



SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Same gun used
to kill Gauri
and Kalburgi:
Forensic report

BENGALURU, JUNE 8 (PTI): The same gun was used to kill journalist-activist Gauri Lankesh and rationalist M M Kalburgi in Karnataka, the state forensic science laboratory has confirmed in a report, sources in the SIT said.

The forensic report submitted to the Special Investigation Team probing the killing of Lankesh is part of the first chargesheet filed recently by the SIT naming K T Naveen Kumar as an accused.

This is the first official confirmation of the link between the two killings which happened after a gap of two years of each other.

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Summer session of Sikkim Assembly begins

EIGHT BILLS INTRODUCED

GANGTOK, 08 JUN [IPR]: The 07th session (Part II) of the 09th Assembly of Sikkim Legislative Assembly began today presided over by Speaker KN Rai.

During the Legislative Business, eight Amendment Bills were introduced in the House.

First, the Ministers, Speakers, Deputy Speaker and Members of Legislative Assembly (Salaries and Allowances) Amendment Bill, Bill No.7 of 2018 was introduced by Minister-in-Charge for Law, Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs, R.B Subba.

Likewise, the Sikkim Legislative Assembly Members (Payment of Pension and Medical Allowances) Amendment Bill, Bill No. 8 of 2018 was also introduced by Mr



Subba.

Next, Chief Minister and Minister-in-Charge for Home Department introduced the Sikkim Essential Services

Maintenance (Amendment) Bill, Bill No. 9 of 2018. The bill aims to amend section 2 of the Sikkim Essential Maintenance Act, 2000 and include ground

handling services in the Sikkim Essential Maintenance Act, 2000 as per the direction received from Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India.

Mr Chamling who is also Minister-in-Charge for Land Revenue and Disaster Management Department introduced the Sikkim Regulation

of Transfer of Land (Amendment) Bill, Bill No. 10 of 2018 to ensure protection against alienation of the land holding of the category of the person. The bill has been introduced in view to ensure protection of the interest and land holding of the population. Accordingly, Sections 3 (A) and 3 (B) have been proposed for insertion in the Act.

Similarly, Minister-in-Charge for Rural Management and Development Department, SB Subedi introduced the Sikkim Panchayat (Amendment) Bill, Bill No.11 of 2018 to ensure minimum 20% representation of the BL Community who belongs to the Tribal Community of Sikkim keeping in view the principle of the proportionate reservation provided in the State Legislative Assembly. The Bill has been proposed for providing reservation of seats which

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300% hike in salaries of Ministers and MLAs

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 08 JUNE:**

A hefty hike in the salaries and allowances of sitting Ministers, Speakers, Deputy Speaker and Members of Legislative Assembly has been tabled today in the two-day summer session of Sikkim Legislative Assembly.

Minister-in-Charge for Law, Legal, Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs, Ram Bahadur Subba proposed 300% hike in the salaries and allowances of sitting Ministers, Speakers, Deputy Speaker and Members of Legislative Assembly and said that a need has been felt to revise the salaries of

elected representatives of Sikkim Legislative Assembly in view of present price escalation and high inflation.

While tabling the Amendment Bill for revising the salaries and allowances of Ministers, Speakers, Deputy Speaker and Members of Legislative Assembly, Mr Subba in his statement of objects and reasons said that in case of Government employees, price rise from time to time are being compensated by granting Dearness Allowances twice a year which has not been extended to the dignitaries and moreover, revision in salaries has also been effected in 7th Pay Commission.

He said that with the

lected objects and reasons, the State Government has deemed its expedient to enhance the existing salary rates from current financial year 2018-19.

The State Government had last hiked salaries and allowances of the elected dignitaries in 2012.

The present proposal of hike in salaries and allowances of the legislators will cost additional expenditure of Rs.7.15 crore in the current financial year and Rs.8.20 crore from next financial year from the consolidated fund of the state.

However, as compared to the salaries and other allowances of the sitting members of the

Sikkim Legislative Assembly, the pension of ex-legislators has been hiked to 50% from existing pension drawn.

The existing pension of ex-legislators has been hiked to Rs 15,000 per month from existing Rs 10,000 per month while those who have served as Cabinet Ministers, Speakers and Chief Ministers are proposed to get Rs 22,500 per month from the existing Rs 15,000.

The amendment bill has also proposed to insert a new provision earmarked to regulate the grant of medical allowances to the former legislators of Rs 2,000 per month along with pension benefits.

HAMRO SIKKIM PARTY OPENS HEAD OFFICE IN GANGTOK

Vision to transform Sikkim into a pro-Sikkimese & pro-youth State: HSP

**REBYNA RANA
GANGTOK, 08 JUN:**

Hamro Sikkim Party inaugurated its head office today at Deorali in Gangtok with vice presidents, Ran Bahadur Subba and Bhaichung Bhutia, jointly hoisting the party flag at the office premises in the presence of party workers and leaders of the opposition parties, Sikkim Nationalist People's Party and Sikkim Sangram Parishad.

Addressing the inaugural event, Mr Subba extended gratitude to the leaders from the opposition parties and the attendees for their cooperation and support.

Lashing out against Sikkim Democratic Front, Mr Subba said, "SDF is



trying to ruin the State by dividing the society in the name of caste, community and religion. We need to make Sikkim better by crushing their attempts to break the unity in the State."

He further informed

that the first priority of HSP after it takes power will be to protect the poor people of Sikkim.

"The promises made by Chief Minister Pawan Chamling have not been fulfilled. We must come forward to make Sikkim

better and give good direction to the people of Sikkim. All the communities of Sikkim have been united for generations and we will not allow them to be divided," he said.

Countering allegation

turn to pg02

Obituary reference to passing away of Late Laxuman Lepcha

GANGTOK, 08 JUN [IPR]:

The summer session of Sikkim Legislative Assembly began today with obituary reference of Late Laxuman Lepcha, former Member of Sikkim Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker, in his Obituary Reference said that the passing away of Laxuman Lepcha is a huge loss for the State of Sikkim. He informed that Late Laxuman Lepcha breathed his last on 08 May, 2018 in Siliguri at the age of 76 after a prolonged illness and is survived by his wife, two sons and six daughters.

The Speaker detailed that after attaining for-



mal education, Late Laxuman Lepcha served as a teacher and later in the year 1998 was elevated as the Principal of Mamring Senior Secondary School. In the year 2008, he took voluntary retirement from service and joined active politics. A year later, he was elected for one term as the MLA of Nathang Ma-

chong Constituency, East Sikkim from the Sikkim Democratic Front Party. Thereafter he served as Chairman of State Bank of Sikkim and Sikkim Co-operative Apex Bank.

Mr Rai said that Late Laxuman Lepcha was a humble person who worked selflessly for the society. He expressed

turn to pg02

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Vision to transform Sikkim into a...

contd from pg01

tions from the opposition of functioning without a proper head, Mr Subba stated that HSP is least bothered about the allegation.

"Is a party incapable if it does not have a president? We all are capable of running the party as one. Our president will be a person from Sikkim who is loved and respected by all and a person capable to lead the State," he added.

The function was also addressed by Bhaichung Bhutia who asserted that HSP has been formed "not just to change one person or an organization".

"Hamro Sikkim Party wants a change in the system in Sikkim. We want to transform Sikkim into a pro-Sikkimese and pro-youth State. We all must work together for the same. Our party believes in the youth and will produce youth leaders," said Bhaichung.

Bhaichung further urged party supporters to work at grassroot level in order to take the party's policies and vision of "parivartan" to the common man.

SNPP president, Biraj Adhikari, thanked HSP for inviting him to the function and congratulated the party on its new office.

"We will support HSP if you are committed towards building 'naya' Sikkim," he expressed.

Summer session of Sikkim Assembly begins...

contd from pg01

shall not be less than 20% of the seats for the Tribal Community in the Panchayat bodies i.e. Gram Panchayat and Zilla Panchayat. Accordingly, Section 13 and Section 50 have been proposed for amendment by way of insertion of proviso to sub-section (5) and of Section 13 and provision to sub-section (4) of section 50 in the Panchayat Act, 1993.

Minister-in Charge for Human Resource Development Department, RB Subba introduced the Sikkim National Law University (Amendment) Bill, Bill no. 12 of 2018 which aims to enable the Department to initiate the process of establishment of Sikkim National Law University and to bring this Act into force with immediate effect.

Likewise, Mr Subba who is also the Minister-in-Charge for Law, Legal, Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Department introduced the Sikkim Regulations of Societies, Associations and other Voluntary Organizations (Amendment) Bill, Bill No.13 of 2018 to provide legislation on regulation of societies, associations and other voluntary organization. Also with a view to oversee the activities of such organiza-

tions, and also to regulate the renewal of registration, to maintain proper record of their activities and to regulate the grants or aid received from the Central or State Government under the Act, the State Government has deemed it expedient to amend section 4, 5 and 6 of the Sikkim Regulations of Societies, Associations and Others Voluntary Organizations, Act, 2008.

Lastly, the Sikkim Greenfield Airport, Pakyong (Settlement of Claims for Loss and Damages) Bill, Bill no. 14 of 2018 was introduced by Minister-in Charge for Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, Ugen. T. Gyatso Bhutia to provide relief and ascertain the loss and damages caused to the land and properties of the people/villagers/farmers living in the vicinity of the Pakyong Greenfield Airport on account of construction of Airport, it has been felt expedient to enact legislation.

Discussions and voting on these Bills is scheduled to be taken up on 09 Jun, Saturday.

Earlier, the session began with obituary reference of Late Laxuman Lepcha, former Member of Sikkim Legislative Assembly.



