

SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Bimal says strike will continue

Darjeeling, 31 Aug (PTI): Meanwhile, GJM supremo Bimal Gurung, who is in hiding and was not present in the GJM central committee meeting, however, said there is no question of suspending the strike unless talks begin on separate state of Gorkhaland.

"So many people have died for the statehood cause.

Suspending the strike at this stage means betraying their sacrifices. Most of the central committee members were not privy to the decision - even I was not informed. He (Tamang) has no authority to take a decision on shutdown," Bimal Gurung said from an undisclosed location.

"He (Tamang) took this decision on his own. He is playing into the hands of state government. People of the hills will not forgive him," said Gurung, who is in hiding after the police slapped charges against him under UAPA or Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

Govt extends deadline for Aadhaar-PAN linkage till 31 Dec

NEW DELHI, AUG 31 (PTI): The government today extended by four months the deadline for linking PAN with biometric identifier Aadhaar till December 31, a source said.

The deadline for linking PAN with Aadhaar for taxpayers was to end today. This comes at a time when the government has granted a similar extension for furnishing of Aadhaar for availing the benefits of various social welfare schemes.

The revenue department will notify December 31 as the due date for linkage.

Also, the Supreme Court is hearing petitions challenging the government's decision on Aadhaar and has posted the matter for next hearing in November.

And so, the extension was in line, the source said.

Section 139 AA (2) of the Income Tax Act says that every person having PAN as on July 1, 2017, and is eligible to obtain Aadhaar, must intimate his Aadhaar number to the tax authorities.

However, those categorised as non-resident Indians as per the Income Tax laws, people who are not citizens of India, those above 80 years of age and residents of the states of Assam, Meghalaya and

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GJM split on bandh status- Tamang says lifted, Giri insists it continues

DARJEELING, AUG 31 (PTI): The Gorkha Janmukti Morcha put off indefinite bandh in the Darjeeling hills from tomorrow till the next round of talks with the West Bengal government on September 12, its convenor Binay Tamang said here today.

The indefinite shutdown in the hills, which had entered its 78th day today, demanding a separate Gorkhaland state, had paralysed normal life.

"The indefinite bandh will remain suspended for 12 days from tomorrow. Shops, markets, offices, schools, tea gardens will open and transport will be on the road



from 6 am tomorrow," Tamang told reporters after the party's central committee meeting.

GJM general secretary Roshan Giri, however, said the bandh will continue.

Tamang said the next round of dialogue with the state government on the situation in the hills

is scheduled for September 12.

"If the outcome of the dialogue is not positive, we will convene a meeting on the same day and decide whether to resume the shutdown or chalk out a new course of action," he said.

Asked whether GJM supremo Bimal Gurung,



who was not present in the meeting, had been apprised of the central committee's decision to suspend the bandh, Tamang said, "He will be informed."

But, GJM general secretary Roshan Giri said the bandh will continue and there is no question of withdrawing it.

"Gurung has said the strike will continue and there is no question of withdrawing it," Giri claimed.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had described the August 29 talks, which were held at the state secretariat, as "positive and cordial" and said talks will continue to restore peace and normalcy in the hills.

The hill leaders had raised the issue of Gorkhaland statehood at the meeting but the state government did not agree, she had said.

Earlier today, the GJM convenor ruled out having any differences with party chief Bimal Gurung and said he was asked by

the party's leadership to join a meeting convened by the West Bengal government recently to discuss the situation in the bandh-bound Darjeeling hills.

He said the state government had sent a letter in his name to attend the August 29 meeting but that he had refused to go.

He further said the party made him convenor at a meeting at Mangpu and he was asked by the GJM leadership to join the talks.

"What wrong did I do? I have been threatened on Facebook for joining the talks. I felt insulted," he told a GJM meeting at Kurseong.

Tamang said the in-

definite shutdown in the hills, which was put off on its 78th day today, was called over the demand for a separate state of Gorkhaland. "But the leadership also needs to understand the pulse of the masses."

Ruling out any differences with the Gorkha Janamukti Morcha chief, he said, "Bimal Gurung is the undisputed leader of the Gorkhaland movement. It is since 2007 that Gurung and Roshan Giri have been fighting for Gorkhaland."

Tamang said he had been with them for the last few years.

"Bimal Gurung is like my elder brother. Don't

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North Sikkim's first degree college inaugurated

**WANGCHUK BHUTIA
MANGSHILA, 31 AUG:**

Human Resource Development Minister, RB Subba today inaugurated North Sikkim's first degree college 'Govindanagar Arts College' at Mangshila, North Sikkim. Mr Subba was accompanied by Sikkim Legislative Assembly Deputy Speaker, Sonam Gyatso Lepcha, Forest Minister, Tshering Wangdi Lepcha, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Hishey Lachungpa and Kabi-Lungtsok MLA, Ugen Nedup Bhutia.

The college has 69 students in its first batch. HRDD Director, DK Pradhan while delivering his welcome speech said that the department had always wanted a degree college in North Sikkim. He talked about the efforts and contributions of the state government in establishing the college in Mangshila.

SLA Deputy Speaker cum Area MLA, Sonam Gyatso Lepcha urged the people to maintain a 'good and positive am-



biency' around the college premises. He talked about Mangshila being an 'educational hub' and how the state government is focused on establishing several educational institutes in the area.

Mr Lepcha also addressed the delay in the completion of the polytechnic college in Mangshila and appealed to

the HRD Minister to look into the matter and ensure the completion of the college in time. He also appealed to the HRD Minister to include Bhutia, Lepcha and Limboo languages as subjects in the college.

MP (Rajya Sabha), Hishey Lachungpa in his address urged the HRD Minister to initiate the construction of perma-

nent infrastructure of the college soon.

Forest Minister, Tshering Wangdi Lepcha congratulated the students and the people of Mangshila for the inauguration of the district's first degree college and said that the establishment of a college in the district 'will help and benefit the entire district'. He motivated the

students to work hard and aim high.

The chief guest, in his speech, said that the inauguration of the college is a historic milestone for North Sikkim.

"This year we have established three colleges in Sikkim and we are also planning to establish a Girls college in North Sikkim which is

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HC pulls up Dept for delaying Sichey-Ranka road work

**DIRECTS ROADS
AND BRIDGES TO
COMPLETE WORK
IN 4 WEEKS**

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 31 AUG:**

The High Court of Sikkim has pulled up the State Roads & Bridges department for delaying the completion of the Sichey-Ranka road and has directed it to complete the work within four weeks or face an inquiry.

Chief Justice Satish Kumar Agnihotri and Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai passed the order on 30 Aug while hearing a PIL filed by the public of Ranka. The court has directed the Department to complete the work within four weeks and submit a report, failing which, necessary inquiry may be initiated.

The Roads and Bridges Department has not completed work on the 11 km Sichey-Ranka double lane road even after five years since the initial deadline. This has

caused huge inconvenience to the public of the area.

The state government had issued the work order way back in May 2011, with specific direction to complete the work within specific time of 18 months.

The division bench observed that even after the specific time was over the same Contractor was granted additional time again and again without verifying the fact as to why the contract could not be completed within the specified period.

On an earlier occasion also, the Chief Engineer of State Public Works Department [Road and Bridges department] was fined Rs.10,000 for not completing the works by March 2017 as affirmed in their affidavit.

The High Court was furious on the deliberate delay of completion of contract work. Representing the State, Additional Advocate General J B Pradhan submitted that substantial works have been done;

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Darjeeling hills face the moment of truth

**SUDIPTA CHANDA
SILIGURI, 31 AUG:**

The Darjeeling hills bandh is suspended - Binay Tamang from Kurseong on Thursday. The bandh will continue - Bimal Gurung through Roshan Giri also on Thursday from undisclosed locations.

The conflicting statements came within a span of two hours completely confusing the hill population. They are now literally caught between the devil and the deep sea.

This could, however, be

the moment of truth for the Darjeeling hills. Thirsting to end the protracted bandh if the people choose to respond to Tamang's call and decide to suspend the bandh even for a day on Friday, it is politically curtains for Bimal Gurung and his loyalists.

And that makes this touch and go situation very dangerous. What can now Gurung and his aides do to deflect the opening the state government has provided to the people though Binay Tamang? He can

paint Tamang with the treacherous brush, whip up public sentiment again in the name of Gorkhaland and re-launch the movement.

But, doing all that from hiding is impossible even in the name of Gorkhaland. So, it is just a matter of time before the hills get to see another face emerging to represent Gurung - Roshan Giri.

Not that Giri is an unfamiliar face, but, he has always lived in the shadow of Gurung's leadership like Binay

Tamang. With Tamang now falling from Gurung's grace and the GJM chief unable to surface due to legal issues, Giri is expected to lead by proxy henceforth.

The Darjeeling coup, very nearly there, will have to wait for some more time before the picture of who, Tamang or Gurung, is calling the shots becomes clear. Round one has not thrown up any clear winners.

The turn of events has blurred the August 29 meeting between the Tamang-led

faction of the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) and the state government in Kolkata. The next meeting scheduled on September 12 in Siliguri looks tentative from here on.

Thursday's developments have in effect chiseled a split in the GJM. On one side are Bimal Gurung and the hawks, on the other and enjoying the state government's support are Binay Tamang and the moderates.

Suspicion of a split in the party was hanging heavy in the air for some time, but

Thursday's developments confirm that the GJM has suffered a vertical split.

What happens from here on? Does Binay Tamang withdraw his new-found authority, or does he with support from the state government go for the jugular to wrest complete political authority in the hills? And, how well would he be accepted in the hills if he does so? The ponderables are many. The cat, however, is out of the bag. There is no retracting from here for either side.

One booked under SADA

GANGTOK, 31 AUG:

A 28-year-old man from Jalipool, East Sikkim has been arrested and booked under Sikkim Anti Drugs Act, 2006 on 30 Aug by Rangpo police as he was found carrying a substantial amount of contraband substances. The accused was reportedly trying to cross the check post located in Rangpo when the police intercepted him and interrogated him about his whereabouts. The accused told the police that he was returning home from West Bengal. The police then conducted a thorough search of his belongings during which 235 Spasmodoxyn capsules and 48 N-10 tablets were recovered. The accused was immediately placed under police custody and the recovered contrabands were seized and sent for chemical analysis.

Man arrested for sexual assault on minor

GANGTOK, 31 AUG:

A man from East Sikkim has been accused of sexually assaulting a minor girl. According to a police report, the accused had committed the crime on 29 Aug when the minor girl was on her way to visit her grandmother. The victim has reportedly said that the accused had been sexually assaulting her since a very long time. The victim was sent to hospital for medical examination while the accused has been arrested and booked under Protection Of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012.

Husband accused of assaulting wife

GANGTOK, 31 AUG:

A 42-year-old man from Gyalshing, West Sikkim has been accused of assaulting his wife (32) and inflicting injuries on her. According to a police report filed at the police station by the victim's brother, the accused reportedly assaulted the victim breaking two of her fingers and injuring her left hand. The victim has reportedly confessed that the accused used to physically assault her for 'no reason'. After the incident was reported at the police station, the accused has reportedly absconded from the village. However, the accused has been slapped with charges of physical assault and battery under Hindu Marriage Act, 1955.

