

# SummitTIMES

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

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## Scrub typhus has claimed six lives in West Sikkim

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 12 SEPT:** Six people have reportedly died due to scrub typhus in the State so far. As per the state government, only two of these deaths are 'laboratory confirmed' deaths while the rest are suspected to have died due to scrub typhus. All cases reported thus far come from West Sikkim.

Till August, 12 cases of scrub typhus were reported in West Sikkim. While 101 cases of suspected scrub typhus were reported, only 12 tested positive for the disease.

Meanwhile, the Health Department has begun spreading awareness on scrub typhus in all the districts. Information regarding the outbreak of scrub typhus has been sent to the Center Surveillance Unit and the State Surveillance Unit of the Health Department is in touch with CSU Delhi.

Districts, PHCs and PHSCs have been directed to remain vigilant on reporting of fever cases while suspected cases are to be tested for scrub typhus and early treatment of individual is advised.

Testing facilities for scrub typhus are available in PHC, District Hospital and STNM Hospital.

## Centre hikes DA to 5 pc for 1.1 cr employees, pensioners

**NEW DELHI, SEP 12 (PTI):** The Centre today increased dearness allowance and dearness relief by 1 per cent to 5 per cent, benefiting 50 lakh employees and 61 lakh pensioners.

This decision was taken at the Union Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra

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## 3 houses swept away by landslides in Daramdin, 26 families relocated

**GYALSHING, 12 SEPT (IPR):** The overnight rainfall has triggered landslides at various places under Daramdin BAC in West Sikkim. A team comprising of SDM (Soreng), BDO (Daramdin), Line Department officials and concerned Panchayats inspected the landslide areas today.

The affected families were immediately shifted to a safer lo-

cation. As reported by the BDO, 3 houses were swept away along with several livestock. Many electricity poles along these affected areas are damaged while roads are also damaged at several points in the surrounding areas.

Sokpay Gaon, Karki Dara and Towkey Gaon are the villages badly affected from where 26 households

comprising of 97 persons have been shifted to relief camps at Dodok and Buriakhop Government Schools.

Area MLA, DN Sherpa and Zilla Adhakhya (W), Devika Subba visited the landslide affected areas later in the afternoon. The team also visited relief camps and assured all possible support from the government as early as possible.

## Pakyong Airport will be operational by Nov, says MoS for Civil Aviation

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 12 SEPT:** Minister of State for Civil Aviation, Jayant Sinha, has said that the Pakyong Green Field Airport will be operational by November this year.

Mr Sinha said this during a meeting with the Sikkim Tourism Minister, Ugen Gyatso Bhutia, MP Lok Sabha, PD Rai, and Tourism Secretary, C. Zangpo, today at New Delhi, as per a press release from the Lok Sabha MP's office.

The MoS suggested that agreements with airlines should be entered into, on a priority basis. At present, 42-seater



turboprop aircrafts will operate from the airport, the release mentions.

The Airport Authority of India has designed and executed the Green Field Airport which will be commissioned after the Director General of

Civil Aviation grants permission.

The Tourism Secretary expressed concern over challenges due to the cases filed by farmers residing in the vicinity of the airport.

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## Chief Minister attends One World Award farewell dinner

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 12 SEPT:**

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling joined the farewell dinner organized here at Legau in Germany on the invitation of the One World Award organizers on 11 Sept. The farewell function witnessed serious interaction among the OWA winners and members of the organizing committee, a press release informs.

While addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said that the three-day festival has been very fruitful to celebrate successes in organic movements across the world and that it was a great privilege to be in the company of world organic leaders and to learn about the immense work that is being done to further organic agriculture in different parts of the world.

He further stated that Sikkim is a small Himalayan state in India but



has been able to set an example of a new model of development in India by embracing organic agriculture and expressed his happiness to share Sikkim's humble story and proposed that Sikkim serves as an example that can be studied and its model replicated in other parts of the world.

Referring to other speakers, Mr Chamling submitted that he was energized by the stories of success and commitment heard in the past

few days - stories from Ethiopia, Palestine, Azerbaijan and Zimbabwe, to our very own Indian city of Pune - and that he would take back inspiration from this dedicated community of people working hard to overcome challenges of climate change, environmental degradation and food security.

He also expressed his gratefulness to the organizers to International Federation of Organic

turn to pg03

## Mamata Banerjee urges Gorkhaland protesters to call off bandh

**SILIGURI (WB), SEP 12 (PTI):** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today urged the Gorkhaland agitators to call off their indefinite shutdown in the Darjeeling hills and help restore normalcy in the region.

She also described today's second round of dialogue with the hill parties as "positive and constructive".

"Today's meeting was very positive and constructive. I believe that in a democracy, everybody can speak their minds and put forward their demands," Banerjee said after the meeting, which was held at the mini secretariat, near here.

The indefinite bandh was called by the hill parties, includ-



ing the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM), demanding a separate state of Gorkhaland.

Asserting that she wanted a "permanent" solution in the hills, the chief minister said the discussion to resolve the ongoing impasse there would continue and the next round of dialogue would be held on October 16.

"If the people of Darjeeling face

any problem, it can be discussed, because discussion is the only way to sort out issues.

"We will stay together and solve the problems. There is no question of any misunderstanding among us," she added.

Stating that her government wanted peace and normalcy to return in Darjeeling, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) supremo said the people of the hills had faced a lot of difficulties in the last few months.

She said Darjeeling was a part and parcel of West Bengal and added that the hill people should be able to enjoy the upcoming festive season.

Requesting the agitators to

turn to pg03

## 'Khalloh' Dasain for the Hills this year

**REBYNA RANA**  
**GANGTOK, 12 SEPT:**

The festival of Dasain is just round the corner and while this festive season meant people flocking to the Darjeeling Hills for shopping, this year the scenario looks bland due to the ongoing indefinite strike. The strike has also hit the tea estate workers with the estates shut down, depriving them of their usual bonus wages that they spent on preparing for Dasain.

Tea gardens in the hills have been shut since 15 Jun and have lost their major earning season of monsoon tea product. With very less production and working hours, the tea garden workers will be either getting a marginal bonus this year or nothing at all.

In Darjeeling town, the bandh

has caused serious injury to businesses here during this, otherwise, peak season for profits.

Dasain will be very "khalloh" is the general feeling among the public here.

Speaking to some of tea workers of Darjeeling hills, it was evident that they have given up all hopes of grand Dasain celebration this year as they will not be getting a Puja bonus.

A tea garden worker, Binita Rai, said, "Dashain will be like 'a fish without water' due to the shutdown in the hills. The tea estate is closed and the present scenario of the tea gardens is very desperate for the workers and their dependants. No tea plucking and no maintenance going on at all."

"Last year, we received a bonus of Rs 8,000-14,000 accord-

ing to the grade of the employee. All workers from Grade A staff to normal workers have been facing financial crunch. Our pockets are empty as there is no work. Whatever cash we had saved in the bank, we've used it on essential commodities. Celebrating Dasain like usual is out of the question for us this year," she expressed.

Likewise, a bazaar resident said, "Dasain will be meaningless this year since the hills are paralyzed. Dasain will be cold."

The bazaar residents also complained about facing unnecessary harassment from the police and CRPF as they often enter people's houses without any warrant.

"Days and nights have become gloomy for us. I feel bad, especially for children," said a local businessman.

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## Man accused of molesting minor kills self

**GANGTOK, 12 SEPT:**

A 53-year-old resident of West Sikkim who was accused of sexually assaulting a 06 year-old minor girl was found dead, hanging from a tree on 11 Sept. The deceased was reported missing after a case under Protection Of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 was registered against him for allegedly molesting a minor girl. A search party was deployed to trace the accused only to find him dead, hanging from a tree at a nearby jungle. The minor girl was forwarded to a hospital for complete medical examination.

## Yangyang-Singtam road incomplete even after 07 yrs: SKM

**GANGTOK, 12 SEPT:** Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has alleged that the repair and upgradation work of Yangyang-Singtam [Pabong] road was started 07 years back but the contractor has not carried out any work at Nirmal Kholcha near Pabong which has allegedly created problems for the people of Yangyang at present.

Due to closure of the road at Nirmal Kholcha, people of the area have been compelled to travel on a 'long and pathetic' road stretching about 2 kms to go to Singtam, Namchi and Gangtok, an SKM release states. This alternative road is very narrow and dangerous especially during raining season, it is added.

The party alleges that the people are risking their lives to travel on this road but the concerned department and contractor has not taken any interest in opening the main road.

Further, the party has alleged that the foundation for a bridge over this Kholcha was set up two years ago but the bridge has not been constructed yet. SKM has demanded the concerned department to take required steps at the earliest.

# Let Karmapa visit Sikkim if not Rumtek suggests Sangha MLA

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 12 SEPT:**

On completion of 429 days of the ongoing indefinite relay hunger strike by monks of various monasteries of Sikkim urging the Government of India to allow the 17th Gyalwang Karmapa Ogyen Trinley Dorje to visit Sikkim, Sangha MLA, Sonam Lama, has issued a press release to-

day reiterating his conviction that the Karmapa will soon visit Sikkim.

In order to facilitate smooth arrival of the Karmapa in Sikkim, Mr Lama, has suggested that the state government withdraw the resolution passed by it seeking permission for Karmapa Ogyen Trinley Dorje's visit to Rumtek Monastery.



The release further adds that given the Gov-

ernment of India's latest proposal to allow the Karmapa to visit Sikkim but not Rumtek Monastery, it becomes imperative that the ruling government immediately withdraw its resolution.

Mr Lama has further suggested that the state government immediately scrap last year's notification which created the

office of 'Chairman of the Committee' to receive the Karmapa at Rumtek Monastery.

The release alleges that when the Government of India is against allowing the Karmapa to visit Rumtek Monastery in present circumstances, the state government creating such office creates further obstacles.

Under the circumstances, withdrawal of the above mentioned resolution and notification of the Sikkim Government shall pave a clear path for the Karmapa's visit, the release adds.

