

# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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## Rajnath appeals to GJM to withdraw strike; Ministry to call meet



**NEW DELHI, SEP 26 (PTI):** Home Minister Rajnath Singh today appealed to the Gorkha Janmukti Morch (GJM) to withdraw the ongoing strike in Darjeeling hills for a separate Gorkhaland state and asked the Union home secretary to convene an official-level meeting to discuss all related issues.

In a statement, the home minister said that in a democracy, dialogue is the only way out to resolve any problem and solutions can be found through restraint and mutual dialogue

within the legal ambit.

"I appeal to the GJM and its leader Bimal Gurung to withdraw the ongoing bandh and to help create a conducive atmosphere for allowing normalcy to return to the area, particularly in view of the festival season," he said as the indefinite shutdown to press for a separate state of Gorkhaland continued for 104th day.

Singh said he has asked Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba to convene an official-level meeting within a fortnight to

discuss all related issues.

"Eleven precious lives have been lost so far, seven have been injured and the entire people of Darjeeling hills have suffered a lot since the strike. I have pained immensely by what has happened in Darjeeling hills," he said.

The indefinite strike called by the GJM has continued since June 12 though its rebel leader Binay Tamang had announced suspension of the bandh.

On September 20, the West Bengal government announced

the constitution of a nine-member board of administrators with the same powers as Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) which is headed by GJM chief Bimal Gurung.

Rebel GJM members Tamang and Anit Thapa were made the chairman and vice chairman of the board respectively.

The state administration last night decided to lift the restrictions on use of internet services in Darjeeling and Kalimpong, which were imposed on June 18.

## GJM suspends shutdown from Wednesday

**DARJEELING (WB), SEP 26 (PTI):** GJM tonight said the indefinite shutdown in Darjeeling hills will be suspended from tomorrow morning in response to appeal by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh.

The indefinite shutdown by the Gorkha Janmukti Morch (GJM) for a separate state of Gorkhaland entered the 104th day today. The strike had begun on June 15.

"Our party supremo Bimal Gurung has decided to suspend the indefinite shutdown in the hills from 6 am tomorrow morning for an indefinite period."

"The decision was taken after Union Home

Minister Rajnath Singh's appeal to withdraw the strike," GJM vice-president Kalyan Dewan told PTI.

Although the strike was officially on in the hills but for the last one week most of the shops and markets had reopened defying the dictates by GJM leadership.

Reacting to GJM's decision, state Tourism Minister and TMC leader Gautam Deb said the central government has provided a face saver to GJM supremo Bimal Gurung. More than 80 per cent of the shops and markets in the hills have already opened up defying Gurung, he said.

## Trio posing as Vigilance Officers arrested

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 26 SEPT:**

Three persons posing as Vigilance Officers were arrested by Pakyong Police on 25 Sept following a complaint filed by a government employee. The trio had arrived at the government employee's residence in Bering, East Sikkim on 05 Sept and introduced themselves as Vigilance Officers.

They then said that they had come to inquire about a fake Col in his possession and demanded Rs. 1.20 lakh for not reporting the matter.

The victim paid the first installment of Rs 20,000 to the trio on 06 Sept. Later, upon inquiry the victim found out that the three were fraudsters and filed a complaint with the police.

Anand Ruchal (40 years) of Barapathing, Bhim Bahadur Bhusal (54 years) of Pakyong Bazaar and Jagaman Sunar (60 years) of Rhenock were arrested and have been booked under sections 419, 420, 384, 34 IPC at Pakyong Police Station.

## Royal United crowned Sikkim Premier League champions



**SAGAR CHETTRI  
GANGTOK, 26 SEPT:**

The fortnight-long Play247 Sikkim Premier League 2017 concluded at Paljor Stadium on 25 Sept. The premier division league, which was organised by Sikkim Football Association, was kicked off on 11 Sept.

Royal United Sikkim Football

Club became the champions with 19 points from six wins and one draw from seven matches in the league. Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club finished the league as runners-up with 16 points from five wins, one loss and one draw and Boys Club, Gangtok finished third with 11 points from three wins, 2 losses and 2 draws.

The State Sports Academy

stood on the fourth position with 10 points from two wins, one loss and four draws while the defending champions Sikkim Aakraman Football Club came in fifth position with 10 points from 3 wins, 3 losses and 1 draw.

Pakyong United Football Club finished the league on sixth position with 6 points from two wins and five losses, Sikkim Police se-

cured 5 points to stand on seventh position from one win, four losses and 2 draws and Dzongri Football Club finished the league on the last position with just 1 point from a draw and 6 losses.

A total of 100 goals were scored from 28 matches during the 15 days of the premier division league this year, it is informed.

## Governor and CM extend Dasain greetings

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 26 SEPT:**

On the auspicious occasion of Durga Puja (Dussera), Governor Shrinivas Patil and the First Lady Rajanidevi Patil have extended warm greetings to the people of Sikkim, as per a press release from Raj Bhawan.

In his message the Governor said, "The festival of Dasain, as we call in Sikkim, has a cultural significance besides its religious belief and rituals.

Dasain in the Himalayan culture is an important annual occasion for the family members and relatives to visit each other's places and exchange goodwill and emotions. With the blessings of Divine Mother effort is made to strengthen the values associated with family and neighbourhood.

Our unwavering belief since ancient times that the good always prevails over evil has been the founding principle for all our collective efforts aimed at the welfare and benefit of entire community. The festival of Durga Puja epitomises this belief. The Navara-

tra, the nine days of special worship and veneration of Goddess Durga, bears the underlying philosophy and culture of protecting and providing rightful place to our mothers and sisters.

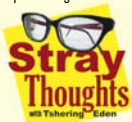
As we congregate to pray to Goddess Durga, let us seek to foster love, harmony and peace among all sentient beings. May Goddess Durga bestow health, happiness and prosperity to my fellow Sikkimese."

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling and Tika Maya Chamling have also extended warm greetings and best wishes to the people of Sikkim on the occasion of Dusshera and Dashain.

In his message, the Chief Minister has wished for good health, happiness and prosperity of the people of Sikkim.

"May the festival light up the lives of the people and strengthen the bond between families and societies. May the festival bring us closer to our culture and help us overcome the indifferences in our relationships," he has stated in his message.

check out an experiment with  
some podcasting from Sikkim.



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## DPO selected South District Employee of the Month

**Namchi, 26 Sept [IPR]:** DPO cum Training Officer, LRDD, South Sikkim, Abhishek Kharel, has been selected as Employee of the month for October 2017 by the Executive Committee.

It should be noted that this month two nominations were received that of Abhishek Kharel and District Child Protection Officer, Roshnila Gurung, from the concerned departments and after analysis of achievements Executive Committee took the decision in favour of Mr Kharel.

Additionally, Engineers of Power department and PWD also were in competition and these employees will be considered in the next em-



ployee of the month. It may be also mentioned that the photo of Mr Kharel will be displayed in front of DC office so that others can feel motivated.

Mr. Kharel has done commendable work in his field and these are prompt response to disaster affected sites, vis-

ited all disaster sites and provided instant relief and rehabilitated victims to safer locations and provided express in fastest manner. He conducted various trainings at GPU level regarding disaster management. He was involved in evacuation of about 20 landslide

turn to pg02

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SKM MLAs  
turn down  
govt vehicles  
allotted to them

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 26 SEPT:**  
Sikkim Krantikari Morcha MLAs, Kunga Nima Lepcha and Sonam Lama have refused to accept the official vehicles allotted to them by the state government. The vehicles have been allotted to Mr Lepcha in capacity as the Member of Estimate Committee and to Mr Lama as the Member of Public Account Committee.

In a letter to the Additional Secretary [Protocol], Sikkim Legislative Assembly, they have expressed their gratitude to the Speaker and the state government for providing the vehicles but later declined the offer to use the vehicles on 'personal grounds'.

Addressing a press conference here today, they said, "We have decided that until the government does not provide justice to unemployed youth, ad-hoc and MR employees and people from poor economical backgrounds, we will not take the vehicles."

They have suggested that the government use the vehicle and its maintenance expenses to support the ad-hoc, MR employees and underprivileged people.

However, they assured to provide sincere and dedicated service to the Estimate Committee and Public Account Committee for the benefit of the people of Sikkim.

**Himalayan Free Church conducts two-day mass cleanliness drive**  
**Mangan, 26 Sept:** The members of Himalayan Free Church (HFC) Mangan, North Sikkim conducted a two-day mass cleanliness drive at Tangtang, lower Singhik and old lower Mangan bazaar on 25 and 26 Sept. The members and youth also cleaned up all the jhoras, drains and complex of those areas. Before conducting the cleanliness drive all of them took a pledge which was read out by Pastor of HFC. The members informed that, they have asked people to keep their surroundings neat and clean and work towards making the area open defecation free zone. Several sewerage pipe lines drain directly into the jhoras of Mangan bazaar which needs to be corrected and managed properly, they added.

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 26 SEPT:**  
To support the Organic Mission Programme of the state government, a 16-member team of State Master Trainers on beekeeping from Sikkim is undergoing advanced training in queen bee rearing and exposure tour to understand management ethics of local bees (Apis Cerena) in mud hives in Himachal Pradesh from 21 to 27 Sept, informs a press release.

The team comprising 06 progressive beekeepers from various places of Sikkim, extension staff from Department of Science and Technology and Climate Change (DST&CC), extension staff from Horticulture and Cash Crop Development Department (HCCD) and Food Security and Agriculture Development Department (FS&ADD), training instructor (beekeeping) from Sikkim Khadi and Village Industry Board (SK&VIB), staff and officials from Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) of West, South and North Sikkim.

The training is organised by Climate Change Adaptation North East Region (CCA-NER) project of Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in collaboration with Dr Yashwant Singh Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Solan, Himachal Pradesh.

The team is led by Joint Director (Fruits), Horticulture

Department (HCCD) and Food Security and Agriculture Development Department (FS&ADD), training instructor (beekeeping) from Sikkim Khadi and Village Industry Board (SK&VIB), staff and officials from Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) of West, South and North Sikkim.

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The team is led by Joint Director (Fruits), Horticulture

## SDF workers vandalized my shop, alleges Gangtok shop owner

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 26 SEPT:**  
Gangtok businessman, Raju Garg, whose shop on MG Marg was vandalized recently after an alleged comment posted by him on Facebook against the Chief Minister, today said that he wants 'full justice and strict action' against those responsible for vandalizing his shop. He has claimed that Sikkim Democratic Front workers were behind the vandalism.

Mr Garg has described the incident as 'life threatening' and has also accused the vandals of stealing Rs 50,000 in cash and a gold chain from his shop.

Addressing a press conference here at SKM head-office today, Mr Garg expressed his dissatisfaction over the police department on releasing the culprits involved in the attack on bail.

"I will not compromise at any stage and I will go to court if required to get justice. If any-

thing wrong happens to me or my family members or my shop then the SDF party will be fully responsible," Mr Garg said.

He has also accused the Gangtok MLA of being involved in the attack. He has criticized the Area MLA for not condemning the attack and 'staying silent regarding the incident'.

Regarding the Facebook comments, he said that his account was hacked by some unknown person and he had not

posted the comments. He also said that he had reported the matter to the police.