GJM split on bandh...

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listen to those who are against the Gorkhaland movement," Tamang told the meeting.

Earlier a senior GJM leader had told PTI, "We feel that there has been some misunderstanding and miscommunication between them (Gurung and Tamang). We want this to be sorted out soon as we do not want others to take advantage of it."

Panchayat poll dates likely to be announced in 3rd week of Sept

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 31 AUG:

The dates for the two-tier Panchayat elections in the State are expected to be announced in the third week of September as the process of delimitation of territorial and Gram Panchayats is over. The process of seat reservation will be notified by first week of September.

The Panchayat ward-wise voter's lists have also been compiled by the State Election Commission based on the

voters list updated till January earlier this year.

The tenure of the sitting Panchayats will be over by 10 Nov.

The Panchayat polls could possibly be held around mid-October, informed Panchayat Director, M N Dhakal further adding that the final call has to be taken by the State Election Commission after due consultation with all political parties and Rural Management and Development Department, which is

the nodal department for the Gram Panchayats.

He said that the delimitation of Ward Panchayats [WP], Gram Panchayat Units [GPU] and Territorial wards for Zilla Panchayat [ZP] are over and same have been notified with slight increase in numbers compared to 2012 as per the mandate of Sikkim Panchayati Raj Act, 1992.

The Territorial wards for Zilla Panchayat have been increased to 113 from 110 [32 for East, 28 for South and 31

for West and 22 for North District]. In comparison to the 2012 list of territorial wards, 3 more seats have been added only for West district.

Similarly, 09 new Gram Panchayat Units have been created in the new delimitation process. The 174 Gram Panchayat Units in 2012 have been increased to 183 in 2017 [increased from 50 to 51 in East District, 47 to 48 in South District, 55 to 61 in West and 22 to 23 in North district] excluding the two Dzumsas of North Sikkim for which elec-

tions are held every year as per the tradition.

The three new territorial wards for Zilla Panchayat and 9 new Gram Panchayat Units will mean an additional budgetary burden of almost more than Rs. 1 crore for the Department of Rural Management & Development. The annual budgetary enhancement of Rs.1 crore will be invested for payment of honorarium to Panchayats, Zilla Panchayats and Panchayat Assistants. The additional budget of Rs. 3.50

crore is expected to be invested for administrative and office expenses during the next five years, the Director Panchayat told SummitTimes.

The State Election Commission has completed all the formalities for the upcoming elections but in view of the monsoons that might cause problems in transportation, which is important for holding elections and for other security concerns, the polling dates are still to be confirmed, an Election Commission source informed.



Yuksam welcomes new Range Officer

SUMMIT REPORT

YUKSAM, 31 AUG:

A welcome programme was held at Kanchenjunga National Park Interpretation Centre in Yuksam on 30 Aug by the

Eco Development Committee and residents of Yuksam-Tashiding constituency to welcome the newly appointed Range Officer, Keshab Bahadur Chettri.

The welcome programme

was attended by Gram Panchayat members, Forest Department officials and local residents.

Eco Development Committee (EDC), Gram Panchayats

and local people expressed their gratitude to the Forest Minister and Forest Secretary for accepting the public request to transfer Mr Chettri as the Range Officer at Yuksam.

Seminar on quality education and dropout problems at Kabrey



BIKASH CHETTRI

NAMCHI, 31 AUG:

A daylong seminar on 'Quality Education and Dropout Problems' was held at Kabrey Secondary School today. Organized by Amardeep Club, Rubdi Karek and sponsored by Nagi-Karek Gram Panchayat Unit, South District the programme had Zilla Panchayat Upadhakshya, Devi Maya Barailley as the chief guest.

The programme was also attended by Panchayat President, school heads, Gram Panchayat members, parents, stu-

dents and residents of the area.

Zonal Deputy Director (Human Resource Development Department), DB Subba, Principal in-charge Namthang Senior Secondary School, BP Dhungel and Block Development Officer (Namthang Block Administrative Center) were the resource persons of the day.

The resource persons talked about the responsibilities of the family and society in bringing down the drop out rate and provide quality education.

ICFAI students participate in All India Inter-Univ Moot Court Competition

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 31 AUG:

Three students from Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts of India (ICFAI) University, Sikkim participated in the 34th All India Inter-University National Moot Court Competition organized by Bar Council of India in Collaboration with Galgotia's University, Noida from 25-27 Aug at Noida, a press release informs.

Kazi Sangay Thup-

den, Varun Pradhan and Lila Prasad Sharma represented the university in the competition which was inaugurated by Supreme Court Judge, Justice R.K Agarwal and Chairperson of Bar Council of India, Mannan Kumar Mishra.

Out of the 1300 law colleges in India, only 60 teams were short listed for the competition, ICFAI Law School, Sikkim being one of them, informs the release.



Govt extends deadline for Aadhaar-PAN linkage...

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Jammu and Kashmir had been exempt from the requirement.

The source further said that people who do not have Aadhaar can file their Income Tax returns, but their returns will not be processed till they submit their Aadhaar number.

The tax department had on July 31 stated that "unless a finding is made that Aadhaar is constitutionally not valid, tax return filers will need to link their PAN with Aadhaar by August 31, 2017."

Incidentally, December 31 is also the deadline for people to link their

bank accounts with Aadhaar.

Tax filers, however, were allowed to file their annual income returns by August 5 without linking their Aadhaar with PAN.

They were to just quote Aadhaar or the acknowledgement number for having applied for the ID.

It had further stated that "income-tax returns filed will not be processed should tax filers fail to link Aadhaar and PAN on or before August 31, 2017."

The deadline for linking PAN with Aadhaar previously was July 31 but was extended to August 31.

WB govt to offer free GST software to small traders

KOLKATA, AUG 31 (PTI):

West Bengal government will provide free software to small traders for filing GST returns, state Finance Minister Amit Mitra said here today.

"We are in touch with the NIC (National Informatics Centre) and work is on to develop the software," Mitra said while addressing a seminar on GST.

West Bengal would be one of the few states to provide free GST software under the new tax regime

in the country. Mitra requested the Confederation of West Bengal Trade Associations (CWBTA), organiser of the seminar, to submit a detailed project report (DPR) for setting up a trading logistical hub in and around Kolkata.

He also said that CWBTA, being one of the apex trade bodies, should organize an international Trade Summit in Kolkata to highlight the development taking place in the area of trade and e-commerce.

BJP Sikkim demands refund of all benefits received by Parliamentary Secys

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 31 AUG:

A delegation of Bharatiya Janata Party Sikkim led by its vice president, JB Darnal and general secretary (BJP South District), Madan Tamang met the Chief Secretary, Government of Sikkim and submitted a memorandum demanding the refund of all benefits like salaries, allowances and other consequential benefits received by the Parliamentary Secretaries from the date of appointment to the date of declaring the Sikkim Parliamentary Secretaries [Appointment, Salaries, Allowances and Miscellaneous Provisions] Act, 2010 declaring it unconstitutional.

The party has appealed to the Chief Secretary to cease all the facilities stating that, "If the facilities are not pulled back, we will be compelled to approach the Court to file for contempt of court".

The High Court of Sikkim on 25 Aug had quashed the Sikkim Parliamentary Secretaries [Appointment, Salaries, Allowances and Miscellaneous Provisions] Act, 2010 declaring it unconstitutional.

The party has appealed to the Chief Secretary to cease all the facilities stating that, "If the facilities are not pulled back, we will be compelled to approach the Court to file for contempt of court".

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

email: news@summittimes.com

North Sikkim's first degree...

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likely to be established by the next session," he announced.

He further added that the government has launched vocational courses in 167 schools and also informed of having started Atal Tinkering Lab in school. The Minister responding to the demand of Area MLA, Sonam Gyatso Lepcha to introduce Limboo, Lepcha and Bhutia subjects said that he has directed the Director HRDD to introduce

the subjects from the present session itself. He also assured to complete the ongoing construction of the polytechnic college soon.

Also present in the function were HRDD advisor, OT Lepcha, Zilla Adhakhshya (North), Anguli Lepcha, District Collector (North), Karma R Bonpo and other officials of the district.

The panchayats and public of Mangshila also felicitated the HRD Minister and Area MLA in the programme.

HC pulls up Dept for delaying Sichey...

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the entire work may be completed within a period of another two months.

The court observed that more than five years have gone by and it appears that there is a deliberate intention on the part of the officers as well as the contractor to escalate the cost.

Nim Chogyal Lepcha of Ranka

and Sonam Pinto Bhutia of Upper Lingdum filed a Public Interest Litigation [PIL] seeking court intervention for early completion of road as the public of these areas are facing huge inconvenience due to bad road condition across the Sichey Zero Point to Ranka Zero Point in two phases.

The said blacktopping work is a major work to be completed;

the same shall be completed in two phases for entire stretch of work. In the first phase, the department was to take up blacktopping of road from Sichey Zero Point to Banjhakri falls covering a 4 km stretch and in second phase, the blacktopping from Banjhakri falls to Ranka Zero Point covering 6.21 kms from Oct 2017 to Mar 2018.

Gangtok on Friday, 01 Sept

Temp: 25°C / 17°C
Forecast: Considerable cloudiness with showers and thunderstorms; not as warm.
Sunrise: 05:14 AM
Sunset: 05:57 PM

India, Switzerland discuss climate change, Paris agreement

NEW DELHI, Aug 31 (PTI): The issue of climate change figured in talks between India and Switzerland today, Swiss President Doris Leuthard said as she condoled the deaths in the recent rains and the subsequent flooding in Mumbai.

Addressing a joint press session with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, she said they discussed ways to operationalise the Paris climate accord and the gradual replacing of fossil fuel with renewable sources.

They agreed that green solutions and clean technology can become one of the key areas of bilateral cooperation, a joint statement said.

In her opening remarks, Leuthard, who is on a three-day visit, expressed her condolences to the families of the victims of flooding in Mumbai, triggered by torrential rains throughout the day on Tuesday.

"During our conversation, we also discussed climate change and its effects and negative impact on society and that is why India and Switzerland are very much engaged in all these discussions on how we can make operational the Paris agreement, on how we can replace fossil energy with renewable energy," she said.

SKM alleges Rs 115 cr corruption in CMRHM tender bid process

SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 31 AUG:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has accused the Rural Management & Development Department of indulging in corrupt practices in the tender bid process of the Chief Minister's Rural Housing Mission [CMRHM] scheme. The party has contested that not only the RMDD but the entire Cabinet is involved in corruption amounting to Rs 115 crore.

Addressing a press conference here today, SKM spokesperson, Jacob Khaling informed that the Cabinet meeting on 07 May 2016 passed the proposal to build 3,000 houses at the cost of Rs 8,80,118 each under CMRHM

scheme at the total cost of Rs 264.354 crore.

He alleged that instead of providing contract of individual houses to different contractors, all houses were clubbed together and so many criteria were added that even A1 contractors of the State could not qualify to bid for the project.

He further added that only three companies finally qualified for the project but when the tender was opened on 30 Jan 2017 only one company - Mungipa Trade [private] Limited and Sunil Kumar Agarwal [joint venture] participated in the bid.

