowledge. We



have become more familiar with the rules and regulations related to the Asian Olympic Games."

Thirteen countries had par-

ticipated in the event with eight participants from India.

It may be mentioned here, Arjun has been in the field of

paragliding since the past 11 years. He is also a mentor and trains people of Sikkim interested in paragliding.

## Bihar flood toll rises to 341; PM's aerial survey on Aug 26

PATNA, AUG 22 (PTI): With 37 more deaths, the toll in Bihar flood rose to 341 today even as 1.46 crore people are affected by the deluge in 18 districts of the state.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi would make an aerial survey of flood affected districts of Bihar on August 26, said Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi.

"PM coming on 26th Aug for aerial survey of flood affected dists of Bihar (sic)," Sushil Modi said in a tweet.

The flood toll stood at 304 till yesterday in Bihar with 1.38 crore people battling the deluge in 18 districts.

Around 7.61 lakh people have been shifted to safer areas. With water receding in some places many people have returned home.

Special Secretary in state Disaster Management Department Anirudh Kumar said that 2.29 lakh people are putting up



in 1,085 relief camps.

Kumar said Araria district alone accounted for 75 deaths, followed by Sitamarhi (36), West Champaran (36), Kati- har (26), Kisanjanj (23), Madhubani (23), East Champaran (19), Dar-

bhanga (19), Madhepura (19), Supaul (15), Gopalganj (14), Purnea (9) Muzaffarpur (7), Khagaria (6), Saran (6) and Saharsa (4), Sheohar (4).

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar reached Purnea by road from Patna after

a helicopter in which he had to travel developed some snag and inspected some relief camps, an official accompanying him said from Purnea.

The chief minister would stay in Purnea tonight and would go to Araria, Katihar and Kisanjanj tomorrow, the official said.

A total of 1,608 community kitchens are under operation in flood affected areas in which 4.52 lakh victims took meal today, the state Disaster Management department report said.

With flood creating havoc in as many as 18 districts of Bihar, the legislators have started contributing to the Chief Minister's relief fund.

Justice Joseph disagreed with the minority verdict which held that though triple talaq was part of the religion, its operation can be stayed (injunction) by it under Article 142 (extraordinary power of the SC) for six months to enable the State to frame a law to deal with it.

"I also have serious doubts as to whether, even under Article 142, the exercise of a Fundamental Right can be injunction," he said.

Relying on the Shamim Ara verdict, he said, "I expressly endorse and reiterate the law declared in Shamim Ara. What is held to be bad in the Holy Quran cannot be good in Shariat and, in that sense, what is bad in theology is bad in law as well."

that "triple talaq lacked legal sanctity".

It referred to various High Court verdicts and rejected the plea of parties like All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) that the Shamim Ara case did not create a legal precedent.

"Talaq must be for a reasonable cause and be preceded by attempts at reconciliation between the husband and the wife by two arbiters one from the wife's family and the other from the husband's; if the attempts fail, 'talaq' may be effected.

"In the light of such specific findings as to how triple talaq is bad in law on account of not following the Quranic principles, it cannot be said that there is no ratio decidendi (the rule of law on which a judicial decision is based) on triple talaq in Shamim Ara case," Justice Joseph said.

He dealt extensively with the AIMPLB plea that triple talaq was integral to Islam as it was in practice for the last 1,400 years.

"Merely because a practice has continued for long, that by itself

cannot be any Hadith, Ijma or Qiyas against what is expressly stated in the Quran. Islam cannot be anti-Quran."

Justice Nariman, in his separate judgement, said "It is clear that Triple Talaq is only a form of Talaq which is permissible in law, but at the same time, stated to be sinful by the very Hanafi school which tolerates it."

He referred to the fact that triple talaq is "instant and irrevocable" and leaves no scope for reconciliation between the husband and wife by two arbiters from their families, which is essential to save the marital tie and was not in sync with the Holy Quran.

"It is clear that this form of Talaq is manifestly arbitrary in the sense that the marital tie can be broken capriciously and whimsically by a Muslim man without any attempt at reconciliation so as to save it," he said.

Disposing six pleas including a suo motu petition titled 'Muslim Women's Quest For Equality', Justice Joseph relied on the 2002 apex court verdict in the Shamim Ara case in which it was held

## AITA terminates contract of CTL, leaves Vijay Amritraj shocked

NEW DELHI, AUG 22

(PTI): The All India Tennis Association (AITA) today terminated the contract of Vijay Amritraj's Champions Tennis League due to breach of contract, much to the shock of the former star, who says the move has come at a time when they were striving to revive the League.

The All India Tennis Association (AITA) had entered into a nine-year contract in 2014 with Second Serve Private Limited (SSPL), led by Amritraj, who was one of the Directors of the company.

The AITA Secretary General Hironmoy Chatterjee said that the organisers have failed to pay Rs 30 lakh to them as Annual Fixed fee for 2016 season, apart from 10 per cent of surplus amount in the first two years.

"They did not conduct league last year and the contract was to have it for nine years without any break. They did not pay the fixed fee of Rs 30 lakh, so it was a breach of contract. We had given them a chance to conduct it this year to which they initially agreed," Chatterjee told PTI.

"But later on, they said that the franchisees would not agree to have it for just 2017 season. They insisted that we allow them to conduct it for nine years as per the agreement but our Executive Committee rejected it," Chatterjee.

The senior AITA official also said CTL organisers also failed to pay 10 per cent of surplus amount.

"They never paid that 10 per cent citing losses," Chatterjee further added.

When contacted, Amritraj told PTI that they are completely shocked to hear the news. He also revealed that AITA had demanded to raise the

Annual Fixed fee.

"They knew very well that we were regrouping and making efforts to revive it. They wanted to almost double the amount of fee," Amritraj said.

"They have all our balance sheets, that show we have incurred losses, so how we would have paid 10 per cent of surplus when there was no profit," he said.

CTL CEO Arjun Rao said they were in the middle of reviving the league and were talking to teams and asserted that it was not a flawed financial model.

"I would not say it was a faulty model. It was financially viable. We were very hopeful to have a better league and now this puts us a few steps back in our efforts," Rao lamented.

Amritraj said it was difficult to raise money for tennis in India and AITA's decision was very unfortunate.

"Why do you think we have only one ATP tournament in India in last 21 years. It is because it is difficult to get sponsors for tennis. But we were making efforts and they knew everything. I really don't understand why they did it."

"If they wanted fee for 2016 then they should have terminated the contract in 2016 itself. Why wait till August 2017? They never wrote to us that you owe us fee," Rao reasoned.

Amritraj said it was set-back for tennis in country. "If Ramkumar won one set while playing against David Ferrer during the Spain tie, it was because he had practised with the same player during his CTL stint. We wanted to help our Indian players and it was great opportunity and exposure for them to play along side these players," Amritraj said.

### Kutse Shegu



The 49-day Kutse Shegu of our beloved father **late Norbu Thendup Bhutia** falls on **30th August 2017 [Wednesday]**. All friends, well-wishers and relatives are requested to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul at our residence

at **Upper Samdong, Kambal, East Sikkim**. We also take this opportunity to thank everyone who stood by us during the time of our bereavement.

*Tshering Doma Bhutia (Wife), Didup Bhutia, Gyalchen Bhutia, Sonam Cheda Bhutia (Sons), Kessang Bhutia, Susang Lepcha (Daughters-in-law), Tshering Bhutia, Gyalma Bhutia, Chumje Bhutia (Daughters) & all family members.*  
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# SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

## A World Beyond Models

**Keener minds will invest deeper thinking... and deliver**

It is not really possible for a person to understand what shapes another's culture unless s/he spends years in an active dialogue with that culture. If this statement were true, and it is, then one would expect development projects - which by definition aim to change the environment or the condition or even behaviour of a people - to be based on a deep understanding not only of obvious cultural differences, but of the underlying values and perceptions which shape a culture. But that would be too utopian to expect, won't it? Unfortunately, more and more development projects are conceived, planned and even executed by people whose schedule is so tight that they have to rely on a technique which allows them to turn projects at a rapid rate. They opt for what experts call the "bottleneck approach". Developmental analysts look for the bottleneck which is blocking their version of development from reaching the people. They then juxtapose.