While strongly condemning the incident, SKM MLAs, Kunga Nima Lepcha and Sonam Lama stressed that the police should book the accused under the appropriate sections of the IPC. They also urged the ruling party to maintain peace and communal harmony in the State and stated that such incidents will only tarnish the image of Sikkim.

## SKM Nari Morcha objects to 'offensive' posts about members by SDF workers

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 26 SEPT:**  
Sikkim Krantikari Morcha's Nari Morcha has written to the Sikkim Democratic Front party president, Pawan Chamling raising objection to offensive posts and pictures of SKM Nari Morcha members published on social media by SDF social media workers.

This was informed during a SKM press conference here at the party head-office, which was addressed by Nari Morcha chief convener, Kala Rai and chief coordinator, Mingma Lhamu. The letter, signed by executive and other members of Nari Morcha, along with screen shots of such posts on FB was sent

through fax, email and post to the CM today.

Addressing the press conference, they alleged that such posts defame and insult women of Sikkim. They stated that the social media workers of the ruling party post such derogatory and offensive posts on a regular basis. Many fake IDs have been created to make such posts which have been liked and shared by the ruling party workers and leaders, they further alleged.

The three-page letter has requested the party president to stop such activities and discourage such acts by the party workers. They stressed that until women are not protected, politics would not flourish in the State.

## State has failed to provide relief to landslide affected: BJP Sikkim

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 26 SEPT:**  
A team of Bharatiya Janta Party Sikkim Pradesh farmers' front and the party's State in-charge of disaster management, YT Lepcha toured the areas affected by heavy rainfall in different constituencies.

During the tour, the team found that roads, drinking water supplies and power supplies are in pathetic condition and the state government have failed to provide proper relief even as the festive season is on, claims a press release of the BJP state president, DB Chauhan. The party has demanded that the government take immediate action to give relief to the affected people.

The team also inspected the work of Pakyong airport and found careless and inferior quality work in the construction of runway by the government and company, the party has alleged. The party has also demanded that private companies in the State provide advance salaries to their workers before the festival.

On behalf of BJP Sikkim, the party president has expressed best wishes of Dasain to the people of Sikkim.

## DPO selected South District Employee of the Month

**Contd from pg01**  
victims of Namchi and in rationing of fuel during Gorkhaland agitation. He visited every Panchayat as Member of Each Friday, Field Day Team. He was involved in supervision and stock compilation and record keeping of all works sanctioned. Due to his efforts village level disaster management plan has been prepared up to GPU level and South district is first district in Sikkim in this achievement. He established disaster management control room in four GPUs namely Kitam, Mamley Kamrang, Rong-

bul and Sanghnath GPU. He was involved in felling of trees posing threat in and around Namchi in coordination with Fire and Emergency Services and Forest Department. He keeps District Control room 24\*7 open and updates road status and other disaster alerts on social media and mobile application daily. He is also involved in setting up relief camps wherever necessary during monsoon.

Moreover, South District administration congratulates him for this achievement and extends best wishes for his future.

## VI Sustainable Mountain Development Summit concludes in Aizawl

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 26 SEPT:**  
The 6th edition of the Sustainable Mountain Development Summit (SMDS-VI) which began in Aizawl, the Mizoram capital on 20 Sept with the goal of making the people of India proud of their mountains, recognizing the value of its mountain regions and enabling its people to realize their potential, concluded on the night of 22 Sept.

The three-day summit, inaugurated by Chief Minister of Mizoram, Lal Thanhawla was organised by the Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI), a civil society initiative involving the 10 Indian Himalayan mountain states and the hill districts of West Bengal and Assam and was hosted by the Mizoram Sustainable Development Foundation (MSDF), a

press release informs.

Governor of Mizoram, Lt General Nirbhay Sharma, urged the people of the Indian Himalayan states to go back to their roots to ensure protection of environment for arresting climate change. Mr Sharma, delivering the valedictory address, said that rise of temperature during the past few decades in Mizoram is a matter of concern.

Scarcity of water and in contrast heavy and irregular rainfall caused trails of destruction in the state which were results of climate change. The incidents of pest invasion and resurgence of new diseases were also caused by climate change, he said adding that planting more trees and emphasis on renewable energy sources like solar energy were the need of the hour.

Concerned about the

melting glaciers of the Himalayas, Mr Sharma said, "The Himalayas have the largest body of snow after the Arctic and Antarctic. It is sometimes referred to as the Third Pole. When snow from the Arctic and Atlantic melts, it is widely covered by the media. However, the melting glaciers of the Himalayas are hardly ever reported, even though more people are affected. The water from the Himalayan glaciers feeds nearly 30% of the world's population."

Quoting the International Panel on Climate Change report, Mr Sharma added, "Glaciers in the Himalayas are receding faster than in any other part of the world. If the present rate continues, the probability of them disappearing by the year 2035 and maybe even ear-

lier is very high."

In the course of the three-day summit, around 300 participants, half of them coming from various Himalayan states, comprising of distinguished legislators, central and state government representatives, members of civil society, field practitioners, academia, industry, students, media and communities deliberated on the issues of Climate Change and Sustainable Mountain Cities, shared their experiences, discussed issues of sustainable development, identified gaps and resolved to work collectively.

The sub themes under Climate Change included Research and Policy Gaps, State Action Plans on CC, and Adaptation Stories, while under Mountain Cities the subthemes were, Infrastructure Development, Water and Waste Management and Disaster Risk Reduction.


### Janta Mela grants distributed at Khamdong

**YOGEN THATAL SINGTAM, 26 SEPT:**  
Panchayat Inspector, Khamdong Block Administrative Center today distributed grants to the newly enrolled beneficiaries of Janta Mela for the year 2016-17. The pending grants of the beneficiaries of previous Janta Melas were also distributed on the occasion.

Cheques of Rs 10,000 were distributed to the beneficiaries of 2014 Janta Mela for the upgradation of their houses.

The newly enrolled beneficiaries under Janta Mela 2016-17 were granted Rs 30,000 each for house upgradation along with a pressure cooker, GIC sheets and LPG cylinder.

More than 250 beneficiaries have been given the grants under the scheme. The remaining beneficiaries will be given their grants after Durga Puja, it is informed.



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM  
Social Justice, Empowerment & Welfare Department  
Samaj Kalyan Bhawan, Lumsey, Tadong  
Gangtok

**TENDER NOTICE**

The Divisional Engineer, Social Justice Empowerment & Welfare Department , Government of Sikkim having office at Lumsey, Tadong, Gangtok on behalf of, in the name of Governor of Sikkim, invites e-Procurement Bids on two bid system (i.e. Technical & Financial Bid) on item rate basis from contractors having enlistment from Sikkim PWD of class IIB category for the work as detailed below:

Sn	Name of Work	Location
1	2	3
1	Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning and maintenance contract for additional five years of 10(ten) Nos. Gearless Fully Automatic Passenger Lift for Person with Disabilities (Divyanjan) at various Government Non-Residential public Buildings situated in and around Gangtok and conversion of existing 35 numbers buildings into disability friendly environment building by addition & alteration of existing infrastructures for creation of barrier free environment under Accessible India Campaign(AIC)	Annexure A

Lift Manufacturers on Joint Venture with Contractors enlisted with Sikkim PWD of class IIB category , who have experience in the construction of similar Engineering works (as applicable) and consider themselves capable to undertake execution of the project mentioned above may visit the Sikkim tender portal [www.sikkimtender.gov.in](http://www.sikkimtender.gov.in) and Government of Sikkim website [www.sikkim.gov.in](http://www.sikkim.gov.in) w.e.f. 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2017.

Divisional Engineer  
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**Gangtok on Tuesday, 26 Sept**

**Temp:** 28°C / 15°C

**Forecast:** Periods of sun and clouds with a shower or thunderstorm in spots.

**Sunrise:** 05:25 AM

**Sunset:** 05:28 PM

## Meeting on low productivity of horticultural crops in Darj

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 26 SEPT:**

A meeting on 'Low Productivity and Marketing of Horticultural crops in Darjeeling' was organized in the Conference Hall, ICAR-NRC for Orchids, Pakyong, Sikkim on 24 Sept, informs a press release.

The program was chaired by ADG (Horticultural Science), ICAR, New Delhi, Dr. T Janakiram and co-chaired by Director, CPRI, Dr. SK Chakrabarti and Director, ICAR-NRC for Orchids, Pakyong, Sikkim, Dr. DR Singh with the support of Principal Scientist (Hort.), ICAR-NRC for Orchids, Sikkim, Dr. LC De and Principal Scientist (Hort.), ICAR-NR-CO, Darjeeling Campus, Dr. Rampal.

During the meeting, issues like status of different horticultural crops, challenges, gap analysis, marketing strategies and probable interventions through various agencies were discussed for preparation of future plan of action for productivity maximization in Darjeeling.

## Course on medical jurisprudence for Judicial Officers

**GANGTOK, 26 SEPT**

**(IPR):** Sikkim Judicial Academy organized a course on 'Medical Jurisprudence and Forensic Science' for all Judicial Officers of Sikkim on 23 and 24 Sept at Sikkim Judicial Academy, High Court Premises, Gangtok.

Senior Faculty (Documents), LNIN National Institute of Criminology and Forensic Science, Delhi, JK Semwal and Chief Medico-Legal Specialist, STNM Hospital, Dr. Ong Tshering Lepcha, were the Resource Persons.

## Paan shop license seized for selling cigarettes to minor

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**SINGTAM, 26 SEPT:**

Singtam police seized the license of a paan shop for selling cigarettes to a minor student on 25 Sept.

A case was registered against the shop by a SAATHI volunteer who claimed that he saw the shopkeeper selling a cigarette to the student who was reportedly dressed in a school uniform.

The police then seized the license of the shop owner along with all the cigarette stock.

# State level consultation meeting on decentralized planning

**GANGTOK, 25 SEPT [IPR]:** The state level consultation meeting to deliberate on the structures and systems to support decentralized planning and the way forward was held at Janta Bhawan today. The meeting was jointly organized by NITI Aayog, Government of India, in consonance with the Rural Management & Development Department Sikkim and PRIA [Participatory Research in Asia], New Delhi.

Additional Secretary, Rural Management & Development Department, Cheden Ladingspa, in her welcome address, gave a brief overview of the expectations from the meeting. She informed that the meeting was an attempt to deepen democracy and local self-governance by strengthening the Panchayati Raj Institution in the State. She put on record the role of PRIA as a crucial partner for development of PRI and capacity building of functionaries at all levels.

Director-PRIA, New Delhi, Manoj Rai, presented the findings from the Action Research carried out in the last one year

in the State to understand the status of progress of local self governance in the State, along with the issues, challenges and recommendations. He explained why the research was carried out in Sikkim, the methodologies used and the findings.

Chairperson-Sikkim Co-operative Union, Ganesh Rai, in his brief address, maintained that the Panchayat in Sikkim is empowered to the core through a steady progress in the devolution of power. He added that with the initiation of Gram Panchayat Development Plan, the Panchayat is well aware of the resource envelope allocated for development of PRI. He however suggested that there is still room for improvement through strengthening of the District Planning Committees by encouraging participation of public and stakeholders in the planning processes.