Mr Lama has urged for unanimous support and cooperation of the government, monks and all the Dharma loving people

of Sikkim to realize the long cherished aspiration which is now at the final stages of its realization.

"I urge upon all to be unanimous on the matter and stand beyond the scope and restrictions of our political affiliation to realize this simple dharma aspiration of all of us," Mr Lama has said in the release.

## Sikkim Krantikari Morcha holds block level meeting at Yangthang

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 12 SEPT:**

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha conducted a Block Level co-ordination meeting at Lingchom Tikjek GPU under Yangthang constituency in West Sikkim today.

The meeting was headed by youth chief convener, Janak Gurung, and had prominent party member, SP Mangyoung as chief guest and was attended by CLC president, Bala Ram Subba, Hari Narayan Subedi, and others.

A press release issued by SKM press & publicity



secretary, Ranjana Pradhan, informs that Mr Gurung highlighted on the upcoming Panchayat poll, strengthening of youth front for the party,

acceleration of ongoing membership drives and several other agenda.

Mr Mangyoung, in his address, said that SKM is a party for the current

generation and under the leadership of PS Tamang [Golay], SKM will form a government that will be youth oriented.

He alleged that the ruling party has only given opportunities to those who worship Pawan Chamling and because of that, there is discrimination in every sector which is taking Sikkim towards a dark future.

He appealed to the youth to participate actively in party activities not for personal gain but for safeguarding Sikkim's future, the release adds.

## SMIT signs MoU with Romania's Aurel Vlaicu University



**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 12 SEPT:**

In a significant development towards fostering higher technical education in the State and the region, Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology [SMIT] has signed a Memorandum of Understanding [MoU] with Aurel Vlaicu University of Arad, Romania recently.

An SMIT press release informs that the MoU was signed on 09 Sept between Director-SMIT, Dr A

Garg, and Director of Department of International Relations, Programs and Projects, University of Arad, Professor Valentina Emilia Balas, in a function held at SMIT.

The main scope of the MoU is to have collaborative educational and research activities between SMIT and Aurel Vlaicu University of Arad. This also includes academic interactions leading to reform in curriculum, accepting students from the oth-

er institution for study abroad programme, exchange of faculty members and students for research, lectures and discussions, accessibility to sophisticated instruments, joint guidance in projects/thesis, organizing seminars and conferences jointly, and exchange of academic materials, sharing e-resources, publications and other information between SMIT and Aurel Vlaicu University, the release adds.



## UCWSS team visits Chinlop Lee Boys Home

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 12 SEPT:**

A team from East District Committee of the United Christian Welfare Society of Sikkim [UCWSS] visited Chinlop Lee Boys Home situated at Setipool in East Sikkim run by Reverend Tseten Tashi Lepcha.

The team comprising of Pastor Ca-

leb Gazmer, Pastor Jigmi Lepcha, Deobir Gurung and Daniel Gurung handed over rice, pulses, sugar, oil and a water filter to the home. The team members also interacted with children and management of the home.

The committee expressed its gratitude to all churches of East Sikkim for their contribution and support to the home.

## CENTRAL REFERRAL HOSPITAL INFORMATION

Central Referral Hospital (CRH), 5th Mile, Tadong, East Sikkim is implementing new Hospital Information System. Due to this system changeover, there will be a delay in extending hospital services like- patient registration, billing of hospital services and medicine dispensing. As this process will take a few days to be fully streamlined, we request our esteemed patients to kindly bear with us until then. The inconvenience caused is highly regretted.

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**Gangtok on  
Wednesday,  
13 Sept**

**Temp:** 26°C / 16°C  
**Forecast:** Periods of  
clouds and sun with  
a thundershower in  
one or two spots.  
**Sunrise:** 05:20 AM  
**Sunset:** 05:43 PM

## Pakyong Airport will be operational by Nov, says MoS...

**Contd from pg01**

The Tourism Minister then informed the MoS that he would request Chief Minister of Sikkim, Pawan Chamling to invite the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi for the inauguration of the airport.

MoS Jayant Sinha also asked the Tourism Minister to ensure that the Government of Sikkim looks into helicopter connectivity under the UDAN Scheme.

The MP, who facilitated the meeting, informed the MoS that the tourist footfall in Sikkim now is over 11 lakh. Given this number, the MP expressed hope that the airport will run to full capacity within months of inauguration, the release adds.

## Mamata urges Gorkhaland...

**Contd from pg01**

withdraw the bandh in the hills, which entered its 90th day today, Banerjee also promised compensation to those who had lost their lives due to the agitation. She also said a high-level inquiry would be carried out into the alleged police firing in Darjeeling.

A seven-member delegation of the GJM, including its three MLAs, were present at the meeting, besides Binay Tamang and Anit Thapa, who had been expelled from the party.

Representatives of the Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF) and Jan Andolan Party were also present among others.

After the meeting, Tamang said they had requested the state government to ensure that there was no "political victimisation" in connection with the ongoing unrest in the hills.

"We have submitted a 17-point memorandum to the chief minister. We have urged the state government to compensate those who have lost their lives in the ongoing unrest. We have also urged it to allow the local TV channels and digital media to function in the hills," he added.

# Rest house for ex servicemen at Hee Gaon inaugurated

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 12 SEPT:** A new rest house constructed for ex-army personnel of the country was inaugurated today here at Hee-Gaon under Maneybung-Dentam constituency. Minister cum area MLA, NK Subba, who was present as chief guest on the occasion, inaugurated the two-storied rest house in the presence of ex-army personnel.

Secretary of Rajya Sainik Board cum pres-

ident of Ex-Servicemen Association of Sikkim, DN Bhutia informed that the rest house has been constructed at a cost of Rs 78 lakh. The rest house will also be a centre that will cater to a number of welfare initiatives for army personnel, he informed.

Skill development training programmes for ex-army personnel and their family members along with other work related to army personnel will be initiated through

the rest house in coming days, said Mr Bhutia.

He added that the new rest house will play a pivotal role in ensuring welfare of ex-army personnel. He thanked the ex-army personnel present, Minister NK Subba and local people for their significant contributions in the establishment of the rest house.

Minister, Mr Subba, in his short speech, said that the establishment of rest house is part of

sustainable infrastructural development keeping in view the need of rest house for former army personnel. He added that the rest house is truly dedicated to ex-army personnel who have served the people and the nation with utmost dedication.

Mr Subba also assured the construction of a conference hall on the top floor of the rest house.

The event also saw

the felicitation of those who have contributed in the construction of the rest house.

The Ex-Servicemen Association of Sikkim felicitated Minister NK Subba for his support in making the rest house project a successful initiative.

The event also had the presence of SSP (West), KD Shangderpa, SDM (Dentam), RB Bhandari, BDO (Dentam), JP Chettri amongst others.



## Bimal Gurung rejects Mamata's appeal to withdraw shutdown

**DARJEELING (WB), SEP 12 (PTI):** GJM supremo Bimal Gurung today rejected West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's appeal to withdraw the indefinite shutdown in the hills, saying it would continue till the Centre holds a tripartite meeting on the Gorkhaland issue.

"The indefinite shutdown in the hills will continue and there is no question of calling it off, until and unless tripartite talks are organised by the central government," Gurung said in an audio message.

The Gorkha Janmukti Morcha had initially said the party would discuss the issue only with the Centre but had agreed to a tripartite meeting later.

Gurung's comment

comes against the backdrop of Banerjee's appeal to the agitators to withdraw the indefinite shutdown which entered its 90th day today.

He said Binay Tamang, who was recently expelled from the party, had called the shutdown and he (Gurung) himself was not in favour of it then.

"It was Binay Tamang, the then assistant secretary of the party, who had called the indefinite shutdown after my house was raided (by the police) on June 15. I was initially against this... Now Binay has joined hands with the state government to serve his own vested interests," he said.

Gurung alleged that Tamang was trying to sacrifice the cause of Gorkhaland.

## Modi-Abe summit: 9K cops to keep vigil in Ahmedabad tomorrow

**AHMEDABAD, SEP 12 (PTI):** Over 9,000 police personnel will fan across strategic locations in the city to secure it for the two-day visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe beginning tomorrow, officials said today.

Tight security arrangements have been put in place as the two leaders are expected to attend several programmes over the next two days, including the annual Indo-Japanese annual Summit, they said.

As Modi and Abe are also scheduled to visit Gandhinagar on Thursday, over 2,000 policemen will be deployed in the state capital to guard them and other dignitaries.



## SINGTAM FLYOVER CONSTRUCTION WORKERS PUT IN EXTRA HOURS

**SINGTAM, 12 SEPT:** Workers have been putting in extra hours for completion of the construction of the flyover at Singtam connecting the town to District Hospital, Singtam. The project had come to a halt as the workers who had left for their homes to celebrate Eid had been stranded back at their places due to the ongoing unrest in neighbouring Darjeeling Hills. The work is about 40% complete while maintenance and substitution of old rusted metal plates and the supporting pole is under process. [Yogen Thatal]

## Centre hikes DA to 5 pc...

**Contd from pg01**  
Modi here.

"Release of additional installment of DA is an increase of 1 per cent over the existing rate of 4 per cent of the basic pay/pension, to compensate for price rise," according to an official statement.

The new rate will be applicable from July 1.

The combined impact on the exchequer on account of both DA and DR would be Rs 3,068.26 crore per annum and Rs 2,045.50 crore in the financial year 2017-18 (for a period of 8 months from July 2017 to February 2018).

This move will benefit about 49.26 lakh central government employees and 61.17 lakh pensioners, it said.

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# Training on mushroom cultivation at Longbu

**WANGCHUK BHUTIA  
MANGAN, 12 SEPT:**

In pursuit of income generation, Agriculture Technology Management Agency [ATMA], North Sikkim conducted a Training & Method Demonstration of organic cultivation of oyster mushrooms at Longbu ward Kabi-Tingda Block today.

Snow Drop, Demazong and Kanchenzonga Self Help Groups of Kabi-Tingda GPU benefited from the programme.