Let's take the oldest failure (this might be highly contentious) of free India - its system of a quota for every ill. Analysts, when India got Independence, racked their brains why the adivasis and the dalits were not assimilating into the mainstream faster. Denial of equality, and through it, lack of education and opportunities was the obvious answer. So a quickfire solution was worked out - reservations. And sure enough many tribals started getting into premier institutes and then started landing cream jobs. Exulted with the results, the planners forgot part-B of their plan - social reform to ensure equality at all level and improving infrastructure in tribal areas. Education in the remote regions remained dismal and the reservation kept getting extended. The fact that 67 years on the reservation still exists is proof that the magic formula failed. This, not because the model was flawed, but because we failed as a society to end prejudices and casteism; the bottleneck still constricts access and acceptability.

What appears scary at this juncture, especially for Sikkim, is that the same bottleneck approach continues to be applied. People with little understanding of the uniqueness of each problem continue to dish out immediate remedies. Most times, those in positions of responsibility analyse the obvious and formulate solutions at the same simplistic level. Take Sikkim's hydel potential for example. Everyone knows that mountain streams are torrents of potential hydel power. Anyone will tell you that Sikkim needs to generate revenue. So a simple solution is offered - generate electricity. One wonders how much thought had gone into for whom this power is being generated and at what cost to the environment and socio-cultural balances on ground. As a result, even after some mega projects have already been commissioned, the State is still discovering hidden costs by way of local resentments and unaccounted for damages. Of course, better planning and projection by the project implementers and those tasked with the responsibility of oversight would not have caught so many people off guard so many times, but that's in the past now and should be noted down as necessary undertakings for future projects. Meanwhile, what should be borne in mind is that continuing engagement between the projects and the affected people should not be dictated by the needs of the implementing agency alone (in the garb of nation-building) and the ability of the people to absorb the changes and their need to remain masters of their own community and areas is respected as well.

The same would apply to tourism, the other thrust area. Entering into an enterprise without a clear plan and target in mind can clutter the mind and scuttle the project, neither of which Sikkim can afford. Sikkim is today poised at a stage where each decision will have far-reaching implications. While one can understand the pressures on the government since people in Sikkim take caution to be inaction, one would still advise informed dialogue before any venture. Most of what Sikkim has done since 1975 is implement central schemes with gusto. While this might speak volumes of the administration's ability to carry out orders, it does not reflect much innovation. As much as Sikkim needs the workhorses, it also needs imaginative and concerned thinkers. Some brilliant ideas have been seeded - skill development, Organic Sikkim, CATCH, CMRHM to name but a few - but even the fanboys will admit that in execution, these have achieved only a fraction of what the vision had seen possible. The new world order is such that it demands creativity, that's what Sikkim needs to promote and nurture.

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# How should we protest neo-Nazis? Lessons from German history

LAURIE MARHOEFER  
theconversation.com

After the murder of Heather Heyer in Charlottesville, many people are asking themselves what they should do if Nazis rally in their city. Should they put their bodies on the line in counterdemonstrations? Some say yes.

History says no. Take it from me: I study the original Nazis.

We have an ethical obligation to stand against fascism and racism. But we also have an ethical obligation to do so in a way that doesn't help the fascists and racists more than it hurts them.

## HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

Charlottesville was right out of the Nazi playbook. In the 1920s, the Nazi Party was just one political party among many in a democratic system, running for seats in Germany's Parliament. For most of that time, it was a small, marginal group. In 1933, riding a wave of popular support, it seized power and set up a dictatorship. The rest is well-known.

It was in 1927, while still on the political fringes, that the Nazi Party scheduled a rally in a decidedly hostile location - the Berlin district of Wedding. Wedding was so left-of-center that the neighborhood had the nickname "Red Wedding," red being the color of the Communist Party. The Nazis often held rallies right where their enemies lived, to provoke them.

The people of Wedding were determined to fight back against fascism in their neighborhood. On the day of the rally, hundreds of Nazis descended on Wedding. Hundreds of their opponents showed up too, organized by the local Communist Party. The antifascists tried to disrupt the rally, heckling the speakers. Nazi thugs retaliated. There was a massive brawl. Almost 100 people were injured.

I imagine the people of Wedding felt they had won that day. They had courageously sent a message: Fascism was not welcome.

But historians believe events like the rally in Wedding helped the Nazis build a dictatorship. Yes, the brawl got them media attention. But what was far, far more important was how it fed an escalating spiral of street violence. That violence helped the fascists enormously.

Violent confrontations with antifascists gave the Nazis a chance to paint themselves as the victims of a pugnacious, lawless left. They seized it.



It worked. We know now that many Germans supported the fascists because they were terrified of leftist violence in the streets. Germans opened their morning newspapers and saw reports of clashes like the one in Wedding. It looked like a bloody tide of civil war was rising in their cities. Voters and opposition politicians alike came to believe the government needed special police powers to stop violent leftists. Dictatorship grew attractive. The fact that the Nazis themselves were fomenting the violence didn't seem to matter.

One of Hitler's biggest steps to dictatorial power was to gain emergency police powers, which he claimed he needed to suppress leftist violence.

## THE LEFT TAKES THE HEAT

In the court of public opinion, accusations of mayhem and chaos in the streets will, as a rule, tend to stick against the left, not the right.

This was true in Germany in the 1920s. It was true even when opponents of fascism acted in self-defense or tried to use relatively mild tactics, such as heckling. It is true in the United States today, where even peaceful rallies against racist violence are branded riots in the making.

Today, right extremists are going around the country staging rallies just like the one in 1927 in Wedding. According to the civil rights advocacy organization the Southern Poverty Law Center, they pick places where they know antifascists are present, like university campuses. They come spoiling for physical confrontation.

Then they and their allies spin it to their advantage.

I watched this very thing happen steps from my office on the University of Washington campus. Last year, a right extremist speaker came. He was met by a counterprotest. One of his supporters shot a counterprotester. On stage, in the moments after the shooting, the right extremist speaker claimed that his opponents had sought to stop him from speaking "by killing people." The fact that it was one of the speaker's supporters, a right extremist and Trump backer, who engaged in what prosecutors now claim was an unprovoked and premeditated act of violence, has never made national news.

We saw this play out after Charlottesville, too. President Donald Trump said there was violence "on both sides." It was an incredible claim. Heyer, a peaceful protester, and 19 other people were intentionally hit by a neo-Nazi driving a car. He seemed to portray Charlottesville as another example of what he has referred to elsewhere as "violence in our streets and chaos in our communities," including, it seems, Black Lives Matter, which is a nonviolent movement against violence. He stirred up fear. Trump recently said that police are too constrained by existing law.

President Trump tried it again during the largely peaceful protests in Boston - he called the tens of thousands who gathered there to protest racism and Nazism "anti-police agitators," though later, in a characteristic

about-face, he praised them.

President Trump's claims are hitting their mark. A CBS News poll found that a majority of Republicans thought his description of who was to blame for the violence in Charlottesville was "accurate."

This violence, and the rhetoric about it coming from the administration, are echoes - faint but nevertheless frightening echoes - of a well-documented pattern, a pathway by which democracies devolve into dictatorships.

## THE ANTIFA

There's an additional wrinkle: the antifa. When Nazis and white supremacists rally, the antifa are likely to show up, too.

"Antifa" is short for antifascists, though the name by no means includes everyone who opposes fascism. The antifa is a relatively small movement of the far left, with ties to anarchism. It arose in Europe's punk scene in the 1980s to fight neo-Nazism.