President-PRIA, New Delhi, Dr. Rajesh Tandon, facilitated an open discussion on the issues and ways forward, and particularly convergence of all line departments for integrated development of local self

government. Officers of the State RM&DD and from line departments placed wide range of suggestions based on their experiences at the implementation level. They also referred to pertinent issues and points which could be incorporated in the Action Research document prepared by PRIA.

Mayor-Gangtok Municipal Corporation, Shakti Singh Choudhary, in his address, called for active convergence between the Panchayati Raj Institution and the Urban Local Self Government right from the planning process. He added that stringency in the allocation of 14th Finance Commission and the 4th FC has restricted the development process in the urban areas. He also pointed out that the socio-economic and demographic burden of the urban areas is slowly shifting to the peri urban areas, which calls for streamlining the planning process. The floating population has to be considered while planning and the guidelines of the Finance Commissions should be made flexible and

state specific to ease out the implementation process.

Secretary-RM&DD Sikkim, DR Nepal, in his address, thanked the officers from PRIA New Delhi for organizing and participating in this state level consultancy meeting and for their valued suggestions to strengthen Panchayati Raj Institution and Urban Local Self Government in Sikkim. He called for active participation, ownership and convergence from all line departments to ensure that their programmes are carried through participation of the PRIs and the urban local bodies. He stressed that PRIs and ULBs should not be looked at as entities confined to the RM&DD and the UD&HD and should be viewed as a collective responsibility of all the line departments.

Mr Nepal shed light on the development of PRI in the last five years through capacity building and empowerment at various levels. He attributed the progress made by the PRI to the strong political will to devolve and decentralize power right upto the village level. He cited the numerous

awards and accolades received by the PRI in Sikkim for aspects like transparency and accountability and overall performance. He added that the Directorate of Panchayati Raj is taking concrete steps to guide and train the Panchayats on documentation.

The Secretary welcomed the suggestion made by PRIA to have one nodal department, preferably the Planning & Development Department, to head the Decentralized Planning of the PRI & ULB.

In conclusion, he requested the PRIA to revisit the Action Research Document with the inputs and suggestions made in today's meeting and come out with a revised document and submit the same to NITI Aayog. The document would be vital and would have the potential to bring about a paradigm shift in local self governance in the State, he stated.

Dr Tandon, in his closing remarks, hailed the coming together of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and the officials of RM&DD on a common platform to discuss decentralized

planning as something very unique to Sikkim and something exemplary. He observed that the process of local self governance in Sikkim is far more progressive and effective compared to other states. He stressed that participative planning can become a very important vehicle for development. He suggested creating a culture of planning the activities and subsequent review to assess the progress. Planning and review should go hand in hand to achieve the desired results, he explained. He called for making the planning process more participatory by involving all the stakeholders.

The meeting concluded with vote of thanks address by Gautam Mazumdar from PRIA, Sikkim.

The event had the participation of Deputy Mayor-GMC, Lassey Doma Bhutia, senior officers of RM&DD, senior officers of Human Resource Development Department and Animal Husbandry Department, Professor of Political Science from Sikkim University, and officers from PRIA, New Delhi.

# Agriculture Minister hands Indian Agribusiness Excellence Award to CM

**GANGTOK, 26 SEPT (IPR):** The Minister for Food Security and Agriculture Development Department, Somnath Poudyal along with Secretary Horticulture, Khorlo Bhutia and other senior officials from the department called on the Chief Minister Pawan Chamling at his official residence Mintokgang this morning and handed over the award (Indian Agribusiness Excellence Awards) recently received by Sikkim in Bengaluru, for achieving the status of 'India First Certified Organic State'.

The Chief Minister congratulated the concerned Minister and the officials from the department for the award and said that it is the result of their endeavors and hard work.

Mr. Chamling also urged the officials from the concerned department to concentrate only on result oriented works;



he also stated that all the manpower and the infrastructures of the department should be

mobilized and used appropriately to get the desired results.

Mr. Chamling during the

short interaction with the minister and the officials from the department asked them to

eradicate all the bottlenecks that the growers are facing to market their products and urged them to try and achieve the target of having 178 collection centers in all the Gram Panchayat Units in the next two years.

We have a great responsibility now to maintain the goodwill which has been created by the organic farming for Sikkim and we should all work collectively and everyone should contribute, the Chief Minister added.

On the other hand, the Minister, Mr Poudyal credited the Chief Minister for the achievement and stated that this is all possible due to the visionary and innovative governance under his stewardship. He assured that the department will follow the guidelines shown by the Chief Minister and try and get desired results.

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## Cleanliness drive at STNM Hospital

**GANGTOK, 26 SEPT (IPR):** The para-medical wing of the STNM Hospital in collaboration with Gangtok Municipal Corporation organized a cleanliness drive today in the entire hospital complex. The drive was part of the ongoing 'Swachhta Hi Seva' campaign un-

der Swachh Bharat Abhiyan being organized simultaneously throughout the country.

The cleanliness drive had the participation of State Health Minister, AK Ghatani, MP Lok Sabha, PD Rai, Deputy Mayor GMC, Lassey Doma Bhutia, Principal Director Health, Dr. PT Bhutia, along with Medical Superintendent STNM, Dr. KB Gurung, doctors and the paramedical staff of the hospital.

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## Divided in Suspicion

*Anyone can deal in whispers, it takes leaders to deliver coherence*

It is worrying how discussions on communalism continue to remain in circulation and of how often different sections and groups keep crying wolf, painting monsters only they see and hyperventilating over threats only they perceive. After all, into how many slivers can a population of barely 6 lakh people be divided? Of course, with some sections, the divisions are a simple two-way process of “us” and “them”, and that is a disturbing condition to suffer because that reduces every disagreement into an attack, every counter argument into an attempt to deny or subvert.

To begin with, let us not deny that divisions exist within the Sikkimese society. That much is natural, but what has also been exceptionally reassuring about the State is that the privately held prejudices have not been allowed by the people to pour out in public displays of communal posturing; at least not a scale that causes any more damage than hurt feelings. The State, despite some close calls, has never suffered a communal clash. Its politics and several politicians have often succumbed to communalism, but the people have performed much better. The politics of social engineering, of stitching together winning vote-bank combinations have also been tried, and have, thankfully failed as well in Sikkim.

But, if people are resistant to communal confrontations, why is the bogey raised so often in Sikkim? Perhaps because it is an easy divide to hack away at and experience elsewhere has shown that the people's defenses eventually crumble in the face of persistent communal scare-mongering. Given that everyone belongs to some community or the other, it is an accepted fact that people are also inherently communal, at least in as much as having a soft corner, if not hate, is concerned. Also, because we are social animals, this inherent communal streak seldom develops into paranoia or gets directed against other communities because in a small place like Sikkim everyone needs everyone else. This conditioning of social grooming, however, gets stressed when the leader of a pack smells blood – the possibility of making an issue emotive and convincing a people that they are threatened. Few things move off the counter faster than a fabricated conspiracy theory. The more dramatic the fabrication, the more looming is the threat perception. Years of shepherding a disinterested public has honed the skills of these leaders and they are only aided by the blunted perspicacity of the people. People share the blame of allowing space for such voices which keep growing in belligerence because no one holds them to account.

One must realise that India has perhaps the best, most detailed Constitution at hand for the protection of its minorities. Ironically, the minorities still feel perpetually threatened in our country. It is unlikely that any minority was ever threatened as a state policy in the past; it was the majority they feared. As time passed, this suspicion fermented into animosity and now teeters on the brink of hatred. When one weighs in the current environment where hate crimes result often from the not so subtle nudging from the new powers in Delhi, one shudders to think what madness still awaits the country. One needs to ask who allowed such hate and such suspicions to get so normal? Surely not the people, because they are too pre-occupied with aam-aadmi concerns. It's the leaders who failed us. This deduction holds as true for Sikkim as it does for the nation.

Those claiming to represent communities started becoming instigators instead of counselors. These leaders forget that democracy offers people the right to self-determination, the right to negotiate, the right to harmonise. Instead, they allowed their supporters only the options of complaint, bickering and suspicion. Someone who speaks for a community should bridge the communication gap between communities. Anyone can deal in whispers, but it takes a leader to represent a cause and mediate.

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

Mail us at: [letters@summittimes.com](mailto:letters@summittimes.com)

## NEIGRIHMS: A Privilege or Entitlement?

PATRICIA MUKHIM

No other healthcare provider is written about as much as the North East Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (NEIGRIHMS). This is good because the management of this critical care centre can remain on their toes and not take things for granted. Sadly every central institution located here, however noble its intent, tends to fall by the wayside because of bureaucratic red tape, control by New Delhi and lack of leadership and vision required to run such institutions. A public institution whether it be a medical and health infrastructure or a university or a power supply utility are publicly-owned. This means they are funded from the public exchequer. Hence the public need to actively engage with these institutions and hold them to account. The institutions on their part should not feel that the public are encroaching on their rights when they raise questions or critique the institutions. In fact public criticism and CAG reports are the only two elements that can keep institutions on the right track.

The fact that NEIGRIHMS is overburdened with patients from across the seven states, including Assam, Manipur and Tripura which have their own medical colleges, means that the health care institutions in the above states are not functioning well or that NEIGRIHMS has established itself as a leader in some critical departments. I have met with several patients and their relatives who lodge at some of the guest houses/hotels and asked them why they have come all the way here and whether they have reliable health care facilities in their own states. The standard reply one gets is that the Cardiology Department of NEIGRIHMS is well known and has saved many lives. Some may disagree but the fact remains that the Cardiology Department is the flagship Department of NEIGRIHMS. Personally, I have only been to the Orthopaedics Department and found things to be working well here too. At one time I was given a guided tour of the Radiology Department and saw state of the art MRI and CT Scan machines including a modern X-Ray unit. One is impressed by the availability of such modern diagnostics services provided free of cost. My immediate concern was whether this is sustainable in the long run and if NEIGRIHMS has a revenue model for maintenance and repair of these machines if they do go kaput which is inevitable with such a huge population of patients requiring their services on a daily basis. I also learnt that the armed forces stationed in Shillong, also come to NEIGRIHMS for treatment and diagnosis. My question is: What about the Military Hospitals? Are they not able to cater to their own personnel? Can civilians get treatment at Military Hospitals? Similarly, should the armed forces personnel crowd a health facility meant for civilians?

Let I be accused of leaving out other Depart-

ments of NEIGRIHMS which also play yeoman's role in patient care, let me also place on record that the Departments of Medicine, Surgery, Gynaecology and Urology also have their aces and each is trying to perform to the best of its ability. There is a palliative care centre for cancer patients too which you would not see in a private hospital. Even if there is a palliative care unit in a private hospital you would have to pay through the nose. In fact, private hospitals today have become so mercenary that they automatically weed out those who are not capable of paying and cater only to the affluent. I often wonder how such exploitative models are encouraged in a poor country like India, and, what are the corporate social responsibilities (CSR) engaged in by private hospitals. It would be enlightening if we could see this in the public domain.