Nine 'Naris from Gnathang Machong Constituency join SKM

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 08 JUN:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha's women's wing executives conducted an interactive session with the womenfolk of Gna-

thang Machong constituency, East Sikkim, at Pakyong today as a part of their Nari Ekikaran Yatra. The meeting was led by general secretary [Nari Morcha], Pabitra Bhandari, an SKM press

release informs.

The party executives welcomed nine women from Gnathang Machong constituency who left SDF to join SKM today, the release adds.

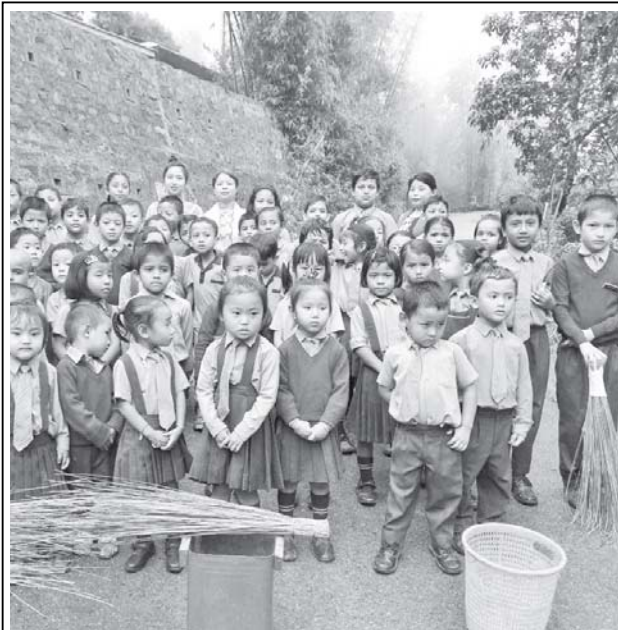
The meeting also discussed several agendas focused on strengthening of SKM's women's wing while emphasizing on women's empowerment and their duty towards society.

SNPP condemns language used by CM to lambast SKM and HSP

GANGTOK, 08 JUN: Sikkim National People's Party today condemned the language used by the Chief Minister in running down the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha and the Hamro Sikkim Party in his address delivered at the Jan Sampark-Jan Samman Abhiyan meeting recently.

"The party (SNPP) understands that politics can be aggressive, but the choice of words used by the Chief Minister in a public meeting were in very bad taste and the SNPP condemns it as such," conveys an SNPP press release issued today.

"The party also wishes to remind the CM that Shri Golay and his SKM party have received the same mandate from the Sikkimese people," the release adds.



ST MARY'S KITAM CONDUCTS CLEANLINESS DRIVE

GANGTOK, 08 JUN: St Mary's School in Kitam, South Sikkim organized daylong cleanliness drive under Himalayan Cleanup Campaign today wherein students and teachers cleaned the school premises and PMGSY road side from Kitam Bazaar towards Namchi, a press release informs.

SMA demands enquiry into 'disappearance' of Rs 1.40 cr sanctioned for Everest Expedition 2015

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 08 JUN:

President, Sikkim Mountaineering Association (SMA), Kunzang Gyatso, has demanded answers from the concerned departments regarding the 'disappearance' of Rs 1.4 crore sanctioned by Chief Minister Pawan Chamling in 2013 to sponsor SMA's expedition to Mount Everest in 2015.

"Since 2013 many young mountaineers from Assam, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and other States have climbed Mount Everest more than once while our young mountaineers languish waiting for the day when their dreams may come true," Mr Gyat-

so states in a press release issued today.

Mr Gyatso has asked why the Vigilance Department has not enquired into the 'disappeared' funds in the past five years.

He has further criticized Tourism Department for not looking into the matter and has sought an enquiry as the funds were reportedly routed through them.

"We, the Sikkim Mountaineering Association (SMA) and young mountaineers of Sikkim, would like to request the government and all concerned to please institute an immediate inquiry into this matter," the release reads.

BJP outreach to mark 4 yrs of Modi Govt

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 08 JUN:

On the completion of four years of the Narendra Modi government in the Centre, teams of Bharatiya Janata Party Sikkim Pradesh have been visiting and interacting with people of all four districts. In this series, a BJP-Sikkim team, led by the state president, DB Chauhan, toured Dalapchand, Aritar and Kingstone in East Sikkim and interacted with people there on Friday.

Another team, led by vice president, JB Darnal, and east district president, YT Lepcha, visited Karmithang, Khani Gaon and its surrounding ar-

eas and spoke about the various achievements and initiatives of the Narendra Modi Government over the last four years, informs a BJP press release.

The release adds that the state president also interacted with people at Sumbuk, Turuk and Ramabong in South Sikkim on Thursday, while another team led by the state youth president, Laten Sherpa, visited and interacted with people of Lower Lingding and Ralong Namlung under Barfung constituency yesterday and noted down various issues and problems facing by the people of these villages.

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Obituary reference to passing away of...

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heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and wished them strength and forbearance to deal with the loss.

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling in his Obituary Reference recalled his last meeting with Late Laxuman Lepcha at the latter's residence in Mamring in April, 2018. The CM said that he had enquired about his health and asked if there was any help he could offer to him and his family, which he denied.

"I was touched by the humility of this man who I felt was so content with his life

and what he had received all along that he is free from any kind of desire or unfulfilled aspirations," stated Mr Chamling.

The CM said that the passing away of Late Laxuman Lepcha has left a huge void in the Sikkimese society and humanity as a whole. He remembered Late Laxuman Lepcha as a man of good thoughts and principles; he was soft-spoken, polite and amiable, social and came across as a non-violent person with compassion and care for all.

He also shed light on the professional journey of Late Laxuman Lepcha. After serving as an MLA for one term, he served as

Chairman of the SBS and State Cooperative Bank, where he worked with utmost diligence and sincerity. He informed that Late Laxuman Lepcha was born on 12 Dec, 1942 to Chungkit Lepcha and Garman Lepcha in Namthang, South Sikkim.

The House unanimously extended profound sorrow by observing two minutes of silence.

Member of the House, KN Lepcha also participated in the Obituary Reference.

Thereafter, the House observed two minutes of silence as a mark of respect to the departed soul.

AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL POLITICAL PARTIES FROM SIKKIMESE YOUTH!

First, I am a Sikkimese and a proud Sikkimese. I am not a Nepali, Bhutia or a Lepcha. I am a Sikkimese. And like all the Sikkimese youth, I want peace, tranquillity, and security. I love nature, I love the forest, I love and worship the majestic Kanchenjunga Mountain. Like all youth, I am also active on Facebook, Instagram, and love talking to people and interacting with them, and sharing with outsiders what a beautiful and peaceful place I live in. These days I don't feel like going on Facebook, Sikkim is my motherland, and for me it's

painful to see how people are portraying my motherland on social media. I asked my friends - has Sikkim suddenly turned so bad, that we are only seeing bad things about Sikkim --- there are only corruption, suicide, bad roads, poverty, unhappy people, unemployment?

What has happened suddenly that the beautiful Sikkim, where tourists come in scores and praise our culture, has turned so ugly? All the greatness which we spoke of, like Sikkim preceding Indian government in Swachh Bharat! Sikkim giving Right To Education

even before central government had thought of it! Sikkim empowering women at all levels, from Panchayati Raj to local bodies, to government jobs! Sikkim increasing its forest cover at a time when the world is witnessing deforestation. Lack of violence and security. And many more, where has it all gone? Has it all died in such short period?

Why do I see a guy called Laten Sherpa all the time on social media, creating videos of why Sikkim is so bad? Why do we

see Bhaichung Bhutia, ex TMC leader, always talking about suicide, death, corruption? Did he not become a great player and lived in Sikkim? Why do I see

SKM people only highlighting the so-called failures? Are you all also not Sikkimese first and politicians later. I have no issues in bringing out the negative, there is no place in the world where everything is perfect. But don't paint an ugly picture that seeds negativity in all of us. I don't say SDF govern-

ment has passed on all accounts, being a Sikkimese, and growing up I have seen both good and bad. Yes unemployment is there, but I feel we the youth also needs to be blamed for it. How long will we only look at government services for jobs, when in the rest of India young people are becoming entrepreneurs and making huge success. They are giving employment to people. Why can't we also become entrepreneurs, we have some good examples. Why should we only look at government? We also need to change mindset.

But overall, I have grown up

with peace, and have seen my friends enjoy music, fashion, sports in a free environment.

Then I realized, Sikkim is learning fast from other states and political parties, the outside parties are spoiling the environment. They are using our people as a tool to defame Sikkim. As a Sikkimese, I request all parties, to please understand and be positive, in the greed for power hope we don't change our inherent goodness.

Jai Sikkim!

Milan Chettri, Mel-
li South Sikkim
milanc.malli@gmail.com



Gangtok on Saturday, 09 June
Temp: 28°C/17°C
Forecast: Intervals of clouds and sunshine, a thundershower.
Sunrise: 04:40 AM
Sunset: 6:29 PM

Same gun used to kill Gauri and Kalburgi: Forensic report contd from pg01

Kalburgi (77) was shot dead in his house on August 30, 2015, in Dharwad and 55-year old Lankesh on September 5, 2017 here.

The SIT members had earlier talked about the same-gun theory but for the first time it has come out in the open to show that Kalburgi's murder was the handiwork of the same gang.

The bullets in both cases "have been fired through a single country made pistol chambered for 7.65 mm caliber pistol cartridges," a source said quoting the report.

The report also pointed out that the scratches formed by the firing pin on the bullets tallied among themselves.

Lankesh, who was known for her strong anti-Hindutva stand, was shot dead in front of her house, triggering a nationwide outrage.

The SIT formed to investigate her murder has formally arrested Naveen Kumar of Maddur as one of the accused.

Four more persons have been arrested for allegedly plotting to kill another nationalist and writer K S Bhagawan, also a strong critic of Hindutva.