The antifa says that because Nazism and white supremacy are violent, we must use any means necessary to stop them. This includes physical means, like what they did on my campus: forming a crowd to block ticket-holders from entering a venue to hear a right extremist speaker.

The antifa's tactics often backfire, just like those of Germany's communist opposition to Nazism did in the 1920s. Confrontations escalate. Public opinion often blames the left no matter the circumstances.

## WHAT TO DO?

One solution: Hold a counter-event that doesn't involve physical proximity to the right extremists. The Southern Poverty Law Center has published a helpful guide. Among its recommendations: If the alt-right rallies, "organize a joyful protest" well away from them. Ask people they have targeted to speak. But "as hard as it may be to resist yelling at alt-right speakers, do not confront them."

This does not mean ignoring Nazis. It means standing up to them in a way that denies them a chance for bloodshed.

The cause Heather Heyer died for is best defended by avoiding the physical confrontation that the people who are responsible for her death want.

*[the writer is Assistant Professor of History, University of Washington]*

# How the smartphone affected an entire generation of kids

JEAN TWENGE  
theconversation.com

As someone who researches generational differences, I find one of the most frequent questions I'm asked is "What generation am I in?"

If you were born before 1980, that's a relatively easy question to answer: the Silent Generation was born between 1925 and 1945; baby boomers were born between 1946 and 1964; Gen X followed (born between 1965 and 1979).

Next come millennials, born after 1980. But where do millennials end, and when does the next generation begin? Until recently, I (and many others) thought the last millennial birth year would be 1999 - today's 18-year-olds.

However, that changed a few years ago, when I started to notice big shifts in teens' behavior and attitudes in the yearly surveys of 11 million young people that I analyze for my research. Around 2010, teens started to spend their time much differently from the generations that preceded them. Then, around 2012, sudden shifts in their psychological well-being began to appear. Together, these changes pointed to a generational cutoff around 1995, which meant that the kids of this new, post-millennial generation were already in college.

These teens and young adults all have one thing in common: Their childhood or adolescence coincided with the rise of the smartphone.

## WHAT MAKES iGEN DIFFERENT

Some call this generation "Generation Z," but if millennials aren't called "Generation Y," "Generation Z" doesn't work. Neil Howe, who coined the term "millennials" along with his collaborator William Strauss, has suggested the next generation be called the "Homeland Generation," but I doubt anyone will want to be named after a government agency.

A 2015 survey found that two out of three U.S. teens owned an iPhone. For this reason, I call them iGen, and as I explain in my new book "iGen: Why Today's Super-Connected Kids are Growing up Less Rebellious, More Tolerant, Less Happy - and Completely Unprepared for Adulthood," they're the first generation to spend their adolescence with a smartphone.

What makes iGen different? Growing up with a smartphone has affected nearly every aspect of

their lives. They spend so much time on the internet, texting friends and on social media - in the large surveys I analyzed for the book, an average of about six hours per day - that they have less leisure time for everything else.

That includes what was once the favorite activity of most teens: hanging out with their friends. Whether it's going to parties, shopping at the mall, watching movies or aimlessly driving around, iGen teens are participating in these social activities at a significantly lower rate than their millennial predecessors.

iGen shows another pronounced break with millennials: Depression, anxiety, and loneliness have



shot upward since 2012, with happiness declining.

The teen suicide rate increased by more than 50 percent, as did the number of teens with clinical-level depression.

## A LINK THAT CAN'T BE IGNORED

I wondered if these trends - changes in how teens were spending their free time and their deteriorating mental health - might be connected. Sure enough, I found that teens who spend more time on screens are less happy and more depressed, and those who spend more time with friends in person are happier and less depressed.

Of course, correlation doesn't prove causation: Maybe unhappy people use screen devices more.

However, as I researched my book, I came across three recent studies that all but eliminated that possibility - at least for social media. In two of them, social media use led to lower well-being, but lower well-being did not lead to social media use.

Meanwhile, a 2016 study randomly assigned some adults to give up Facebook for a week and others to

continue using it. Those who gave up Facebook ended the week happier, less lonely and less depressed.

## WHAT ELSE IS LOST?

Some parents might worry about their teens spending so much time on their phones because it represents a radical departure from how they spent their own adolescence. But spending this much time on screens is not just different - in many ways, it's actually worse.

Spending less time with friends means less time to develop social skills. A 2014 study found that sixth graders who spent just five days at a camp without using screens ended the time better at reading emotions on others' faces, suggesting that iGen's screen-filled lives might cause their social skills to atrophy.

In addition, iGen reads books, magazines and newspapers much less than previous generations did as teens: In the annual Monitoring the Future survey, the percentage of high school seniors who read a nonrequired book or magazine nearly every day dropped from 60 percent in 1980 to only 16 percent in 2015. Perhaps as a result, average SAT critical reading scores have dropped 14 points since 2005. College faculty tell me that students have more trouble reading longer text passages, and rarely read the required textbook.

This isn't to say that iGen teens don't have a lot going for them. They are physically safer and more tolerant than previous generations were. They also seem to have a stronger work ethic and more realistic expectations than millennials did at the same age. But the smartphone threatens to derail them before they even get started.

To be clear, moderate smartphone and social media use - up to an hour a day - is not linked to mental health issues. However, most teens (and adults) are on their phones much more than that.

Somewhat to my surprise, the iGen teens I interviewed said they would rather see their friends in person than communicate with them using their phones. Parents used to worry about their teens spending too much time with their friends - they were a distraction, a bad influence, a waste of time. But it might be just what iGen needs.

*[the writer is Professor of Psychology, San Diego State University]*



## MZP condemns decrease in MBBS seats for Mizoram

**AIZAWL, AUG 22 (PTI):** Mizo Zirlai Pawl (MZP), an apex student body of the state, today strongly condemned the drastic decrease in allocation of MBBS seats for Mizoram by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The MZP, in a press statement said that earlier, Mizoram, which does not have medical college of its own, used to have between 25 to 27 seats in different medical colleges across the country which was reduced to 17 this year despite acute shortage of doctors in the state.

"As if to add insult to the injury, the medical colleges identified this year for the state happened to be amongst the lower ranked medical institutes," the statement said.

## West DC chairs coordination meeting with HoDs

**contd from pg01** rections given earlier in meetings were reiterated by the District Collector and departments were requested to take up all pending works.

The Chief Minister's directions given during the Janta Mela are to be complied with strictly, it was stated during the meeting.

The meeting agreed upon completing all the pending projects of line departments at the earliest by all departments. Active participation was called for in monthly cleanliness drive, weekly field inspection, career counseling, employee welfare fund establishment and better coordination. Accounts of Bhanu Jayanti and Independence Day were placed in detail and all shortcomings of the celebration were pointed out.

There is a saving of more than Rs 1 lakh which will further increase as there are still some pending contributions. This will be utilized for improving the stage at Kyongsa ground for future and contributions will be made to employee welfare fund.

# Oinam Bembem Devi dedicates Arjuna Award to women of India

**NEW DELHI, AUG 22 (PTI):** Oinam Bembem Devi, the flagbearer of Indian women's football for over two decades, today dedicated her Arjuna Award to women of the country who are trying to break the stereotypes.

The 37-year-old Bembem Devi retired from international football last year during the South Asian Games in Shillong, having represented India in 85 games and scoring 32 goals.

"I dedicate this to all the women in the country who overcome hurdles every day in the sociological context to excel in their respective fields. This award is for all of them as much it is for my mom, all my teammates and coaches.



"I also need to thank AIFF for the continuous support," Bembem Devi was quoted as saying 'www.the-aiff.com'.

Bembem Devi made her international debut in 1995 and is closely associated with All India Football Federation (AIFF) for spreading awareness about women's football in India.