Coming back to NEIGRIHMS, it would be fair to say that every director who came in tried to do his best but a health and research centre requires a breadth of vision that few possess, least of all doctors coming in from the government sector. They have simply implemented blueprints coming from the top and mainly from bureaucrats or technocrats whose brief ends only with the brick and mortar part of the institution but not its heart – caring, healing and preventing illness. At one time NEIGRIHMS was supervised by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) because it took too long to kick-start. Now it is back with the Union Health Ministry which again is a problem since many of the things that directors would like to see implemented are killed by red tape. If NEIGRIHMS is ostensibly modeled along AIIMS, Delhi then why is it not given the autonomy that AIIMS enjoys?

Recently there have been news reports and letters to this newspaper complaining that the X-Ray unit gets heated up and patients and their attendants are kept waiting for hours. This means that there are not enough X-Ray units or that patients have far exceeded the numbers envisaged. I wonder how the Director is tackling this emergency because that is what it is. There are too many people in this country who cannot afford private health care. Government institutions will therefore continue to be overburdened. But this also means that NEIGRIHMS should speak out and tell us the exact position. Sweeping the dirt under the carpet will not help anyone!

I recently met the Director Dr Thappa who informed that he had kept a complaint/suggestion box outside his office so that complaints are addressed within the Institution instead of people running to media for every grievance. And that is a problem I wish to address in this article. NEIGRIHMS belongs to the public of this region. Instead of rushing to the media why don't patients and their relatives meet the Director and lay out their grievances before him? On his part the Director is expected to be empathetic and not defensive.

Heads of Institutions need to be exposed to the public so that they learn firsthand what is ailing the Institution. Every institution also has its share of internal politics. Where two or more individuals live and work together politics is inevitable but it need not be destructive. The Director is expected to embrace all shades of opinions and to set standards of behaviour that can be emulated by juniors and peers. Every institution also has its ethical standards which all are expected to follow, including the head of the institution.

The Director also informed that a 250 bedded, cancer unit and medical college is coming up adjacent to the administrative complex. This will be a great boon to the people of the region since cancer is a growing concern across states. However, what is worrying is the menu in the NEIGRIHMS canteen from where patients and their relatives usually get their food from. Since Dr Thappa joined the Institute, the canteen has stopped serving non-vegetarian cuisine. I brought this to the attention of Dr Thappa but he brushed the concern aside saying that no such directives were given to the canteen management. But the menu I managed to procure tells the real story. There is vegetable momo, vegetable patties, vegetable paratha and cup noodles (this last one is an unhealthy food item). The rest are cakes and muffins all of which have very little nutritional value and are not diabetic-friendly. The people of this region are not vegetarian by culinary choice. They get their proteins from meat. While it may be difficult for canteens to provide a choice of meat, they can at least serve fish and chicken which are normal fare. I can't understand why a new menu should be introduced with the joining of a new Director.

Finally, as to whether NEIGRIHMS is an entitlement or a privilege, I would like to believe it is both. It is a privilege that we now have access to the best treatment within the region and don't have to flock to Vellore, Delhi, Mumbai or Chennai for medical care. It saves time, money and undue stress for the patient and his/her family. As an entitlement, we get free or subsidized diagnostic facilities and treatment. Medicines may not be completely free but they are sold at rates that are lesser than market rates.

Considering that NEIGRIHMS caters to the people of all eight states, it is incumbent upon all state chief ministers to take interest in this Institute and help it in its journey. Similarly, the Members of Parliament from the region ought to show a sense of ownership too and engage with the Union Government to give a fillip to NEIGRIHMS. As of today, NEIGRIHMS is an orphan out of whom much is expected but very little is given by the public.

*[the above article was originally published in The Shillong Times and is reproduced here by arrangement with the author]*

## The history of the persecution of Myanmar's Rohingya

ENGY ABDELKADER  
*theconversation.com*

Some 420,000 Rohingya Muslims, a religious and ethnic minority community in Myanmar, have fled to neighboring Bangladesh since August this year.

The United Nations has called the Rohingya the world's most persecuted minority group and described the atrocities by Myanmar's authorities as "ethnic cleansing," whereby one group removes another ethnic or religious community through violence.

But the persecution of the Rohingya is not new. My research on the Rohingya Muslim experience in Myanmar shows that this pattern of persecution goes back to 1948 – the year when the country achieved independence from their British colonizers.

Here is their brief history.

### THE LEGACY OF COLONIALISM

The British ruled Myanmar (then Burma) for over a century, beginning with a series of wars in 1824.

Colonial policies encouraged migrant labor in order to increase rice cultivation and profits. Many Rohingya entered Myanmar as part of these policies in the 17th century. According to census records, between 1871 to 1911, the Muslim population tripled.

The British also promised the Rohingya separate land – a "Muslim National Area" – in exchange for support. During the Second World War, for example, the Rohingya sided with the British while Myanmar's nationalists supported the Japanese. Following the war, the British rewarded the Rohingya with prestigious government posts. However, they were not given an autonomous state.

In 1948, when Myanmar achieved independence from the British, violent conflicts broke out among various segments of its more than one hundred ethnic and racial groups.

### DECADES-LONG PERSECUTION

After independence, the Rohingya asked for the promised autonomous state, but officials rejected their request. Calling them foreigners, they also denied them citizenship.

These animosities continued to grow. Many in Myanmar saw the Rohingya as having benefited from colonial rule. A nationalist movement and Buddhist religious revival further contributed to the growing hatred.

In 1950, some Rohingya staged a rebellion against the policies of the Myanmar government. They demanded citizenship; they also asked for the state that had been promised them. Ultimately the

army crushed the resistance movement.

Much like today's terrorists, the rebels at the time were called "Mujahid" or engaged in "struggle" or "jihad." It is important to point out that the international community has never agreed on how to define "terrorism." The legal definition could vary by country as politics dictates its contours. As scholar Ben Saul says, officials can use its meaning as a weapon against even valid political rivals. The lack of consensus, as Saul argues, reflects disagreement about what violence is legitimate, when and by whom.

In 1962, just over a decade later, a military coup culminated in a one-party military state where democratic governance was woefully lacking. During the next 60 years of military rule, things worsened for the Rohingya. The authorities saw the minority group as a threat to nationalist identity.

Calling them foreigners, the army killed, tortured and raped. They closed Rohingya social and political organizations. They also transferred private Rohingya businesses to the government, debilitating the group financially. Further, the Rohingya suffered forced labor, arbitrary detention and physical assaults. In 1991 and 1992, more than 250,000 attempted to escape to Bangladesh.

### ROHINGYA 'STATELESSNESS'

In 1977, when the army launched a national drive to register citizens, the Rohingya were considered illegal. More than 200,000 Rohingya fled to Bangladesh at the time because of further atrocities. Authorities pointed to their flight as purported evidence of their illegal status.

The Citizenship Act of Myanmar, enacted in 1982, formally denied the group citizenship rights. This law required that a person's ancestors belong to a national race or group present in Myanmar prior to British rule in 1823, to become a citizen. The Rohingya were still classified as illegal immigrants allowed in by British colonizers. As Human Rights Watch has noted, however, their presence actually dates back to the 12th century.

Today, the Rohingya are the single largest "stateless" community in the world. Their "statelessness" or lack of citizenship increases their vulnerability because they are not entitled to any legal protection from the government.

Without citizenship, they are deprived of basic rights such as access to health services, education and employment. The illiteracy rate among the Rohingya, for example, is a staggering 80 percent.

Additionally, they have been denied the right to

worship freely. They also face restrictions on the right to marry, move freely and own property because of their religious and ethnic identity.

Even though Rohingya population growth has slowed down, anxieties not only persist but are codified in law: Rohingya couples are allowed no more than two children.

Those who break the law risk imprisonment, and the government blacklists their children. Without legal status, they cannot go to school, travel or buy property. The police can also arrest and imprison them.

### THE CURRENT CRISIS

Despite Myanmar's recent democratic transition, the persecution persists.

The current humanitarian catastrophe ostensibly began with an assault on police posts by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army, a new insurgency group.

Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh told Human Rights Watch that Myanmar government forces had carried out armed attacks, and burned down their homes. In addition, they beheaded men, raped women and murdered children. Tens of thousands of Rohingya have become internally displaced. Even prior to this crisis, 120,000 displaced Rohingya had been living in internment camps.

Amnesty International said there were indications that authorities in Myanmar have also placed illegal landmines at locations commonly used by refugees. Among those killed were two children. What is more, international humanitarian aid has been blocked, preventing necessities like food, water and medicine from reaching a quarter of a million people.

### AUNG SAN SUU KYI AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The Myanmar Army, meanwhile, denies any wrongdoing. Despite the global outcry, they claim to be conducting "counterterrorism" operations. Due to the severity of the human rights crisis, however, the British government decided to stop its defense engagement and training of the military in Myanmar.

None of this criticism, however, has made Aung San Suu Kyi, Myanmar's de facto leader and Nobel laureate, acknowledge the plight of the Rohingya. Amid international criticism, she recently canceled her visit to this week's U.N. General Assembly in New York. In her speech to Myanmar's parliament, she denied that there had been any "armed clashes or clearance operations" since September 5, this year.

Tragically, her actions signal there will be no end to the persecution of Rohingya anytime soon.

*[the writer is with the Rutgers University]*



People of hills will not forgive Tamang: Bimal Gurung



**Darjeeling (WB), Sep 26 (PTI):** GJM supremo Bimal Gurung today said the people of the hills will not forgive expelled GJM leader Binay Tamang for “betraying” their aspirations.

The West Bengal government appointed Board of Administrators (BoA) of the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) met for the first time yesterday under the chairmanship of Tamang.

The meeting had decided to carry out a special audit of GTA, that was headed by Gurung for last five years.

The indefinite shutdown in

the hills over the demand for a separate state of Gorkhaland today entered its 104th day.

“The Gorkhas will not forgive Tamang for playing into the hands of the state government and betraying the aspirations of the people of the hills. He has compromised with the cause of Gorkhaland,” Gurung said in a message.

He warned that the agitation will turn violent if the Centre does not convene a tripartite talk within next week.

“I will wait for one more week for the Centre to initiate talks. If it does not happen we will decide our next course of

action and the agitation will turn violent,” Gurung said.

Meanwhile, in view of normalcy returning to Darjeeling hills the state administration last night decided to lift the restrictions on use on internet services, which was imposed on June 18.

The internet ban was on in the hills for 100 days.

Several shops and markets in the hills opened during the day despite threats and intimidation by GJM activists.

Darjeeling district administration said that over 85 per cent of the shops in the hills opened.

Puja pandal driving home a message on social contradictions

**KOLKATA, SEP 26 (PTI):** At a time when the the city is enamoured in celebrating Devi Paksha – the time when Goddess Durga wages a battle against the demon Mahisasura and destroys evil – a Durga Puja pandal in north Kolkata is quietly delivering a message on social how women empowerment still remains a far cry.

For the Kankurgachi Mitali Durga Puja Committee, the timing couldn't have been better. Durga Puja is a time to celebrate “Stree Shakti” or women power, but in reality, there is no respite for women as they remain chained to the chores.

The puja organisers have shot a three-part short film and are beaming it outside the pandal to catch the eye of the thousands of pandal hoppers. Titled ‘Upachare Bandi’ (bound by rituals), the short film is a rundown of social contradictions.

“This is a short film - a three-part presentation before thousands of puja revellers - featuring three women belonging to different age groups who find their wishes dashed and movement fettered by certain societal norms

and rituals. So, while on the one hand we are celebrating ‘Stree Shakti’ we are not allowing women in the families to participate citing certain norms.