The objective of the training was to engage more farmers in organic mushroom cultivation and also to upgrade the income status of the SHG groups.

The demonstration was being conducted at the residence of Snow Drop SHG member and farmer, Angi Bhutia.

In the first phase of the programme, Horticulture Inspector and resource person of the event, Tshering Nedup Bhutia spoke briefly about the potential of oyster mushroom cultivation in income generation.

In the second phase of the programme, Block Technology Manager, Norbu D Bhutia with the assistance of Assistant Technology Manager, Lakpa Doma Lepcha demonstrated the step by step method of preparing mushroom bags.

50 bags with 100 kilograms of soaked straw and 25 packets of 200 grams spawn were prepared by the SHG groups. The packed mushrooms will be unpacked after 15-20 days.



## Sikkim Lepcha Association congrats CM

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 12 SEPT:** Rong Tarjum [Sikkim Lepcha Association], on behalf of the Lepcha community, has congratulated Chief Minister Pawan Chamling on being conferred the Grand Prix Award for his pioneering work in transforming Sikkim into an Organic State during the One World Award ceremony held at Legau in Germany on 08 Sept.

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## Chief Minister attends One World Award farewell...

**Contd from pg01**

Agriculture Movements [IFOAM] and Rapunzel and to the jury members for the honor and recognition given to Sikkim.

"The journey for each one of us has not been easy. What we have done is work against the odds laid out by the demands of a consumerist and fast developing world and that is not an easy task. However, our love for the global com-

munity and our strong belief that our children and the children yet to be born, deserve a happy and healthy world, drives us all. The time spent in Legau with you all has only cemented this belief further and I am strengthened by the commitment that I have seen of the global community here working on the same agenda.

I came as a representative of Sikkim but

I leave as a member of a global community of activists, practitioners and advocates whose hope is to spread the organic movement further and wider. I am inspired by the collective vision of the people here striving for a healthier world and I hope this community only continues to grow in strength and resolve. And I hope that the dialogue amongst this

community continues," said Mr Chamling.

At the end, the CM thanked jury chairman, Bernward Gaer, and the organizers for the warm hospitality and for working hard to ensure a comfortable stay for the Sikkim team. He also thanked the organizers for ensuring to conduct the team to see models of excellence in organic agriculture in Germany, the release adds.



# SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

## Save the Minor

by helping them heal from the trauma of crimes visited on them

The safety of children around grown-ups even in environments where they are expected to be safe is being discussed at the national level and on even media platform at present. Children, however, have always been in harm's way and Sikkim is not new to disturbing incidents of minors being targeted with sexual violence. It is important that these discussions continue and the society does not get inured to the horror of sexual offences being committed against children just because it gets reported so often.

Words fail you when it comes to deploring the rape of a minor. While rape in itself is a reprehensible act, when the victim is a minor, the heinousness of the crime multiplies. The crime is no longer one in which the victim is violated physically, but becomes a transgression which scars an innocent mind permanently. Unfortunately most cases of child abuse and rape of minors are committed by people known to the child. Family friends and relatives, whom a child is normally conditioned to trust, are known to betray the faith and turn into animals as are neighbours and acquaintances that families leave children unattended around. While the Courts and the conscience of the predator will decide how the culprit lives with his guilt, it is the impact of such crimes on the fragile minds of children that is a matter of deeper and continued concern. Everything that a child has been led to believe and conditioned to accept [like trusting and respecting her/ his elders] are felled in one swoop of a warped mind. As much as the culprit needs to be punished, the child needs to be saved. The emotional trauma that is sure to haunt the mind which is still uncertain of what singled her/ him out to be targeted with such a crime needs to be addressed.

Minds of the minors understand and weigh everything as rewards and punishments. Already confused, the child cannot be left to find the reasons behind the crime by herself. She should not be allowed to go through the rest of her formative years trying to figure out what she had done wrong to deserve such 'punishment'. She has to be told that she was in no way responsible for what happened to her. It is important that victims understand that a deranged mind and ignorant elders allowed the crimes to happen. Everyone responsible for the child's care has to apologise to her for having ignored the warning signs [every culprit must have displayed some signs of his paedophilia] and allowed the crime to visit her. Victims also need professional help. It is now obvious that most parents don't have the wherewithal to handle such situations and ensure that their children heal properly. Hence, they along with the child need to be counselled by professionals so that the situation does not become worse for the child who has already suffered enough.

It is also important for all parents to look out for possible paedophiles in the family or the neighbourhood. Because this is such a repulsively deviant behaviour to discover in someone you know, most people tend to subconsciously ignore it even when it is obvious. We do so at our own peril.

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# Religion is not the only reason Rohingyas are being forced out of Myanmar

GIUSEPPE FORINO, JASON VON MEDING & THOMAS JOHNSON  
*theconversation.com*

Recent weeks have seen an escalation of violence against the Rohingya in Rakhine, the poorest state of Myanmar. A tide of displaced people are seeking refuge from atrocities – they are fleeing both on foot and by boat to Bangladesh. It is the latest surge of displaced people, and is exacerbated by the recent activity of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA).

Religious and ethnic differences have been widely considered the leading cause of the persecution. But it is becoming increasingly hard to believe that there are not other factors at play. Especially given that Myanmar is home to 135 official recognised ethnic groups (the Rohingyas were removed from this list in 1982).

In analysing the recent violence, much of the western media has focused on the role of the military and the figure of the de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi. Her status as a Nobel Peace prize laureate has been widely questioned since the latest evidence of atrocities emerged.

She continues to avoid condemning the systematic violence against the Rohingyas. At least the media gaze has finally shifted somewhat towards their plight.

But there remain issues that are not being explored. It is also critical to look beyond religious and ethnic differences towards other root causes of persecution, vulnerability and displacement.

We must consider vested political and economic interests as contributing factors to forced displacement in Myanmar, not just of the Rohingyas people but of other minorities such as the Kachin, the Shan, the Karen, the Chin, and the Mon.

### LAND GRABBING

Land grabbing and confiscation in Myanmar is widespread. It is not a new phenomenon.

Since the 1990s, military juntas have been taking away the land of smallholders across the country, without any compensation and regardless of ethnicity or religious status.

Land has often been acquired for "development" projects, including military base expansions, natural resource exploitation and extraction, large agriculture projects, infrastructure and tourism. For example, in Kachin state the military confiscated more than 500 acres of villagers' land to support extensive gold mining.

Development has forcibly displaced thousands of people – both internally and across borders with Bangladesh, India, and Thailand – or compelled them to set out by sea to Indonesia, Malaysia and Australia.

OPEN LETTER FROM ONE NOBEL LAUREATE TO ANOTHER:  
Arch Bishop Desmond Tutu issues a heartfelt open letter to fellow peace prize winner Aung San Su Kyi calling for her to speak up for Rohingyas in Myanmar

## “Silence is Too High a Price”

My dear Aung San Su Kyi

I am now elderly, decrepit and formally retired, but breaking my vow to remain silent on public affairs out of profound sadness about the plight of the Muslim minority in your country, the Rohingya.

In my heart you are a dearly beloved younger sister. For years I had a photograph of you on my desk to remind me of the injustice and sacrifice you endured out of your love and commitment for Myanmar's people. You symbolised righteousness. In 2010 we rejoiced at your freedom from house arrest, and in 2012 we celebrated your election as leader of the opposition.

Your emergence into public life allayed our concerns about violence being perpetrated against members of the Rohingya. But what some have called 'ethnic cleansing' and others 'a slow genocide' has persisted – and recently accelerated. The images we are seeing of the suffering of the Rohingyas fill us with pain and dread.

We know that you know that human beings may look and worship differently – and some may have greater firepower than others – but none are superior and none inferior; that when you scratch the surface we are all the same, members of one family, the human family; that there are no natural differences between Buddhists and Muslims; and that whether we are Jews or Hindus, Christians or atheists, we are born to love, without prejudice. Discrimination doesn't come naturally; it is taught.

My dear sister: If the political price of your ascension to the highest office in Myanmar is your silence, the price is surely too steep. A country that is not at peace with itself, that fails to acknowledge and protect the dignity and worth of all its people, is not a free country. It is incongruous for a symbol of righteousness to lead such a country: it is adding to our pain.

As we witness the unfolding horror we pray for you to be courageous and resilient again. We pray for you to speak out for justice, human rights and the unity of your people. We pray for you to intervene in the escalating crisis and guide your people back towards the path of righteousness again.

God bless you.

Love

ARCHBISHOP EMERITUS DESMOND TUTU  
HERMANUS, SOUTH AFRICA

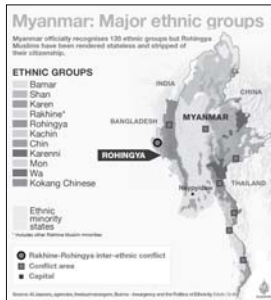
In 2011, Myanmar instituted economic and political reforms that led it to be dubbed "Asia's final frontier" as it opened up to foreign investment. Shortly afterwards, in 2012, violent attacks escalated against the Rohingyas in Rakhine state and, to a lesser extent, against the Muslim Karen. Meanwhile, the government of Myanmar established several laws relating to the management and distribution of farmland.

These moves were severely criticised for reinforcing the ability of large corporations to profit from land grabs. For instance, agribusiness multinationals such as POSCO Dae-woo have eagerly entered the market, contracted by the government.

### A REGIONAL PRIZE

Myanmar is positioned between countries that have long eyed its resources, such as China and India. Since the 1990s, Chinese companies have exploited timber, rivers and minerals in Shan State in the North.

This led to violent armed conflicts between the military regime and armed groups, including the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO)



and its ethnic allies in eastern Kachin State and northern Shan State.

In Rakhine State, Chinese and Indian interests are part of broader China-India relations. These interests revolve principally around the construction of infrastructure and pipelines in the region.

Such projects claim to guarantee employment, transit fees and oil and gas revenues for the whole of Myanmar.