Asked how much her Arjuna recognition would help to enhance the women's game in the country, the Manipuri said, "As I said, there are sociological obstacles in India which sometimes disallow girls to play football.

"I feel my award will encourage parents to send the girl child to play football as now they understand that you can win an Arjuna Award by playing women's football in India."

Bembem Devi, who once took back her retirement, eventually bowed out on a high after winning the SAF Games gold medal in Shillong in February 2015.

"After my initial retirement, I was floored when AIFF called me up and requested me to take back my retirement. 'You deserve a better farewell' I was told.

"I wasn't sure, but they insisted. It eventually came when we won the SAF Games gold medal before a packed house in Shillong. I am not sure if this has ever happened

in Indian football ever. Thank you AIFF for giving me the honour," an emotional Bembem Devi said.

Talking further about the Arjuna Award, she said, "It is one of the highest recognitions for any sportsperson in India.

Right from childhood I have heard about the Arjuna Award.

"No sportsperson ever plays for any recognition but at times, it can be so satisfying. My sacrifice over the past two decades has not gone waste."

Asked if she had any message for the girls, Bembem Devi said, "Follow your dream and always believe in yourself. There is no alternate to hard work. Aim for the sky and you will achieve it.



## Shahabuddin charge-sheeted in journalist murder case

**MUZAFFARPUR, AUG 22 (PTI):** Former RJD MP Mohammad Shahabuddin was today charge sheeted by the CBI in a special court here for the offences of murder and criminal conspiracy in the killing of journalist Rajdeo Ranjan in May last year.

Sunil Singh Rawat, the investigating officer of the case, and public prosecutor Deep Narayan submitted the charge sheet against Shahabuddin, a four-time MP from Siwan, and six others before CBI judge Anupam Kumari.

Defence lawyer Sharad Sinha said that the other accused against whom the agency has filed the charge sheet are Azahrudin Beig alias Laddan Mian, Rishi Kumar Jaiswal, Rohit Kumar Soni, Vijay Kumar Gupta, Ranjeet Kumar and Sonu Kumar Gupta.

This is a supplementary charge sheet by the CBI as the agency had filed its earlier charge sheet against one accused in December, 2016.

Bihar Police had charge sheeted six persons in the case before the probe was taken over by the agency. A total of eight accused have been charge-sheeted so far in the case.

The CBI has charged Shahabuddin, currently lodged in the high-security Tihar Jail in Delhi, under IPC sections re-

lated to criminal conspiracy and murder and provisions of Arms Act, a statement from the agency said here.

"The charge sheet has been filed under section 120B (criminal conspiracy) read with 302 (murder) of the IPC as well as section 27 of the Arms Act," Sinha told PTI over phone.

The charge sheet has not been submitted against two other accused Mohammad Javed and Mohammad Kaif who are out on bail in the case as the investigation is currently underway, Sinha said.

It may be noted that the special CBI court on May 26 had made Shahabuddin an accused in the murder case.

The four-time RJD MP from Siwan is alleged to have been involved in the murder of Rajdeo Ranjan, a journalist of a prominent Hindi daily in Siwan.

Shahabuddin is facing trial in more than 45 criminal cases. He was moved to the Tihar Jail in February this year on a Supreme Court order on a plea by Siwan native Chandrakeshwar Prasad whose three sons were killed in two separate incidents.

Rajdeo Ranjan, district bureau chief of the Hindi daily, was gunned down on May 13 last year and his wife had accused Shahabuddin of having a role in the killing.

## Association of ICSE schools to hold workshop on misuse of social media

**KOLKATA, AUG 22 (PTI):** The Association of ICSE Schools in West Bengal will organise a workshop for all its member schools in the city to build an awareness among students about the misuse of social media and the risk of 'Blue Whale Challenge' and similar online games.

"We will be holding the workshop by September 2017 where two student leaders from class 9 and 10 and one teacher from each school will be participating and speak

on the 'abuse and misuse of social media' and online games like 'Blue Whale Challenge'." Association Secretary Naba-run De told PTI here.

The students, chosen as leaders in their respective classes, will be appraised by cyber experts and resource persons about the dangers inherent in addiction to the social media, how it affects their studies, personal lives and how online games like 'Blue Whale Challenge' can be

fatal, De explained.

"They will then communicate the message to their classmates in a more cogent manner. We will be inviting all schools affiliated to our association including those in the Hills. We are sure of the participation from schools located in the plains," he said.

The move comes following a workshop at Central Modern School where De is the Principal.

"We have already conducted this exercise

in my institution where the students showed a lot of interest as resource persons interacted with them and their teachers," he said.

The workshop would also aim at sensitising students about too much addiction to smart phones loaded with various applications which may distract them from other curricular and extra-curricular activities, De said.

The association was planning to involve over

250 schools spread across West Bengal.

Blue Whale is a controversial Internet game in which a series of tasks, mostly brutal, are given to players for a period of 50 days by the administrators. The player is asked to share photos after finishing the different levels of the game. The game is spread via links on social media platforms.

Some of the deaths of children in the age group of 12-19 years have been linked to the game.

## Repatriation of Bru families during dry season: Singla

**AIZAWL, AUG 22 (PTI):** The Adviser (Bru), Ministry of Home Affairs has suggested that repatriation of Bru families from six relief in North Tripura might be undertaken during dry season, Mizoram Home department officials said today.

Mahesh Kumar Singla, Adviser (Bru) made this suggestion at a meeting held in Aizawl yesterday, the officials said, adding that the former visited some villages in Tripura border Mamit district and Assam border Kolasib district where those repatriated were proposed to be resettled.

"It is not yet clear if the Bru repatriation process would be taken up as the attempts were futile exercise with the Bru community lodged in the relief camps unwilling to return to Mizoram," the officials said.

They said that the Brus were making a plethora of excuses and several sets of new demands



as condition for their return to Mizoram every time the road map for the repatriation was being to be implemented.

The Centre also had to take up a series of initiatives before the repatriation process could be taken up, they said.

Thousands of Brus left Mizoram and migrated to Tripura after Lalzawlmlana, a forest guard was gunned down by Bru militants on October 21, 1997 inside Dampa Tiger Reserve near Persang hamlet.

The first attempt to repatriate them from November 16, 2009 not only did not take off, but a murder of Zarzoki-ma, a young boy near Bungth-uam village by the Bru militants triggered another wave of exodus.

## WB floods: Situation improves, people start returning home

**KOLKATA, AUG 23 (PTI):** People have started returning to their homes in the six water-ravaged districts of north Bengal, as the flood situation further improved today in absence of major rainfall in the region.

There was no report of any fresh death in the flood-hit districts of Alipurduar, Jalpaiguri, Coochbehar, North Dinajpur, South Dinajpur and Malda, an official said.

Floods in West Bengal have claimed 152 lives so far and affected around 1.5 crore people, even as the state has suffered a loss of around Rs 14,000 crore due to the deluge, according to the state government.

"Water has started receding from the flood-hit



areas in these districts and people are returning home. Situation is improving everyday," an official said at the state secretariat today.

The affected districts were being constantly monitored and medical officers being sent to

each household to provide necessary medication to children to guard them against bacterial infections in the aftermath of the floods, he added.

Train services remained suspended in the region as rail tracks continued to be inundated.

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## SHSC JUNIOR FOOTBALL TEAM WINS I-DAY CUP IN DUGA

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 22 AUG:** The junior team of Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club-Gangtok defeated Pendam Football Academy by a solitary goal made by Sujal Thapa of Himalayan Club in a thrilling match held on the occasion of the 71st Independence Day on 15 Aug at Duga in East Sikkim. The day long programme was organized by Duga Independence Day Celebration Committee. Sujal Thapa of Himalayan Club was adjudged as the Man of the Match during the event.