“Upachare Bandi brings out this inherent hypocrisy in society where the invocation of the mother goddess follows a series of rituals which at times prevent women from participating in the festival in certain situations,” one of the two directors, Artrik Bhattacharyya said.

The film is a collage. In one bit, a teen girl who has been counting down for the past several months to offer ‘Pushpanjali’ on Mahashanti day is suddenly asked by her mother not to visit the neighbourhood puja pandal as she had menstruated, the other director Arkamoy Datta Majumder said.

In the two bits - a married woman is asked not to visit the pandal during the time of ‘Pushpanjali’ as the maid has not turned up and an elderly woman has to shelve her plans to meet other members of her group at the puja pandal as her son and daughter-in-law asks her to look after her child at the new flat.

WB award for Durga Puja committees

**KOLKATA, SEP 26 (PTI):** The ‘Biswa Bangla Sharad Samman’, an initiative by the state government to promote and benchmark the execution of art work by Durga Puja committees in Bengal and elsewhere, will honour 25 puja committees as ‘Serar Sera’ (The better than the best) this year for their overall aesthetics.

The ‘Biswa Bangla Sharad Samman’ is the first such initiative by any state to honour organisers of the grand festival, West Bengal Minister of State for Information and Cultural affairs, Indranil Sen said.

While 25 puja committees have been given the ‘Serar Sera’ honour, the government will also award four puja com-

mittees which have stuck to the ‘sabeki’ style (traditional way) of celebrations all along.

“This is a new addition to honour sabeki pujas as well and this year we will be giving awards to four puja committees for sticking to the sabeki style all along,” Sen said.

The 25 ‘Serar Sera’ pujas include crowd-pullers like - Suruchi Sangha, Chetla Agrani, Barisha Club, Naktala Udayan Sangha, Tridhara, Abasar, Kasba Bosepukur Shitala Mandir, Mudiali, Samajsebi Sangha, Kashi Bose Lane Sarbojonin Durgotsab, Tallah Baroari, Bhavanipur 75 Palli and Shibmandir Durgotsav.

The four award winners in the ‘Sabeki’ puja categories

are Ekdalia Evergreen, Baghbazar Sarbojonin, Adi Ballygunje and 76 Pally who have been known for traditional idols and pandals.

Thirty-nine puja committees were also awarded in separate categories like best pandal, best idol, best illumination, best idea, best discovery, best artiste, best theme song/ambience, best environment friendly), best branding, best drummer. The ‘Serar Sera’ pujas were also among the winners in these categories.

Sen said the Biswa Bangla Sharad Samman winners will take part in the Red Road Immersion Carnival on October 3 to be organised by the state government.

Journalist killing: Tripura govt to set up SIT

**AGARTALA, SEP 26 (PTI):** Tripura cabinet today decided to form a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the killing of journalist Shantanu Bhowmick on September 20 in West Tripura district.

The decision was taken at a cabinet meeting headed by Chief Minister Manik Sarkar, Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Bhanulal Saha said.

A delegation of The Agartala Press Club had on Sunday called on the chief minister and demanded constitution of a SIT to investigate the murder.

It was also decided that a compensation of Rs 10 lakh

would be given to the family of the slain journalist, Saha told reporters. Till now, three persons were arrested in connection with the killing.

Bhowmick, a journalist working with a local television channel, was covering a clash between the Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT) and the Tripura Rajyer Upajati Ganamukti Parishad, the tribal wing of the CPI(M), at Mandai when he was hit from behind and abducted.

Later, Bhowmick was found with serious stab injuries and was taken to Agartala Medical College and Hospital where doctors declared him ‘brought dead’.



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<p>Any person who is either:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ A member of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe; or</li><li>➤ A victim of trafficking in human beings or ‘beggar’ as referred to in Article 23 of the Constitution ; or</li><li>➤ A woman or child; or</li><li>➤ A person with disability as defined in clause (i) of Section 2 of the persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995; or</li><li>➤ A victim of mass disaster, ethnic violence, Caste atrocity, flood, drought, earthquake, or industrial disaster; or earthquake, or industrial workman; or</li><li>➤ In custody, including that of a protective home, juvenile home psychiatric hospital, psychiatric nursing home; or</li><li>➤ Having annual income upto ₹1,00,000/- per annum only are entitled to free legal aid.</li></ul>	<p>Legal Services include the rendering of service in the conducting of a case of legal proceeding before any Court/Authority/Tribunal and the giving of advice on a legal matter. These are provided as under:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Providing Advocates at State expenses;</li><li>➤ Paying Court fee on behalf of the eligible persons;</li><li>➤ Bearing expense regarding preparation of documents;</li><li>➤ Paying expenses for the summoning of witnesses;</li><li>➤ Drafting of legal documents, special leave petition etc.</li><li>➤ Paying other incidental expenses connected with litigation.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Defamation;</li><li>➤ Malicious prosecution;</li><li>➤ A person charged with contempt of court proceedings or perjury;</li><li>➤ Proceedings relating to any election;</li><li>➤ Proceedings in respect of economic offences and offences against Social laws, such as Protection of Civil Rights,1955, and the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) at, 1956.</li><li>➤ Where a person seeking legal aid:-<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) Is concerned with the proceeding only in a respect of official capacity or</li><li>(b) Is concerned with a proceeding jointly with some other person or persons whose interests are identical with his and such person or any of such persons is adequately represented in the proceedings or</li><li>(c) Is a formal party to the proceedings, not materially concerned in the outcome of proceedings and his interests are not likely to be prejudiced on account of the absence of proper representation.</li></ul></li></ul>

Whom to contact for legal services												
<p>For obtaining free legal services, a person may contact:-</p> <table><tr><td>(1) Office of Sikkim State Legal Services Authority, Development Area, Gangtok, East Sikkim. Phone No. 03592 207752/207753 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Sikkim_slsa@live.com">Sikkim_slsa@live.com</a> Website: <a href="http://www.sikkimslsa.nic.in">www.sikkimslsa.nic.in</a></td><td>(2) District Legal Services Authority (East) District Courts Complex, Sichey, Gangtok, East Sikkim. Phone No. 03592 284462 E-mail: <a href="mailto:y.christopher@nic.in">y.christopher@nic.in</a>.</td><td>(3) District Legal Services Authority (North) Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate (North), Pentok, Mangan, North Sikkim. Phone No. 03592 234501 E-mail: <a href="mailto:dlsanorth66@gmail.com">dlsanorth66@gmail.com</a>.</td><td>(4) District Legal Services Authority (South), District Courts Complex, Namchi, South Sikkim. Phone No. 03595 264356 E-mail: <a href="mailto:dsc_namchi@gmail.com">dsc_namchi@gmail.com</a>.</td></tr><tr><td>(5) District Legal Services Authority (West) Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate (West), Gyalshing, West Sikkim. Phone No. 03595 250189 E-mail: <a href="mailto:cj.jm.west@gmail.com">cj.jm.west@gmail.com</a></td><td>(2) Taluk Legal Services Committee (North), Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate (North), Pentok, Mangan, North Sikkim. Phone No. 03592 234383/234514 E-mail: <a href="mailto:dlsanorth66@gmail.com">dlsanorth66@gmail.com</a></td><td>(3) Taluk Legal Services Committee (South), Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate (South), South Sikkim. Phone No. 03595 263145 E-mail: <a href="mailto:dsc_namchi@gmail.com">dsc_namchi@gmail.com</a>.</td><td>(4) Taluk Legal Services Committee (West), Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate (West), Gyalshing, West Sikkim. Phone No. 03595 250779 E-mail: <a href="mailto:cj.jm.west@gmail.com">cj.jm.west@gmail.com</a></td></tr><tr><td>(1) Taluk Legal Services Committee (East), District Courts Complex, Sichey, Gangtok, East Sikkim. Phone No. 03592 284131 E-mail: <a href="mailto:y.christopher@nic.in">y.christopher@nic.in</a>.</td><td>(5) Taluk Legal Services Committee Soreng, sub-Division, West, Sikkim. <a href="mailto:cjmsorengofficial@gmail.com">cjmsorengofficial@gmail.com</a></td><td>Taluk Legal Services Committee. Chungthang, Sub-Division, North Sikkim. E-mail: <a href="mailto:dlsanorth66@gmail.com">dlsanorth66@gmail.com</a></td><td></td></tr></table>	(1) Office of Sikkim State Legal Services Authority, Development Area, Gangtok, East Sikkim. Phone No. 03592 207752/207753 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Sikkim_slsa@live.com">Sikkim_slsa@live.com</a> Website: <a href="http://www.sikkimslsa.nic.in">www.sikkimslsa.nic.in</a>	(2) District Legal Services Authority (East) District Courts Complex, Sichey, Gangtok, East Sikkim. Phone No. 03592 284462 E-mail: <a href="mailto:y.christopher@nic.in">y.christopher@nic.in</a> .	(3) District Legal Services Authority (North) Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate (North), Pentok, Mangan, North Sikkim. Phone No. 03592 234501 E-mail: <a href="mailto:dlsanorth66@gmail.com">dlsanorth66@gmail.com</a> .	(4) District Legal Services Authority (South), District Courts Complex, Namchi, South Sikkim. Phone No. 03595 264356 E-mail: <a href="mailto:dsc_namchi@gmail.com">dsc_namchi@gmail.com</a> .	(5) District Legal Services Authority (West) Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate (West), Gyalshing, West Sikkim. Phone No. 03595 250189 E-mail: <a href="mailto:cj.jm.west@gmail.com">cj.jm.west@gmail.com</a>	(2) Taluk Legal Services Committee (North), Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate (North), Pentok, Mangan, North Sikkim. Phone No. 03592 234383/234514 E-mail: <a href="mailto:dlsanorth66@gmail.com">dlsanorth66@gmail.com</a>	(3) Taluk Legal Services Committee (South), Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate (South), South Sikkim. Phone No. 03595 263145 E-mail: <a href="mailto:dsc_namchi@gmail.com">dsc_namchi@gmail.com</a> .	(4) Taluk Legal Services Committee (West), Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate (West), Gyalshing, West Sikkim. Phone No. 03595 250779 E-mail: <a href="mailto:cj.jm.west@gmail.com">cj.jm.west@gmail.com</a>	(1) Taluk Legal Services Committee (East), District Courts Complex, Sichey, Gangtok, East Sikkim. Phone No. 03592 284131 E-mail: <a href="mailto:y.christopher@nic.in">y.christopher@nic.in</a> .	(5) Taluk Legal Services Committee Soreng, sub-Division, West, Sikkim. <a href="mailto:cjmsorengofficial@gmail.com">cjmsorengofficial@gmail.com</a>	Taluk Legal Services Committee. Chungthang, Sub-Division, North Sikkim. E-mail: <a href="mailto:dlsanorth66@gmail.com">dlsanorth66@gmail.com</a>	
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Legal Aid Clinics manned by trained student Para Legal Volunteers are functioning in the following University/College.

1. Sikkim University at 5 <sup>th</sup> Mile, Tadong	- Every Wednesday & Friday from 03:00 p.m. – 05:00 p.m.
2. ICFAI University at Lower Sichey.	- Every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. – 01:00 p.m.
3. Sikkim Government Law College at Burtuk	- Every Thursday from 02:00 p.m.- 04:00 p.m. and Saturday from 11:00 a.m.- 01:00 p.m.