The SIT is also probing whether they have any links with the Gauri muder case.

Health Minister chairs prep meet for Akar Summer Cup

JORETHANG, 08 JUN [IPR]: Health Minister, area MLA [Salghari Zoom constituency], Arjun Kumar Ghatani, today chaired a meeting to finalize plans for the upcoming Akar Summer Cup Open Football Tournament scheduled to kick off on 15 June at Jorethang in South Sikkim.

The tournament, it is informed, will feature teams from Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Siliguri, Kurseong and Sikkim.

The winning and runners-up teams will be awarded cash amounts of Rs 1,25,000 and Rs 75,000 respectively along with trophies.

Mr Ghatani, who is



also the patron-in-chief of the organizing committee, urged the committee members to cooperate and make the event a success.

He also applauded the commitment of the business community here for extending support to the organizing committee in conducting the tournament.

Later, the organizing committee added inputs



DC calls for collaborative work to make West the best district in the nation

GYALSHING, 08 JUN [IPR]: The review meeting for the NITI Aayog initiative of transforming Aspirational Districts was held at the conference hall of District Administrative Centre in Rabdentse, West Sikkim, today.

The programme was chaired by Additional Secretary, Finance Department, Raj Kumar Yadav, accompanied by District Collector, West, Dr AB Karki, and Additional District Collector, Karma Lepcha, and other HoDs of line departments.

Mr Yadav addressed the officers on ways to improve the indicators required for West district to become an aspirational district. He also stated that the data to be entered into the portal should be checked and reviewed in time with utmost responsibility by the designated officers of the department.

He advised the officers to keep proper records and work with full enthusiasm. Dr Karki spoke on a similar note whilst stating that the Aspirational District Programme was the brainchild of the Prime Minister and urged officers present to understand the gravity of the initiative and work hand in hand with him to make West Sikkim the number one district of India.

He further stated that officers had an opportunity to work for the district where an opportunity has been created for them to showcase their talent and efficiency.



Chujachen SA and Young Orchid register C-Div victories

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 08 JUN: Chujachen Sports Academy and Young Orchid registered victories today in the ongoing Sikkim Football Association C-Division Football Tournament here at Paljor Stadium.

Chujachen SA edged past Young Boys, Gyalshing, 04-03 in the first match with Prakash Rai scoring a hatrick and his teammate Michael Pradhan contributing one goal to secure the victory.

Meanwhile, Pritam Singh [23rd minute], SD Bhu-

tia [26th] and Santosh Limboo [45th] scored a goal each for Young Boys.

In the second match, Young Orchid outplayed Sasosian Football Club 2-0. Prem Rai [22nd] and Lacho Lepcha [72nd] contributed a goal each in Young Orchid's victory.

Sikkim Football Association also distributed footballs to all participating teams in the SFA C Division Football Tournament 2018 here as a gesture to welcome FIFA World Cup 2018.

Ventilated polyhouse inaugurated at Soureni

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 08 JUN: AICRP on PET, College of Agricultural and Post Harvest Technology (CAU), Ranipool, has constructed a ventilated polyhouse at the field of farmer Pratap Thatal of Soureni, Assam Lingzey, East Sikkim. The ventilated polyhouse was inaugurated by MLA, Bek Bahadur Rai in the presence of Dr. RK Singh, Project Coordinator, AICRP on PET, Ludhiana, Punjab and Dean, CAEPHT, Prof. PP Dabral, informs a press release.

Dr. Awani Kumar Singh, Principal Scientist from IARI, New Delhi

addressed the farmers and illustrated the various techniques suitable for the organic cultivation of vegetables in the polyhouse. Dr. RK Singh, Project Coordinator explained the use of plastics in agriculture for increasing the production and productivity in Sikkim.

Dean, CAEPHT, Prof. PP Dabral, mentioned that the college is working on skill development programmes for the construction of polyhouse technology, solar operated equipments & farm machines. MLA BB Rai addressed the farmers and scientists and requested to provide effective technology and guidance for the organic growers of the Sikkim.

Dr. Deepak Jhaharia also mentioned that PET, Gangtok Center is constructing low cost ventilated polyhouse in different parts of Sikkim for organic vegetable cultivation.

Vote of thanks was extended by Laxuman Sharma, progressive organic farmer of Soureni, Assam Lingzey. Panchayat President, Ganesh Chettri and Ward Panchayat, Sukmaya Bishwakarma, Prof. Mahendra Singh Seveda, Dr. GT Patle and Dr. Kh. Lily Devi were also present on the occasion.

Rhenock College's annual fest 'Monsoon Vibes' wraps up

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 08 JUN: Rhenock Government College wrapped up its three-day long annual fest, 'Monsoon Vibes', on 06 June, a press release informs.

The festival featured an array of sports and cultural events like marathon, futsal, volleyball, dancing, singing, painting and fashion.

The festival had kicked off on 04 June with a marathon - 'Run for Health' - with area MLA (Chujachen), Bikram Pradhan as chief guest.

On the second day of the fest, the students organized a plantation drive in and around the college premises. More than 100 saplings of flowering and fruit bearing plants were planted to mark World Environment Day on 05 Jun.

The festival aimed to



bring out hidden talents of the students and provide them with a fitting platform, reads the release.

The college fraternity has thanked Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, Human Resource Development Minister, R.B Subba, Additional Chief Secretary, G.P Upadhyaya for their support and encouragement in organizing the festival.

The college has also thanked Director, Higher Education, D.K Pradhan, Joint Director, Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhi-

yan [RUSA], Rajiv Roka, Joint Director, Higher Education, T. Topgay Bhutia, Sub Divisional Magistrate [Rongli] for attending the festival.

During the course of the festival, the college also released its first issue of newsletter 'Campus Buzz', informs the release.

MISSING

Name: **Munni**
Age: **19 years** (aprox.)
Complexion: **Fair**
Missing from: **Kazitar, Namchi, South Sikkim since 6th June 2018 (Wednesday)**
If seen please contact: **9647854249** or nearest police station.

ADMISSION NOTICE

Ref.no.:CCCT/Notice/2018/24 Date: 31.05.2018

Admission applications are invited to fill in 3 years AICTE approved Diploma Engineering programs at **CCCT, Chisopani (Government Polytechnic)** for the year 2018.

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HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

NOTICE

ONLINE REGISTRATION OF STUDENTS FOR ADMISSION TO UG COURSE IN SIKKIM GOVERNMENT COLLEGES

Last Date for Registration for admission to UG courses in the following Government colleges of Sikkim for the academic year 2018-19 is 10th June 2018, no application shall be entertained after the specified date and Last Date for the payment of Fees through Online and Offline Mode (uploading of Demand Draft Details) is 12th June 2018. (In favor of E- collection Account HRDD Payable at Gangtok) no payment shall be entertained after the specified date. Students seeking admission in Government colleges are directed to apply through website: www.sgcregistration.com / www.rusasikkim.com or through Mobile App.

(RUSA SIKKIM ADMISSION).

Sl.no	College
1	Sikkim Government College, Tadong
2	Sikkim Government College, Burtuk
3	Sikkim Government Law College, Gangtok
4	Government College, Rhenock, East Sikkim
5	Sikkim Government College, Gyalshing
6	Namchi Government College, Kamrang
7	Sikkim Government Science College, Chakung
8	Arts College, Mangshila
9	Women Arts College Khamdong, East Sikkim
10	Government Vocational College, Dentam
11	Sikkim Government B.Ed College, Soreng

Important dates:

- Submission of online registration: 29th May – 10th June 2018
- Last date of submission of Fees: 12th June 2018
- 1st Merit list generation: 16th June 2018
- 1st Merit list last date of admission: 26th June 2018
- 2nd Merit List generation: 1st July 2018
- 2nd merit list last date of admission: 5th July 2018
- Counselling: 9th July to 14th July

HELPLINE NUMBER: + 91- 8167734520/8001194118 (From 10 am to 7 pm) or visit www.rusasikkim.com.

Note: Admission for Sikkim Government B.ed College, Soreng will be notified shortly.

Sd/-
Dr. M.P. Kharel
OSD Higher Education (HRDD)

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Sikkim's Daughters

Accept it, Sikkim discriminates on the basis of gender

A notification has finally come out which allows Sikkimese women married to non-Sikkimese to continue acquiring property and getting it officially registered in their names. Given the heaps of denials which continue to be served to local women, this is a major breakthrough. When it comes to equality or empowerment, this is still a very small step though, but in light of established traditions, it is a substantial course correction towards the right path. One hopes that the notification issued by the Land Revenue Department on 07 June 2018 informing the concerned authorities to process registration of property even in the names of Sikkimese women married to non-locals, sets the ball rolling to weed out all rules which deny local women their claims to identity as Sikkimese.

The ball was set rolling by 68 Sikkimese women married to non-Sikkimese who had moved the High Court of Sikkim at around this time last year challenging the discrimination women face in Sikkim because of their gender when it comes to their identity as Sikkimese.