Among numerous development projects, a transnational pipeline built by China National Petroleum Company (CNPC) connecting Sittwe, the capital of Rakhine, to Kunming, China, began operations in September 2013. The wider efforts to take Myanmar oil and gas from the Shwe gas field to Guangzhou, China, are well documented.

A parallel pipeline is also expected to send Middle East oil from the Kyaukphyu port to China. However, the neutral Advisory Commission on Rakhine State has urged the Myanmar government to carry out a comprehensive impact assessment.

In fact, the Commission recognises that pipelines put local communities at

risk. There is significant local tension related to land seizures, insufficient compensation for damages, environmental degradation, and an influx of foreign workers rather than increased local employment opportunities.

Meanwhile, the Sittwe deep-sea port was financed and constructed by India as part of the Kaladan Multi-modal Transit Transport Project. The aim is to connect the north-east Mizoram state in India with the Bay of Bengal.

Coastal areas of Rakhine State are clearly of strategic importance to both India and China. The government of Myanmar therefore has vested interests in clearing land to prepare for further development and to boost its already rapid economic growth.

All of this takes place within the wider context of geopolitical maneuvering. The role of Bangladesh in fuelling ethnic tensions is also hotly contested. In such power struggles, the human cost is terribly high.

### COMPOUNDING THE

### VULNERABILITY OF MINORITIES

In Myanmar, the groups that fall victim to land grabbing have often started in an extremely vulnerable state and are left even worse off. The treatment of the Rohingyas in Rakhine State is the highest profile example of broader expulsion that is inflicted on minorities.

When a group is marginalised and oppressed it is difficult to reduce their vulnerability and protect their rights, including their property. In the case of the Rohingyas, their ability to protect their homes was decimated through the revocation of their Burmese citizenship.

Since the late 1970s around a million Rohingyas have fled Myanmar to escape persecution. Tragically, they are often marginalised in their host countries.

With no country willing to take responsibility for them, they are either forced or encouraged to continuously cross borders. The techniques used to encourage this movement have trapped the Rohingyas in a vulnerable state.

The tragedy of the Rohingyas is part of a bigger picture which sees the oppression and displacement of minorities across Myanmar and into neighbouring countries.

The relevance and complexity of religious and ethnic issues in Myanmar are undeniable. But we cannot ignore the political and economic context and the root causes of displacement that often go undetected.

*[Giuseppe Forino is PhD Candidate in Disaster Management, University of Newcastle; Jason von Meding is Senior Lecturer in Disaster Risk Reduction, University of Newcastle; Thomas Johnson is PhD Candidate in Disaster Vulnerability, University of Newcastle]*

## Stephen King: a master of horror who finds terror in the everyday

DAWN STOBART  
*theconversation.com*

Stephen King's writing spans more than 40 years and more than 60 books, and while the content of his fiction varies widely, lying underneath it is a picture of the contemporary world that his "constant readers" devour, buying over 350m copies of his novels. This makes him one of the most successful authors in the world – not bad for an English teacher who threw his first novel in the bin to be rescued by his wife Tabitha, who convinced him to publish it.

King's career began with the publication of Carrie in 1974, the story of a teenage girl's transition from girl to woman, and from bullied child to vengeful adult. The central character remains one that readers can relate to: a lonely child whose life is filled with emotional abuse.

This is an important aspect of King's success. His stories are not usually about superheroes that live in an unrecognisable landscape, they are everyday people, living in a recognisable America. More than this though, the stories he tells are a reflection of the lives of these ordinary people, even as they contain horrors and supernatural events that are extraordinary. The Shining, one of King's most famous novels, is the story of a dysfunctional and abusive family unit. It deals with emotional and physical abuse – and the anger and

neglect of an alcoholic parent, under the guise of a haunted house story. It was a story that King was familiar with himself, as he has spoken openly about his troubles with alcohol.

Themes like these are found throughout King's work. Loss of innocence, abuse, and the battle between good and evil are woven into his stories. He weaves these tales together, linking them to each other in a web that readers

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familiar description of life in a working class environment. In The Stand, for example, Arnette is a kind of working class everywhere and through his portrayal of this town he highlights the problems faced by working class families across America in both the late seventies and late eighties, as employment was disappearing.

Although King is considered to be a horror writer, his work encompasses

so much more than horror. He has written detective fiction (such as the Bill Hodges trilogy), time travel stories (11.22.63), science fic-

tion, and westerns, as well as horror – sometimes all in a single novel, as with The Langoliers and the Dark Tower series. He writes in a style that makes his fiction accessible to people aged from 15 to 100, a style that has made him one of the most popular authors in the world.

**RECOGNITION AS A 'REAL' WRITER** But just because King is one of the most popular authors on the planet, does this make him one of the great American writers, like Edgar Allan Poe? Or is he merely a master of pulp fiction – good for reading on a plane but not to be taken seriously? King's success as a

writer has only recently translated to serious literary success. Popular fiction has long been considered as trashy and not been taken seriously. Slowly, however, King's work is being considered for its literary content.

Stephen King's Gothic by John Sears is a ground-breaking academic work on the author. It is inspiring a growing number of academics who find literary value in King's writing and there have been several academics who have championed King as a serious literary author, including Tony Magistrale, who has written several books on King and his work. Recently, a special issue of the Science Fiction Film and Television journal was dedicated to King and a new journal Pennywise Dreadful: The Journal of Stephen King Studies is set to launch its first edition in November.

As King approaches his 70th birthday in September, his popularity does not seem to be declining. There are several new adaptations of his works, including IT, Gerald's Game and Mr Mercedes and his forthcoming collaboration Sleeping Beauties, with son Joe Hill, is being hotly anticipated. The blend of realism, social commentary and horror means that the Grandmaster of horror's career is still going strong, and he is – finally – being considered as a "real" writer.

*[the writer is Lecturer in English and Creative Writing, Lancaster University]*





The Body Shop to fund wild life project in Garo Hills

**NEW DELHI, SEP 12 (PTI):** Beauty brand The Body Shop today announced commencement of its bio-bridge project at Garo Hills in Meghalaya in partnership with Wildlife Trust of India as part of its CSR initiative.

Additionally, the company is looking to raise Rs 20 million out of the transactions at its outlets in the next two months to fund the project partly. It has pledged to protect endangered Indian elephant and Western Hoopoe Gibbon, besides other threatened species in the region.

"The bio-bridge is about creating forest covers of habitats and that allow the forest to flourish and the inhabitants to thrive and co-exist," The Body Shop India COO Shriti Malhotra told reporters here.

For every transaction at its outlets, the company said it would plant one square metre of habitat in the region.

Malhotra said it is a programme where the people who are using our products will contribute and part of the business of The Body Shop will be utilised for this project.

Met forecasts heavy rain at isolated places in West Bengal

**KOLKATA, SEP 12 (PTI):** The Met department today forecast heavy rain at isolated places in West Bengal till tomorrow morning.

Heavy rain is likely to occur at isolated places in West Bengal till tomorrow, following which the northern districts of the state are likely to experience fairly widespread rain in the next three days, the weatherman said.

The southern districts in Gangetic West Bengal may also receive thunderstorm accompanied with gusty wind and lightning at isolated places till tomorrow morning, the Met department said.

Scattered rainfall is likely in Gangetic West Bengal for three days from tomorrow.

There was little or no rainfall in the state in 24 hours till 8.30 AM today.

Parts of Kolkata received one or two spells of rain during the period, even as the weather remained by and large uncomfortable owing to high relative humidity.

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Tamang murder trial through video conferencing not possible: Judge

**KOLKATA, SEP 12 (PTI):** The trial of 47 accused in the Madan Tamang murder case of 2010 is not possible through video conferencing owing to infrastructural problems, the chief sessions judge here was informed today.

The Darjeeling district judge in a communication to City Sessions Court Chief Judge K K Kumai said that at present there was no Internet

facility in Darjeeling.

The facility has been suspended by the West Bengal government since June 18 in a bid to curb communication among trouble makers in the hills, where an indefinite bandh called by Gorkha Janmukti Morcha president Bimal Gurung is in force for three months.

The communication also informed that irregular electricity supply

was another hindrance to holding any such trial through video conferencing from the hills.

These apart, there is no court room in the Darjeeling district court large enough to hold the trial of 47 accused persons together, said the communication that was submitted before the court of judge in-charge Sanjoy Mukherjee in the absence of chief judge Kumai.

The Supreme Court had on August 16 ordered that the proceedings should be conducted through video conferencing from Darjeeling.

The apex court had asked the chief sessions judge's court here to hold the trial mainly through video conferencing for which appropriate facility should be set up at Kolkata and Darjeeling.

It had, however, clarified

that if the trial court was of the opinion that physical presence of a particular accused and/or a witness was necessary before the chief sessions judge's court, the judge can pass specific order in this regard.

The chief judge of city sessions court judge had on August 17 discharged GJM supremo Bimal Gurung in the Madan Tamang murder case and

directed that charges be framed against 47 other accused persons.

Among the 47 accused are Gurung's wife Asha and several other leaders of GJM.

All India Gorkha League leader Madan Tamang was attacked with sharp weapons when he was overseeing preparations for a public meeting at Clubside in the heart of Darjeeling town on

May 21, 2010, and was declared brought dead at the sadar hospital there.

The Supreme Court had on October 8, 2013, directed transfer of hearing in the case from Darjeeling sadar court to the city sessions court here on a petition by Tamang's widow Bharati.

She had claimed that witnesses could be impacted if the trial was held in Darjeeling.

State govt's need to submit UC within one year or funds will stop: NEC secy

**SHILLONG, SEP 12 (PTI):** The Centre has advised state governments in the North-east region to submit Utilisation Certificates (UC) of Central projects within one year or else the funds will stop, a top official of the North Eastern Council said today.

North Eastern Council secretary Ram Muivah said, "They (state governments) must submit Utilisation Certificates within one year failing which the Ministry of Finance, our chief controller of accounts, will stop release of funds for any project of more than one and a half year."

He said, "From now on we (the NEC) will be very strict. Projects delayed by five years will automatically be closed and be treated in 'as is where is basis', in consultation with the respective state governments."