**Published by:**  
Sikkim State Legal Services Authority,  
Development Area, Gangtok, Phone: 03592-207752/207753,  
Website: [www.sikkimslsa.nic.in](http://www.sikkimslsa.nic.in)

R.O. No: 349/ipr/pub/classi/17-18 dt. 26.9.2017



Brazil squad arrives for FIFA U-17 World Cup

**MUMBAI, SEP 26 (PTI):** Three-time champions Brazil arrived here this morning for the FIFA U-17 World Cup which will start in India from October 6.

According to sources, the team arrived here this morning and is expected to train at the Mumbai Football Arena in suburban Andheri later in the day.

Brazil will play against New Zealand in a practise game on September 28 at the Andheri complex.

Brazil have been placed in Group D along with DPR Korea, Niger and Spain.

They kick off their campaign against Spain at Kochi on October 7.

It is also learnt that Turkey, who are also playing the World Cup, have arrived in the megapolis late last night.

Sources said they are expected to train at a venue in Navi Mumbai.

Turkey is in Group B along with Paraguay, Mali and New Zealand.

Turkey will play their first game against New Zealand at the D Y Patil stadium in neighbouring Navi Mumbai on October 6.

FIFA U-17 WC: Over 20K tickets sold for first match day at DYP

**MUMBAI, SEP 26 (PTI):** Over 20,000 tickets have been sold for the first match day - comprising two matches - to be played at the D Y Patil Stadium in neighbouring Navi Mumbai on October 6, day one of the FIFA U17 World Cup.

"Over 20,000 tickets have been sold out so far out of the total capacity (around 45,000) of the stadium," sources said today.

According to sources, they have another 10 days left for the tournament to kick off and a full house for the first two games is expected.

They also said the stadium will be handed over to FIFA anytime after September 28, though a final date for it has to be fixed.

Meanwhile, the D Y Patil Stadium has been completely renovated



for the FIFA event, to be hosted by India for the first time.

As per sources, all the seats have been changed to ensure that spectators get a good view of the games. The seats have been imported from South Korea.

"All the new seats are put in. A new fabric roof has been installed and we have made sure the seating is done in such a manner that every spectator, who sits in the stadium, has a unique watching experience," a senior official of D Y Patil

Sports Academy recently told PTI.

"In terms of renovation, two practise grounds are ready in the facility (campus)," he said.

It is learnt that all arrangements are in place for the tournament and some finishing touches

are being given.

And as per sources in the knowhow, the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation has agreed to ply buses from the stadium to nearby railway stations - Juinagar and Nerul - for the convenience of commuters.

No sign of plagiarism in “Newton’: ‘Secret Ballot’ director

**MUMBAI, SEP 26 (PTI):** "Newton" had come under the scanner for allegedly being a rip-off of "Secret

Ballot" but the director of the 2001 Iranian film, Babak Payami, has confirmed that there is no sign of pla-

giarism in the Amit Masurkar-directed movie.

Payami, in an interview with Cinestaan, said

he watched the film and did not find any "specific stylistic or structural similarities" in "Newton", which was recently selected as India's official entry to the Oscars.

"I saw the film and there is no sign of plagiarism. These are completely different films. Any similarities between the two films are broad and I don't see any specific stylistic or structural similarities between the two films. These are two different films on a common theme," he said in the interview.

Amid reports that the film has striking similarities with "Secret Ballot", director-producer Anurag Kashyap came forward in support of Masurkar and reached out to Payami and film's producer Marco Muller to get their opinion.

He shared a screenshot of the then yet-to-be published interview with Payami on Facebook, where the Iranian filmmaker said he was happy for the selection of "Newton" at the Oscars and had no issue with the thematic similarities between the two films.

Kashyap had also sent the link of "Newton" to Muller, who after watching the film, told the director that "Newton" was "definitely no rip-off from our 'Secret Ballot' (even if the general concept is the same)."

"Newton" revolves around a government employee's struggle to conduct a free and fair election in a conflict-hit area of Chhattisgarh, while "Secret Ballot" focuses on a woman ballot officer, who visits a desolate place in Iran to convince people to cast their vote.

ICC’s new playing rules to come into effect on Thursday

**DUBAI, SEP 26 (PTI):** Players being sent off for misconduct is all set to become a reality in cricket with the ICC's revamped playing rules, which will be effective in all series starting September 28 or later.

The significant changes also include a restriction on the dimensions of the bat, and changes to the Decision Review System. However, the ongoing India-Australia limited-overs series will continue to be played as per the old rules.

All of these rules will come into effect from the two upcoming Test series -- when South Africa host Bangladesh and Pakistan take on Sri Lanka in the United Arab Emirates.

The ICC playing conditions will now incorporate the relevant clauses from the MCC Laws of Cricket (2017 Code), meaning that all the playing regulations will be captured in one document for each format.

"Most of the changes to the ICC playing conditions are being made as a result of changes to the Laws of Cricket that have been announced by the MCC. We have just completed a workshop with the umpires to ensure they understand all of the changes and we are now ready to introduce the new playing conditions to international matches," ICC General Manager (Cricket) Geoff Allardice said.

To maintain the balance between bat and ball, the size of the edges of the bats as well as their thickness will now be restricted.

"The restriction on the length and width of bats remain unchanged but the thickness of the edges can't be more than 40mm and the overall depth can be 67 mm at

the most. Umpires will be issued with a new bat gauge, which they can use to check a bat's legality," the ICC stated.

In a new playing condition pertaining to players' conduct, a player can now be sent off the field for the rest of the match for any serious misconduct.

"...meaning it will apply to Level 4 offences while the Level 1 to 3 offences will continue to be dealt with under the ICC Code of Conduct," it said.

"Threatening to assault an umpire, making inappropriate and deliberate physical contact with an umpire, physically assaulting a player or any other person and committing any other act of violence all constitute Level 4 offences," it added.

Also, in the new the DRS rules a review will now not be lost in case of a decision that remains unchanged, solely as the result of an 'umpire's call'.


"As for DRS in Test matches, there will be no more top-up reviews after 80 overs of an innings, meaning that there can only be two unsuccessful reviews in each innings, while the DRS will now also be allowed to be used in T20Is."

"An important change with respect to runouts is that if a batsman is running or diving towards the crease with forward momentum, and has grounded his/her bat behind the popping crease but subsequently lost contact with the ground at the time of the wickets being put down, the batsman will not be run out."

The same interpretation will also apply for a batsman trying to regain his/her ground to avoid being stumped.

For boundary catches, airborne fielders making their first contact with the ball will need to have taken off from within the boundary, otherwise a boundary will be scored.

Besides, a batsman can now be out caught, stumped or run out even if the ball bounces off the helmet worn by a fielder or wicket-keeper.



**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM**  
**SIKKIM STATE TEACHERS' RECRUITMENT BOARD**  
**UPPER SYRI, GANGTOK**

Ref. No. 23/SSTRB/2017

**NOTICE**

On the basis of the written examination held on 22/09/2017, the candidates bearing following Roll Nos. are declared qualified for the viva-voce for selection to the post of Headmaster/Headmistress of Secondary School.

Dated: 25/09/2017

Sl No.	Roll No.	Sl No.	Roll.No.	Sl No.	Roll.No.	Sl No.	Roll.No.	Sl No	Roll No
1	2018001	34	20180072	67	20180131	100	20180182	133	20180241
2	2018002	35	20180073	68	20180133	101	20180183	134	20180245
3	2018006	36	20180074	69	20180135	102	20180184	135	20180246
4	2018008	37	20180075	70	20180136	103	20180185	136	20180248
5	20180010	38	20180076	71	20180138	104	20180186	137	20180249
6	20180012	39	20180077	72	20180139	105	20180189	138	20180252
7	20180013	40	20180081	73	20180140	106	20180190	139	20180253
8	20180014	41	20180084	74	20180141	107	20180191	140	20180254
9	20180016	42	20180085	75	20180143	108	20180193	141	20180255
10	20180017	43	20180086	76	20180146	109	20180194	142	20180256
11	20180021	44	20180088	77	20180148	110	20180197	143	20180257
12	20180024	45	20180090	78	20180149	111	20180198	144	20180258
13	20180027	46	20180091	79	20180151	112	20180201	145	20180259
14	20180028	47	20180092	80	20180153	113	20180202	146	20180260
15	20180034	48	20180094	81	20180158	114	20180203	147	20180261
16	20180037	49	20180095	82	20180159	115	20180204	148	20180262
17	20180038	50	20180096	83	20180161	116	20180206	149	20180264
18	20180042	51	20180100	84	20180162	117	20180207	150	20180265
19	20180043	52	20180102	85	20180164	118	20180208	151	20180266
20	20180046	53	20180105	86	20180165	119	20180209	152	20180267
21	20180047	54	20180107	87	20180168	120	20180217	153	20180268
22	20180048	55	20180108	88	20180169	121	20180220	154	20180269
23	20180050	56	20180111	89	20180170	122	20180221	155	20180270
24	20180052	57	20180113	90	20180171	123	20180222	156	20180271
25	20180054	58	20180114	91	20180172	124	20180224	157	20180272
26	20180055	59	20180115	92	20180173	125	20180229	158	20180273
27	20180057	60	20180121	93	20180174	126	20180230	159	20180274
28	20180058	61	20180122	94	20180175	127	20180231	160	20180275
29	20180061	62	20180123	95	20180176	128	20180232	161	20180276
30	20180062	63	20180124	96	20180177	129	20180235	162	20180277
31	20180063	64	20180128	97	20180178	130	20180236	163	20180278
32	20180066	65	20180129	98	20180179	131	20180238	164	20180279
33	20180068	66	20180130	99	20180181	132	20180239	165	20180280

The interview (viva-voce) will be held in the Conference Hall of SSTRB Building, Upper Syari from 11<sup>th</sup> Oct 2017 to 14<sup>th</sup> Oct 2017.

The candidates from Sl.No. 01 to 41 are requested to appear for the interview on 11/10/2017 at 10.00 am.

The candidates from Sl.No. 42 to 83 are requested to appear for the interview on 12/10/2017 at 10.00 am.

The candidates from Sl.No. 84 to 124 are requested to appear for the interview on 13/10/2017 at 10.00 am.

The candidates from Sl.No. 125 to 165 are requested to appear for the interview on 14/10/2017 at 10.00 am.

The above qualified candidates, who have not submitted their ACRs earlier, are advised to contact the Joint Director of their respective districts for forwarding the ACRs for the year i.e., 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 to the office of SSTRB before 10/10/2017.

Sd/-  
(T.P. Sharma)  
Controller of Examination  
Sikkim State Teachers Recruitment Board.  
dt. 26.9.2017

R.O. No. 348/ipr/pub/classi/17-18



**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM**  
**DIRECTORATE OF HANDICRAFTS AND HANDLOOM**  
**GANGTOK**

**NOTICE INVITING QUOTATION**

Sealed Quotations are invited from the interested Registered Firms, Authorised dealers and Manufacturers for the supply of Raw Materials such as Hardware items, Multi craft items and Timber required for the Directorate of Handicrafts & Handloom, Government of Sikkim, for the financial year 2017-18.