Being subjected to a different set of rules based on gender is not a new situation in Sikkim, not even of the Sikkim Succession Act of 2008 vintage which the 68 women had challenged. The traditional practice in Sikkim has been that daughters enjoy no rights to ancestral property and receive it only thanks to the grace of their fathers or the magnanimity of their brothers. There might not have been widespread denial on this count, but fact remains that they cannot still claim inheritance as a matter of right. The Sikkim Succession Act sought to correct this discrimination by extending the right to inheritance to Sikkimese women. This right however was proposed with a caveat that Sikkimese women who married non-locals could not stake any such claims. This was clearly insensitive, but was not a creation of the Act in question, but was a continuation of how the identity of Sikkimese women continues to be tied to the men in their lives – initially their fathers or grandfathers and upon marriage, their husbands. And this flows from how rules governing the issuance of Certificates of Identity are interpreted here. A COI is the document which attests a person as Sikkimese, as in a descendant of a Sikkim Subject. These are issued only to someone whose father or grandfather or brother is registered in the Sikkim Subjects Register. When it comes to women, the extant practice is to have them refresh their identity upon marriage, their continuing to be recognized as Sikkimese dependent on who they marry – if they marry a non-local, they lose their Sikkimeseness. This itself is sourced from the Sikkim Subjects Regulation and how subjecthood was granted under it and is the practice which has also led to such women losing their inheritance rights in the Sikkim Succession Act since once they cease to be Sikkimese because of who they choose to marry, land or property can no longer be registered in their name in Sikkim.

The only fig leaf offered in this clearly problematic rule is that they are allowed to continue owning the land for life or sell it. They could not, until the notification issued on Thursday, acquire new property or bequeath it to their children since their children also were no longer considered Sikkimese.

This condition imposed on women is at the crux of all the indignities imposed on them like securing unmarried certificates every six months if they wish to continue enjoying benefits exclusively meant for the Sikkimese. The case in the High Court did not receive a judgment because it transpired that the Sikkim Succession Act was never notified in Sikkim even though it has now been around as an Act for a decade. But now, with the latest notification, one hopes that the Act can also be amended to include Sikkimese women married to non-Sikkimese among those entitled to equal inheritance rights. Once that happens, at least a law will be in place awarding the right to inheritance to all Sikkimese daughters. And that right, one must add here, would have been won by daughters who were, until recently, stripped of their Sikkimese identity because they married outsiders. Accept it, there is some delicious irony in this scenario.

What the notification should also ideally trigger is a wider discussion in the public domain on gender issues, something Sikkim continues to sidestep. Gender equality, after all, requires more than governmental intervention to come about. Legislations and rules mean little if male chauvinism does not even need to be disguised in public. This is obvious in the common defence of the gender discrimination in question – “outsiders will take advantage of our innocent women if such protection of local interests is not enforced”. This argument is perhaps even more offensive than the rules in practice because it refuses to acknowledge that Sikkimese women are aware enough and capable of deciding for themselves. But it also explains why such practices continue. Also, the fact that even though most women find the rules discriminatory and offensive, it was only a year back that some resolved to do something about it. Empowerment is obviously lacking when it takes this long for women to come together and make some noise about the issue.

ALAN BAIRNER
theconversation.com

Not for the first time, the 2018 World Cup Finals will take place without the Chinese national team. In fact, China's World Cup record is abysmal (and I say this as a Scottish football fan). The team has qualified only once for the final stages – in 2002 when it played three games in South Korea, failed to score in any of them and was eliminated without securing a single point.

On a more positive note, losing only 4-0 to Brazil was an achievement of sorts, given that the Brazilian goal scorers were Roberto Carlos, Rivaldo, Ronaldinho and Ronaldo.

Apart from this short-lived foray into the finals, China did not enter the competition between 1930 and 1954 or between 1962 and 1978, failed to qualify for the finals in 1958 and again between 1982 and 1998 and from 2006 to the present.

In the Asia qualifying stage of the 2018 World Cup, China received a bye into the second round where they came second in a group headed by Qatar. Following the third qualifying round, China was eliminated, having been placed in its group below – among others – war-torn Syria, which is currently obliged to play “home” games abroad.

XI HAS A DREAM

It is against this dismal backdrop that we must try to interpret Chinese president Xi Jinping's vision for the future of Chinese football. In 2011, Xi confessed that he had three World Cup dreams for China: to participate once again in the World Cup finals, to host the World Cup finals and to be World Cup winners.

There can be little doubt that the People's Republic of China (PRC) will host the World Cup finals at some point in the not-too-distant future. With the Summer Olympics already under China's belt and the Winter Olympics to come, the country has already shown itself to be willing and able to host sporting mega events.

The FIFA World Cup would pres-



ent greater logistical challenges than the Olympics but no more so than in Russia. China's massive cities would be happy to stage matches and, where suitable venues do not yet exist, they would be built. The Chinese team would, of course, qualify as hosts, perhaps its best chance of repeating the achievement of 2002.

But what of Xi's third dream? Here Xi and, by extension, the Chinese Football Association (CFA) face a much greater challenge. It is true that host countries have often done well. However, it has proved impossible to date to prevent a European or South American team from winning the World Cup. Although in the past there have been high hopes for an African victory, hosting the finals did not mean success for the South African team.

Moreover, we should not forget that football has been the number one sport in most African countries throughout the period in which football's significance in China has been dwarfed by that of badminton and table tennis.

A RUN ON GOAL

A further obstacle to the realisation of Xi's third dream stems from the contradictions that are inherent in his country's ruling ideology of which

he is now the unassailable guardian.

Socialism with Chinese characteristics has come to mean the combination of a strong state and an increasingly liberal market economy, the differences between which can be seen in the relationship between the CFA and the Chinese Super League (CSL). Founded in 2004, the latter has attracted the interest of some of the richest companies in China, eager to own a football club and gain the additional benefits that this can bring.

These owners provide live football entertainment to fans whose engagement would otherwise would be restricted to watching televised games from the major European leagues – hence their investment in bringing star players from Europe and South America to play for their teams. Their primary interest is securing the best return for their investment – not in creating a successful national team and thereby helping to fulfil Xi's dream.

These owners are capitalists but of a distinctly Chinese type, subject to considerably more surveillance and interference than their Western counterparts. The CFA is even more closely tied to the state, the interests of which it has a far greater obligation to serve than equivalent organisa-

tions in the West.

Thus, almost certainly because of state pressure, the CFA's latest ruling on the use of foreign players decrees that CSL teams can use three at most in a match and that the number of foreign players on the field must not exceed that of domestic players under the age of 23. The battle for the soul of Chinese football is likely to continue.

But it's not this conflict of interests alone that threatens Xi's dream. A lucrative, entertaining national league does not guarantee a successful national team – you only have to look at England's track record to see this. Nor does a league which offers limited opportunities for local hopefuls to play alongside foreign talent (see Scotland, for example).

The real key may be having the capacity to select players for a national team who have experience of playing in overseas leagues in France, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Belgium and elsewhere). With that in mind, the time has come perhaps for the CFA, the CSL owners and Xi to consider exporting China's football talent to fulfil the dream.

[the writer is Professor of Sport and Social Theory, Loughborough University]

Despite strong words, the US has few options left to reverse China's gains in the South China Sea

ADAM NI
theconversation.com

At a top regional security forum on Saturday, US Defence Secretary Jim Mattis said China's recent militarisation efforts in the disputed South China Sea were intended to intimidate and coerce regional countries.

Mattis told the Shangri-La Dialogue that China's actions stood in “stark contrast with the openness of [the US] strategy,” and warned of “much larger consequences” if China continued its current approach.

As an “initial response,” China's navy has been disinclined by the US from the upcoming 2018 Rim of the Pacific Exercise, the world's largest international naval exercise.

It is important to understand the context of the current tensions, and the strategic stakes for both China and the US.

In recent years, China has sought to bolster its control over the South China Sea, where a number of claimants have overlapping territorial claims with China, including Vietnam, the Philippines and Taiwan.

China's efforts have continued unabated, despite rising tensions and international protests. Just recently, China landed a long-range heavy bomber for the first time on an island in the disputed Paracels, and deployed anti-ship and anti-air missile systems to its outposts in the Spratly Islands.

China's air force has also stepped up its drills and patrols in the skies over the South China Sea.

While China is not the only claimant militarising the disputed region, no one else comes remotely close to the ambition, scale and speed of China's efforts.

CHINA'S STRATEGY

The South China Sea has long been coveted by China (and others) due to its strategic importance for trade and military power, as well as its abundant resources. According to one estimate, US\$3.4 trillion in trade passed through the South China Sea in 2016, representing 21% of the global total.

China's goal in the South China Sea can be summarised with one word: control.

In order to achieve this, China is undertaking a coordinated, long-term effort to assert its dominance in the region, including the building of artificial islands, civil and military infrastructure, and the deployment of military ships and aircraft to the region.

While politicians of other countries such as the US, Philippines and Australia espouse fiery rhetoric to protest China's actions, Beijing is focusing on actively transforming the physical and power geography of the South China Sea.

In fact, according to the new commander of the US Indo-Pacific Command, Admiral Philip Davidson, China's efforts have been so successful that it “is now capable of controlling the South China Sea in all scenarios short of war with the US”.

AMERICA'S DECLINING RELEVANCE

China's efforts are hard to counter because it has employed an incremental approach to cementing its control in the South China Sea. None of its actions would individually justify a US military response that could escalate to war. In any case, the human and economic cost of such a conflict would be immense.

The inability of the US to respond effectively to China's moves has eroded its credibility in the region. It has also fed a narrative that the US is not “here to stay” in Asia. If the US is serious about countering China, then Mattis' rhetoric must be followed by action.

First, the US should clearly articulate its red lines to China and others on the kinds of activities that are unacceptable in the South China Sea. Then it must be willing to enforce such red lines, while being mindful of the risks.

Second, the US needs to renew its efforts to cooperate with allies in the region to build capacity and demonstrate a coordinated commitment to stand in the face of China's challenge.

Third, the US needs to deploy military capabil-

ities in the Indo-Pacific region, such as advanced missile systems, which would reduce the military advantages gained by China through the militarisation of the South China Sea features.

LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES

China's tightening control over the South China Sea is worrying for a number of regional countries. For many, the shipping routes that run through the South China Sea are the bloodlines of their economies.

Moreover, the shifting balance of power will enable Beijing to settle its territorial disputes in the region for good. Without a doubt, China is willing to use its new-found power to change the status quo in its favour, even at the expense of its weaker neighbours.