Mr Khaling mentioned that as per the State Public

Works Department code & manual and even RMDD, if there are less than three bidders the tender should be rejected and a fresh tender should be called.

On the same, he added that despite such rules the RMDD started the process to offer work to Mungipa Trade [private] Limited and Sunil Kumar Agarwal [joint venture] breaking all rules and clauses. He added that the cabinet on 21 Feb 2017 passed the single bid.

"Taking advantage of being the only company to make a bid they quoted 49.75% above the estimated cost and finally the department settled it at 43.6% above the estimated cost and awarded the work to

the company," Mr Khaling said. He added that the work order was issued on 02 Mar 2017.

On getting the work on 43.6% above the estimated cost, the cost of each house was up from around Rs 8 lakh to Rs 12.64 lakh and extra Rs 115 crore added to the actual amount of the project, he added.

"Rs 115 crore is a huge amount for a small state like Sikkim and not only RMDD but the entire system and the cabinet have been involved in this corruption," he alleged.

Mr Khaling claimed that the money for the project is not being sourced from any grant but from the loan taken by the state government from

HUDCO at 10% interest. He added that the government has taken a loan of Rs 361 crore from HUDCO with the state share of Rs 57.33 crore.

He informed that this loan needs to be repaid to HUDCO by 2035-36 with interest of Rs 334.62 crore making the total amount Rs 695 crore after adding the principal amount.

After issuing of the work order the department again started the process to provide 15% mobilization fund to the contractor, he further alleged. On the same, he added that as per the government rule the department cannot release any mobilization fund but despite this, mobilization advance of Rs 56.88 crore was

released on 23 May 2017.

"Even after the mobilization advance was released, no work has taken place at the ground level so far," he alleged.

On behalf of SKM, Mr Khaling demanded that the RMDD immediately cancel the work order and call a fresh tender for the work. He also demanded that mobilization advance should be refunded to the government.

He also suggested that contract should be given to small contractors and cooperative societies of the respective villages for each CMRHM house. Mr Khaling threatened to approach the High Court if the department does not take any action in this regard.

Sankalp se Siddhi programme organized by ICAR and KVK East

GANGTOK, 31 AUG (PIB):

Indian Council of Agriculture Research-National Organic Farming Research Institute (ICAR-NOFRI) in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra, East Sikkim organized 'Sankalp Se Siddhi - New India Manthan' on 30 Aug with the objective to double the farmers' income by March 2022.

More than 176 farmers and dignitaries from line departments and various institutions like National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and Sikkim State Co-operative Supply and Marketing Federation Limited (SIMFED) participated in the programme.

Agriculture Minister, Somnath Poudyal attended the programme as the chief guest along with Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), PD Rai as the guest of honor. The programme was also attended by Agriculture and Horticulture department, NABARD and ICAR-NOFRI officials.

Mr Poudyal in his address said that the state government is onboard with the Prime Minister's



vision of empowering farmers all over the country. He shared his vision and upcoming projects to achieve the goal of the program and encourage the farming community of Sikkim for atleast enhancing the production and productivity of the vegetable crops. He also appreciated the efforts of ICAR-NOFRI in organizing the programme and broadcasting the vision of Prime Minister to the farmers of the State.

He then talked about the importance of organic agriculture in improving the health of the people of Sikkim. He exhorted the farmers to extend the knowledge gained from the programme to other fellow farmers. He also appreciated the initiative taken by ICAR-KVK, East Sikkim in the field of soil health management and distributed more than 400 soil health cards to the farmers.

Guest of honor, Mr Rai recited the 'Sankalp Se Siddhi' pledge to the farming community and the officials present in the programme. In his address he suggested several points for doubling the farmers' income and keeping sound soil health. He also requested the farmers to approach various financial institutions to get the crops insured under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and to get the benefits of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) and other schemes. He said that

organic farming is the only way to sustain soil health. He appealed to the farming community to opt for Central Government schemes to gain maximum benefits. NABARD general manager, Anjana Lama detailed about the Kisan Credit Card and other schemes in regards to the initiative. An interactive session between the farmers and the officials of NABARD, SIMFED and ICAR-NOFRI was also held during the programme.



CANAAN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP DISTRIBUTES ESSENTIALS IN KALIMPONG

GANGTOK, 31 AUG: A team from Canaan Christian Fellowship, Deorali distributed essentials like food supplies and other items to bandh affected people from different areas of Kalimpong at Scottish Universities' Mission Institution School premises on Wednesday. The team of CCF, Deorali led by Pastor PK Rai and Pastor MK Sherpa provided rice, dal, flour, oil and other items to 238 families.

The team was also assisted by Pastor MK Chhetri and Pastor Dilip Gurung from Kalimpong in the distribution process.

Oppn dubs note ban 'biggest scam', 'money laundering exercise'

NEW DELHI, Aug 31 (PTI): The opposition today hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying his note ban decision was "reckless" and dubbed demonetisation as the country's "biggest scam" and a "money laundering exercise".

The Congress said the prime minister should apologise for demonetisation as it had inflicted "misery" on the people and dealt a "body blow" to the economy.

Congress senior spokesperson Anand Sharma said none of the measures that Modi had promised with the ban on high-value currency notes, put into effect in

November last year, had been realised.

He also said in the last six quarters under Modi, the GDP growth sank from 9.2 per cent to 5.7 per cent.

"The GDP numbers released for the (April-June) quarter confirms that the reckless decision of the prime minister on demonetisation and the policy defaults have led to a major crash in the Indian economy," Sharma said.

The CPI-M termed demonetisation as a "money laundering exercise that helped convert black money into white" at the expense of people and asked prime minister

to come clean on it and fix accountability as the move "failed" to achieve its objectives.

The AAP said demonetisation broke the backbone of the country's economy and lashed out at the Reserve Bank of India for "lying" to the nation about the total amount of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes in circulation before the drive.

"Demonetisation is the biggest scam, as the government has helped the wrong people legitimise their illegitimate money through it and has betrayed the poor people of the country with false promises," Anand Sharma said.

Congress incharge of communications Randeep Surjewala drew a parallel of Modi with 14th-century monarch Muhammad bin Tughlaq for his decision to demonetise and demanded his resignation for "misleading" the people of the country.

"PM Modi will go down in history alongside Mohammad-Bin-Tughlaq for Demonetisation Scam. If morality has a place, he should consider to quit," Surjewala said on Twitter.

He also said that Modi made a disaster of demonetisation due to which India's economy was wrecked and asked

what gains did note ban bring to the country.

"Will PM Modi introspect and apologise to the nation? If morality has any foundation, will he now step aside for lying to the nation and misleading the nation?" Surjewala asked.

"GDP growth slows from over 8 pc to 5.7 pc yet those living in glass houses of demonetisation disaster remain

oblivious in their ivory towers.

"In last 6 quarters, the economy under Modiji sank from 9.2 pc to 5.7 pc! This is by new method of calculation! Is this demonetisation success formula?" Surjewala asked.

Sharma stressed it was the prime minister's "direct responsibility" as it was his personal decision to implement note

ban.

"Prime Minister owes an explanation. He has to accept moral responsibility. He must apologise to the country and we will continue to force accountability on this issue," he said.

Sharma alleged demonetisation had led to a GDP loss of Rs 2.25 lakh crore.

He said Modi had promised to unearth

black money and end corruption, terror funding and counterfeit currency.

None of the promises made by him while announcing the decision had come true, he said.

The opposition attack came after the Reserve Bank said in its annual report yesterday that banks had received Rs 15.28 lakh crore or 99 per cent of the invalidated currency.

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Change Attitudes towards Climate

Climate Change is real, but our preparedness for it is still not

Hurricane Harvey, Typhoon Pakhar in China, the record inundation of Mumbai, the ongoing rains in the region and extensive flooding in the Gangetic plain and the Northeast needs to be seen as reiterations of climate change realities of the present times. Unfortunately, we continue to engage with it in confusion. If this attitude prevails, things will not end too well. Only the better informed will be better prepared and only the more responsive societies and communities stand a chance of making the transition with the least suffering.

Projections of climate change are admittedly based on imperfect science and worst case scenarios vary depending on the inputs and permutations deployed. What is however unanimously accepted is that the planet is getting warmer and that climate systems are in fact already changing. For a country which, despite the consistently falling productivity of its fields and disruptive economic tweaking like demonetisation, still depends on agriculture to occupy 60% of its population, we are doing woefully little to prepare for climate change. Agriculture in India is climate-dependent and the worry that the ongoing tap-dance of drought and inundation is triggering, reinforces this contention. Unfortunately, apart from more subsidies, loan waivers and funds for relief, the government is not engaging climate change with the scientific enquiry that the situation demands. Agriculture, lifestyles and livelihoods are not being prepared for climate change even though it is obvious that this adjustment is as necessary as all measures aimed at reducing CO2 emissions and adopting energy usage corrections. In the obsessive pursuit of calculating how much the polar icecaps will shrink and how high the seas will rise, the socioeconomic impact of climate change is not being discussed enough. Of course, there is the token mention of how the poor will suffer this the most, but that hardly carries any lifestyle-changing warnings because in our country, the poor suffer everything the most. Climate change will attract interest when people are told that it will impact Everyone, especially the rich and the well-heeled. And that might not be stretching things too far because the underprivileged are already hotwired with resilience, it is the rich who cannot handle change and disruptions.

Sikkim has taken the lead over all other states by first instituting a commission to study the health of its glaciers and the impact of global warming on it and then by tasking the Department of Science & Technology to also include Climate Change in its name and study the phenomenon with Sikkim in mind. At least that is what it intended to do, but has not really delivered anything worthwhile on either count. These were still good initiatives and could provide the raw data on climate change. For these measures to deliver realistically, the data will have to be crunched in time to inform the lifestyle and policy level corrections the State needs to make to prepare for climate change. Get realistic, there is really nothing Sikkim can do to effectively stall climate change, neither here, nor at the international level, but it can do a lot to prepare for it and support global initiatives. It is already doing the latter, but needs to work extra hard on the former aspect. The glaciers are receding, rain is now falling even in erstwhile rain-shadow zones and even the tree-line is advancing higher. Crops have failed, plant diseases have become more resistant and rainfall patterns are accurately mimicking the intense rain over shorter duration pattern projected by climate change. It has been getting hotter as well.

There are many studies and initiatives which should already have been undertaken. Since this piece has mentioned agriculture, let's look at that sector itself. Going organic is definitely a good idea because that will protect the fields from the added torture of chemicals, but one should have already started double-checking on the advisability of persisting with hybrids. It is already accepted across the world that hybrids are the least tolerant to temperature fluctuations while the indigenous variants are hardier. We have already seen how Punjab has drained away its water-table with over-use and perhaps a more organized and reasoned approach needs to be taken on how Sikkim taps on its water sources as well. Experts have already started suggesting that infrastructure development be undertaken with an eye on climate change and Sikkim needs to follow up on this advise seriously. In fact, for something that so pervasive, it is surprising that climate change has still not entered the lexicon of national security. How many war-game projections for Sikkim have, for example, factored in the possibility that the trans Himalaya of North Sikkim might become a frightening criss-cross of bogs and permafrost frequently ambushed by flashfloods in the years to come.