The detailed list of Raw Materials and Tender forms can be obtained from the Directorate, Zero Point, Gangtok on production of Bank Receipt/Challan duly deposited in favour of Director, DHH under the Head-0851 VIL-LAGE & SMALL INDUSTRIES, 102-SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES 01- GICI.

Sl. No.	Raw Materials to be supplied	Cost of Tender/ quotation Form	Remarks
1	Timber	Rs.500/-	
2	Wood Carving, Hardware, Tools & equipments.	Rs.2000/-	

The quotation for Timber supply shall be received only from the registered supplier authorised by the Department of Forest, Environment and Wildlife Management possessing valid license issued by concerned department.

TIME SCHEDULE:

- 1) Sale of Quotation Form 13/11/2017 to 16/11/2017, Time 10.30 am to 3.00 pm.
- 2) Receipt of quotation Form along with relevant documents viz. Valid Trade License applicable tax clearance certificate etc. will be accepted on 18/11/2017 till 3:30 pm in the office of the Director, Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom, Zero Point. Gangtok.
- 3) Opening of Quotation will be conducted on 20/11/2017 at 1:30 pm sharp in the presence of Quotation Opening Committee and the bidders who wish to be present in the O/o Director, DHH, Zero Point, Gangtok.

Further, the bidders should abide by all terms and conditions referred in the tender forms. The Directorate reserves the right to accept or reject any of the bid(s) without stating any reasons thereof.

Director,  
Directorate of Handicrafts & Handloom,  
Zero Point, Government of Sikkim, Gangtok.  
R.O. No. 342/IPR/Pub/Classi./17-18

dt. 25.9.2017

**CONTACT**

**Summit TIMES**

REPORTERS

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9775736596  
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7699771651

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9434011213

**SILIGURI**  
9609066814

**GANGTOK**  
8016270440,  
9832082664,  
9832424750,  
8768664251



# No troop contribution in Afghanistan: India

**NEW DELHI, SEP 26 (PTI):** India and the US today discussed ways to deepen their defence ties along with key issues such as Afghanistan, where New Delhi has ruled out any troop contribution, and terrorism emanating from Pakistan.

Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and her US counterpart James Mattis held comprehensive talks covering the entire gamut of the bilateral defence

partnership.

“The situation in our neighbourhood and the growing menace of cross-border terrorism were discussed in depth. There is growing convergence in the approaches of both our countries on this issue,” Sitharaman said at a joint press conference.

She said both sides recognise the importance of holding those who use terrorism as an instrument of state policy to account

and to dismantle the infrastructure that supports terrorism.

On his part, Mattis said there can be “no tolerance to terrorism safe havens”. He also welcomed India’s contribution in war-torn Afghanistan.

India, one of the largest contributors in Afghanistan where it is involved in several development projects, however, has ruled out troops contribution amidst the US emphasis for a

greater participation by the country in the conflict-ridden Islamic nation.

“We have made it clear that there shall not be boots from India on the ground (Afghan),” Sitharaman said while responding to a query on whether India will contribute troops in Afghanistan.

Sitharaman also said that Mattis has assured her that he will raise with Pakistan the issue of terrorism emanating from there.

## UN says 480,000 in latest Rohingya exodus to Bangladesh

**COX’S BAZAR (BANGLADESH), SEP 26 (AFP):** Some 480,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled to Bangladesh since violence broke out in Myanmar on August 25, the United Nations said today, increasing its estimate by 45,000 in two days.

A report by UN agencies and international charities said the change was due “in large part” to an estimated 35,000 Rohingya moving into two refugee camps who had not been accounted for before. It also said numbers crossing the border had started to rise again.

The UN gave a figure of 435,000 Rohingya arrivals on Saturday.



Bali’s highest volcano is showing “greater than ever” seismic activity with hundreds of tremors recorded daily, authorities have said, signalling that eruption could be imminent. Clouds have shrouded the top of Mount Agung, which is now said to have entered a “critical phase” as seismic activity increases. More than 75,000 people have fled the surrounding area and a 7.5 mile (12km) exclusion zone has been established around the volcano. The Indonesian national disaster agency (BNPB) said there had been more than 560 deep volcanic earthquakes recorded on Monday alone. In a statement on its website it said an increase in the frequency of the tremors indicated magma was moving towards the surface, and that the “number of earthquake events is greater than ever”.

# Smugglers preying on fossils in Narmada valley, officials suspect

**INDORE, SEP 26 (PTI):** After recovering a large number of tree fossils kept on a government land, the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department suspects that smugglers are removing them from the Narmada valley in neighbouring Dhar district.

Forest Ranger Rajesh Chauhan today said, “It appears that the fossils seized on Sunday from a government land at Avral in Manawar tehsil were hidden there to avoid detection by government agencies.

They were carefully hidden under a pile of wood.”

Unidentified smugglers were apparently waiting for an opportunity to ship the cache elsewhere, Chauhan told PTI.

An organised gang was suspected to be involved in the smuggling, he said, adding that the seized fossils were sent to the National Dinosaur Fossil Park in Bagh area.

The Forest Department has started a drive to collect fossils

scattered in the area so as to prevent their smuggling. It is also trying to create awareness among local people about this invaluable legacy, Chauhan said.

Vishal Verma, head of Mangal Panchayat Council, an NGO which conducts research on fossils in the Narmada valley, claimed that the seized tree fossils are about seven crore years old.

“Fossils of aquatic creatures and dinosaurs are also found in Dhar district. They

are under threat in the absence of government protection and lack of awareness among people,” he said.

Smugglers from Maharashtra and Gujarat steal fossils and sell them in international markets at a high price, said Verma.

Three fossilised dinosaur eggs were stolen in 2014 from a museum near Mandu and haven’t been recovered so far, he said, adding that there should be a separate law for protection of fossils.

# China disrupts WhatsApp ahead of Communist Party meeting

**BEIJING, SEP 26 (AFP):** Chinese authorities appear to have severely disrupted the WhatsApp messaging app in the latest step to tighten censorship as they prepare for a major Communist Party congress next month.

Users in China have reported widespread disruptions in recent days to the Facebook-owned service, which previously malfunctioned in the country over the summer.

Experts said the problems began on Sunday, but text messaging, voice calls and video calls appeared to be working again today, though voice messages and photos were not going through.

WhatsApp provides message encryption technology that likely does not please Chinese authorities, which closely monitor and restrict cyberspace through their “Great Firewall”.

Many Chinese activists favour WhatsApp over local messaging apps because of its end-to-end encryption function.

China has tightened online policing this year, enacting new rules that require tech companies to store user data inside the country as well as imposing restrictions on what is permissible content.

Chinese cyberspace regulators said yesterday they slapped “maximum” fines on major Chinese tech firms Baidu and Tencent for allowing the publication of pornographic, violent and other sorts of banned material on their social media platforms. The amount of the fines was not disclosed.

Other users in China

Websites such as Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and a slew of foreign media have been blocked for years.

The WhatsApp troubles emerged ahead of the Communist Party congress on October 18, when President Xi Jinping is expected to be given a second five-year term as the party’s general secretary.

“It smells like Party congress pre-emptive blocking,” said Jason Ng, who researches China’s internet at the Citizen Lab at the University of Toronto.

China usually steps up surveillance around major events, Ng said.

While the WeChat messaging app owned by China’s Tencent company is more widely used in the country, many WhatsApp users complained about the disruptions.

“As we get closer to the Party congress, I think authorities will use more extreme censorship measures. The public knows that WeChat isn’t safe,” prominent Beijing-based activist Hu Jia told AFP.

“Me and other dissidents use WhatsApp to communicate 70 per cent of the time. For the few days WhatsApp was completely inaccessible, we didn’t talk at all,” Hu said.

Earlier this month, WeChat informed its users in a new privacy policy that it would “retain, preserve or disclose” users’ data to “comply with applicable laws or regulations” -- confirming long-held public assumptions about the company’s practices.

noted that the WhatsApp disruptions would make it difficult to work with clients abroad.

“Facebook, Twitter, Gmail, Viber were blocked before. Now even WhatsApp is blocked? Without good messaging tools, it will reduce the efficiency of the foreign trade industry,” wrote one person on Weibo, China’s Twitter-like social media website.

“I can live without the others (applications), but blocking WhatsApp is driving me crazy,” said another.

WhatsApp declined to comment.

The Open Observatory of Network Interference, a global censorship detection group, said China started blocking WhatsApp on Sunday.

To operate in China, some foreign tech companies have complied with local regulations. But others such as Google have chosen to pull out completely from mainland China.

In July, Apple removed software allowing internet users to skirt China’s “Great Firewall” from its app store in the country, drawing criticism that it was bowing to Beijing’s ever-growing web censorship.

Such software, called virtual private networks (VPN), allow people in China to access any website, even those that are blocked.

Beijing mandated in January that all developers must obtain government licences to offer VPNs and there has been concern that it might ban them outright.

# GST, economic slowdown hit Durga Puja sponsorships: Organisers

**KOLKATA, SEP 26 (PTI):** The combined impact of the Goods and Services Tax and a general slowdown in the economy has hit sponsorships for Durga Puja this year, organisers said.

“This year, due to slowdown in the economy there was pressure in getting sponsors and advertisers. Moreover, corporate sponsors are deducting 18 per cent GST, resulting in a huge blow to our budgets,” an official of the puja committee of Ballygunj Cultural Association, told PTI.

Prior to the roll-out of GST, puja sponsorships were out of the tax ambit (value-added tax), the official said.

Another official of Hindustan Park Durga Puja, Sutapa Das, said, “We do not know what is the reason but advertisers were not forthcoming this season. Perhaps GST and slowdown (economic) are to blame.”

Jaygobind Indoria, a member of the Md. Ali

tee of Ballygunj Cultural Association, told PTI.

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Jaygobind Indoria, a member of the Md. Ali

Park Durga Puja committee, said, there has been an impact on advertisement tariffs this year.

Close to 3,000 small and medium puja committees are organising Durga Pujas this year.

Meanwhile, small retailers of garments said sales have been lower by at least 15-20 per cent during this festive season, as GST resulted in higher cost of procurement.

There is some lack of clarity about the new taxation system, too, they said.

# Delhi HC dismisses Honeypreet’s transit anticipatory bail plea

**NEW DELHI, SEP 26 (PTI):** The Delhi High Court today dismissed the transit anticipatory bail plea of Honeypreet Insan, facing charges of sedition and inciting violence after the conviction of Dera Sacha Sauda chief Ram Rahim in twin rape cases.

The court’s order was based on the grounds that she has been evading arrest and hence was not entitled to any discretionary relief.

While passing the order, Justice Sangita Dhingra Sehgal also said that the bail plea was filed in Delhi to buy time and delay the proceedings going on in a Panchlula court in Haryana.



The high court had reserved the order on the bail plea of the 36-year-old woman after hearing the arguments of her counsel and those of the Delhi and Haryana Police earlier in the day.

During the hearing, the high court had ques-

tioned Honeypreet for filing an anticipatory bail before it even though she was a permanent resident of Haryana and told her “the easiest way out is that you surrender”.