Control of the South China Sea also allows Beijing to better project its military power across South-East Asia, the western Pacific and parts of Oceania. This would make it more costly for the US and its allies to take action against China, for example, in scenarios involving Taiwan.

On a higher level, China's assertive approach to the South China Sea demonstrates Beijing's increasing confidence and its willingness to flaunt international norms that it considers inconvenient or contrary to its interests.

There is little doubt China is becoming the new dominant power in Asia. Its rise has benefited millions in the region and should be welcomed. But we should also be wary of Beijing's approach to territorial disputes and grievances if it employs military and economic intimidation and coercion.

If we want to live in a “world where big fish neither eat nor intimidate the small”, then there must be consequences for countries, including China, when they flaunt international norms and seek to settle disagreements with force.

It may be too late to turn the tide in the South China Sea and reverse China's gains. No one would run such a risk. But it is not too late to impose penalties on China for further destabilising the region through its actions in the South China Sea.

The challenge is to figure out how to do that, and what we would be willing to risk to achieve it.

[the writer is Researcher, Strategic and Defense Studies Centre, Australian National University]



Bengal HS results announced

KOLKATA, JUN 8 (PTI): An estimated 83.75 per cent students of the total 8,04,895 examinees passed class XII examinations, conducted by the West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education (WBCHSE), as per the results announced today.

This year 8,04,895 candidates sat for the examination, of whom 6,63,516 students passed, the WBCHSE said in a statement.

Among the toppers, Granthan Sengupta from Jalpaiguri Zilla School in Jalpaiguri district secured the top rank scoring 496 marks out of 500 (99.2 per cent), it said.

Ritvik Kumar Sahoo (493) of Tamuk Hamilton School secured the second rank with 98.6 per cent marks.

Timir Baron Das, Saswata Roy jointly got the third spot securing 490 marks.

Among the girls, Arkadip Ghosh and Anima Garai jointly secured first spot (among girls) having scored 97.2 per cent each and both ranked fifth in overall. While Ghosh is from Jadavpur Vidyapith, Garai sat for the exams from Bankura Ranibandh School.

A total of 5,248 candidates received O grade (90 - 100 per cent) while 41,428 candidates got A+ grade (80-100 marks).

An estimated 2,50,961 students got first division (over 60 per cent marks).

Students can check the results at wbchse.nic.in, wbreults.nic.in.

The Higher Secondary examinations were held from March 27 to April 11 this year.

Rangpo School hosts exchange students from New Delhi

RANGPO, 08 JUN [IPR]: Senior Secondary School, Rangpo in East Sikkim hosted 15 exchange students from New Delhi along with two teachers, Prachi Jain [Trained Graduate Teacher, English] and Ravijot Sandhu [Post Graduate Teacher, Chemistry] and Deputy Education Officer, Vijay Pal, at the school auditorium today.

It may be mentioned here, the students and delegates are on a weeklong exchange programme under Ek Bharath Shrestha Bharat scheme. It is a flagship programme monitored by the PMO, New Delhi and initiated by the Prime Minister during the Rashtriya Ekta Divas on 31 Oct 2015, to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhai Patel.

Under this programme, every year all the 36 States and UTs are paired with each other where students supervised by teachers and education officers are sent on an exchange programme. The main objective of the Ek Bharath Shrestha Bharath is to exchange the diverse culture, promote and celebrate and eventually form a bond with each other.

Principal of Rangpo SSS, Dr Hannah Yonzan, welcomed the



gathering giving the guests a tour of the school campus and the classrooms. One of the students of Rangpo SSS gave a presentation on Sikkim while another student, Aashish Dangal, who had previously gone to New Delhi under the same exchange programme narrated a detailed account of his experience.

Deputy Director, Human Resource Development Department [Government of Sikkim],

PR Dulal, spoke on the value of cultural exchange and the significance it bears in a student's life.

The exchange students from Delhi performed a dance which was followed by the DEO's address wherein he thanked the officials of HRDD, Central and State Government while praising the cleanliness and the hospitality of the State. He stated that he was amazed at the preparedness and confidence of

the students in every field and admired the aspirations and discipline they held.

Dr Yonzan presented a memento to the teachers and the DEO and thanked them for participating in the programme.

The visiting teachers expressed that they will definitely return to Sikkim and will go on and tell others about the development and discipline of the people of Sikkim.

Sikkim girl represents India in Int'l Karate C'ship in Bhutan

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 08 JUN:**

Babyana Gurung from Sikkim has left for Thimpu, Bhutan, to represent the country in the 4th International Karate Championship, which started on Thursday. She is the only karateka from Sikkim in the 37-member India team to the championship.

Babyana will be representing India in four different events in junior girl's category of the championship. She is a class XI student of Holy Cross School, Tadong. Sikkim State Karate-Do Association has expressed its best wishes to the karateka for the championship.



Joint inspection reviews preparedness for Kailash Mansarovar Yatra

NATHULA, 08 JUN [IPR]: A team of officers comprising of Secretary, Special Secretary, Deputy Secretary and the concerned Engineers of Tourism & Civil Aviation Department along with Chief Executive Officer and Assistant General Manager of Sikkim Tourism Development Corporation [STDC] conducted a joint inspection to review the preparedness of the State Government for conducting Kailash Mansarovar Yatra via Nathula 2018. The team took a stock of arrangements at acclimatization centres

at 15th mile, 17th mile and Sherathang and interacted with ITBP officials and officials at Customs and Immigrations office at Nathula in East Sikkim.

The issues of water supply, electricity and minor repairs were found to be completed at the acclimatization centres and the State is all geared up to receive the first batch who will be reaching Gangtok on 15 Jun starting their journey from Delhi from 11 Jun, it is informed.

It may be mentioned here, this

year Sikkim has been allotted 10 batches comprising 50 members in each batch subject to fulfillment of medical requisites. The success of the Yatra largely depends on the co-ordination between the concerned Departments and their support. Since this involves the image of the State Government, all line Departments have agreed to work hand in hand and their willingness to extend all necessary support as per the decision of the meeting held on 04 June 2018.

Farmer's training in Upper Omlok

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 08 JUN:**

Mavedir organized a daylong programme on organic farming, National Programme for Organic Production [NPOP] and National Organic Program [NOP] norms, ICS documentation and preparation of organic herbal spray for farmers of Upper Omlok in Gyalshing, West Sikkim today, a press release informs.

The programme was chaired by Ward panchayat, Radhika Khaling, and had Mavedir trainers, Sangmoo Lepcha and Biren Tiwari as the resource persons.

The farmers were briefed about the importance of organic farming and how the State Government is promoting it. The resource persons urged the farmers to take advantage of the facilities provided by the government.

Similarly the construction of vegetable collection centers in the GPU and how the Farmer Producer Organisations [FPOs] would facilitate the marketing of rural produce was informed to the farmers.

Mr Tiwari shared information about the organic norms and how



lands in the GPU were being certified under NOP and NPOP norms,

what does it mean and how the farmers can contribute by adhering to

various organic norms and principles set by the certification bodies.



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM HEALTH CARE, HUMAN SERVICE & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT GANGTOK

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The HC, HS & FW Department invites e-tender from Class II A enlisted contractors (SPWD) from within the District (South) for participating in the e-tender for the work "Construction of Additional Infrastructure at Jorethang CHC, South Sikkim". For further details, kindly visit website www.sikkimtenders.gov.in. Date of uploading of bidding documents in e-procurement portal will from 13/06/18 onwards.

Sd/-
**ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER
HC, HS & FW DEPARTMENT.**

R.O. No. 127/IPR/PUB/Class/18-19 dt.08.06.2018



Ronaldo return inspires Portugal past Algeria

LISBON, JUN 8 (AFP): With talisman Cristiano Ronaldo back in the side, Portugal strolled to a 3-0 win over Algeria in a World Cup warm-up match in Lisbon.

A brace from Paris Saint-Germain forward Goncalo Guedes, who spent last season on loan at Valencia, and another strike from Sporting Lisbon midfielder Bruno Fernandes secured a comfortable success yesterday.

It was a welcome boost for the European champions, who hadn't won since March and were held to draws by Tunisia (2-2) and Belgium (0-0) in their previous two friendlies.

Having been given some extra time off following Real Madrid's Champions League final victory over Liverpool, Ronaldo made his 150th international appearance for Portugal.

And his very presence sparked a marked improvement in Portugal's attacking thrust as he was involved in almost every dangerous move the hosts conjured until he was replaced on 74 minutes.

Portugal begin their World Cup campaign in Sochi against Spain on June 15. Algeria did not qualify.

Rashford shines as England cruise past Costa Rica

LEEDS, JUN 8 (AFP): England manager Gareth Southgate admitted Marcus Rashford had given him a difficult decision to make ahead of the World Cup with a stunning strike in a 2-0 friendly victory over Costa Rica.

In England's last match before their tournament opener against Tunisia in 11 days time, Manchester United's Rashford was the star of a much-changed side in Leeds last night.

Danny Welbeck was also on target as England extended their unbeaten run to 10 games, stretching back nearly a year.

"What pleased me most is that Marcus Rashford enjoyed his football tonight. He played with a real swagger," said Southgate.

Rashford made the most of the absence of England captain Harry Kane as he started up front alongside Jamie Vardy, and showed what he is capable of with a fiercely struck shot from 25 yards that dipped perfectly into the top corner.

"You work on them (goals) in training every day and when one comes up in a game it's a reward," Rashford told ITV.

Rashford endured a difficult end to the season at United, scoring just four times in 2018 at club level, and suffering some stinging criticism from Jose Mourinho.

However, Southgate insisted the 20-year-old needs to express himself and feel the freedom to make mistakes.