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BRICS is being battered by global crises: why this might not be a bad thing

PATRICK BOND
theconversation.com

At the BRICS summit in Russia two years ago, Chinese Premier Xi Jinping invoked physics when asking fellow leaders "to boost the centripetal (unifying) force of BRICS nations through cooperation in innovation and production capacity to boost competitiveness."

That was the theory, but the economic reality of the once-feted Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa alliance is contradictory.

Instead of centripetal strengthening, the world is witnessing much more powerful centrifugal dividing forces, including overproduction, over-indebtedness and deglobalisation of capital. These elements have been spinning out of control even before the chaotic era of US President Donald Trump began.

Over production is mostly found in the coal, steel, non-ferrous metals, cement and chemicals industries. It's largely driven from China where over-capacity is more than 30%, according to a new International Monetary Fund report that also raised worries about the country's vast debt.

Over borrowing by companies, states and households represents a global crisis in the making. The Institute of International Finance has just reported that world debt is now USD\$217 trillion (327% of world GDP), up from USD\$149 billion (276%) in 2007.

Deglobalisation is simply the reversal - mostly since 2008 - of prior rapid growth in cross-border trade, investment and finance. Should that be viewed as a bad thing? Rather than fear globalisation's unravelling, leading scholar-activists including Samir Amin in Africa, the late Ruy Mauro Marini in Latin America, Walden Bello in Asia and the 20th century's most important economist, John Maynard Keynes, have all advocated national economic sovereignty. If pursued cleverly, deglobalisation could be the basis for restoring links between once vibrant sectors subsequently destroyed by imports.

Could BRICS leaders evolve in this direction? Their summit next week will be distracted by geopolitical tensions. Although a welcome deal on Monday prevents the feared Sino-Indian border war, a much more durable geo-economic battle is unfolding in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which in May left Prime Minister Narendra Modi boycotting China's Belt and Road mega-conference three months ago.

Beijing's BRICS logo designers, perhaps being unconsciously subversive, have illustrated how the once overlapping, interlocking BRICS are now being wedged apart as paper thin subjects



of centrifugal forces. For Africa, fewer illusions in these economies would be welcome, given how exploitative the BRICS and their firms have become against societies, democratic movements and environments.

A COUNTER-SUMMIT CHALLENGES THE BRICS

This argument is made by the Hong Kong People's Forum, initiated by the city's progressive labour, intellectual and faith leaders to question the BRICS. Their meeting this weekend follows in the counter summit traditions of the 2013 brics-from-below in Durban, the 2014 Dialogue on Development in Fortaleza, and the 2016 Goa People's Forum on BRICS.

According to the Hong Kong People's Forum: Instead of offering an alternative, the BRICS actually offer a continuation of neo-liberalism. On top of BRICS there is also China's new mega project, the Belt and Road initiative whose main purpose is to export China's surplus capital.

These surpluses are vast, as witnessed in China's foreign reserves which recently topped USD\$4 trillion, though then fell 20% due to bouts of capital flight and two stock market crashes in 2015-16.

DEGLOBALISATION

Global trade, finance and investment were meant to be the motors for the advancement of BRICS. But according to the World Bank, global trade peaked at 61% of world gross domestic product (GDP) in 2008 but retreated to 58% in 2015.

During the 1990s each BRICS country raised its trade to GDP ratio by at least 10 points. But trade has receded in importance in each of the BRICS. Russia peaked first at a 69% trade/GDP ratio in 1999, and then fell steadily to 45% today. Brazil rose to 30% in 2004 and fell to 25%. China soared to 66% in 2006 and has since plummeted to 36%. South Africa's 2008 ratio was 73% but is now back to 60% and India peaked last, in 2012 with 56%, and is now at 40%.

On top of this, the ratio of world financial assets that are held overseas compared to GDP fell from 58% in 2008 to 38% in 2016, even as overall financial assets increased in line with soaring debt.

Finally, another deglobalisation symptom is the halving of relative global foreign direct investment: from 3.7% of world GDP in 1987 to 1.7% in 2016.

Leading financiers now talk of an imminent world recession, given over priced stock markets and corporate debt. This is not just due to wild New York share speculation, as also occurred before the crashes of 1987, 2000 and 2008. Three BRICS stock markets are also bubbling: South Africa's stock market is 90% higher than in 2010, India's market is up 70% and Russia has risen by 50%.

CENTRIFUGAL REALITIES CROWD OUT CENTRIPETAL FANTASIES

These dangerous centrifugal forces cannot be easily regulated or reversed. The only recent relief came from the Chinese state's massive urban construction investments (albeit leaving scores of near-empty cities) and the Indian service sector boom. But since 2015 the other three BRICS have suffered recessions as the crash in commodity prices hit home.

As the Hong Kong People's Forum statement explained:

"China has now evolved into a global engine promoting a neo-liberal agenda from free trade agreements to corporate led integration across borders."

The BRICS had promised to challenge an unfair global economic system. But in December 2015 their main multilateral reform strategies failed:

- the Paris Climate Accord was non-binding, unambitious and outlaws climate-debt lawsuits by victims of Western and BRICS emissions;
- the World Trade Organisation phased out any semblance of food sovereignty; and
- IMF voting shares were shifted to favour BRICS at the expense of poorer countries.

Adds the Hong Kong People's Forum: "The 2017 World Economic Forum in Davos was one site where Xi clearly took the lead in promoting world corporate power, as Trump leads the US-UK retreat into crony-capitalist protectionism."

South African President Jacob Zuma pronounced last month at his party's policy congress, "The ANC is part of the global anti-imperialist movement. We are historically connected with the countries of the South and therefore South-South cooperation such as BRICS is primary for our movement."

If centrifugal economic forces now pressuring the bloc overwhelm Xi's desired centripetal capitalism, then we can expect yet more talk-left walk-right politics, as the BRICS sub-imperialists desperately try to pretend they're anti-imperialists.

[the writer is Professor of Political Economy, University of the Witwatersrand]

Violent evictions of refugees in Rome reveal inhumanity of modern democracy

MARIANGELA PALLADINO
theconversation.com

"IF THEY THROW something, break their arm," a police officer was overheard on video saying to anti-riot police on August 24 who were running after refugees and migrants near Rome's central train station. The migrants were gathering there after police violently removed a group who had been occupying the city's Piazza Indipendenza. Five days earlier, when around 800 Eritrean and Ethiopian migrants and refugees were forcibly evicted from a nearby squat on via Curtatone, some emptied out into the piazza with all their belongings and occupied it.

Unjustified and disproportionate state violence was exercised on these vulnerable people from dawn to dusk by the Italian police. They used tear gas, batons and water cannons to clear people from the square. It was a spectacle of violence and human misery: women crying out in protest were swept away by water cannons, children and elderly people wrapped in blankets had to run for safety.

Most of the 800 or so residents of the squat on via Curtatone were refugees. But there has been no safety for them, and no sanctuary for those who should be protected under international law. The authorities said the migrants had refused to accept alternative accommodation and pointed to the risk of cooking gas canisters they were using.

After the Piazza Indipendenza events, a mass protest took place in Rome on August 26, attended by over 5,000 people. A group of 40 elderly, sick and young refugees were subsequently permitted to return to the building for six months.

The violent manner of the original eviction was aimed at erasing the presence of migrants and refugees from the city centre: they apparently must disappear, become invisible



in the name of public decorum and order. This is a war on migrants, on the poor, on the vulnerable, on those whose lives are precarious and disposable.

This eviction is part of several recent state interventions in Rome against refugees and migrants. In June, the city's mayor, Virginia Raggi, announced that the city was "facing a new migrant emergency" and that it could not take new arrivals. This is a marked contrast to comments she made in December 2016 about the need to offer refugees human warmth in Rome.

As migration scholar Nando Sigona argued on The Conversation, this shift in approach was made within the context of pre-election political opportunism in Italy. The issue of migration is moving centre stage as parties look to woo voters.

FROM WARMTH TO WATER CANNONS

The inhumane treatment and denial of most basic rights to those in Piazza Indipendenza is the fruit of emergency politics to address migration rather than of a continued approach

to sanctuary. Democracies are treating their vulnerable with violence instead of protection and eviction instead of sanctuary. The mayor's idea of "human warmth" has quickly morphed into water cannons.

Migrants are dying at sea and disappearing from visible public spaces because their presence poses uncomfortable questions about the human condition, and about Western democracies. This is not a migration crisis, it is a crisis of human values - and these events signal that democracy is ailing and failing.

American philosopher Judith Butler observes that we approach certain forms of violence with horror, and other forms of violence with acceptance. This schism in moral evaluations occurs because certain lives are regarded as liveable, worthy of protection and worthy fighting for. But other lives are seen as unworthy of protection, not quite lives, at the limits of humanity. They are disposable.

MORAL DISINTEGRATION

Across the world, people who live precarious lives at the margins of

society and at the limit of humanity continue to be met with violence. In the words of the Cameroonian philosopher Achille Mbembe, this is "the normalisation of a social state of warfare" - when the social state is weakened and ultimately erased.

The failing democracies of the West are plunging into what the Jamaican cultural philosopher Stuart Hall called "authoritarian populism", marking the end of the world as we know it. When asked about this social system and the fate of our species, the American philosopher Noam Chomsky replied that: "It's terminal disaster. We have constructed a perfect storm." Under these conditions, our moral compass has been readjusted and our humanity - in the sense of being humane - is compromised.

Resistance, like that staged by the residents of via Curtatone who occupied the piazza after their eviction, can claw back shreds of democracy, dignity and rights. But it is the dominant cultural norms which must be resisted, the very ones regulating and influencing society's biased moral response towards refugees and migrants. In the era of post-truths, when knowledge is overtly, unquestionably and routinely assailed, critical thinking is more crucial than ever to halt the moral disintegration of human kind.

Unlike the cowardly, brute force which can break arms like lifeless sticks, knowledge and critical thinking can be used to stem the tide of oppressive powers. Challenging the inhumanity of police brutality and society's acceptance of it is a transformative, emancipatory form of resistance. As the American writer Toni Morrison put it, it is "critical to refuse to succumb to [the world's] malevolence ... that is how civilisations heal."

[the writer is Lecturer in Post-colonial Studies (Migration, Mobilities, Diaspora), Keele University]

Now Durga Puja award goes digital

KOLKATA, AUG 31 (PTI): With Bengal's biggest carnival now dominating more space in the social media, as colourful images of the idol and the pandal are shared on Facebook and Instagram increasingly every year, the best Durga Puja will now be honoured digitally.

"We'll be honouring the best Durga Puja Committee on social media platform this year and our award would cover all the creative aspects of digital promotion.

"The creative aspects would include concept, creativity, implementation and the number of page 'likes' to the Best Integrated (cross platform) Social Media Campaign," a spokesman of the 'Sharodiya Digital Impact Awards' committee told a press meet today.

Divided into three parts, the judging category comprises - Best Digital Impact Award, Jury Choice Awards and Peoples Choice Award.

The trophies would be handed over to the winning Durga Puja Committees on September 24, 2017.