The plea was vehemently opposed by the counsel for Delhi and

Haryana Police who said it was “a ploy to do ‘forum shopping’” and, by giving a wrong address of a Delhi property, she was “hoodwinking” the court.

Transit anticipatory bail application is meant to seek protection against arrest during her transit

from Delhi to Haryana for joining probe in the sedition case.

Priyanka Taneja alias Honeypreet, the adopted daughter of the jailed Dera chief, tops the list of 43 persons wanted by the Haryana Police in connection with incidents of violence that had followed Ram Rahim’s conviction in the rape cases.

Ram Rahim was convicted by the special CBI court in Panchkula on August 25, following which violence and arson had erupted in Panchkula and Sirsa districts of Haryana which had claimed 41 lives and left several others injured.

## UP: Cabinet nod to amending tree felling norms

**LUCKNOW, SEP 26 (PTI):** Uttar Pradesh Cabinet today gave its nod to easing the norms related to the felling of trees by farmers.

“As per the UP Protection of Trees Act, 1976, felling of trees on private land in 62 districts of the state barring - Mango, Neem, Sal, Mahua and Khair trees - have been allowed and do not require any permission. Similarly, felling of trees by farmers on private land in 13 districts of the state barring - Mango, Neem, Sal, Mahua, Khair Sagoan and Sheesham - have been allowed and do not require any permission,” an official release said.

The UP government has also come up with a Mukhyamatri Krishak Dhan Yojana, which seeks to promote plantation on the fields of small and marginalised farmers, Mukhyamantri Samudayaki Vaniki Yojana, which under MNREGS seeks to increase the income of village panchayats through plantation on community land, and Mukhyamantri Fallodayaan Yojana, which pertains to plantation of fruit-bearing trees.

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES	
DEAR PARROT EVENING	
Draw time: 08:00 pm onwards	
Draw No:9 DrawDate on:26/09/17	
1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 95J 34129	
(Including Super Prize Amt)	
2nd Prize Rs.9495/- 34129 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)	
3rd Prize Rs.9,000/-	
18222 24997 31324 43303 48558	
62353 71989 74588 84238 98261	
4th Prize Rs.500/- 0754 1779 2559 3659 5109 5544 5949 8464 8852 9378	
5th Prize Rs.250/- 0307 0737 0907 2954 4294 4812 5231 7287 7486 8891	
6th Prize Rs.120/-	
0035 0053 0179 0295 0542 0979 1035 1046 1091 1096	
1106 1152 1170 1392 1430 1515 1566 1654 1709 1717	
1754 1786 1820 1915 1924 2016 2144 2489 2658 2703	
2725 2734 2808 2894 3100 3106 3233 3437 3478 3524	
3918 4009 4429 4449 4489 4728 4855 4961 4995 5291	
5486 5675 5696 5722 5743 5800 5851 5857 5908 5922	
6003 6211 6229 6334 6337 6630 6737 6797 6958 7035	
7046 7047 7135 7142 7154 7291 7310 7546 7593 7622	
7790 7801 7880 8224 8412 8548 8662 8818 8870 9049	
9113 9191 9204 9410 9431 9616 9655 9739 9791 9800	
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SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES	
DEAR LOVED MORNING	
Draw No:4 DrawDate on:26/09/17	
1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 95E 72148	
(Including Super Prize Amt)	
2nd Prize Rs.9495/- 72148 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)	
3rd Prize Rs.9,000/-	
00300 08616 15341 18987 30547	
36009 69644 71552 80467 97131	
4th Prize Rs.500/- 1582 1708 2464 3602 4498 5175 7412 8357 8792 9490	
5th Prize Rs.250/- 1365 2363 3582 4729 5444 7566 8119 8288 9182 9309	
6th Prize Rs.120/-	
0019 0094 0204 0268 0275 0432 0711 0987 1012 1048	
1317 1644 1873 1880 1881 1896 1993 2050 2099 2248	
2373 2416 2530 2750 2853 2880 2996 3026 3143 3414	
3548 3625 3636 3771 4026 4086 4110 4125 4497 4546	
4625 4722 4848 4937 4958 5019 5081 5126 5319 5474	
5491 5730 5731 5788 5927 5996 6316 6475 6528 6716	
6731 6779 6862 6871 6894 6908 6958 6964 7053 7145	
7175 7266 7267 7320 7491 7685 7796 7865 7943 8076	
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9275 9420 9449 9514 9580 9591 9602 9684 9864 9956	
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# My wax figure will inspire generations after I am gone: Milkha



**CHANDIGARH, SEP 26 (PTI):** Legendary athlete Milkha Singh on Tuesday unveiled his wax figure, which will be installed at Madame Tussauds in Delhi on December 1, and said it will inspire generations after he is gone. The statue, sculpted

in a spectacular sprint pose chosen from his victorious win at the 1958 Commonwealth Games, will be displayed at the sports zone.

"It is a big thing. Milkha Singh may live for another couple of years, but long after

I am gone, this statue will continue to inspire future generations," the 85-year-old 'flying sikh' told PTI on the sidelines of the function.

"It is a great honour to have my statue along side some top personalities".

Milkha, who had missed a bronze medal by a whisker in the 1960 Rome Olympics, said he was deeply touched by the move.

"Milkha Singh is living his last days. An earthen lamp's glow is brightest towards the end, in the same

manner I am humbled by the kind of love and respect being showered on me at this age," he said.

Milkha's wax figure was crafted from over 300 measurements and photographs by several highly-skilled artists from Madame Tussauds.

## CULT HONG KONG FILM 'INFERNAL AFFAIRS' TO GET AN INDIAN REMAKE

**MUMBAI, SEP 25 (PTI):** "Infernal Affairs", the 2002 Hong Kong cult thriller behind Martin Scorsese's Oscar-winning film "The Departed", is now getting an Indian remake.

Mumbai based AZURE Entertainment Pvt Limited and Warner Bros India today announced a collaboration to jointly invest in and produce the Indian remake.

This project is the first of a two-picture deal between the two companies. They will jointly develop, produce and distribute key titles from the Warner Bros library for the local film market here.

"It is a matter of pride for a young company like ours to collaborate with Warner Bros to jointly develop and produce the local language adaptation

of this amazing movie. We are thrilled to be working with the Warner Bros India team and cannot wait to get started," said Sunir Kheterpal, CEO AZURE Entertainment.

Denzil Dias, Managing Director of Warner Bros India said "Infernal Affairs" was the perfect title to get an Indian remake.

"... We could not have cho-

sen a better title than 'Infernal Affairs' to announce this collaboration. We look forward to bringing great new Indian language films to local and global audiences," he said.

A director for the project is yet to be finalised.

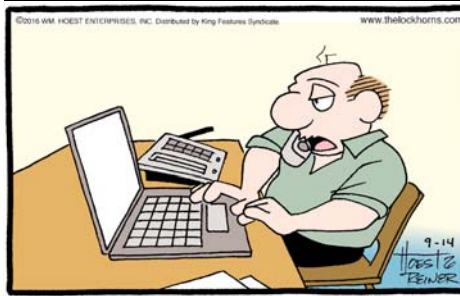
"Infernal Affairs", directed by Andrew Lau and Alan Mak, revolves around a police officer who infiltrates

a triad (a crime syndicate) while the triad member joins the Hong Kong Police Force at the same time.

Scorsese adapted the film as "The Departed", starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Matt Damon. The movie won four Oscars including the Best Picture and the Best Director for Scorsese.

LOCKHORNS

- HOEST & REINER



ARCTIC CIRCLE

- HALLATT



BABY BLUES

- KIRKMAN & SCOTT

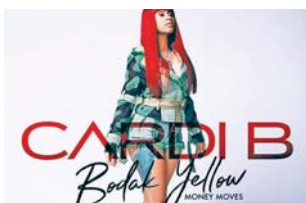


## Cardi B is now the first female solo rapper to top the Billboard 100 chart since 1998

**C**ardi B has officially dethroned Taylor Swift, as "Bodak Yellow" — Cardi's pure cut swagger of a rap anthem — has taken over the No. 1 spot, displacing Swift's pop tantrum "Look What You Made Me Do" on the Billboard Hot 100 singles chart.

There are a few reasons why this is such a significant piece of news. For one, Cardi B has gone from the most entertaining breakout star of the VH1 reality show Love & Hip Hop to chart-topping rapper in under two years. For another, she's now the first solo female rapper to reach this height since Lauryn Hill's "Doo Wop (That Thing)" debuted at No. 1 in 1998, or almost 20 years ago.

If this stat surprises you — what about Nicki Minaj or Missy Elliott?! — the way Billboard calculates its Hot 100 rankings



comes down to Nielsen's measurements of streaming plays, sales, and crucially, radio play. "Bodak Yellow" exploded in all three areas almost immediately; in just the past week, Billboard reports that the song's streaming plays increased by 14 percent. As a result, 11 weeks later, "Bodak Yellow" has knocked Swift out of the top spot.

The chart showdown between Cardi and Swift is, in fact, something both their fan bases are all too aware of, especially

when "Look What You Made Me Do" was discounted to buy on iTunes for 69 cents as Cardi B closed in last week.

It's also notable that Cardi B managed to dethrone Swift after literally everything about the rollout for "Look What You Made Me Do" rollout aimed to get it to the No. 1 spot, and stay there for as long as possible. If Swift's fans stream and buy the song, they earn the opportunity to get better concert tickets. The very day after "Look What You Made Me Do" dropped, it was folded into ABC's promotional advertising and packaged on ESPN to become part of college football's dominant soundtrack. It was everywhere, and it was there by meticulous corporate design — and Cardi B, who only recently signed onto a record label, has now managed to best it anyway.



Government of Sikkim  
Commerce & Industries  
Department

## CHIEF MINISTER'S STARTUP SCHEME (CMSS)-2017



Launch of novel initiative of Honb'le Chief Minister of Sikkim for providing opportunities to unemployed youth to become emerging entrepreneur.

### SALIENT FEATURES OF THE CMSS, A CREDIT LINKED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE STATE SECTOR SCHEME ARE:

- Unemployed Sikkimese youth having minimum educational qualification of class v in the age group of 18-40 years are eligible to submit their bankable projects under manufacturing or service sectors including agriculture, horticulture, food processing, animal husbandry, handloom & handicrafts, etc., with some specified exemptions, with a maximum project cost of Rs.20.00 lakhs.
- The CMSS aims to provide 25% (35% in case of conditional non-manufacturing sector projects) upfront financial assistance to the PSU Bank/PSU financial institution approved Project directly to the lending organization as unemployed youths/financial contribution.
- The financial benefits/ subsidy of any other central sector credit linked scheme e.g., PMEGP or NABARD Schemes could be dovetailed to maximize the financial benefits to

the unemployed Sikkimese youth.

- The desirous unemployed Sikkimese youth may submit the application form in prescribed format duly recommended by the concerned area MLA to the
- Office of Director (Industries), Commerce & Industries Department, Udyog Bhawan, Tadong, Gangtok on any working day from 11.00 am to 3.00pm.
- Detailed guidelines of CMSS and prescribed application form may be obtained from the office of the Director, Department of Commerce & Industries, Udyog Bhawan, Tadong, Gangtok.

Issued by  
Department of Commerce & Industries,  
Udyog Bhawan, Tadong,  
Gangtok