"He had a difficult end to the season having to play on his own as a number nine at times. He is still filling out -- we sometimes forget how old he is," added Southgate.



"For me, at the end of the season, he cares so much you can see he was trying too hard.

"I said to all the team before the game, I expect to see mistakes tonight and, if I don't, there might be a problem because we wouldn't be being as attack-minded as we want to be.

"They are going to make errors, but they might also show the glimpses like Marcus's goal. The goal was world-class."

Southgate made 10 changes from the side that beat Nigeria 2-1 on Saturday with 19-year-old Trent Alexander-Arnold of Liverpool handed his international debut at right-back.

Rashford caught the eye from the off with a sublime piece of skill down the left that forced a corner from which his United

team-mate Phil Jones saw a looping header turned onto the bar by Kaylor Navas.

Real Madrid goalkeeper Navas was completely caught out moments later, though, as Rashford unleashed a powerful drive from 25 yards for his third international goal.

Navas was Costa Rica's hero of an incredible run to the World Cup quarter-finals four years ago in Brazil, helping to knock England out of the group stages on the way.

However, there was a gulf in class even between Southgate's largely second string line-up and the Central Americans as England dominated.

Navas kept his side in the game by denying Vardy from point-blank range as he latched onto Leicester team-mate Harry

Maguire's knockdown.

Costa Rica face tournament favourites Brazil as well as Serbia and Switzerland in Group E, and will need to show far more ambition once they get to Russia if they are to replicate their heroics of four years ago.

Southgate held off making any changes until the hour mark and left Kane in reserve for the full 90 minutes as his side continued to control the game after the break.

England's rhythm was then stunted by five quickfire substitutions, including a debut for Burnley's Nick Pope in goal.

However, Welbeck also justified his inclusion in Southgate's squad by coming off the bench to seal the win 14 minutes from time as he headed home Dele Alli's cross

Haryana govt seeks share of athletes' earnings, withdraws after flak

CHANDIGARH, JUN 8 (PTI): Inundated with criticism from elite sportspersons, the Haryana government today decided to put on hold a notification that required athletes employed by it to deposit one-third of their earnings from commercial and professional commitments to the state sports council.

"I have asked for the relevant file of Sports Department to be shown to me & the notification dated April 30th to be put on hold till further orders," Chief Minister M L Khattar tweeted.

"We are proud of the immense contribution by our sportsperson & I assure them of a just consideration of all issues affecting them," he added.

His intervention came after athletes reacted sharply to the notification issued by Principal Secretary (Sports and Youth Department), Ashok Khemka.

"One-third of the income earned by the sportsperson from professional sports or commercial endorsements will be deposited with the Haryana State Sports Council. The money shall

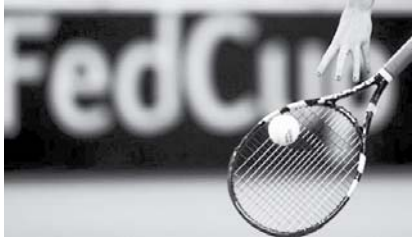
be used for the development of sports in the State," it stated.

Khemka had hit the headlines during his stint as head of land registration department by alleging irregularities in land deals involving Robert Vadra a few years ago.

Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Anil Vij had also defended the move, insisting it was not aimed at income generated from amateur sports

"... here we are talking about income from professional sports," he said.

"It is government's old rule/service rule, Rule 56,



Efforts to tackle age fraud in tennis begin

NEW DELHI, JUN 8 (PTI): To tackle the menace of age fraud, the AITA has made it mandatory for players to submit a report of TW3 age verification test for registration if they do not have a birth certificate issued within one year of birth even as the newly-crowned national champion Tejasvi Dabas has "voluntarily" withdrawn from the Under-12 category after allegations surfaced that she was overage.

Tejasvi, claimed to be 11-year old with height of 5 feet four inches, recently won the girls' Under-12 National Championship, held in Mumbai.

After receiving complaints against Tajasvi, AITA called her parents for a meeting and the outcome was that the player agreed to withdraw from the Under-12 category and is now allowed to compete only in Under-14 and Under-16 categories.

However, the All India Tennis Association will not take away the title won by her. Neither it considers it a case of age fraud.

"She is a huge girl, that's the main problem. I will not say it's an age fraud issue. I will say that the parents volunteered to withdraw due to complaints. It's a fact," AITA secretary Hironmoy Chatterjee told PTI, explaining the body's decision.

Asked if AITA tried to find the correct age of the girl, Chatterjee said, "We did not need to verify. The father of the girl said that her child looks big (growth is good) and that's why people are complaining."

"Had they contested, then we could have thought of age verification test. We asked them to put it (withdrawal from U-12) in writing and they did. Certificate-wise she can still play. Since there were

complaints, we had to discuss it but it did not go to that level that we had to subject her to age verification test."

AITA also recently banned Muskan from competing in the Under-14 category as she was carrying two AITA registration cards with two different dates of birth.

Her card bearing registration number 430252, in which her date of birth was mentioned as March 6, 2005 was suspended. In her second card, her date of birth was mentioned as March 6, 2003

Former Indian Davis Cupper Vishal Uppal said age cheating was "indeed rampant" in Indian tennis circuit and needs to be tackled with strong deterrents.

"It's a serious issue we are facing. It's a step in right direction but we need strong deterrents to instill fear in the minds of cheaters. Players against whom there are strong doubts should not be selected in any junior Indian team," Uppal said.

When contacted, Tejasvi's father Jayant defended her daughter.

"She is definitely 11 but since she is winning consistently, there are complaints. If she was losing no one would have said anything. We live in a village and feed our daughter with pure goat milk and home grown vegetables, that's why her growth is good," Jayant, hailing from Kanjhawala, said.

Asked why they did not contest the age cheating charge, Jayant, who takes her daughter to Rohtak, 60km from his house, for coaching everyday, said, "We are looking at bigger picture, the women's tennis. It's okay if she does not compete in U-12. She will win in higher categories also because she is a good player."

'NASA rover finds building blocks of life on Mars'

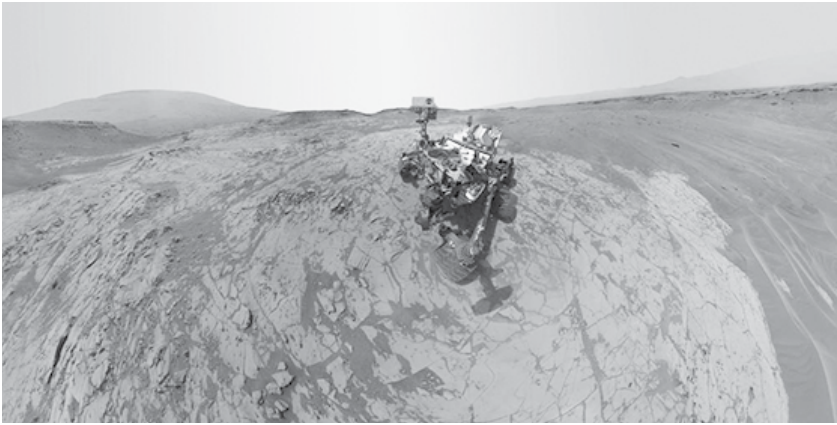
WASHINGTON, JUN 8 (PTI): NASA's Curiosity rover has discovered potential building blocks of life in an ancient martian lakebed, advancing the case for possible life, past or even present, on the red planet, the US space agency said.

The new findings published in the journal Science describe "tough" organic molecules in three-billion-year-old sedimentary rocks near the surface, as well as seasonal variations in the levels of methane in the atmosphere.

Organic molecules contain carbon and hydrogen, and also may include oxygen, nitrogen and other elements. While commonly associated with life, organic molecules also can be created by non-biological processes and are not necessarily indicators of life.

These findings are a good sign for future missions exploring the planet's surface and subsurface, NASA said in a statement.

"With these new findings, Mars is telling us to stay the course and keep searching for evidence of life," said Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator for the Science Mission Directorate at NASA Headquarters here.



"I am confident that our ongoing and planned missions will unlock even more breathtaking discoveries on the red planet," Zurbuchen said.

"Curiosity has not determined the source of the organic molecules," said Jen Eigenbrode of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in the US.

"Whether it holds a record of ancient life, was food for life, or has existed in the absence of life, or

ganic matter in martian materials holds chemical clues to planetary conditions and processes," Eigenbrode said.

Although the surface of Mars is inhospitable today, there is clear evidence that in the distant past, the martian climate allowed liquid water - an essential ingredient for life as we know it - to pool at the surface, NASA said.

Data from Curiosity reveals that billions of years ago, a water

lake inside Gale Crater held all the ingredients necessary for life, including chemical building blocks and energy sources, it said.

"The martian surface is exposed to radiation from space. Both radiation and harsh chemicals break down organic matter," said Eigenbrode.

"Finding ancient organic molecules in the top five centimeters of rock that was deposited when Mars may have been habitable,

bodes well for us to learn the story of organic molecules on Mars with future missions that will drill deeper," he said.

Scientists also discovered seasonal variations in methane in the martian atmosphere over the course of nearly three Mars years, which is almost six Earth years. This variation was detected by Curiosity's Sample Analysis at Mars (SAM) instrument suite.

Water-rock chemistry might have generated the methane, but scientists cannot rule out the possibility of biological origins. Methane previously had been detected in Mars' atmosphere in large, unpredictable plumes.

This new result shows that low levels of methane within Gale Crater repeatedly peak in warm, summer months and drop in the winter every year, NASA said.

"This is the first time we have seen something repeatable in the methane story, so it offers us a handle in understanding it," said Chris Webster of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in California.