## 23rd edition of Delhi Book Fair from August 26

**NEW DELHI, AUG 22 (PTI):** The 23rd edition of the annual Delhi Book Fair will begin at Pragati Maidan here from August 26 here, the Indian Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) has announced.

The nine-day long fair organised by ITPO in association with Federation of Indian Publishers aims to promote literacy and reading habit among children and youth by bringing a vast panorama of books on a wide range of subject.

"Delhi Book Fair is playing a pivotal role in reiterating the might of the pen and the printed world and has come to be recognized as the biggest book bonanza keenly awaited by students, teachers, scholars, authors, intellectuals, librarians and book lovers," the ITPO wrote on its official website.

The fair will provide a platform for business to business transactions, establishing new contacts, entering into co-publishing arrangements, translation and copyright arrangements, reprinting of old and rare books, apart from providing retailing opportunities as a multitude of visitors to the fair.

A number of conferences and seminars, buyer-seller meets, book releases, book discussions, literary activities for children and meet-the-author will be organised during the fair.



## Third edition of Pinkathon in Guwahati

**GUWAHATI, AUG 22 (PTI):** The third edition of Pinkathon - Empowering Indian Women - will be held in Guwahati on October 15, its founder and super model Milind Soman said today.

Announcing the launch of the third edition of the country's biggest women's run, Soman said "Pinkathon is more than a marathon. It is the seed of change and the beginning of a movement that is carried forward by a growing community of empowered women across India who share a belief that a healthy family, a healthy nation and a healthy world begins with empowered women."

"The first step in empowerment is taking control of your own health, respecting your-

self and understanding and celebrating the value you bring to your family and society.

Empowerment is not a gift of society, it is a gift you give yourself," said the avid barefoot runner.

Twenty visually impaired and 20 hearing impaired girls would participate in the different category run, Soman said. Reema Sanghavi, co-founder of 'Pinkathon' said that the event has already been held in cities like Hyderabad, Kolkata, Pune, Chennai, Delhi and Mumbai this year and had been participated by over 85,000 women of all ages and across different walks of life in eight cities last year.

Starting this number is expected to cross one lakh in 2017 in nine cit-

ies, she said adding an integrated communication plan which includes several pre-event activities like training runs for first time women runners and cancer survivors would be held.

"There will also be an extensive online campaign to reach out to the masses and help the movement grow. We have also introduced the traditional attired cycle rally and the Fearless midnight run", Sanghavi added.

As a precursor to the main day, events such as Cancer Shero Trek in the name of cancer survivor A Shero is being organised. Part of its proceeds would be used by Women's Cancer Initiative in its fight against breast cancer, Sanghavi added.

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## Unicorn FC registers second win in B Division S-League

**SAGAR CHETTRI GANGTOK, 22 AUG:**

Unicorn Football Club has registered its second consecutive victory in the ongoing Sikkim Football Association B Division Sikkim-League 2017 here at Paljor Stadium. In its second match in the league today, Unicorn FC outplayed

Howlers Football Club by a lone goal.

Sangay D Bhutia scored the winning goal for Unicorn FC in the very early 1st minute of the match.

On 21 Aug, the second match of the league between SAI Namchi and Pendam Football Academy ended in 3-3 draw. Adhar Prad-

han scored a brace for Pendam FA while his teammate Sonam Lepcha added one more goal, while Basil Limboo, G Lepcha and Pinto Lepcha scored a goal each for SAI Namchi.

The fourth league match will be played between Brotherhood Football Club and SAI Namchi on 23 Aug.

## Vijender predicts more than 1 medal at World Championships

**POONAM MEHRA**

**NEW DELHI, AUG 22 (PTI):** Eight years ago, he scripted history by opening the country's account in amateur boxing's marquee event and Vijender Singh feels India might just go one better on that during the 19th World Championship, starting August 25 in Hamburg.

The 31-year-old had fetched a bronze medal at the 15th World Championship in Milan, just over a year after becoming India's first Olympic medallist in boxing -- a bronze-winner at the 2008 Beijing Games.

The nation has a bronze each to show for in the 2009, 2011 and 2015 World Championships -- the other two bronze-medallists, apart from Vijender, being Vikas Krishan (2011) and Shiva Thapa (2015).

"It is a mature bunch of boxers. I have been in teams that had Shiva (Thapa), Vikas (Krishan) and Manoj (Kumar). So, I know some of them well. They have the ability to ensure that India ends up with more than one medal. If they compete to their full potential, I think there is a real chance of more than one medal," Vijender told PTI in an interview.

"They have competed at the highest level in the past and know what they should do. I cannot give any suggestions to them but I can just say, they need to be very focussed," he added.

Both Vikas (75kg) and Shiva (60kg) are part of the eight-mem-



ber team, which has already reached Hamburg after qualifying for the event through the Asian Championships earlier this year.

The others in the team are Amit Phangal (49kg), Kavinder Bisht (52kg), Gaurav Bidhuri (56kg), Manoj Kumar (69kg), Sumit Sangwan (91kg) and Satish Kumar (+91kg).

A fair share of amateur history to his credit, Vijender turned professional in 2015 and has two titles to flaunt in an unbeaten run so far.

"That bronze medal I won in Milan was part of a beautiful phase in my career because it managed to silence some harsh critics, who felt that my medal in Beijing was a fluke. There were people who said that I was not training enough, within months of my medal in Beijing," Vijender said.

Vijender recalled how he sought solitude during both the Olympics and the World Championship.

"To me, focus has always meant shutting myself off before heading to a big tournament. I would just insulate myself from anything and everything that was going on outside the little space, which I would create for myself," he explained.

"There will always be expectations and I am sure the guys who are competing this time, are well aware of that. But to me, the key lies in not allowing that to play on the mind.

There has to be a single-minded focus on the ring, forget everything else, that's what I do," he said.

A former world No. 1 in middleweight amateur rankings, Vijender refused to pick favourites but did single out Thapa for praise.

"He has progressed tremendously and seems to be a very sorted boxer. I have been impressed by his growth," said the Haryana star about the 24-year-old, who is the first Indian to claim three back-to-back Asian Championship medals.

## Satyarthi to launch nation-wide yatra against child trafficking

**NEW DELHI, AUG 22**

**(PTI):** Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi today announced that he would embark on a 35-day 'Bharat Yatra', leading a fight against child trafficking and child sexual abuse across the country.

The yatra will begin in Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu on September 11 and will conclude in Delhi on October 15, after covering 22 states.

Satyarthi said, "I declare a war on child sexual abuse and trafficking. Today I am announcing the launch of 'Bharat Yatra', the biggest movement in history to make India safe again for children."

"I refuse to accept that the innocence, smiles and freedom of our children can keep getting stripped and raped.

These are not ordinary crimes. This is a moral epidemic haunting our nation," he said.

He also appealed to the people to join his march.



## Chennaiyin FC sign Spaniard Jaime Gavilan

**CHENNAI, AUG 22 (PTI):** Chennaiyin FC has signed Spanish attacking midfielder Jaime Gavilan Martinez for the upcoming season of the Indian Super League.

The 32-year-old has joined the 2015 ISL champions on a free transfer after the expiry of his contract at South Korean club Suwon FC.

Gavilan played in the second season of the ISL for Atletico de Kolkata. He made 15 starts for the Kolkata franchise, bagging three assists and helped them reach the semifinals, where they lost to eventual champions Chennaiyin FC 4-2 on aggregate.

After leaving ISL, Gavilan has been playing for South Korea's Suwon FC.

Gavilan said he was delighted to return to India and the ISL.

"I would like to thank Chennaiyin FC for giving me a chance to come back to India. I enjoyed my time here both on and off the field but this time I want to win the title. I look forward to giving my very best for Chennaiyin FC," Gavilan said.

Chennaiyin FC head coach John Gregory added: "Gavilan has exceptional technical quality with a fantastic CV. He also has the past experience of having played in the ISL two years ago when he had a very good season. He will add great value to our team going forward."