Dance exponent and pioneer of 'culture therapy' for prison inmates Alokanda Roy, popular band singer Surojit Chatterjee, internationally known dance choreographer Sudarshan Chakravorty were present at the announcement programme.

"We know about many awards for the best durga puja theme, pandal, idol and even illumination, instituted over the past couple of years. But with social media now being a part of our everyday life, a digital award for the best Durga puja, taking into account aesthetic aspects, is long overdue," Alokanda said.

Ahluwalia rules out separate state in Darjeeling hills

AGARTALA, AUG 31 (PTI): Union minister SS Ahluwalia today ruled out the possibility of forming separate states in West Bengal's Darjeeling hills and in the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council.

"In case of forming a new state by carving out any territory, the respective state would have to send an official proposal and have to furnish logic behind forming new state," he said.

Neither West Bengal nor Tripura governments had so far sent any such proposal, he said.

"So, the question of forming new states in



West Bengal and Tripura does not arise," the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Agriculture told reporters here.

Ahluwalia stressed on talks to solve the

problems in Darjeeling. "I, as an MP from Darjeeling, would say that all problems could be solved through negotiation. If problems could be solved through bi-partite talks it is good

and if that fails, then we have to opt for tri-partite talks," he said.

He said the Centre was interested in empowering the tribal councils or hill councils and in that case also specific proposals would have to be proposed to the Centre on the basis of which action plans could be chalked out.

The Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT) has demanded formation of a separate state by carving out the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC), which forms two third of the

state territory.

"This demand is not practical. Tripura is a small state and there is no question of forming a separate state.

Likewise, there is no possibility of forming any state in Darjeeling of West Bengal," he said.

However, he said, if there is specific proposal from the states for development of those areas, the Centre would respond to it.

"Ultimately, development is required. If people's problems could be solved through proper developments, these demands would wither away," he added.

Intl Hindu Conference begins in Nepal

KATHMANDU, AUG 31 (PTI): The three-day International Hindu Conference began here today with an aim of reinstating Kathmandu as the global capital of Hinduism.

Hindu scholars, religious leaders, Hindu activists and officials from different countries including India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, the US and the UK are attending the conference with the theme of 'Emerging spiritualism: Renaissance of Hinduism'.

"The aim of the conference is to make Kathmandu the global capital of Hinduism," according to the Sanatan Sanskriti Samaj, Nepal, the main organiser of the event.

Addressing the opening of the conference at the Pashupatinath temple premises, speakers expressed the view that Nepal should develop itself as a centre of eastern culture.

Those addressing the gathering also include veteran communist leader Mohanchandra Adhikari and Acharya K C Parasar of Bharatiya Janata Party Culture division.

The conference will discuss papers on various contemporary issues including, scientific basis of Hinduism, climate change and global warming.

Some 500 delegates, including two dozen foreign delegates, are taking part in the conference.

PLA says it will beef up patrols in Doklam but mum on road

BEIJING, AUG 31 (PTI): China's military today said it will beef up the presence of troops and patrols to protect "every inch" of its territory in Doklam but was evasive on the construction of the road which was stopped by Indian troops, leading to a 73-day standoff.

India and China on Monday ended their standoff in Doklam by withdrawing their troops from the area, just days before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to China to attend the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) summit.

"The Chinese military will continue to carry out its missions and responsibilities, beef up patrols and troops stationed there and resolutely safeguard national sovereignty and security," Ren Guoqiang, a spokesperson for the Chinese defence ministry, said in his first interaction with the media after the end of the standoff.

He, however, was



evasive about People's Liberation Army's move to build the road close to the strategic Chicken Neck area in Doklam which prompted the Indian troops to intervene and stop its construction.

Bhutan, which claims sovereignty over the area, protested to China for building the road on Bhutanese territory.

"In the light of the changes in the landscape we have made adjustment in our deployment," he said, without elaborating.

"The Chinese side will continue to patrol the Dong Long (Doklam) area for a long period of

time to better guard our border and improve the living and working conditions of the military and civilians living in the area," Ren said.

"We have long built infrastructure construction and including building of roads. In future, we will continue to make plan for infrastructure construction taking into consideration various factors including weather conditions," he said, without elaborating about plans to build the road.

China has tried to highlight the Indian troops withdrawal while remaining silent about

the fate of the road which was the primary objection for India.

Ren also rubbished speculative reports in social media claiming that China promised India huge loans for the withdrawal of the troops.

"On your question about China providing loans to India to withdraw troops, we have checked with the relevant authorities of the government and such reports are pure fabrication," he said.

Claiming that "Doklam is China's inherent territory" disregarding Bhutan's claims, Ren said, "every inch of the beautiful mountains and rivers of the motherland cannot be lost. Chinese armed forces will carry out the sacred mission safeguarding territorial integrity and national sovereignty and protect every inch of the land in Doklam."

He also put up a lengthy defence about how Chinese military handled the standoff - re-

garded as the worst between the two countries since the 1962 war.

On the incident at the Pangong lake in Ladakh, where troops on both sides scuffled and pelted stones at each other, he said, "the Indian side should enforce strict discipline on the border defence troops and abide by the agreements and consensus reached by the two sides so as to maintain peace and tranquillity along the border."

China said earlier that it lodged a protest to India on the incident.

The "military-to-military relationship between India and China is an important component for the overall bilateral relationship between the two countries," he said.

"The defence establishments and armed forces should strengthen strategic communication to avoid misjudgement and misunderstanding. But such kind of healthy development requires efforts from both sides," he added.

Heavy to very heavy rain forecast in sub-Himalayan Bengal

KOLKATA, AUG 31 (PTI): The Met department today forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall in all districts of sub-Himalayan West Bengal in the next five days kindling apprehension of flooding of low-lying areas.

The districts of north Bengal, which were affected by floods owing to extremely heavy rains in the third week of August, are again likely to experience heavy to very heavy precipitation till September three, the Met department said.

Rainfall activity in the region is likely to reduce to heavy rains after September three, the weatherman said.

Coochbehar recorded 110.2 mm rainfall in 24 hours till 8.30 AM this

morning, the Met department said.

Neighbouring Jalpaiguri recorded 66.8 mm precipitation during the same period.

The southern districts in Gangetic West Bengal are also likely to experience heavy rainfall till September two morning owing to a cyclonic circulation over southeast Bangladesh and its neighbourhood, the Met said.

The metropolis, which did not receive any rainfall in 24 hours till this morning, is likely to remain cloudy with a few spells of rain in the next two days.

Other places in the state received very little or no rainfall during the period, the weatherman said.

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Boats carrying fleeing Rohingya sink in Bangladesh; 26 dead

COX'S BAZAR, AUG 31 (AP): Officials say three boats carrying ethnic Rohingya fleeing violence in Myanmar have capsized in Bangladesh and 26 bodies have been recovered.

Bangladesh border guard commander Lt. Col. S M Ariful Islam said today that the bodies of 15 children and 11 women were

recovered from the Naf River at Teknaf in Cox's Bazar.

He said at least three boats carrying an unknown number of Rohingya Muslims had capsized yesterday and it was unclear whether anyone was still missing.

Last week, Rohingya insurgents attacked police posts in Myanmar, triggering fighting with security forces that left more than 100 people dead and forced at least 18,000 Rohingya to flee into neighboring Bangladesh.

The top official in Cox's Bazar, Mohammad Ali Hossain, said the bodies would be buried because no one had claimed them.


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NOTICE

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Sl. No.	ROLL NO.	NAME OF CANDIDATE	QUOTA PGT/ HM
1	20170044	Ms. Sujata Subba	PGT
2	20170067	Ms. Sushma Tiwari	PGT
3	20170038	Ms. Sandhya Sharma	PGT
4	20170041	Dr. Keshav Gautam	PGT
5	20170045	Mr. Rupesh Kumar Pradhan	PGT
6	20170016	Ms. Lata Sharma	HM
7	20170029	Ms. Jag Maya Chettri	PGT
8	20170030	Mr. Karma Sonam Bhutia	PGT
9	20170022	Mr. Pushpa Raj Dhungel	HM
10	20170056	Mr. Bishnu Prasad Thapa	PGT
11	20170018	Mr. Yenten Gyatso Bhutia	HM
12	20170084	Ms. Jamuna Gurung	PGT
13	20170070	Mr. Ranjay Sinha	PGT
14	20170052	Mr. Pradeep Gurung	PGT
15	20170013	Mr. Prahlad Sharma	PGT
16	20170043	Ms. Yangchuk Donka	PGT
17	20170080	Mr. Laxmi Prasad Gurung	PGT
18	20170054	Ms. Dechen Ongmu Bhutia	PGT
19	20170019	Mr. Santosh Kumar Chettri	HM
20	20170020	Mr. Chandra Bahadur Sapkota	HM
21	20170023	Mr. Parsuram Sharma	HM
22	20170024	Mr. Lok Nath Sharma	HM
23	20170017	Mr. Nanda Kumar Karki	HM
24	20170015	Mr. Rudra Prasad Sharma	HM
25	20170021	Mr. Bishnu Kant Sharma	HM
26	20170025	Ms. Kalpana Gurung	HM
27	20170012	Ms. Kamala Devi Rai	HM

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AP announces Rs 1 crore to Arjuna awardee archer Surekha

AMARAVATI, AUG 31 (PTI): Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu today announced a reward of Rs one crore to archer Vennam Jyoti Surekha, who received the prestigious Arjuna award two days ago.

He also announced a 500-sq yd house site in Vijayawada and a government job for her. Surekha met the Chief Minister here this afternoon.

The Chief Minister lauded her achievements in the field of archery and promised full support for her to excel further.

"Surekha did Andhra Pradesh proud by winning 70 medals at national and international archery competitions. She is also the youngest to receive Arjuna award from south India," the Chief Minister said.

Surekha, who is currently pursuing her MBA, told the Chief Minister that bagging a Olympic medal for the country was her aim.

Chandrababu asked the Special Chief Secretary (Youth Affairs and Sports) to identify top ten sports-persons in the state and extend all necessary support for them to excel in their fields.

The Chief Minister also announced Rs 10 lakh reward for 10-year-old Devisri Prasad of Tirupati on setting the Guinness World Record in skating.

Prasad achieved the feat by skating under 60 cars, covering a distance of 115 meters (forward and backward).

The Chief Minister congratulated the kid on the achievement.

Winning medals is even harder without training: Geeta

CHANDRABOLI MITRA
NEW DELHI, AUG 31 (PTI): Veteran wrestler Geeta Phogat feels "lack of training" is the reason behind India's poor show at the recently-concluded World Championships, which she terms as the "toughest competition" to win a medal.

A strong 24-member Indian contingent, which returned empty-handed from the World Championships in Paris, complained that they were "forced" to train at a local club in Boulevard de Bercy borough, situated 250-300 kms away from the main venue with hardly any facilities or even the sparring partners to practice with.

"World Championships is the toughest competition in the world. It is extremely difficult to get a medal at the World Championships, even more than the Olympics. And when one is not 100 per cent prepared, it is next to impossible to win a medal there," Geeta told PTI.