To identify organic material in the martian soil, Curiosity drilled into sedimentary rocks known as

mudstone from four areas in Gale Crater. This mudstone gradually formed billions of years ago from silt that accumulated at the bottom of the ancient lake. The rock samples were analysed by SAM, which uses an oven to heat the samples (500 degrees Celsius) to release organic molecules from the powdered rock.

SAM measured small organic molecules that came off the mudstone sample - fragments of larger organic molecules that do not vapourise easily.

Some of these fragments contain sulphur, which could have helped preserve them in the same way sulphur is used to make car tires more durable, according to Eigenbrode.

The results also indicate organic carbon concentrations on the order of 10 parts per million or more. This is close to the amount observed in martian meteorites and about 100 times greater than prior detections of organic carbon on Mars' surface.

Some of the molecules identified include thiophenes, benzene, toluene, and small carbon chains, such as propane or butene.

Wuhan consensus between Modi and Xi to be reflected in SCO summit: Indian envoy

BEIJING, JUN 8 (PTI): The consensus reached between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Wuhan would be reflected at the Qingdao summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, India's envoy to China Gautam Bambawale has said on the eve of the meeting tomorrow.

Modi would attend the two-day summit of the eight-member SCO in the eastern Chinese city of Qingdao.

This is the first summit of the organisation after the admission of India and Pakistan as full members last year.

During his stay in Qingdao, Modi will also hold several bilateral meetings with the leaders of the SCO member countries including Xi.

"The focus on of SCO members is in the areas of security cooperation, countering terrorism, economic development as well as cultural exchange," Bambawale told state-run China Daily and China Global Television Network (CGTN).

"We will continue to expand our cooperation in these areas. India will work with the other member countries in this direction," he said.

The SCO members include China, Russia, India, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

He said that India would take part in the SCO enthusiastically. Bambawale highlighted the consensus reached between Modi and Xi at their informal summit at the Chinese city of Wuhan in April and said it would be reflected at the Qingdao summit. He said the two leaders reached consensus in two areas.

The first was that India and China are partners in progress and development.

"Second there are many more commonalities between India and China, many more areas where we cooperate with each other than where we differ with each other," he said.

"Obviously, between any two countries, including India and China, there are some areas which we do not see eye to eye, where we have our own opinions. But the two leaders decided to work on the areas where we have common approaches. We will see that in Qingdao summit," he said.

On India-China security cooperation in view of their differences on the border, he said, "India and China must work together in the security area too".

"We might have our differences in terms of where our border lies. We don't have a final resolution of India-China border. But I think it is very important for India and China to ensure that peace and tranquillity is maintained in the India, China border areas," Bambawale said.

Reincarnation of Dalai Lama should be chosen by Tibetans: US

LALIT K JHA WASHINGTON, JUN 8 (PTI): Tibetans should choose Buddhist lamas, including the Dalai Lama, as per their beliefs and without interference, the Trump administration has said in an apparent reference to China's intervention.

In its latest Tibet negotiations report sent to the Congress, the Trump administration said it was concerned by the Chinese government's interference in the selection, education and veneration of Tibetan Buddhist religious leaders.

"The US government believes that respect for Tibetan Buddhists' universal human right of religious freedom dictates that the succession or identification of Tibetan Buddhist lamas, including the Dalai Lama, should occur without interference, in a manner consistent with their beliefs," said the report signed by Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs Mary K Waters.

The US continues to urge the Chinese Government to revise its policies in Tibetan areas that have created



ated tensions, respect and preserve the distinct religious, linguistic and cultural identity of the Tibetan people and permit Tibetans to express their grievances freely, publicly, peacefully and without fear of retribution, it said.

China says that the successor to the Dalai Lama must be chosen according to the religious rituals and historical conventions as well as the

backing from the ruling Communist Party.

The report calls upon the Chinese authorities to allow diplomats, journalists, tourists and others to have unrestricted access to Tibetan areas.

It urges the Chinese Government to respect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all the people in China, including the freedom of

movement and the right to leave any country, including one's own.

Noting that the Chinese government officials and the Dalai Lama or his representatives have not met in formal negotiations since 2010, the report said the US continued to encourage both sides to engage in meaningful and direct dialogue, without preconditions, to lead to a settlement that resolves differences.

The US government remains concerned by the lack of meaningful autonomy for Tibetans within China, ongoing violations and abuses of the human rights of Tibetans in China and efforts by Chinese authorities to eliminate the distinct religious, linguistic and cultural identity of Tibetans, the report said.

The US believes the Chinese government must address these concerns to create conditions for a sustainable settlement, which is essential to the long-term stability of the region, it said.


"The US government has maintained close contact with Tibetan re-

ligious, cultural and political leaders to underscore US support and has expressed its concerns regarding Chinese government actions in bilateral, multilateral and public venues," it said.

According to the report, the Department of State maintains close contact with a wide range of religious, cultural and political leaders of the Tibetan people, including Tibetans in the US, China, India, Nepal and around the world.

Last year, the Chinese foreign ministry said the successor to the Dharamshala-based 14th Dalai Lama must be chosen according to the religious rituals and historical conventions, including drawing of lots from the Golden Urn in front of the Shakyamuni (Buddha) statue at the Jokhang Temple in Lhasa, followed by the mandatory approval from the ruling Communist Party of China.

Since he fled Tibet in 1959 to escape from the Chinese occupation, the Dalai Lama, 82, has been keeping China on tenterhooks about his successor.



Officials in Guatemala have admitted that they were slow to warn the public of the danger posed by the eruption of the country's Volcano of Fire. At least 109 people were killed when Volcan de Fuego erupted last Sunday, sending gas and rocks hurtling down the mountain at high speed, enveloping several villages. Seismologists warned there was a possibility of pyroclastic flows eight hours before the main eruption - one of the deadliest in 500 years - but the national disaster agency Conred failed to impose mandatory evacuation orders.

Would invite Kim to White House if Singapore talks go well: Trump

WASHINGTON, JUN 8 (PTI): US President Donald Trump today said he would consider inviting North Korean leader Kim Jong-un to the White House if their Singapore summit on Tuesday goes well but made it clear that he is ready to "walk away" from the meeting if his goals were not achieved.

The US and its regional allies want to see North Korea give up its nuclear weapons.

Trump and Kim will meet on Sentosa, a smaller island off the coast of Singapore's main island. The June 12 summit would represent the first ever meeting between a North Korean leader and a sitting US president.

Trump made the remarks after meeting Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the White House to discuss the June 12 summit. Abe's visit is part of a flurry of diplomatic activity in the run-up to the summit, as countries try to ensure their interests are not overlooked.

"Maybe we'll start with the White House," he told reporters after he was asked whether he would invite the North Korean leader to the White House or his Mar-a-lago resort in Florida.

He said it was possible an agreement to end the Korean War could be reached, though he called that "the easy part" of the negotiations.

"It's what happens after that that is really



ly important," he told reporters.

He, however, made it clear that he was ready to "walk away" from the meeting if his goals were not achieved.

"I am totally prepared to walk. It could happen. Maybe it won't be necessary. I hope it won't be necessary to walk, because I really believe that Kim Jong-un wants to do something that is going to be great for his people, and also great for his family, and great for himself," Trump said.

"I am totally prepared to walk away. I did it once before. You have to be able to walk away."

"If you're not going to be able to walk away -- we didn't walk away from the horrible Iran deal that was signed, and if you look at what's happened, since I signed that deal, Iran and in all fairness, I say it with great respect for the people of Iran, but Iran is acting a lot differently. They're no longer looking so

much to the Mediterranean," he said.

Iran, he said, is no longer looking so much to what was going on in Syria, Yemen and other places.

"They're a much different country over the last three months. And again, I say that with hope that maybe something can happen," said the US President.

About Kim's personal letter delivered to Trump by the North Korean leader's top aide last week, the President said, "The letter was just a greeting. It was really very nice. Perhaps I can get approval to put it out. It was really a very warm letter, a very nice letter".

"I appreciated it very much, and nothing other than. 'We look forward to seeing you, and we look forward to the summit, and hopefully, some wonderful things will work out'. So it was really very warm, very nice. We appreciated it," Trump said.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, speaking later at the White House, said Kim had indicated to him personally that he was willing to denuclearise - although it is not clear if that means North Korea is coming closer to the US vision of what that entails. Earlier, Trump said he did not think preparation was essential for his meeting with the North Korean leader.

"I think I'm very well prepared. I don't think I have to prepare very much. It's about attitude, it's about willingness to get things done," he said.

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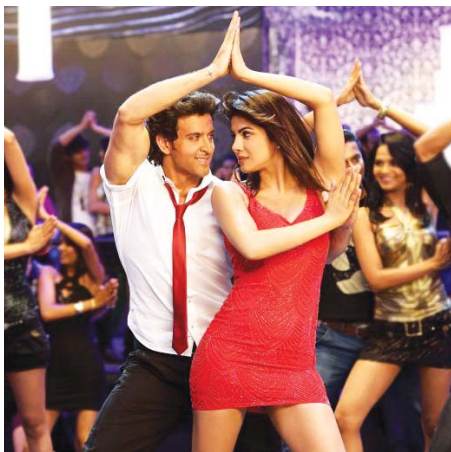
I'LL BE THERE FOR YOU!! Friends co-stars Courtney Cox [Monica Geller] and Jennifer Aniston [Rachel Green] were each other's dates to the American Film Institute's 46th Life Achievement Award Gala Tribute to George Clooney at Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, California.

PRIYANKA CHOPRA TO STAR ALONGSIDE HRITHIK IN KRRISH 4, CONFIRMS DIRECTOR

With the cancellation of Quantico, it looks like Priyanka Chopra will be making her Bollywood comeback in style.