A product of the Valencia youth acad-

my, Gavilan represented Spain at various age group levels. He was part of Spain's U-16 and U-19 Euro success in 2001 and 2004 and was also a member of the 2003 Under-20 World Cup squad that lost to Brazil in the final.

Gavilan spent four seasons in the senior team of his boyhood club Valencia but most of his time there was spent on loan to Getafe and Tenerife. However, he appeared for Valencia in both the UEFA Champions League and Europa League.

In 2008, Gavilan sealed a permanent move to Getafe and spent six seasons there. In 2014, he moved to Levante but soon joined Greek outfit Platani.

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Singapore's oldest Hindu temple under investigation: report

SINGAPORE, AUG 22 (PTI): One of Singapore's oldest Hindu temples is under investigation over suspected criminal offences, a media report said today.

Commercial Affairs Department is conducting the probe into Sri Veeramakaliamman Temple, but it is "inappropriate" to comment further on the investigation, police said.

The Commissioner of Charities (COC) also said in a statement that it had been notified of the investigation and has also launched its own inquiry into the temple.

"The review identified certain areas of concern with regard to governance and administration, which warrant conducting an inquiry," Channel News Asia reported citing the statement.

The COC added that it will decide on the next course of action after the inquiry. In the meantime, religious activities will not be affected and the temple can continue with its operations and daily services, the COC said, adding that measures will be put in place to ensure the temple is properly managed.

The temple at Serangoon Road is a well-known landmark in the Little India area, with about 5,000 devotees on each Sundays and is popular among tourists. The temple was set up as a trust and obtained charity status in 1988. The temple, founded by Tamil pioneers in 1835, underwent a two-year-long, SGD7-million makeover which was completed in 2014.

China backs Pak after Trump's warning on terror safe havens

K J M VARMA  
BEIJING, AUG 22 (PTI): China today jumped to the defence of its all-weather ally Pakistan in the wake of US President Donald Trump's stern warning to it over providing safe havens to terrorists, saying that Islamabad is at the frontline of combating terrorism.

Trump, in his first prime-time televised address to announce his Afghanistan and South Asia policy, hit out at Pakistan for providing safe havens to "agents of chaos" that kill Americans in Afghanistan and warned Islamabad that it has "much to lose" by harbouring terrorists.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying, while reacting to Trump's comments on Pakistan, said, "Hope the relevant policy decision by US side will be conducive to promoting security, stability of the relevant region."

"(On) President Trump's

remarks on Pakistan, I should say that Pakistan is at the frontline of fighting terrorism, has made sacrifices in fighting terrorism, making an important contribution to upholding peace and stability," Hua said, strongly defending Beijing's all-weather friend.

Trump, in his address, slammed Pakistan for its support to terror groups and warned Islamabad of consequences if it continues to do so. Hua, in response to Trump's scathing criticism of Pakistan's support to terror groups, said, "I think the international community should truly affirm" the efforts by Pakistan in combating terrorism.

"We are pleased to see US and Pakistan to conduct co-operation in anti-terrorism efforts on the basis of mutual respect and contribute to the global peace and stability," she said.



On Trump indicating deepening ties with India, Hua said China is happy to see the development of normal and friendly relations between the two countries as long as such a relationship does not harm other countries and is conducive to regional development. "So we are pleased to see sound and normal relations between US and India," she said, hoping that the two sides will play a more constructive

role promoting regional peace and development.

Hua skirted a direct answer to a question on whether China's policies like blocking India's membership to the Nuclear Suppliers Group and efforts to get Jaish-e-Mohammed leader Masood Azhar banned by the UN had created more space for the US to develop closer ties with India, saying its bilateral ties with India or with the US will not

be targeted at a third party.

Hua also criticised India's action to block China's road building in Doklam region where the two sides are involved in a standoff. India's move at Doklam has a negative impact in the eyes of the Chinese people, she said.

India should match its words with deeds, Hua said while calling for unconditional withdrawal of Indian troops and equipment.

Asked about the impact of Trump's decision to follow a more proactive policy in Afghanistan on China, Hua said, the "Chinese side will uphold the objective and unbiased principle to promote friendly relations with other countries, based on the merits of the matter itself".

"We hope that the Trump administration's policy adjustment will be conducive to promoting peace and stability in South Asia," she said.

Doklam impasse: China rejects Rajnath's hope of early solution

BEIJING, AUG 22 (PTI): China said today that the only way to end the standoff in Doklam was for India to unconditionally withdraw its troops from the area, a day after Home Minister Rajnath Singh hoped Beijing would soon make a "positive" move.

Singh yesterday had hoped that a solution to the standoff in Doklam would be found soon and said India never attacked a nation nor did it harbour any expansionist behaviour. In a speech, he had also expressed hope that China will undertake a positive initiative to resolve the standoff.

India and China have been locked in a standoff for more than two months in Doklam near the Sikkim sector. The faceoff began after Indian troops stopped Chinese military from building a road India believes would allow Beijing to cut its access to the northeastern states.

Bhutan says Doklam belongs to it but China claims sovereignty over the area.

China's state media has written shrill commentaries over the standoff and has even released a video which portrayed Indians in a very poor taste.

But China responded with its standard propaganda attack by repeating its accusation that Indian troops "illegally crossed the boundary".

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said India's reasons to stop the Chinese road building activity in Doklam area was "ridiculous". "So the only prerequisite and condition of this incident is unconditional withdrawal of the Indian troops and equipment," Hua told reporters.

In a separate incident on August 15, Indian and Chinese troops engaged in stone pelting in Ladakh region that resulted in minor injuries to soldiers on both the sides.

Hua said China "loves peace and firmly upholds peace".

"At the same time we will safeguard our territorial sovereignty and integrity".

"We will not allow any country or any individual to infringe upon China's territorial sovereignty," she said.

Trump seeks greater role for India in Afghanistan's stability

LALIT K JHA  
WASHINGTON, AUG 22 (PTI): President Donald Trump today vowed to boost US' strategic partnership with India in Afghanistan but pressed New Delhi to provide more help to the war-torn country, especially in the economic sector, as it makes billions of dollars in trade with America.

Trump, in his first prime-time televised address to the nation as commander-in-chief, laid out his South Asia policy saying a "critical part" of it was to further develop US' strategic partnership with India.

He said after a "comprehensive review", it was decided that the American strategy in Afghanistan and South Asia will change dramatically.

The US President reached out to India seeking an enhanced role for New Delhi, especially in the economic field, to bring peace and stability in Afghanistan.

India, the world's largest democracy, is a key security and economic partner of the US, he said.

"We appreciate India's important contributions to stability in Afghanistan, but India makes billions of dollars in trade with the US, and we want them to help us more with Afghanistan, especially in the area of economic assistance and development," Trump said.

"We are committed to pursuing our shared objectives for peace and security in South Asia and the broader Indo-Pacific region," said the US Pres-

ident. Indo-US bilateral trade in goods and services increased from USD 104 billion in 2014 to USD 114 billion in 2016.

India has a strategic partnership with Afghanistan and is implementing projects worth USD 2 billion to help rebuild the country's infrastructure.

India has been supporting an Afghan-led, Afghan-owned, broad-based and inclusive process of peace and reconciliation, and advocating the need for a sustained and long-term commitment to Afghanistan by the international community.

In June last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani jointly inaugurated a landmark dam, a Rs 1,700 crore showpiece infrastructure project by India in strategically important Herat province.

In his speech, Trump came down heavily on Pakistan for its support to terror groups, saying Islamabad receives billions in aid from the US but continues to harbour terrorists.

"We can no longer be silent about Pakistan's

safe havens for terrorist organisations, the Taliban, and other groups that pose a threat to the region and beyond," he said.