The NEC official also informed that no projects will be funded for over five years.

"We will leave it and close it and the liability will be taken over by the state governments," he said.

Several major projects funded by the NEC are facing undue delays in all the states in the

region, according to the NEC monthly report. Some of these projects were delayed by over 100 months.

Reacting to delays of projects in Meghalaya, Muivah said that although the construction is slightly slow in the state but the qualities are good at least for the projects under NEC.

The NEC has, however,

exempted power and road projects, he said.

"Exception for power was because they have to survey the flow of water and the volume of water and this takes up to three to four years," he said adding that as far as roads is concerned, roads of longer distance may not be possible to complete within five years.

Meanwhile, the NEC

has appointed IIT-Guwahati as the regional labour monitor for the North East Road Sector Development Scheme (NERSDS), Muivah said, adding that they have already submitted their findings.

Under the NERSDS, the NEC has submitted nearly 50 roads to the Centre with a total budget of over Rs 3500 crore, Muivah said.

The proposal is accepted by the DoNER ministry and the same is under examination of the Ministry of Finance.

"Once that is approved, we hope to be able to improve the roads (to be identified by the state government) for the next three years. Our focus will be interstate roads as the Ministry has advised us to take up and focus on the interstate road," he said.

Reserve Bank intervention sought on SBI rules for a/c holders

**KOLKATA, SEP 12 (PTI):** The employees body of the Reserve Bank of India has sought the central bank's intervention on some decisions taken by the State Bank of India regarding their account holders.

"We are being constrained to draw your kind attention to certain recent business decisions of the country's largest bank SBI like withdraw cash only three times a month free of charge and fine failure to maintain balance," All India Reserve Bank Employees Association general secretary Samir Ghosh said in a letter to Governor Urjit Patel.

"We urge that Section 35A of Banking Regulation Act, 1949 do empower Reserve Bank to give directions to prevent the affairs of any banking company being conducted

in a manner detrimental to the interests of the depositors," he said in the letter.

According to reports, SBI in the Q1 period (April-June) has earned Rs 235 crore from such fines.

The employees body highlighted the apathy of the small depositors in their letter.

For accounts held in metro branches, the balance required is Rs 5,000, if the amount falls below Rs 3,750 a penalty of Rs 100 plus service tax is imposed. The charges and minimum account balance vary across metro, urban, semi-urban and rural areas.

SBI have a network of about 24,000 branches (post merger with SBI associates) and more than 40 crore customers of which there are 31 crore savings accounts.

We are facing livelihood issues: Meat-sellers of UP

**NEW DELHI, SEP 12 (PTI):** The meat business in Uttar Pradesh has badly been hit, affecting the livelihood of a large number of people belonging to the minority and Dalit communities, said the speakers at a public hearing here today.

The event, organised by SEHAR, a voluntary group, was attended by small meat-sellers, hotel and dairy owners from Noida, Loni (Ghaziabad) and the Mewat region of Rajasthan and Haryana.

Retired chief justice of the

Delhi High Court AP Shah, who was a jury member at the event, said, "Those from the minority and Dalit communities, involved in the meat and fish trades, are being harassed. Their livelihood cannot be taken away as it is guaranteed by the Constitution."

The meat-sellers and hotel and roadside eatery owners from Loni and Noida alleged "harassment" at the hands of the local police.

"Around 60-70 shops in the slums of sectors 8,9 and 10

have been shut down by the local authorities. The police ask for no-objection certificates (NOCs), which are not being issued by the authority concerned," said Ali Nabi, a meat-seller from Noida.

Many sellers and others involved in the meat business said they were facing livelihood issues for months now due to restrictions and the police and local authorities demanding NOCs from them.

"My family is in the meat trade for over three decades.

But, I am sitting idle now due to the restrictions. I cannot send my kids to school as I have no money," said Ismail from Noida.

CPI(M) leader Subhashini Ali, who was also a jury member at the event, alleged that the curbs on the cattle trade in Uttar Pradesh had led to "extortion by corrupt policemen and so-called gau-rakshaks (cow vigilantes)".

Ali Faiz, owner of a meat shop in Loni, complained that the municipality was not issuing NOCs, even when all the pre-

scribed parameters were met. "Officials are demanding NOCs after the regime change in Uttar Pradesh. The parameters laid down by the Food department have been met by us, but the municipality is still not issuing the NOCs," he said.

The Centre had, on May 23, issued a notification, banning the sale and purchase of cattle from animal markets for the purpose of slaughter.

In July, the ban was stayed for a period of three months by the Supreme Court.

Mamata inaugurates renovated Salt Lake Stadium

**SILIGURI, SEP 12 (PTI):** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today inaugurated the newly renovated Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan in Kolkata, which is scheduled to host the FIFA Under-17 World Cup next month, from the mini secretariat here.

Banerjee described the stadium, popularly known as the Salt Lake Stadium, as "new jewel in the crown" of stadiums in the world.

"It is a new jewel in the crown of great sporting stadiums in the world. My best wishes to all," Banerjee wrote on her Twitter handle.

Salt Lake Stadium, which will host the Fifa U-17 World Cup final on October 28, was handed over to the event's Local Organising Committee (LOC) on Sunday.

The stadium is one of the six venues to stage the tournament.

A senior PWD official said the state government spent over Rs 100 crore for the renovation of the stadium.

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## JU students urge VC to fix a meeting with Education minister

**KOLKATA, SEP 12 (PTI):** Jadavpur University students today requested Vice-Chancellor Prof Suranjan Das to fix a meeting between them and state Higher Education Minister Partha Chatterjee before the coming Durga Puja at the end of this month.

At the meeting, the students would air their opposition to the state government's decision to form an apolitical students' council in the institution in place of students union, JU's Arts Faculty Students' Union (AFSU) chairperson Somashree Choudhury told PTI.

"We held a general body meeting at the university campus today which was attended by student union members of three faculties. The meeting resolved to urge the VC to communicate with the minister for confirming a date and venue of a meeting with Chatterjee by next week. We handed over a letter to the VC," she said.

The meeting followed students of three faculties of JU marching to Bikash Bhavan, the head office of state higher education department yesterday, to protest against the state government's decision to form students' councils.

Chatterjee was not present when the student representatives went to his office yesterday.

"We had handed over a memorandum to department officials yesterday but we need to meet Chatterjee to directly communicate to him that we won't let the council come up in JU under any circumstances," another AFSU leader Gitasree Sarkar said.

Another AFSU leader Debraj said, "The minister had confirmed yesterday's meeting days back but later on he asked us to defer the date."

JU Vice-Chancellor Prof Suranjan Das and other Executive Council members were gheraoed for around 36 hours in August by agitating students in protest against the state government's decision to form students councils.

The VC had said he would communicate to the Higher Education department the student unions' strong sentiments against the student council.

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## Wins for SSA and SHSC at Premier League

**SAGAR CHETTRI  
GANGTOK, 12 SEPT:**

State Sports Academy and Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club have registered victories in their first match today in the ongoing Play247 Sikkim Premier League 2017 here at Paljor Stadium. Both teams have also secured 03 points each from these victories.

In the second match of the league this afternoon, the State

Sports Academy outplayed Pakyong United Football Club 3-0. Sanjay Rai scored a brace for the SSA in the 27th and 40th minute while one more goal was added by his teammate, Nikesh Gurung in the 49th minute.

Despite getting an early lead the defending champion Sikkim Aakraman Football Club went down to Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club 1-2 in another

contesting match of the league today.

With the help of an early goal by Sonam Tsering in the 2nd minute, Sikkim Aakraman FC finished the first half with 1-0 lead. In the second half, Ong Tshering Lepcha scored the equalizer for Sikkim Himalayan SC in the 63rd minute and soon his teammate, A Theophilus Outey extended the lead to 2-1 in

the 76th minute.

With no further goals in the match, last year's runners-up, Sikkim Himalayan SC registered its first 2-1 victory in the match.

On Wednesday, the first match will be played between Sikkim Police and Dzongri Football Club at 12 noon, while in another match Boys Club will take on Sikkim Aakraman FC at 2 p.m.



## FC Pune City sign Argentinean Robertino

**PUNE, SEP 12 (PTI):** The FC Pune City have signed Robertino Pugliara of Argentina to bolster their midfield for the upcoming season of Indian Super League (ISL).

Robertino has become fifth South American signing for FC Pune City after Emiliano Alfaro, Marcelinho, Diego Carlos and Jonatan Lucca.

The Argentine, who is all set to make his debut in the ISL, began his career with San Lorenzo. He then moved to Talleres de Cordoba for two years.

He spent most of his playing career with Indonesian clubs like Persija Jakarta, Persiba Balikpapan, PSM Makassar, Persib Bandung and Persipura Jayapura.

During his stint with Persija Jakarta, the team won the Trofeo Persija in

2011 and 2012.

While representing Persipura Jayapura, Robertino played against Bengaluru FC in AFC Cup. His brace against the Bengaluru side in the 2015 AFC Cup match had sealed the deal for his team.

After signing the dotted lines, Robertino expressed his happiness, saying, "I am turning a new page in my career."

Having played in Indonesia for most of my career, adapting to a new culture, new style will be a challenge I will relish. I have seen one of the top Indian players during my AFC matches and I was very impressed with the quality.

"I am looking forward to playing against some of the best Indian talents donning the Orange and Purple in 2017-18 Indian Super League."



## Chennaiyin FC sign Dutch winger Gregory Nelson

**CHENNAI, SEP 12 (PTI):** Chennaiyin FC has signed Dutch winger Gregory Nelson for the 2017-18 season of the Hero Indian Super League.

The 29-year-old joins the 2015 ISL champions on a free transfer after the expiry of his contract at Bahrain outfit Al Muharraq.

A product of the AZ Alkmaar youth system, Nelson represented Netherlands at U-17, U-18 and U-19 levels.

Having made his professional debut at the age of 18 for Alkmaar in the Dutch Eredivise, Nelson was then loaned to RBC Roosendaal in the Dutch Eerste Divisie.