"I heard from Vinesh (Phogat) and others that there were no training facilities provided to them upon their arrival in Paris 15 days before the tournament. They even did not

get sparring partners to practice with as none of the other countries' wrestlers reached there," she said at the sidelines of an event, aimed at creating awareness to use Green and

Blue dustbins for putting the segregated garbage.

2012 World Championships bronze medallist said it would be difficult for her to comment on whom the blame

lies with, as she was not a part of the contingent.

"I don't know whether to blame the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) or the organisers in Paris for our wrestlers not getting proper facilities, even after arriving there about a fortnight before the commencement of the tournament. But it was unfortunate that they could not train properly before such an important competition," said Geeta.

Babita, Geeta's younger sister, who was also present on the occasion, said: "The quality of the competition is very high in the World Championships. It is a must to prepare well."

Both Geeta and Babita said they were focusing on making a strong comeback at the Nationals in November.

"Our target is to play in the Nationals and win a medal," Babita, who also missed the World Championships this year, said.

Geeta added: "I assure everyone that I will not just win a medal but I will bag a gold at the Nationals."

With their eyes set on next year's Commonwealth and Asian Games, both real life 'Dangal' sisters are completely focused on their training.

"For the last one month, I have been training very hard at the 'akhada' of my husband Pawan Kumar. I have cut down on other events to just 3-4 so that my training does not get hampered. I am completely focused.

"Starting with the Nationals, I will play in the Pro Wrestling League (PWL) and continue to prepare for the CWG and Asiad. There is very less time and I want to utilise it totally," said Geeta.

"If I manage to perform well and get medals in competitions like Nationals and PWL, it would only boost my confidence going into next year," she stressed.

India can dominate like China, Japan & Korea: Saina, Sindhu

NEW DELHI, AUG 31 (PTI): Star shuttlers Saina Nehwal, PV Sindhu and K Srikanth today thanked the government for its continued support and said India can dominate the sport for a long time like China, Japan and Korea if they can keep believing in themselves.

The trio were speaking during a felicitation function organised by Sports Minister Vijay

Goel at his residence here after Indian shuttlers returned with two medals -- Sindhu's silver and Saina's bronze -- from the just-concluded World Badminton Championships in Glasgow.

"We would like to thank the government and the Sports Minister for their continued support throughout the year.



Sports is becoming quite popular in our country because of the encouragement from the government," Saina said.

"The facilities have improved and we shuttlers need to believe in ourselves. If that happens we can come stronger and rule the sport like China, Japan and Korea," she added.

Sindhu, who won her

second World Championships medal in Glasgow, said the future of Indian badminton is in good hands.

"Badminton in India as a sport has grown many folds. Many upcoming and bright players are coming up," said Sindhu, who lost the marathon title encounter 19-21 22-20 20-22 against Nozomi Okuhara

of Japan.

"The World Championships final is one of the longest match I have ever played. At 20-20 in the last game it was anybody's game but in the end it was not my day," she said talking about the epic final.

Kidambi Srikanth, who had lost in the quarterfinals at Glasgow, said what is important for a

sportperson is to get recognition and that is what they are getting right now.

The felicitation ceremony was initially planned at a makeshift tent in the lawns of Goel's residence but it was later shifted to one of the rooms inside his residence because of continuous downpour just before the start of the programme.

What followed was pandemonium as Goel and his staffs found it difficult to control the large gathering of media persons, photographers and camera persons inside the small room.

Besides the badminton stars, also present on the occasion were chief national coach Pullela Gopichand and Saina's personal coach Vimal Kumar.



Two explosions reported at Texas chemical plant

HOUSTON, AUG 31 (AFP): Local emergency officials today reported two explosions at a flooded chemical plant in the Texas town of Crosby, its operators Arkema Inc said.

"At approximately 2 am CDT (0700 GMT), we were notified by the Harris County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) of two explosions and black smoke coming from the Arkema Inc plant in Crosby, Texas," the company statement said.

As a precautionary measure officials had already ordered the evacuation of an area within three kilometers of the organic peroxides plant, which operators had said was at risk of exploding due to a "critical issue" triggered by monster storm Harvey's torrential rains.

The facility had been evacuated following a dangerous loss of on-site refrigeration. In its statement, the company said:

"unprecedented flooding overwhelmed our primary power and two sources of emergency backup power."

The facility manufactures compounds with a broad array of commercial uses including plastics, pharmaceuticals and construction materials but which can combust if not cooled to the proper temperatures.

"Organic peroxides are extremely flammable and, as agreed with public officials, the best course of action is to let the fire burn itself out," Arkema said.

"We want local residents to be aware that product is stored in multiple locations on the site, and a threat of additional explosion remains. Please do not return to the area within the evacuation zone until local emergency response authorities announce it is safe to do so." Crosby lies about 25 miles northeast of Houston.

Kohli, Rohit fire India to another emphatic win

COLOMBO, AUG 31 (PTI): Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma provided sublime centuries as India dented Sri Lanka's chances of a direct World Cup qualification with a thumping 168-run victory in the fourth ODI here today.

Kohli (131 runs off 96 balls) and Rohit (104 off 88) made merry on a batting beauty to guide India to 375 for five, the highest total posted by a visiting

team in an ODI in Sri Lanka.

The final flourish was provided by comeback man Manish Pandey (50 n.o. off 42) and MS Dhoni (49 n.o. off 42), who achieved a memorable milestone of 300 ODIs.

Sri Lanka never looked like getting close to India's imposing total and could only manage 207 all out in 42.4 overs with Angelo Mathews' 70-run knock being

the sole noteworthy batting performance. The heavy defeat was also Sri Lanka's biggest at home in terms of runs.

India now lead the five-match series 4-0 and look set to complete another whitewash after blanking Sri Lanka in the preceding three Tests.

Things are going from bad to worse for Sri Lanka, who needed to win at least two matches in

the ongoing series to seal automatic qualification for the 2019 World Cup.

They can still directly qualify, provided the West Indies don't win more than three of their upcoming five ODIs against England.

India, opting to bat for the first time in the series, virtually batted the opposition out of the game.

Now, a Hindi bestseller list!

दैनिक जागरण
हिंदी बेस्टसेलर सूची
अप्रैल से जून, 2017

कथा	कथेतर	अनुवाद
1. शक्ति का अर्थ	1. शक्ति का अर्थ	1. शक्ति का अर्थ
2. शक्ति का अर्थ	2. शक्ति का अर्थ	2. शक्ति का अर्थ
3. शक्ति का अर्थ	3. शक्ति का अर्थ	3. शक्ति का अर्थ
4. शक्ति का अर्थ	4. शक्ति का अर्थ	4. शक्ति का अर्थ
5. शक्ति का अर्थ	5. शक्ति का अर्थ	5. शक्ति का अर्थ
6. शक्ति का अर्थ	6. शक्ति का अर्थ	6. शक्ति का अर्थ
7. शक्ति का अर्थ	7. शक्ति का अर्थ	7. शक्ति का अर्थ
8. शक्ति का अर्थ	8. शक्ति का अर्थ	8. शक्ति का अर्थ
9. शक्ति का अर्थ	9. शक्ति का अर्थ	9. शक्ति का अर्थ
10. शक्ति का अर्थ	10. शक्ति का अर्थ	10. शक्ति का अर्थ

NEW DELHI, AUG 31 (PTI): In a first-of-its-kind initiative in the Hindi publishing arena, Dainik Jagran and Nielsen have joined hands to come out with a bestseller list.

The first Dainik Jagran Nielsen Bookscan list includes those books whose first version was published on and after January 1, 2011.

The Hindi bestsellers list for Q1 April-June 2017 was released recently. The list not only includes popular Hindi writers and books but some popular English authors too who have won over Hindi readers, as seen in the translation category.

Hind Yugm publishers dominated the fiction list with seven of their books in that category "Dilli Darbar" and "Banaras Talkies" by Satya Vyas, "Musafir Cafe" and "Masala Chai" by Divya Prakash Dubey, "Namak Swadanusar" and "Zindagi Aais Pais" by Nikhil Sachan, and "Prem Kabootar" by Manav Kaul.

Three of these titles are co-pub-

lished with Westland, which had partnered with Hind Yugm last September last year to publish and distribute original Hindi titles.

Other books in this category are "Ishq Mein Shahar Hona" by Ravish Kumar (Rajkamal Prakashan), "Teen Roz Ishq: Gum Hoti Kahaniyan" by Puja Upadhyay (Penguin) and "Colaba Conspiracy" by Surender Mohan Pathak (HarperCollins).

The list has been prepared after data collection and analysis from stores across 39 Hindi-speaking cities of the country.

This data has been merged with the Nielsen Book-Scan Panel, which collects data from more than 40 retailer groups that includes major book and merchandise retail chains and online stores.

Westland also had most books in the translations category with Amish

Tripathi's "Mehula Ka Mritunjay" ("Immortals of Meluha"), "Vayuputratra" ("The Oath of the Vayuputras"), "Ikshvaku Ke Vanshraj" ("Scion of Ikshvaku") and "Nagaon Ka Rahasya" ("The Secret of the Nagas") in the list.

According to Gautam Padmanabhan, CEO Westland, "Introducing the Hindi Bestseller list is a great initiative by Dainik Jagran. We've been translating Amish's books for over seven years now. In fact, we've been very successful with all our translations which gave us the confidence to partner with Hind Yugm to bring out original content in Hindi. 2017 is proving to be a year of languages particularly Hindi and it's fantastic to have our titles in the best-selling rankings."

Shailesh Bharatwasi, founder-editor of Hind Yugm, says "Dainik Jagran Hindi Best Seller will be able

to accurately assess the popularity of Hindi books and provide a platform for people to know about new books that are coming in Hindi are also becoming popular. This will provide a much needed boost to Nai wali Hindi (new age Hindi)."

Through the best-seller list, Jagran hopes to bring back the glory of Hindi literature in the country. Commenting on Dainik Jagran Hindi Bestseller (April-June 2017), Basant Rathore, senior vice-president, Jagran Prakashan Group, said,

"While the Bestseller study is the cornerstone of this project, our real intent is to create a vibrant platform where authors, books and literary works are discussed and become part of the mainstream conversation, which is so essential for the publishing industry to thrive.

"And this will not start and end with just a Bestseller study published every quarter. There will be several other allied initiatives, which will propel our 'Hindi Hain Hum' movement.



China against discussing Pak's counter-terror record at BRICS



Pak court declares Musharraf fugitive, jails 2 officers in Bhutto murder case

ISLAMABAD, AUG 31 (PTI): Pakistan's former dictator Pervez Musharraf was today declared a fugitive by an anti-terrorism court which ordered seizure of his property and sentenced two senior police officers to 17 years in jail in the Benazir Bhutto murder case, nearly 10 years after her assassination.

Bhutto, the Pakistan Peoples Party chief and a two-time prime minister, was killed along with more than 20 people in a gun and bomb attack in Rawalpindi's Liaquat Bagh during an election campaign rally on December 27, 2007. She was 54.

The case was registered soon after her assassination and the trial went through many ups and down until it concluded yesterday in Rawalpindi.

Judge Asghar Khan announced the verdict, declaring Musharraf a proclaimed offender and ordered seizure of his property.