"In the past, Pakistan has been a valued partner. Our militaries have worked together against common enemies. The Pakistani people have suffered greatly from terrorism and extremism. We recognise those contributions and those sacrifices," Trump said.

"But Pakistan has also sheltered the same organisations that try every single day to kill our

people," he added.

Trump noted that the US has been paying Pakistan billions and billions of dollars but it continues to house the very terrorists that America is fighting.

"But that will have to change. That will change immediately. No partnership can survive a country's harbouring of militants and terrorists who target US service members and officials. It is time for Pakistan to demonstrate its commitment to civilisation, order, and to peace," Trump said.

**FLAT AVAILABLE FOR COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS:** A flat measuring around 3,000 sq ft across an entire floor, conveniently located on the roadside and ideal for development into a showroom, bank or corporate office, is available for rent at Church Road, DPH. The property is available for immediate occupation and can also be developed to suit the requirements of prospective tenants. Contact: 9434117687

*Anthyesthi Kriya*

The 14th day Anthyesthi Kriya of late Mani Kumari Gurung who left for her heavenly abode on 10.08.2017 falls on 23.08.2017 [Wednesday]. All relatives, friends & well-wishers are requested to join us in the offering prayers for the departed soul on the above mentioned date at our residence at Middle Burtuk, Manbir Colony, Gangtok.

Ganga Psd. Gurung, Dil Psd. Gurung, Dhan Bdr. Gurung, Ram Bdr. Gurung [brothers-in-law], Ashib Gurung [son]  
Ph: 9564874111

**NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES**

DEAR PARROT EVENING  
Draw Time : 8:00 pm onward

Draw No:4 DrawDate on:22/08/17  
1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 938 16802  
(Including Super Prize Amt)  
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 16802 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)  
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-  
00718 12947 18209 34465 57582  
58603 73012 79854 87946 96004  
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-  
05785 07046 13409 14846 17383  
23354 26469 35971 36476 93719  
4th Prize Rs.1000/-  
2749 3867 4395 6120 6672 6984 7712 8576 8984 9174  
5th Prize Rs.500/-  
2087 2253 3041 3829 5788 6358 6468 7200 9430 9866  
6th Prize Rs.250/-  
0053 0074 0126 0131 0265 0293 0396 0531 0541 0597  
0995 1025 1092 1117 1276 1480 1579 1620 1734 1786  
1933 1946 2055 2073 2139 2216 2233 2320 2344 2386  
2424 2837 3008 3112 3139 3147 3211 3333 3402 3492  
3548 3639 3669 3824 4048 4102 4158 4201 4326 4351  
4417 4531 4848 4880 4960 5547 5566 5572 5644 5702  
5740 5774 6211 6320 6363 6577 6611 6638 6652 6732  
6830 6974 7317 7334 7490 7525 7575 7780 7872 8013  
8026 8065 8101 8148 8401 8426 8524 8590 8629 8660  
8831 8977 8981 9126 9140 9294 9392 9437 9637 9936  
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The Director, Nagaland State Lotteries, Kohima, Nagaland  
For Result, Please Visit : www.nagalandlotteries.com  
KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE

**SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES**

DEAR SINCERE  
Draw No:4 DrawDate on:22/08/17

1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 87H 06928  
(Including Super Prize Amt)  
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 06928 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)  
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-  
00049 14867 26577 43381 45313  
48110 50437 80898 84476 98150  
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-  
14648 22436 32230 39295 74336  
74883 76598 77205 82886 87075  
4th Prize Rs.1000/-  
1069 3459 4236 5932 5951 6249 7590 7960 8500 9828  
5th Prize Rs.500/-  
2632 4692 4940 5460 5536 8471 8506 9692 9790 9950  
6th Prize Rs.250/-  
0187 0190 0228 0276 0376 0507 0783 0851 0923 1033  
1073 1080 1289 1417 1529 1628 1641 1647 1674 2259  
2365 2385 2513 2737 2938 2955 3003 3227 3271 3591  
3692 3828 3868 4023 4035 4081 4136 4139 4157 4340  
4585 4741 4770 4921 5005 5094 5138 5171 5453 5602  
5860 5895 5898 5943 6228 6271 6317 6406 6561 6643  
6713 6785 6794 6974 6981 7051 7226 7483 7521 7572  
7588 7622 7663 7805 7809 7832 7981 8097 8410 8411  
8546 8573 8592 8627 8641 8690 8971 9000 9002 9040  
9061 9097 9540 9556 9664 9670 9720 9760 9883 9989  
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The Director, Sikkim State Lotteries, Gangtok  
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**MIZORAM STATE LOTTERIES**

DEAR FORTUNE MORNING  
Draw No:4 DrawDate on:22/08/17

1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 95B 96942  
(Including Super Prize Amt)  
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 96942 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)  
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-  
04575 11376 11650 13904 19184  
71115 80898 88723 91332 93556  
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-  
05378 18022 37231 53993 60303  
65367 70279 83333 90905 94299  
4th Prize Rs.1000/-  
0787 1451 2249 5349 5945 6216 6793 8631 9120 9423  
5th Prize Rs.500/-  
0143 2331 3460 3712 4366 4876 4944 6897 7838 8544  
6th Prize Rs.250/-  
0198 0228 0304 0312 0432 0470 0473 0587 0620 0626  
0694 1197 1336 1348 1454 1599 1625 2075 2259 2373  
2528 2538 2575 2619 2660 2893 3029 3280 3436 3473  
3673 4109 4408 4458 4516 4696 4728 4951 5021 5035  
5163 5278 5404 5481 5485 5564 5581 5617 5691 5825  
5835 5849 5872 5923 5965 6046 6058 6095 6127 6329  
6539 6695 6728 6866 6904 6965 6982 7012 7045 7168  
7274 7451 7505 7582 7652 7673 7704 7726 7728 7756  
7818 8127 8193 8304 8325 8632 8633 8634 8639 8793  
8907 9076 9206 9354 9369 9655 9804 9872 9908 9989  
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For results please visit: www.mizoramlotteries.com



# TAYLOR SWIFT IS BACK WITH NEW MUSIC!!

**Swifties gather around. This is not a drill!!**

Is it a snake? A subtle nod towards Game of Thrones' overnight game-changer? A tease at her new persona, Swiftzilla?

The slippery answer to Taylor Swift's confounding reptilian post on Instagram isn't too far off, with a new single and music video expected out on Friday, Us Weekly reports.

"The song is poppy," the magazine notes, quoting the kind of knowledge-bomb only an inside source can deliver.

"She's being really secretive about it, but it's going to be a good one," another source says. But Swift's over 102 million online followers may be a bit more clued in on her coming moves than

tabloid sources.

The singer sparked an online frenzy overnight with the mysterious clip, posted just days after turning her online footprint into a "blank space".

Swift, 27, had deleted her entire web presence on Saturday – Instagrams, tweets, Facebook page and official website – in what followers

interpreted as the first step in a publicity campaign for a new album, her first since 2014's chart-topping, multi-platinum 1989. The static-y clip, which runs for

ten seconds, shows a reptilian tail flapping around silently – no context or clues to its



significance, a savvy Rorschach test for both fans and haters.

What does it mean? The internet shrugged.

But most, including Billboard magazine, have taken Swift's history with 'snake' iconography and run – or should that be slithered – with it.

## what's TRENDING



**LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON:** Michael Phelps carried his son, Boomer, on his back while swimming alongside wife Nicole at the Huggies Little Swimmers swim class for The Phelps Foundation in New York City.



## KATY PERRY TEASES STAR-STUDED BASKETBALL-THEMED 'SWISH SWISH' MUSIC VIDEO

Another one in the basket.

Katy Perry released a trailer ahead of a full-length music video for her hit song "Swish Swish," on Monday, August 21, gifting fans with a sneak peak of what's to come. The 54-second basketball-themed clip (directed by Dave Meyers), follows a battle between two basketball teams – "the Sheep" and "the Tigers" – and is described as "the hottest

tain.