After one season, Nelson's loan move at Roosendaal became permanent. He then joined Bulgarian giants CSKA Sofia where he spent 18 months, played in the UEFA Europa League and won the Bulgarian domestic cup.

Nelson signed for Ukrainian giants Metalurh Donetsk in January 2012 and reached the

final of the Ukraine domestic cup also. He spent three and a half seasons in Ukraine and featured for Metalurh in the Europa League.

Nelson returned to the Bulgarian top division in 2015 when he joined Botev Plovdiv and spent one season there, scoring four goals in 14 domestic league starts.

In January 2017, Nelson signed for Bahrain powerhouse Al Muharraq and finished runners-up in the Bahrain King's Cup.

Nelson scored on his AFC Cup debut for Muharraq and featured in all six of their group stage games.

"Nelson is a highly accomplished player with a fantastic CV. He will add plenty of quality and variety to our attack."

After a very good career in Europe he recently had a very impressive season in Bahrain and looks very well equipped to flourish in the Indian Super League," Chennaiyin FC head coach John Gregory said.

## Virat is a better ODI batsman, Smith ahead in Tests: Clarke

**NEW DELHI, SEP 12 (PTI):** Virat Kohli and Steve Smith are on even keel as far as leadership qualities are concerned, feels former Australia skipper Michael Clarke even though he rates the Indian captain as a slightly better ODI batsman.

Asked who is a better batsman and leader among the two contemporary greats, Clarke observed: "Virat is a better ODI batsman but just about that. Smith perhaps is better in longer format."

"In terms of captaincy, both are equal and they are improving. At the moment, Virat is on top as his team is winning. But again, irrespective of the number of runs you score, what matters is whether your team is winning matches or not," said Clarke, who is here as a TV expert for the upcoming five-match ODI series.

Harbhajan Singh, during the last Test series, had stirred the hornet's nest by terming the Australian side as the weakest ever to tour India and even predicting a 4-0 whitewash. Australia eventually did much better to lose 1-2.

Clarke was asked the same question about whether this side, led by Smith, is the weakest to tour India, considering it did not even qualify for the Champions Trophy semi-final.

Clarke's sense of humour came to the fore as he came up with a cheeky response.

"I am silly but I am not that silly to give you a front-page headline for tomorrow's newspaper!" he answered with a wry smile as everyone had a good laugh.

On a serious note, he said: "Obviously, this is an opportunity for this Australian side to translate their potential into consistent performance. This team needs to back its



talent as there's enough talent in the squad."

The Indian team has played an aggressive brand of cricket and Clarke did find certain similarities between the two sides led by Sourav Ganguly and Virat Kohli.

"I think there are similarities. Sourav Ganguly deserves a lot of credit for the environment he created. He never took a backseat. MS Dhoni, Anil Kumble and Kohli have all done it in their own ways. The current Indian team is led by an aggressive skipper who does not want to lose," Clarke said during a promotional event.

Clarke said premier fast bowlers Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood, who are currently recuperating from injuries, would be missed by Australia.

The incentive, according to the former skipper, should be a 4-1 win which could put Australia on top of the ICC ODI rankings. "A carrot right there for Smith and the

boys because if they win 4-1 then they become the No.1 side again."

"The support staff has to work out the way they wish to play. Whether they want to play an aggressive brand of cricket or wish to hold back and play the full quota of overs."

"We still have some way to go before the 2019 World Cup, but honestly we have not won as much as we would like," Clarke replied when asked about the brand of cricket, he is expecting from the Aussies.

Most of the Australian players are part of the Indian Premier League which makes it easier for them to adapt to the conditions.

"The experience of playing in India makes it all the more easier for the Aussies. India is like a second home for these guys as they have played in the IPL. They know the conditions and the opposition so there can't be any excuse," Clarke signed off.

## Sri Lankan president sacks deputy tourism minister

**COLOMBO, SEP 12 (PTI):** Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena today sacked his deputy tourism minister for allegedly defying the party leadership, the second top minister removed from the government in less than a month.

The president's office said Arundika Fernando has been "dismissed from his portfolio with immediate effect".

Fernando, a member of Sirisena's Sri Lanka Freedom Party, had claimed that seven SLFP members would leave the government soon over corruption



allegations against Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's United National Party (UNP).

The SLFP runs the unity government in

coalition with the UNP, though some SLFP members back a faction of the party that supports former president Mahinda Rajapaksa.

Reacting to his removal, Fernando said: "If anyone thought that my sacking would deter others who plan to leave government, that will be a mistake. I will continue to remain in the party".

A broad working arrangement between the SLFP and the UNP to run the government is set to end in December. But Sirisena and Wickremesinghe last week announced the government's economic vision until 2020, indicating they had no intention of ending the alliance. Sirisena fired his then justice

minister Wijeyadasa Rajapakse on August 23 for criticising the government over its decision to sell a majority of shares in a sea port to China.

Sirisena was elected as president in January 2015 largely on the support of the UNP. Rajapaksa had sacked Sirisena from the SLFP for challenging him in the presidential election. But after Sirisena's victory, Rajapaksa handed the party reigns to Sirisena. This caused a division within the SLFP with supporters of Rajapaksa forming a joint opposition.

## Guj: Intl Buddhist Conference to be held from Sep 17

**AHMEDABAD, SEP 12 (PTI):** The 2nd edition of the International Buddhist Conference will be held in Gujarat between September 17-23 with an aim to promote the state as an important place in the global Buddhist circuit, organisers said today.

Former Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa and Cambodian Prince Thanaro Norodom will be among the chief guests for the inaugural session, which will be held at Gandhinagar. Gujarat Governor

O P Kohli will be present for the inaugural session.

The week-long conference, being organised by the Sangha Kaya Foundation, will see participation from around 1,000 international delegates, around 200 Buddhist monks and around 6,000 followers of Buddhism.

"The conference aims to establish the long elapsed linkage between Gujarat and Buddhism. Recently-unveiled Buddhist heritage sites of Gujarat clearly speaks of the profound Buddhist

and Asokan legacy here," said president of Sangha Kaya Foundation, Bhante Prashil Gautam.

"If accurately exhibited along with the international Buddhist community, they will enhance the uncharted cultural and spiritual tourism in Gujarat," he added.

The delegates along with the group of Buddhist monks will visit different places across Gujarat which are closely associated with Buddhism, like Devni Mori in Aravalli district

where a 2,000 years old monastery is submerged in Mesarvo dam; Vadnagar in Mehsana, where Buddhist monastery was found; Khambhalida caves near Rajkot; and Khapra Kodiya caves in Junagadh.

The group will then visit Vadodara where they will hold programmes at Sankalp Bhoomi, where the architect of Indian Constitution, Babasaheb Ambedkar, had spent some time in 1917 before embarking on his fight against untouchability.

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Brexit bill passes first vote in British parliament

**LONDON, SEP 12 (AFP):** British MPs voted in favour of a bill today to end Britain's EU membership, a key moment for the government's Brexit strategy despite opposition accusations of an unprecedented power grab. Lawmakers voted by 326 to 290 in favour of backing the legislation, after more than 13 hours of debate, which will now go forward for further scrutiny by MPs.

The bill is aimed at repealing the 1972 law through which Britain joined the bloc, transferring in bulk around 12,000 existing EU regulations onto the British statute books. It is the next step in implementing last year's historic referendum vote to leave the EU, after Prime Minister Theresa May formally notified Brussels of Britain's withdrawal in March.

May's Conservative government won today's parliamentary vote thanks to its alliance with the Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party (DUP). The premier described the outcome as a "historic decision" which "gives certainty and clarity ahead of our withdrawal from the European Union".

"Although there is more to do, this decision means we can move on with negotiations with solid foundations and we continue to encourage MPs from all parts of the UK to work together in support of this vital piece of legislation," May said in a statement.

UNSC imposes tough sanctions on North Korea

**UNITED NATIONS, SEP 12 (PTI):** The UN Security Council has unanimously passed a US-drafted resolution that imposes strongest sanctions ever on North Korea, including restricting its oil imports and banning textile exports, to curb the reclusive nation's nuclear programme.

The move comes in response to the sixth and largest nuclear test by North Korea on September 3.

"Today, we are saying the world will never accept a nuclear-armed North Korea. And today, the Security Council is saying that if the North Korean regime does not halt its nuclear programme, we will act to stop it ourselves," US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley said as



the 15-member UN body yesterday passed the resolution on North Korea.

"We are done trying to prod the regime to do the right thing. We are now acting to stop it from having the ability to continue doing the wrong thing," the Indian-origin diplomat said.

She said the international community was doing that by hitting North Korea's ability to fund its weapons programme. The US had originally proposed harsher sanctions, including a total ban on oil imports by North Korea. But the vote was passed only after Pyongyang allies Russia and China agreed

to the reduced measures.

Noting that oil "is the life-blood" of North Korea's effort to build and deliver a nuclear weapon, Haley said the resolution reduces almost 30 per cent of oil provided to the North by cutting off over 55 per cent of its gas, diesel, and heavy fuel oil.

"Today's resolution completely bans natural gas and other oil byproducts that could be used as substitutes for the reduced petroleum. This will cut deep," she said.

Haley said these are by far the strongest measures ever imposed on North Korea.

"They give us a much better chance to halt the regime's ability to fuel and finance its nuclear and missile programmes. But we all know these steps

only work if all nations implement them completely and aggressively," she said.

When these new stronger sanctions are added to those passed last month, over 90 per cent of North Korea's publicly reported exports are now fully banned. Moreover, this resolution also puts an end to the regime making money from the 93,000 North Korean citizens it sends overseas to work and heavily taxes, she noted.

"Beyond the USD 1.3 billion in annual revenues we will cut from North Korea, new maritime authorities will help us stop them from obtaining funds by smuggling coal and other prohibited materials around the world by ship," Haley said.



Fresh plea filed in Pak court over Bhagat Singh's case

**LAHORE, SEPT 12 (PTI):** A fresh petition has been filed in the Lahore High Court for the early hearing of a case to prove the innocence of legendary freedom fighter Bhagat Singh in the murder case of a British police officer, seven months after the court sought a larger bench to hear the plea.