Musharraf, 74, has been living in Dubai since last year when he was allowed to leave Pakistan on pretext of medical treatment.

The judge sentenced former Rawalpindi CPO Saud Aziz and former Rawal Town SP Khurram Shahzad suspects out on bail to 17 years in prison and ordered to pay a fine of Rs 5 lakh each.

Both police officers - who were present in the court, have been arrested from Adiala Jail.

Five Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) suspects have been acquitted over lack of evidence.

The suspects - Rafoqat Hussain, Husnain Gul, Sher Zaman, Aitzaz Shah and Abdul Rashid - were arrested soon after the crime and have been in jail. They had denied the charges.

All accused were present at the time of announcement of trial except Musharraf.

K J M VARMA

BEIJING, AUG 31 (PTI): China today said that concerns over Pakistan's counter-terrorism record is not an "appropriate topic" to be discussed at the next week's BRICS summit where Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping were expected to meet.

"We noticed that India when it comes to Pakistan's counter-terrorism has some concerns. I don't think this is an appropriate topic to be discussed at BRICS summit," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying told a media



briefing here, indicating that Beijing was averse to the criticism of its close ally at the summit to be held in Xiamen.

Asked whether Pakistan's counter-terrorism

record which was sharply criticised by US President Donald Trump last week will figure at the talks between the leaders of the BRICS countries, Hua said the world

should recognise Islamabad's contribution in fighting terrorism.

"Pakistan is at forefront of counter-terror efforts and has made sacrifices for this. The

international community should recognise their contributions and sacrifices," she said.

"China is willing to work with Pakistan and other countries to enhance our cooperation in counter-terrorism. This serves the common interest of all parties," she said.

Hua also did not provide a direct answer to a question whether Modi and Xi would hold bilateral talks on the sidelines of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) summit from September 3 to 5.

"During multilateral meetings arranging bilateral meetings is a practice. If time allows China will make proper arrangements," she said.

After Trump's stern warning to Pakistan against providing safe heavens to Taliban, China sought to impress the US that Islamabad's support is important to resolve Afghanistan imbroglio.

"We should attach importance to Pakistan's important role in Afghanistan and respect Pakistan's sovereignty and legitimate security concerns," China's State Councillor and top diplomat Yang Jiechi told US Secretary Rex Tillerson

during a phone conversation yesterday.

Trump, in his first prime-time televised address as commander-in-chief, had issued the sternest warning yet by an American leader to Pakistan for providing safe havens to terrorists and sought an enhanced role for India in bringing peace in the war-ravaged country. Hours after Trump's remarks, China backed its all weather ally and said the US should recognise Pakistan's "important role" in Afghanistan and respect its sovereignty and legitimate security concerns.



Britain stands "shoulder to shoulder" with Japan in the face of the increased threat from North Korea, Theresa May said. Number 10 said the Prime Minister and her Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe will "explore" fresh sanctions against Kim Jong Un's regime in a second day of talks on Thursday. Mrs May earlier called on China to step up its action against North Korea and refused to rule out Britain getting involved in military action to stop the rogue state's illegal weapons programme. Downing Street said the length of time the PM had spent with Mr Abe on the first day of three-day visit was "unusual" and demonstrated the "strength and continuing positive relationship" between the two.

Pak summons India's DHC over ceasefire violations along LoC

ISLAMABAD, AUG 31 (PTI): Pakistan today summoned India's Deputy High Commissioner J P Singh over alleged "ceasefire violations" by Indian troops along the Line of Control (LoC) which resulted in the killing of a civilian.

Director General (South Asia and SAARC) Dr Mohammad Faisal summoned Singh and "condemned the unprovoked ceasefire violations" by the Indian forces, the Foreign Office said.

It claimed that a

55-year-old man was killed in Kotera Sector on August 29 in alleged firing by Indian forces.

"Despite calls for restraint, India continues to indulge in ceasefire violations," it said.

"The deliberate targeting of civilians is indeed deplorable and contrary to human dignity and international human rights and humanitarian laws," the Foreign Office said.

The Director General urged the Indian side to respect the 2003 ceasefire arrangement, investigate this and other incidents of ceasefire violations, and instruct the Indian forces to respect

the ceasefire in letter and spirit and maintain peace along the LoC.

He also called on the Indian side to allow the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) to play its mandated role as per the UN Security Council resolutions. India maintains that UNMOGIP has outlived its utility and is irrelevant after the Simla Agreement and the consequent establishment of the Line of Control.

The Foreign Office also accused India of committing more than 700 ceasefire violations this year which resulted in the killing of 29 Pakistani civilians.

Harvey costliest natural disaster in US history

SEEMA HAKHU KACHRU

HOUSTON, AUG 31 (PTI): Hurricane Harvey, the costliest natural disaster in US history, may cost a whopping USD 160 billion in economic damages in Texas which resulted in massive destruction, killing 38 people and leaving tens of thousands homeless.

Harvey, now a tropical depression, made the second landfall yesterday, slamming into the Louisiana coast near the Texas border hitting the region with record-breaking rainfall and devastating floods.

Harvey has brought the heaviest rainfall in US history, soaking Texas with more than 52 inches since it first made landfall last Friday.

At least 38 people have been killed as a result of the devastating floods and that number was climbing as water



receded, revealing the storm's awful toll, officials were quoted as saying by the New York Times.

Twenty people still remained missing in the city, according to Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo. The flooding in Houston, the fourth largest US city, is slowly receding in some areas for the first time since the weekend, authorities said.

Taking advantage of a less rainfall in Houston, Harris County authorities finally located a van, containing six members of the same family, that had been washed off the road days earlier. All six were dead in what police say is the single deadliest incident stemming from Harvey, with victims ranging in ages from six to 84. More than 32,000

people were in shelters in Texas, and 30,000 shelter beds were available, Texas Governor Greg Abbott said.

Accuweather estimated Harvey's cost at USD 160 billion, making it the costliest natural disaster in US history. AccuWeather president Joel Myers called Harvey a "1000 year Storm" and said parts of Houston will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.

More than 30,000 people took refuge 200 shelters, about 1,800 evacuees have been moved to hotels and other longer-term housing options, said Brock Long, Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The National Hurricane Center warns of continuing flooding in

parts of southeast Texas and southwest Louisiana.

Nearly all of the reported Harvey-related deaths resulted from people drowning in their flooded vehicles. One Indian student died yesterday after he nearly drowned in a swollen lake in Texas. More than 100,000 Indian-Americans living in and around Houston have also been badly hit by the monstrous hurricane.

The Indian-American community has rallied themselves around to help people in distress. Indian businesses and places of worship were providing shelters to the displaced. Sunil Thakkar, a radio jockey by profession, was using his station to provide directions to people to safer places.

Anthyesthi Kriya



A warm-hearted man with a resounding voice, **Puran Chandra Gurung** lived his life with joy, laughter and goodwill. He always wished all life their well being. On the 12th of August, 2017, his delightful journey in this realm came to an end. We, the family members, would like to thank everyone who was a part of his story. We believe that he responsibly concluded his role as a husband, father, brother, friend and a public servant. While we reminisce about him, we request everyone who cared and wished him well to join us in offering prayers and to bid him a final farewell. The ceremony will be held at our residence in **Gairee Gaon, Tadong, Gangtok on the 2nd of September, 2017 (Saturday).**

Basudha Syangden (Wife), Dr. Upashna Gurung (Daughter), Namgyal Tashi Bhutia (Son in law), Upendra Gurung (Son), Ph: 9647889413; 9475504210; 7797672743

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR FALCON EVENING

Draw Time : 8:00 pm onward

Draw No:5 DrawDate on:31/08/17
1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 95K 30128
(Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 30128 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
21020 25719 41511 51832 55495
55797 56769 67432 91088 95124
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
12798 56081 61078 61243 64292
76281 83660 85473 88649 95614
4th Prize Rs.1000/-
3143 3506 4258 4796 5369 5674 7127 8060 8844 9270
5th Prize Rs.500/-
0171 1075 1263 2548 4108 4354 5364 8252 9110 9354
6th Prize Rs.250/-
0052 0099 0136 0354 0379 0711 0730 0788 0969 1036
1110 1158 1161 1412 1442 1623 1689 1833 1933 1984
1999 2033 2046 2053 2060 2061 2070 2181 2298 2516
2565 2772 2776 3074 3083 3214 3371 4070 4105 4135
4233 4297 4367 4390 4489 4678 4819 4828 4863 4878
4889 4893 4904 4926 5037 5147 5182 5274 5547 5650
5744 5880 5903 6000 6117 6122 6287 6601 6889 7085
7133 7206 7209 7242 7310 7327 7331 7502 7935 8115
8118 8213 8379 8425 8431 8432 8731 8744 8810 8904
9032 9122 9308 9583 9690 9731 9873 9877 9916 9986
Issued by:
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 KIND

Draw No:5 DrawDate on:31/08/17

1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 97E 98967
(Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 98967 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
02766 03675 13488 17045 18224
29127 73384 79984 86944 92762
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
04303 08561 23933 24782 27336
29171 36733 63702 69947 74278
4th Prize Rs.1000/-
0499 1511 2818 4198 5556 7759 8379 8456 8606 8944
5th Prize Rs.500/-
0527 2246 2569 2648 4176 6989 7457 7547 9230 9850
6th Prize Rs.250/-
0054 0123 0273 0395 0423 0432 0551 0586 0590 0679
0895 1015 1088 1143 1151 1316 1390 1475 1835 1967
2073 2088 2205 2310 2320 2459 2499 2610 2661 2675
2681 2711 2893 2986 3020 3077 3102 3186 3240 3297
3338 3491 3517 3581 3658 3696 3809 3914 3942 4089
4099 4133 4186 4237 4404 4457 4514 4719 4848 4879
5081 5117 5866 5955 6176 6194 6225 6650 6659 6786
6928 7047 7077 7151 7309 7451 7541 7589 7728 7793
7819 7884 8074 8233 8316 8384 8726 8978 9091 9141
9363 9560 9587 9612 9752 9838 9852 9861 9880 9932
Issued by:
The Director, Sikkim State Lotteries, Gangtok
please visit : www.sikkimlotteries.com

MIZORAM STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR BENEFIT MORNING

Draw No:5 DrawDate on:31/08/17

1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 95K 65482
(Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 65482 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
20528 35876 38432 52309 52910
55310 61975 66581 69257 88511
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
03895 28500 37398 64999 69989
71822 80314 89783 94314 94985
4th Prize Rs.1000/-
0096 1748 2061 2363 3253 3791 4657 5245 7362 9589
5th Prize Rs.500/-
0857 0988 2760 3324 4468 5489 5831 6128 8048 9960
6th Prize Rs.250/-
0053 0170 0265 0275 0289 0333 0499 0500 0623 0735
0736 0757 1385 1393 1651 2161 2210 2217 2315 2414
2417 2476 2509 2578 2603 2619 2621 2717 2889 2897
2928 2936 3057 3095 3120 3245 3398 3494 3510 3602
3736 3738 3770 3796 3856 3931 3962 4041 4078 4221
4364 4470 4496 4504 4508 4515 4554 4735 4870 5033
5170 5282 5312 5612 5758 5816 5899 6067 6076 6244
6295 6462 6472 6569 6681 7191 7219 7229 7505 7520
7833 7936 8032 8054 8058 8316 8483 8796 8821 8950
9140 9208 9347 9354 9365 9419 9529 9659 9721 9904
Issued by:
The Director, Mizoram State Lotteries,
For results please visit: www.mizoramlotteries.com

NOTICE

The State Civil Service mourns the passing away of Mr Tempo Gyamtso, former civil servant, Government of Sikkim on 26 August, 2017.