In addition to the trailer's main players, there are several celebrity cameos – from Stranger Things' Gaten Matarazzo, Glee's Jenna Ushkowitz and YouTube star Christina Sydelko to sports-casters Bill Walton and Rich Eisen serving as announcers. Nicki Minaj, who guests on the track, is teased as playing "herself," but is not shown in the trailer.

This is not the first time the "Firework" singer has called on her celebrity friends to appear in one of her music videos. In her 2011 "Last Friday Night" video, the songstress invited Darren Criss, Rebecca Black, Kevin McHale, Kenny G and more to join in on the fun.

## JUDWAA 2 TRAILER UNLEASHED AND ITS GREAT!!!



The much-anticipated trailer of 'Judwaa 2' has arrived with a bang starring Varun Dhawan, Jacqueline Fernandez and Taapsee Pannu. The action-packed over three-minutes video sees the story unfold much like the original one. Walking in the footsteps of Salman Khan, Varun has gone

ahead and tried his best to mimic the actor in the scenes recreated for the second installment of the film. Jacqueline and Taapsee add the fresh millennial vibe to the plot. With quirky one-liners and an uncanny resemblance to the original script, this film looks like it retains the flavor of the 1997 cult classic, albeit with a dash of new-age masala.

The story revolves around two brothers (twins) born to an honest businessman, who are separated at birth when their father exposes a smuggling racket and a kingpin. One of the brothers is thought to be dead but only

resurfaces stronger after living life on the streets to reunite with his family over a sequence of events and twist of fate. Genetically bound by reflexes both the brother's lives interlink in strange ways and a comedy of errors ensues. They eventually come together to destroy the smuggling nexus and save their family from a downfall that awaits them. 'Judwaa 2' is scheduled to release on September 29, 2017.

**BOLLYBUZZ!!!**

## PAKISTAN BANS THE RELEASE OF PARTITION: 1947

Director Gurinder Chadha's Partition: 1947, the Hindi version of Viceroy's House has been disallowed to release in Pakistan because of alleged misrepresentation of Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Director Chadha tweeted on August 20th, "It is unfortunate my film has been banned in Pakistan. It will always be the land of my ancestors." The film is about the inside life of the Viceroy's House in 1947 during the Partition of India featuring Hugh Bonneville, Gillian Anderson, Huma Qureshi and Manish Dayal.

According to The Express Tribune, the Sindh Film Censor Board considered it unsuitable, stating that "the political narrative contradicts the national interest of Pakistan".

The Board's secretary Abdul Razzaq Khuahar was quoted thus: "It's a historical film and nothing negative is shown against Pakistan. The main reason for banning it was the misrepresentation of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

"We felt his character was not portrayed correctly and it felt strange. Although the character only appears in a few scenes as the film mostly revolves around Lord Mountbatten, the actor didn't look like Jinnah at all. If you had seen it, you couldn't tell it was Jinnah. Otherwise, there were no issues with the film."



**23<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST WORLD HISTORY**

**1617:** The first one-way streets opened in London.

**1754:** Louis XVI, King of France (1774-1793), was born at Versailles. During the French Revolution he met his fate at the guillotine. He was the grandson of Louis XV and married Marie Antoinette.

**1833:** The British Parliament ordered the abolition of slavery in its colonies by Aug 1, 1834. This would free some 700,000 slaves, including those in the West Indies.

**1839:** British captured Hong Kong from China.

**1914:** The Emperor of Japan sided with the Allies and declared war on Germany in World War I.

## INDIAN HISTORY

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY

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

**1872:** Tanguturi Prakasam, great lawyer, journalist, nationalist, politician, leader, social reformer and former chief minister of Andhra Pradesh, was born at Kanuparthi village in Ongole district in Andhra Pradesh.

**1942:** Gorabai Katiya, freedom fighter, was shot by police while participating in a procession for freedom movement in Narsihapur.

**1986:** Shambhoo Anbhawane of Mumbai broke the world record of the longest duration typing marathon.

**2004:** The Lok Sabha passed the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), which ensures a livelihood for millions of poor living in rural areas.

## LOCKHORNS

- HOGST & REINER



"NEVER MIND OLD ACQUAINTANCES ... TOMORROW, LEROY WILL HAVE FORGOTTEN EVERYTHING HE'S DONE TONIGHT."

## ARCTIC CIRCLE



## BABY BLUES

- KIRKMAN & SCOTT



**ARIES:** Spend time with someone you love today, Aries, but keep things light and easy. Don't go too deep, and don't expect others to necessarily feel the things you feel. You might feel slighted when others don't give you the attention that you think you deserve. Don't take it personally. Others may be unfocused and short of attention. Don't expect any major commitments or deep conversations right now.

**TAURUS:** Love is in the air for you, Taurus. You will be rewarded handsomely because you have so many things to offer. Spread your love everywhere. Skip from place to place and person to per-

son, receiving smiles of pleasure. Put your worries aside. There's every reason to be happy. Laughter keeps you young.

**GEMINI:** You feel indecisive when it comes to a romantic situation, Gemini. You might ask yourself questions about how to proceed. Don't get overwhelmed by all the possibilities. Take things one step at a time. The more you read into each small gesture, the crazier you will drive yourself. Don't run around in circles. Confront the issues.

**CANCER:** Things should go quite well in the department of love today, Cancer. Pursue creative projects in social environments. The

more time you spend with others, the more fulfilled you'll be by sundown. You're fueled by others' energy. Spend time with the people you love and you'll feel a solid sense of self-worth.

**LEO:** Stay busy today, Leo. Keep your mind occupied with basic tasks that need doing. You can accomplish a lot by multitasking, writing down a plan, and sticking to it. There is no shortage of things that need to be done so stop procrastinating. If you feel stuck on something, don't be afraid to ask for help. Friends and co-workers are your greatest resources right now.

**VIRGO:** You're at an emotion-

al climax now, Virgo. Things are coming to a critical point. Little issues in your relationships that you've ignored are coming back to haunt you. Someone could be trying to cross you at this time, or maybe it just feels that way. Don't get overly paranoid. The whole world isn't out to get you.

**LIBRA:** You may feel confused, Libra. If so, take a breath and slow down. Being frantic will only run you in circles. Your heart and mind are buzzing in all directions, so try to settle down. Don't feel like you need to come up with any particular solutions. Trying to pin things down will only frustrate you and waste your time.

**SCORPIO:** Embrace your loved ones, Scorpio. Let your heart lead the way. Things will flow your way if you let them. Don't try to fight the good fortune that comes. If you try to force the door open, it won't budge. Knock gently and it will open by itself. You mind is quick today. Get things moving in a positive direction. Jump on the uphill spiral to success.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Listen to the birds today, Sagittarius. They have a song for you, telling you to be happy. Take time to do things that make you feel good. Connect with creative people and projects that get your artistic juices flowing. Keep things light and uplifting. It

may be hard to make a decision about anything right now, but don't let that keep you from being productive.

**CAPRICORN:** There is power behind your heart, Capricorn, and you might come across more forcefully than usual in the love and romance department. This is a good day to make a bold move toward someone. Your internal fire burns more brightly than ever. Share this warmth. Spreading your love will ensure that people are happy to keep you warm on days when your fire sputters out.

**AQUARIUS:** You might feel like your heart requires a bit more attention than usual, Aquarius. There

could be a close loved one who is even needier than you. Either way, this situation is going to cause tension in an important relationship. If you're not currently involved with someone, this is probably for the better. Things aren't always as they seem.

**PISCES:** Things go well in your love life today, Pisces, but only if you let them happen. You must first open your arms to give and receive. If your arms are full of laundry, it will be harder for people to hug you. Take your clothes to the cleaners and keep your arms free to receive the love you need. Remember that giving is as important as receiving.