The court has yet to form the larger bench.

Advocate Imtiaz Rashid Qureshi of Bhagat Singh Memorial Foundation yesterday filed an application for early hearing of its petition.

"I have filed the petition in the LCH for early hearing of the Bhagat Singh case. Today I requested the registrar to get a date fixed for hearing of the case and hopefully the case will be heard this month," Qureshi told PTI today.

He said he has also written to the federal government for making statue of Bhagat Singh at Shadman Chowk (central part of Lahore) where he was hanged along with his two comrades.

"I have written to the government for building a statue of Singh but has not yet got any response from it in this regard," he added.

A division bench of the Lahore High Court in February had requested the chief justice to constitute a larger bench to hear the petition seeking reopening of the case of Singh.

In the petition, Qureshi had said Singh was a freedom fighter and fought for independence of undivided India.

Singh was hanged by British rulers on March 23, 1931 at the age of 23, after being tried under charges for hatching a conspiracy against the colonial government. The case was filed against Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru for allegedly killing British police officer John P Saunders.

Taking plea in his petition Advocate Qureshi said Singh was initially jailed for life but later awarded death sentence in another "fabricated case".

Pak SC accepts Sharif family's plea against disqualification

**ISLAMABAD, SEP 12 (PTI):** Pakistan's Supreme Court today accepted a plea to form a five-judge bench to hear the review petitions of ousted prime minister Nawaz Sharif, his children, son-in-law and Finance Minister Ishaq Dar challenging his disqualification in the Panama Papers scandal.

The separate petitions were filed by Sharif and his family against the judgement on July 28 that disqualified 67-year-old Sharif for dishonesty and ruled that corruption cases be filed against his family and Dar over the scandal.

Sharif, his daughter Maryam, sons Hussain and Hasan, son-in-law Muhammad Safdar and Dar in their petitions asked the court to review the judgement as it vio-

lated several provision of law. A three-member bench headed by Justice Ejaz Afzal Khan and comprising Justice Sheikh Azmat Saeed and Justice Ijazul Ehsan too up the petitions.

Lawyer of Sharif's children Salman Akram Raja asked the bench to make a large bench as the decision was issued by five-members and three-member panel was not empowered to hear the review petitions.

He referred to a written plea already submitted by Sharif's children against the hearing of review petition by a three-member bench instead of a five-judge bench. After preliminary argument, the judges accepted the plea and announced to ask the Chief Justice to from a five-member panel for the hearing of review petition.



**M**ore than 300,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled to Bangladesh following a two-week surge in violence in majority Buddhist Myanmar, formerly Burma. Aid officials said refugee camps in the neighboring country were reaching capacity, as fleeing Rohingyas claimed security forces and Buddhist mobs in Rakhine state had attacked them and set fire to their homes. The violence began on 25 August, when an ethnic Rohingya insurgent group attacked police posts in Myanmar and security forces retaliated. The UN has condemned what it called a cruel military operation against the minority community and said it appeared to be a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing". But the Myanmar government has dismissed the Rohingya claims, with leader Aung San Suu Kyi blaming fake news and a misinformation campaign.

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China not to share Brahmaputra data for now due to upgradation of collection station

**K J M VARMA BEIJING, SEP 12 (PTI):** China today said that it cannot share with India the hydrological data of the Brahmaputra River for the time being as the data collection station in Tibet is being upgraded. China, however, said it is ready to "keep communication" with India to reopen the Nathu La pass in Sikkim for the Indian pilgrims visiting Kailash and Manasarovar in Tibet, which it had suspended in mid June over the Doklam standoff.

"For long time we have conduct-

ed cooperation on the river data with the Indian side. But to upgrade and renovate the relevant station in the Chinese side, we do not have the conditions now to collect the relevant statistics of the river," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told media here.

Asked when will China provide the data, which was reportedly suspended due to the Doklam standoff, he said, "We will later consider that."

Asked whether India has been informed about not sharing of the

hydrological data, he said according to his information the Indian side is aware of it.

On August 18, Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman Raveesh Kumar had said there is an existing expert-level mechanism, established in 2006, and there are two MoUs under which China is expected to share hydrological data on rivers Sutlej and Brahmaputra with India during the flood season of May 15 to June 15.

"For this year, we have not received hydrological data from the

Chinese side," Kumar had said.

The data share by upper riparian state, China, to lower riparian states, India and Bangladesh is essential every monsoon to allow anticipation of the flow of the water and take necessary measures to deal with flooding in India's northeastern states.

On the reopening of the Nathu La Pass for the Indian pilgrims visiting Kailash and Manasarovar in Tibet which was suspended over the Doklam standoff, Geng said China is ready to "keep communication" with the India.

"For a long China has made efforts against all odds to provide necessary convenience to the Indian pilgrims.

According to the agreement reached between the two leaders and based on the fact that the western section of the India-China boundary has been recognised by the two sides, China opened the pass to the Indian pilgrims," he said, replying to a question when China will open the route to the Indian pilgrims as the Doklam standoff has been resolved.

**GENERAL LAND FOR SALE:**  
Roadside plots (general land) available for sale at Adampool, east Sikkim.  
Contact **9434117687** for further details and to arrange site visits.

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES	
DEAR PARROT EVENING	
Draw Time : 8:00 pm onward	
Draw No:7	DrawDate on:12/09/17
1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 92A 35230 (Including Super Prize Amt)	
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 35230 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)	
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-	
23932 27871 31801 35046 48172	
50820 55544 58159 85275 99933	
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-	
28224 32756 41893 44683 53156	
54832 63776 65597 68651 88563	
4th Prize Rs.1000/-	
0497 1094 2018 3778 4227 5431 6080 6645 7083 9701	
5th Prize Rs.500/-	
0766 2058 2322 3614 3870 3879 5010 5364 5967 9216	
6th Prize Rs.250/-	
0002 0190 0419 0570 0576 0658 0824 0859 0866 1034	
1063 1101 1117 1160 1276 1317 1561 1594 1598 1806	
1811 1945 1962 1978 2071 2166 2940 3226 3241 3268	
3347 3407 3509 3572 3949 4032 4104 4348 4384 4562	
4635 4766 4811 4965 5001 5034 5091 5182 5183 5229	
5236 5336 5478 5586 5621 5744 5843 5870 5971 5990	
6023 6040 6081 6084 6119 6161 6191 6339 6358 6616	
6736 6740 6753 6843 6899 7199 7436 7553 7789 7828	
7869 7883 8251 8319 8360 8405 8449 8595 8647 8752	
8767 8788 8943 9078 9103 9135 9257 9388 9416 9940	
Issued by:	
The Director, Nagaland State Lotteries, Kohima, Nagaland	
For Result, Please Visit : www.nagalandlotteries.com	
KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE	

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES	
DEAR LOVED MORNING	
Draw No:2 DrawDate on:12/09/17	
1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 99E 87181 (Including Super Prize Amt)	
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 87181 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)	
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-	
02835 05524 18493 23224 35019	
43139 54348 57107 70894 75434	
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-	
00229 18704 34809 54469 65747	
67876 72678 84481 93082 96723	
4th Prize Rs.1000/-	
0735 2605 3021 4081 4709 4724 5390 6622 7253 9059	
5th Prize Rs.500/-	
0052 2575 3556 4553 5760 6772 8086 8295 8558 9799	
6th Prize Rs.250/-	
0117 0223 0542 0861 0899 0994 1204 1218 1396 1400	
1475 1493 1506 1650 1727 1777 1811 1897 1906 2000	
2222 2428 2526 2548 2573 2687 2716 2761 2865 2903	
3105 3138 3385 3640 3723 3818 3839 3999 4218 4445	
4463 4552 4641 4651 4723 4802 4863 4958 4992 5021	
5365 5382 5515 5693 5832 5998 6055 6069 6127 6169	
6179 6310 6384 6780 6783 6812 6838 6959 7048 7119	
7166 7281 7440 7477 7525 7572 7662 7782 7861 7947	
8047 8058 8280 8376 8440 8478 8677 8721 8842 8891	
8997 9013 9021 9158 9329 9346 9409 9480 9587 9940	
Issued by:	
The Director , Sikkim State Lotteries , Gangtok	
Please Visit : www.sikkimlotteries.com	

DEAR SINCERE	
Draw No:7 DrawDate on:12/09/17	
1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 91L 04604 (Including Super Prize Amt)	
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 04604 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)	
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-	
11571 28633 49474 56618 57165	
72803 72830 75463 78606 98068	
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-	
11201 12748 30419 33633 39225	
64147 73129 76422 76920 87521	
4th Prize Rs.1000/-	
0603 3274 4004 4643 5366 7864 8291 8321 8936 9992	
5th Prize Rs.500/-	
0762 2897 3078 4803 5868 5884 6913 9345 9649 9853	
6th Prize Rs.250/-	
0121 0131 0189 0281 0485 0583 0641 0715 0917 0945	
1213 1254 1311 1362 1460 1469 1743 1851 1881 1912	
1963 1986 1991 2009 2076 2092 2111 2186 2196 2270	
2286 2329 2455 2457 2569 2593 2829 2983 3119 3359	
3443 3567 3627 3722 3880 3959 3965 4076 4351 4410	
4434 4455 4539 4545 4631 4633 4943 5288 5296 5469	
5509 5709 5717 5723 5743 5860 5867 5933 6114 6147	
6166 6213 6840 6873 6915 7143 7196 7317 7461 7548	
7825 7870 8123 8270 8290 8433 8630 9090 9223 9344	
9381 9388 9579 9677 9702 9715 9912 9940 9961 9975	





**SELENA ON SET:** Selena Gomez was spotted filming Woody Allen's new movie in Manhattan's West Village neighborhood recently.

# ADAPTATION OF STEPHEN KING'S 'IT' BREAKS HORROR RECORD AND BOX OFFICE CURSE

Seven children and one scary clown have made the largest ever opening for a horror film, saving Warner Bros from the summer curse.