He will always be remembered for his positive outlook, tremendous zest for life and his encouragement for his juniors.

In his passing we have lost a good human being. We express our heartfelt condolence and extend our sympathy to the bereaved family.

**STATE CIVIL SERVICE MEMBERS,
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM**

LOST: I, Dorjee Sherpa, S/O Gyeltsen Sherpa R/O Dew Damthang, have lost my original Class X pass certificate bearing roll number 115458, year 1981, CBSE, Temi Senior Secondary School. If found please contact 9832612188



RED CARPET READY: Kristen Wiig waved to fans while attending the premiere of Downsizing and the opening ceremony of the 2017 Venice Film Festival at Sala Grande recently.

BRITISH ACTOR STEPS DOWN FROM HELLBOY ROLE AFTER 'WHITEWASHING' CLAIMS

The actor says he had not realised the character's heritage but would bow out because he felt he "must do what I feel is right".

Ed Skrein has decided to step down from his latest film role after his casting prompted claims of whitewashing. The British actor was cast in Hellboy as Major Ben Daimio, who is of Asian heritage in the comics that inspired the film. But when it was announced last week, it sparked criticism from those who thought the role should have gone to someone with Asian background.

The 34-year-old said that he had not realised the character's heritage when he accepted the part but would bow out because he felt he "must do what I feel is right".

He wrote on Twitter: "Last week it was announced that I would be playing Major Ben Daimio in the upcoming Hellboy reboot.

"I accepted the role unaware that the character in the original comics was of mixed Asian heritage.

"There has been intense conversation and under-

standable upset since that announcement, and I must do what I feel is right.

"It is clear that representing this character in a culturally accurate way holds significance for people and that to neglect this responsibility would continue a worrying tendency to obscure ethnic minority stories and voices in the arts.

"I feel it is important to honour and respect that. Therefore I have decided to step down so the role can be

cast appropriately." He added: "Representation of ethnic diversity is important, especially to me as I

have a mixed heritage family. "It is our responsibility to make moral decisions in difficult times and to give voice to inclusivity.

"It is my hope that one day these discussions will become less necessary and that we can help make equal representation in the arts a reality."

Skrein said he was "sad" to leave the film but that if his decision "brings us closer to that day" then it was "worth it".

"I hope it makes a difference," he added.



The decision won him praise on Twitter, with one fan saying Skrein had "earned my respect and honor" and another saying: "I admit I'm

not familiar with your work but I will keep track now and make sure to support your roles in the future. Thank you for your stance".

what's TRENDING

KIM KARDASHIAN: MY DAUGHTER NORTH 'WOULD BE BETTER' PRESIDENT THAN DONALD TRUMP



Kim Kardashian has a strong opinion about President Donald Trump.

"Anyone can run the U.S. better. My daughter would be better," the Keeping Up With the Kardashians star — who shares daughter North, 4, and son Saint, 20 months, with husband Kanye West — said in a new interview with Harper's Bazaar Arabia.

"We've worked so hard to get where we were and to have so many things that we were so proud of in our country, to just literally revert backwards is the most frustrating thing," she continued. "Every single day when you can't really believe what's going on, the next day it's something else even more crazy and tragic."

That said, Kardashian occasionally finds herself censoring her social media posts. "Sometimes I feel like I want to speak out more about political issues," she explained. "You have to be really careful about what you say because a lot of things can be taken in the wrong context and I always want to be respectful, I don't want to hurt anyone's

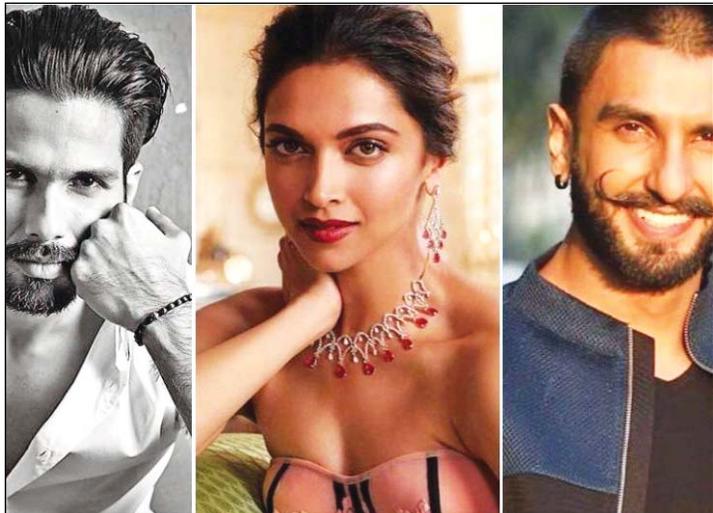
feelings."

The social media mogul is not one of Trump's 37-plus million followers on Twitter. "I do not [follow him]. I follow [Barack] Obama though," she told Harper's

Bazaar, adding that "you just don't feel safe any more" with the former Celebrity Apprentice host, 71, in the White House.

SHOTS FIRED!!!

DEEPIKA PADUKONE IS BEING PAID MORE THAN RANVEER SINGH AND SHAHID KAPOOR FOR PADMAVATI



Deepika Padukone is undoubtedly a woman of million dreams. The diva has gained immense popularity amongst the audience for all the right reasons. Be it her dimpled smile, her charming personality or her acting chops in the films, the actress is a favorite amongst the audience.

Adding to all the glory, Deepika is reportedly taking home a higher pay cheque for Padmavati than either of the two male leads, Ranveer Singh and Shahid Kapoor. The actress will be paid a whopping amount of 13 crores for the magnum opus film while both Ranveer and Shahid will be paid 10 crores. This is great news to news. Finally a woman is dominating

a man's world. Deepika has a higher star value deserves to be paid more.

A source reportedly told Filmfare, "There were a lot of speculations about the pay structure of Padmavati. However, Sanjay sir was clear that the film belongs to Deepika. The film is mounted on its female protagonist Deepika with the title being a testimony of the actress' investment in the project. As for the remuneration, Deepika has taken home a whopping 13 crore, while Ranveer and Shahid share equal digits that read close to 10 crores respectively."

Now that is something huge. Slay Deepika slay!

NEWSWORTHY!!!

THE DAY AHEAD
ARIES: The execution of contracts and other legal documents looks favorable now, Aries. You might consider going into business, perhaps in a partnership with some friends. This looks good, but there's a chance that one of them has been keeping things from you, and this might make you angry. Honest communication is necessary in order to succeed at a new enterprise.
TAURUS: Everyone is likely to be making demands on you right now, which can have you in a dither. A career success could be offset by an upset with a partner over a miscommunication. This should be worked out, but it might take the wind out of your sails if you let it, Taurus. It would be a good idea to derail any upset before it runs you down. Invite your partner out to celebrate!
GEMINI: This should be a fortunate day, Gemini, including love, career, money, and health. Plans for a trip might finally materialize, and a long-awaited solution for a nagging health concern could manifest. You should feel very enthusiastic and optimistic about your future. You might even be daring enough to take a few more chances than usual. Go for the gold, and don't be surprised if you actually get it!
CANCER: If you've been expecting a settlement of some kind, today it might finally come or show signs of coming soon, Cancer. This is a great day to invest in a home, land, or property. It's especially necessary to read the fine print before signing anything. Your mind might be a little foggy. Anything you have to do could require a little more concentration than usual.
LEO: Some paperwork might need attention today, Leo. You may also be on the phone a lot. Communication should be clear, open, and honest, so you'll accomplish exactly what you need to. An intimate and loving conversation could take place between you and a close friend or lover who might follow up with a visit to your home.
VIRGO: Physically, Virgo, you feel strong and energetic. This is a good day to look into expanding your horizons. All signs point to personal and career success. Some surprising communications from friends or neighbors could bring fascinating information your way. You'll know just what to do with it. Follow your instincts!
LIBRA: Ingenuity and practicality lead to success now. Something may be accomplished that has meant a lot to you, Libra, and you should feel particularly satisfied with yourself and maybe even a little excited. A lot of comings and goings could take place in the home today, with visitors and family members popping in and out. Stay centered.

SCORPIO: You might put a lot of effort into the appearance of your house. Some people you'd like to impress could visit your home tonight, Scorpio. You should be especially intuitive now, so don't be surprised if you anticipate what they'll say before they say it. Make it work for you! Success through entertaining and the astute use of intuition are highly indicated.
SAGITTARIUS: A group you're affiliated with could meet somewhere in your neighborhood, Sagittarius. Though you're usually more sensitive and intuitive than others, today you could be feeling especially so. Expect a lot of phone calls and visitors. Don't be surprised if you can read their minds! Artistic and creative interests could also be important to you now.
CAPRICORN: This is a period when your business and financial interests continue to fly high. You may feel disoriented at times, as everything seems to be happening at once, Capricorn. Yet all you can do is go with the flow. You're on a roll! Matters involving friendship and love also are changing rapidly, mostly for the better, though you might leave some longtime companions behind.
AQUARIUS: As career and money matters continue to advance, your self-confidence is high and your mind is very positive. You should continue to attract good fortune. Expect more pleasant surprises and sudden breaks this month, Aquarius. You'll attract new friendships based on shared spiritual values, and old friendships should solidify even more. Life is treating you well.
PISCES: Your ESP continues to expand, Pisces, and you sense what friends are feeling without their saying anything. Don't be surprised if one is hiding some repressed anger! The chance to travel may come unexpectedly, and you could be in a quandary about going. Consider it carefully. If it's feasible, go for it. This isn't the time to hold back.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

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

01ST SEPTEMBER INDIAN HISTORY

1668: Mumbai was handed over to East India Company by King of England.

1798: Nizam of Hyderabad signed treaty with East India Company.

1942- Rasbihari Bose established Indian National Army

1947- Indian Standard Time (IST) was introduced as the official time for the whole country.

1956- LIC was established and all insurance companies nationalised.

1965- India-Pakistan war began. Paki-

stan troops attacked in Chamb sector

2014- Nalanda University opened its doors once again

WORLD HISTORY

1775- King George refuses Olive Branch Petition

1807- Aaron Burr acquitted

1939- Germans invade Poland

1969- Qaddafi leads coup in Libya

1985- Wreck of the Titanic found

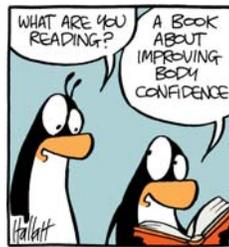
2004- Chechen separatists storm Russian school

LOCKHORNS - HOEST & REINER



"IF THE WORLD IS MY OYSTER, THEN WHERE ARE ALL MY PEARLS?"

ARCTIC CIRCLE - HALLATT



BABY BLUES - KIRKMAN & SCOTT