Veteran actor-turned-director Rakesh Roshan confirmed that the actress will make a return in the upcoming Krrish 4 opposite Hrithik Roshan. The news of the confirmation comes through Bharathi Pradhan's new book, Priyanka Chopra: The Dark Horse, where Rakesh discusses his experience working with the former Miss World.

"When I worked with her in Krrish, I never realised that one day she'd be going to Holly-



wood. But I always knew that she would hit the top bracket here. It's her professionalism and her acting abilities that have taken her to where she's gone today," he said.

Rakesh further praised her choice of roles in such diverse films like Mary Kom, Aitraaz and Bajirao Mastani.

However, the length of Priyanka's role in Krrish 4 has not been confirmed yet.

There have been three installments of Krrish, which started in 2003 as science fiction film, directed, produced, and written by Rakesh, and starring Hrithik, Priyanka, and Rekha. The first part was titled Koi... Mil Gaya.

Rakesh had announced in January this year that Krrish 4 will release on Christmas 2020.

ARIES: Generosity is one of your best qualities, Aries. You have the uncanny ability to give without expecting anything in return, and you gain a great deal of power and light from this generosity. With little effort, you could become one of those people who never expects things in return. You could become a "saint" in a very real way. **TAURUS:** Every once in a while everyone must analyze his or her life. But you tend to be too pessimistic when you ponder yours. You get easily carried away, and you often exaggerate. Today, as you think about your life, try not to listen to that little voice in your head. Your life is far from

being the way that you think it is. **GEMINI:** You'll have to use a cunning strategy today. The day will be tense and delicate. Some of your friends may try to put some pressure on you to obtain certain things. You'll have to find a clever way to get out of this tight spot. You might consider using some of their own medicine on them. This way, Gemini, you could keep your freedom. Try it and see. **CANCER:** Today, Cancer, you'll become quite introspective and reflect on your life. You probably heard some discouraging news concerning someone close to you, and it could leave you feeling blue. You'll find that you put a

great deal of emotion into this relationship. Don't let this get you down. You need to react. Try to recharge your batteries so you can get your energy back. **LEO:** Have your friends ever told you that you could be a great teacher? At home, you're the one who's talking all the time. You're almost compelled to make others listen to you. Children are fascinated by your knowledge. Today, Leo, someone might not agree with you and upset you. You'll learn that your lessons can lead to a conversation. Knowledge isn't a one-way street. **VIRGO:** You've been working hard lately and giving a lot of your energy to others,

Today you're feeling tired. There will be tension in the air throughout the day. You may feel that certain people that you considered friends now disappoint you. Don't get tangled up in their superficiality. It's probably wise to put some distance between you and these people. **LIBRA:** Today, Libra, you'll undoubtedly ask yourself a lot of questions. You tend to be rather introverted, and you typically need a great deal of freedom. You're usually an energetic person, but with the current astral energy at play, you may feel lonely and doubtful of your abilities. Take time today to analyze

your commitments to others. **SCORPIO:** You'll be the savior of the day. Your wisdom and patience will be your best assets today, Scorpio. You'll be of great help to those around you. You'll counsel them and be able to guide them toward better days. All those who are lost in their personal problems just need someone like you. You're their friend and they appreciate your generosity. **SAGITTARIUS:** You shouldn't work as hard as you do. You might have a lot of energy, but your body needs to rest from time to time. There is more to life than work. Try to schedule some time off to relax and recharge your batteries. You'll

need to be in the best of shape pretty soon. The action is just around the corner, and you'll need all your capacities. **CAPRICORN:** You'll be lost in your thoughts today, Capricorn. The celestial atmosphere is right for enabling you to ponder a frustrating aspect of your life. Often your partner is far away from you, yet you need your sweetie beside you. This may well be the cause of a lot of tension in your life now. The time is right to talk to your partner about this situation and try to rectify it. **AQUARIUS:** People around you might have been expecting a bit more cooperation on your part. You could be nicer

and more concerned about their needs. It seems that you've been ill-tempered recently. You like acting this way occasionally. Sometimes you act like a child who wants to play more. If you indulge this urge to play more often, you'll be able to be more loving toward your entourage. **PISCES:** If it were up to you, you'd rather stay in bed reading than confront the world. Deep inside, however, you know you need to socialize. You feel that you can't be left out of society. But have you ever thought about finding someone who shares your tastes? You could read in bed with someone else and still have a lot of contact.

GOTHAM ACTOR CONFIRMS HE'S CO-WRITING SUICIDE SQUAD 2



Gotham actor Todd Stashwick is co-writing Suicide Squad 2. There's been plenty of news rolling out of the DC movie universe as of late, under the guidance of DC Films president Walter Hamada. One of the areas he appears to be most interested in expanding is Batman's supporting characters, particularly those related to Suicide Squad. Margot Robbie's Harley Quinn will be headlining Birds of Prey, while Jared Leto is getting a solo Joker movie of his own. The development of the former is great news for Harley but gave the rest of Task Force X a bump.

Birds of Prey looks to be targeting a late 2018 or early 2019 filming start, which is when Suicide Squad 2 was previously looking to enter production as well, before reportedly being pushed to 2019. This delay may be a good thing as there hasn't been a ton of information on the sequel since The Accountant's Gavin O'Connor was hired to write and direct the film last year. However, he isn't alone in taking the next crack at the sequel's script.

On the latest episode of DC Movie News, guest Todd Stashwick revealed

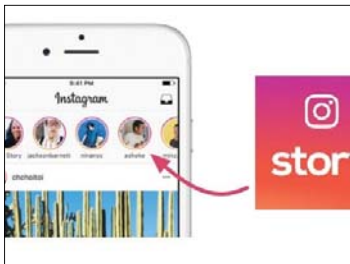
he is co-writing the script for Suicide Squad 2. Stashwick is well-versed in the DC world after playing Richard Sionis aka The Mask in Gotham. He does not have any previous writing credits but has been working on a number of projects for years, including movies, TV shows, and even video games (like Visceral's canceled Star Wars game). The gig arose after he worked with Gavin O'Connor in Jane Got a Gun and Stashwick elaborated on the process of him getting involved:

"We sat down, he started picking my brain, and he could see that this is something that I have a deep passion for and I understand genre. That's kind of what I like to write in. And then once we started bouncing ideas back, there's a third writer, David Bar Katz, the three of us are writing it together. And so once we started talking and just bouncing ideas back and forth, he was like 'This is the team. This is who I want for this.'"

Stashwick went on to say that Geoff Johns is also involved in the scripting process for Suicide Squad 2, so there's plenty of great minds coming together here. Unfortunately, he didn't elaborate

on the state of the script or tease any details on how the film is shaping up, so fans will still be left in the dark on those details for now. The good news is that the script is still actively being worked on and finalized, that way, when Robbie, Will Smith, and the rest of Task Force X's cast have their schedules clear up they can get this one moving into production.

Since there's still plenty of mystery surrounding Suicide Squad 2 and there aren't any examples to pull from for what Stashwick specifically will bring, it appears as though his love for these characters and the source material is what got him involved. He said that Harley Quinn and Amanda Waller were some of his favorite characters from the Suicide Squad comics, so it's possible he'll want to focus on giving both even bigger roles in the sequel. As for a potential role in the movie, Stashwick said he's "only concerned with turning in a great script," which is an exactly what the sequel needs. After all, the script for the first movie was reportedly written in just six weeks, so it's nice to see they're taking the time to get Suicide Squad 2's script right this time around.



INSTAGRAM NOW LETS YOU INSTANTLY REPOST STORIES YOU'RE MENTIONED IN TO YOUR OWN STORY

Instagram has announced a slight change to Stories. Now, when someone mentions you in their story, you'll have the option to instantly repost it, adding the photo or video to your own story.

The feature, called @mention Sharing, is initiated when you tag a user in your Story. A pop-up will appear saying, "Mentioned users may repost this story for 24 hours." The person mentioned will get a notification via direct message that they were mentioned with a link to "Add This to Your Story." Simply tap and the story will be shown in a preview where it can be adjusted or have text, stickers, and more added to it. When added, followers will see the original poster's username, and they can tap it to see that person's profile.

This update only applies to public accounts and is available now as part of Instagram version 48 on Android and iOS.

ELLE WOODS TO RETURN AS WITHERSPOON CONFIRMS LEGALLY BLONDE 3

Reese Witherspoon has confirmed that she will be reprising her role of Elle Woods for a third Legally Blonde film.

The star tweeted "It's true... #LegallyBlonde3" with a video showing her in character wearing a pink sparkly bikini on a float in a swimming pool.

Earlier this week Deadline reported that MGM was close to completing a deal with Witherspoon and the creative team from the original.

Kirsten "Kiwi" Smith and Karen McCullah, who adapted the Amanda Brown novel for the 2001 first film, were in talks to write the script.

Legally Blonde is about a fun, sorority girl who applies to Harvard Law School to be with her boyfriend but then realises she makes a pretty good lawyer herself.

It also starred Luke Wilson and Selma Blair but it is not known if they will join Witherspoon.

The first film was a box-office hit and received Golden Globe nominations in both the best actress and best musical or comedy categories.

Its success led to a sequel in 2003, Legally Blonde 2: Red, White and Blonde which was not as well-received by the critics.

The original grossed \$141m



(£105m) worldwide, and the sequel brought in \$124m (£93m).

The film was also adapted for the stage with Sheridan Smith taking on the role in London.

Deadline reported that Witherspoon's Hello Sunshine company will produce the film along with MGM and the original film's producers, Marc Platt and Platt Productions president Adam Siegel.

According to Deadline, the plot will be "in the spirit of the first film" and will centre on female empowerment.

Witherspoon is currently filming the second series of Sky Atlantic's award-winning Big Little Lies with Meryl Streep and Nicole Kidman in California.