The tale of seven children against a demonic clown has been able to defy the worst box office summer in a decade. Just like Pennywise's chilling red balloon, the latest Stephen King adaptation to hit cinemas is floating high at the US box office.

According to Warner Bros, 'It' should make a staggering \$117.2m (£88m) from 4,103 locations in the United States, becoming the most successful horror film to ever premiere in the country. The R-rated film is also the third largest box office open since the start of the year and the highest grossing Stephen King adaptation of all time.

These are surprising numbers considering the box office curse which has been haunting the US, with the

## BOXOFFICE

number of cinema tickets sold hitting a 16-year low. This year was the first in a decade not to cross the \$4bn line in domestic ticket sales.

"We blew past everyone's most optimistic and aggressive projections and I think there might be room for us to grow this weekend even still," said Jeff Goldstein of Warner Bros. The film follows a group of seven children, known as the Losers' Club, in



the town of Derry, Maine, as they come across a demonic force which takes the form of their biggest fears.

It's most famous metamorphosis is called Pennywise the Clown, and was immortalized on the small screen by Tim Curry, in the 1990 mini-series. The film was made to score around \$35m, and faced many production setbacks, including losing its original writer and

director, Cary Joji Fukunaga. True Detective's

Fukunaga dropped the project after clashing with the studio over the film's tone. Warner Bros wanted to leave King's more violent, gritty and psychedelic details off the film, while Fukunaga wanted to make a different kind of horror film.

The project was eventually taken on by Andy Muschietti, the director of the 2013 horror flick Mama. In the UK,

it topped the box office in the opening weekend with £9m

across 604 cinemas.

"It is the film that everyone is talking about, whether fans of the genre or not, driving moviegoers across the UK and Ireland to brave the cinema for their own encounter with Pennywise," Goldstein said.

"We couldn't be more thrilled with the results, and congratulate New Line Cinema, director Andy Muschietti and his phenomenal cast and crew on this fantastic opening."

'It' is playing in cinemas across the UK.



### 13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER WORLD HISTORY

**1791:** France's King Louis XVI accepted a constitution. **1851:** Walter Reed, U.S. Army doctor, was born in Gloucester County, Va. In 1900 he went to Cuba and verified that yellow fever was caused by a mosquito.

**1922:** In El Azizia, Libya, a temperature of 136.4 degrees Fahrenheit (57.8 Celsius) was the hottest ever measured on Earth.

**1940:** Buckingham Palace was hit by German bombs causing superficial damage.

**1943:** Chiang Kai Shek became president of China.

**1956:** IBM introduced the Model 305 computer capable of storing 20 megabytes of data. Reynold B. Johnson, IBM lab leader, developed a way to store computer data

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY

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

on a metal disk instead of on tape or drum. The first commercial disk drive, called RAMAC (random access method of accounting and control), was developed by IBM and sold for \$50,000.

### INDIAN HISTORY

**1500:** Pedro Alvarez Cabral, a Portuguese explorer and navigator arrived in Calicut and opened the first European factory in India.

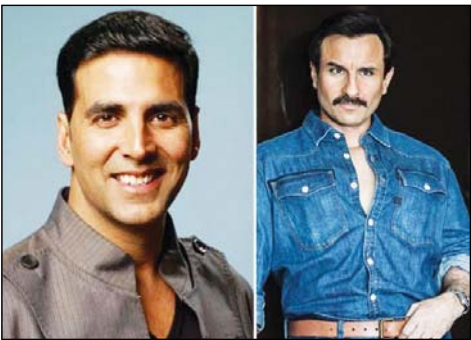
**1929:** Jatindra Nath Das died on the 63rd day of hunger strike in Lahore Central Jail.

**1948:** Police action was taken against recalcitrant Hyderabad state by the Government of India and peace was declared on 17th September.

# AKSHAY KUMAR AND SAIF ALI KHAN TO REUNITE AFTER 9 YEARS

Superstars Saif Ali Khan and Akshay Kumar have worked together in almost eight films right from 1994 to 2008, Be it the popular Main Khiladi Tu Anari or the notable Tashan – these two actors are sure a blast on screen together. Now with the latest buzz that we hear, Saif Ali Khan is reuniting with Akshay Kumar on his upcoming comedy show. In the show, we will see Akshay playing the super judge on the show along with other comedians including Mallika Dua, Zakir Khan and writer-actor Husain Dalal. It's said that Akshay will be welcoming the Saif as a star guest in the first episode of his show.

A source close to the makers of the show told Mirror, "Tech rehearsals kick



off on Wednesday while the episode featuring the duo will be shot on Thursday. The idea is to recreate fun moments from their films, especially the 1990s pot-boilers. They are expected to shake a leg to the title track of Main Khiladi Tu Anari and

share anecdotes from other films."

Akshay and Saif were last seen in the end credit song of Zoya Akhtar's Bombay Talkies in 2013. With the news of the two stars coming together once again, we can barely hold our excitement.

# FIFTY SHADES FREED TRAILER: TEASER FOR FINAL FIFTY SHADES MOVIE RELEASED

Mrs. Grey will see you now

Ten years ago, telling someone a kinky Twilight fan-fiction series would morph into four bestselling novels and spawn three blockbuster films would likely have you slapped around the face called an idiot. Yet, here we are.

Published under the pseudonym Snowqueen's Icedragon by E.L. James, Master of the Universe eventually became Fifty Shades of Grey, Fifty Shades Darker, Fifty Shades Freed, and Grey.

With months to go until release, the first teaser for Freed has been released, teasing marriage, sex, and melodrama. Appropriately, the tagline has changed into 'Mrs. Grey will see you now', having previously been 'Mr. Grey will see you now'.

Freed was filmed back-to-back with the second instalment in the series, Darker, principle photography — directed by James Foley — taking place back in early 2016 under the working title Further Adventures of Max and Banks 2 & 3. Unlike Fifty Shades of Grey, Darker and Freed's screenplays were both written by Niall Leonard, E. L. James's husband. Both Dakota Johnson and Jamie Dornan reprise their roles as Anastasia and Christian respectively.

Fifty Shades Freed reach-



es cinemas Valentine's Day.

## LOCKHORNS - HOEST & REINER



"I USED TO EAT WHEN I WAS DEPRESSED... NOW IT'S THE OTHER WAY AROUND."

## ARCTIC CIRCLE - HALLATT



## BABY BLUES - KIRKMAN & SCOTT



**THE DAY AHEAD**  
ARIES: Today you could spend a lot of time running errands. There might be delays due to circumstances beyond your control. You could experience that old mounting frustration. There's no use fighting the invisible foe. Accept the fact that you may not be able to accomplish everything you'd set out to do. Treat yourself to a quiet evening.  
TAURUS: A lot of energy might be expended on an artistic project that you probably won't like, Taurus. You could get halfway through and then toss it away. This could be disheartening as you could lament the time and effort lost. But this happens to all great artists. Go ahead and start over. Maybe this time you'll

accomplish what you want. Don't settle for mediocre. Go for the gold.  
GEMINI: Family members might discuss a possible vacation today, Gemini, but everyone wants to go to a different place! Arguments could occur, taking all the fun out of the discussion. Perhaps you should draw straws! A better solution might be to make a list of all the ideas, give copies to everyone, and think about it. Discuss the subject again in a few days.  
CANCER: Today it may appear that a lot of people are arguing over very strange things, Cancer. Usually you can see both sides of a disagreement, but today you might wonder if there's any side to what

you're hearing. Everyone's making mountains out of molehills. Distance yourself and don't try to mediate. You could upset everyone with your laughing!  
LEO: Tempers could be short in a group with which you're affiliated, Leo. What started as a meeting could end with disagreements. You might be tempted to chastise everyone, but that isn't a good idea. You won't stop the battle, and everyone involved will resent whatever you do. The best solution is to leave. The group probably won't accomplish anything positive anyway.  
VIRGO: Today's energy might be especially draining for you, Virgo. Your tasks could require more ef-

fort than usual, and you could be exhausted by midday. This isn't the day to prove anything. Work according to your own strengths at your own speed. You'll probably accomplish more this way than by pushing yourself. Take care and you'll still have energy for a great evening.  
LIBRA: Old emotions could well up from your unconscious today, Libra. Your nerves could be on edge. You might even lose your temper on occasion. Stop and take a look at why you're upset. Consider what's coming up from the past and then release it. You'll be amazed at how quickly you return to normal. You might be able to get some work done!  
SCORPIO: Today you could visit

a friend who's recuperating from an illness or injury, Scorpio. This person may be bored and antsy, and you should be prepared to hear all about the frustrations. Your friend needs a sympathetic ear, so listen. Someday you might want someone to do the same for you! Be supportive without agreeing with every complaint. Your friend needs company, not coddling.  
SAGITTARIUS: A debate over a controversial subject involving politics or social issues could take place today, Sagittarius. You might find the subject fascinating and learn a lot, but you'll be less comfortable when the conversation changes from a discussion to a quarrel. At that

point, you may want to walk away. You're too sensitive, so don't worry about being rude.  
CAPRICORN: Today you might be required to fumble through a lot of paperwork in order to locate certain information, Capricorn. This might be a drag, and you might not find what you're looking for in spite of it all. Before initiating another search, take a break. Get out in the fresh air and walk a few blocks. When you get back, don't be afraid to ask for help.  
AQUARIUS: Tempers could be on edge in conversations between you and some of your close friends, Aquarius. Even you, who are usually very laid back and easygoing,

might be tempted to snap at people. There's tension in the air and nerves are strained. Control the urge to lash out if someone says something insulting or otherwise inappropriate. You won't want today's stress to affect tomorrow.  
PISCES: Stress and strain could take their toll on you today, Pisces. Your significant other might be in a foul humor. When the two of you get together, you might want to sit in companionable silence and not say much. Your beloved has had a rough day and is irritated at words and gestures that would be endearing at other times. You may feel a little tense, too. Single? Stay in and indulge in your favorite comforts.