



# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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*Drukpa  
Tsheshi  
greetings  
from Governor  
and CM*

## SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 26 JUL:

Governor Shrinivas Patil and First Lady Rajanidevi Patil have extended greetings and best wishes to the people of Sikkim on the occasion of Drukpa Tsheshi.

In a press communiqué received from Raj Bhavan, the Governor has said, "Among the most sacred of festivals in Sikkim, we celebrate Drukpa Tsheshi, with utmost reverence to mark the preaching of the four noble truths by Buddha to his first five disciples at Sarnath. 'Dharma Chakra Pravartana', as this auspicious event is popularly known, Lord Buddha set the Wheel of Dharma in motion. Thus, mankind was shown the principal human values of non violence, love and compassion

Buddha's middle path and approach of rational self enquiry, discipline and harmony shall continue to guide us in our journey called life and steer our society towards peace and happiness, the much needed relief to humankind today.

On this day, let us all pray and join hands to preserve our unique tradition of social harmony through religious and spiritual pursuit. May Sakyamuni's teachings show us the right path in our collective quest of peace and harmony among all sentient beings."

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

The Chief Minister, in a press release, has stated that Drukpa Tsheshi

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## Trump bars transgenders from serving in US military

**WASHINGTON, JUL 26 (PTI):** US President Donald Trump said today transgenders will not serve in the US military "in any capacity", asserting that their service would bring "tremendous medical costs and disruption".

Announcing the decision on Twitter, Trump said the military would

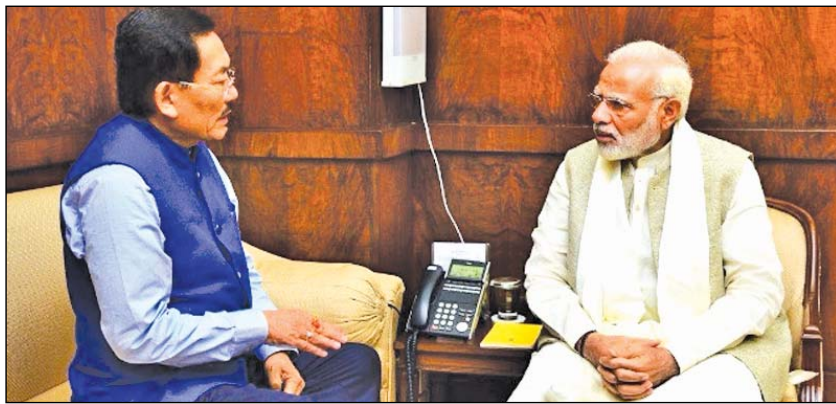
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## Chamling meets PM, requests deployment of Central forces from NJP to Rangpo

### SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 26 JUL:

Chief Minister, Pawan Chamling, called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi today and apprised him of the latest situation in Sikkim due to the agitation in the Darjeeling Hills continuing for about 2 months now resulting in shortage of essential food and other commodities. He said that the State's problems especially with regard to movement along NH 10 have been further compounded by the inconvenience, uncertainty and risk to life and property of the people of Sikkim posed by heavy rainfall and landslides.

A press release received from the Principal Secretary to CM from New Delhi informs that Mr Chamling informed the PM about how in the last 33 years or so 5000 Sikkim registered vehicles have been vandalized and damaged apart from the loss of lives of 50 drivers and passen-



gers during this period along NH 10. The National Highway is the only lifeline for Sikkim without any other land route access to land locked Sikkim with neither rail or air link, he added.

The release further adds that the CM informed that the State has suffered not less than Rs 60,000 crore financial losses due to these bandhs and disruptions on NH 10 during the aforementioned period.

Presently, with the agitation continuing for more than a month, the situation seems to be aggravated by the unloading of Sikkim bound trucks at the FCI or Oil depots at New Jalpaiguri and Siliguri by miscreants there in full knowledge and vicinity of the Bengal Police. Even ordinary passengers bound for Sikkim buying anything in Siliguri like vegetables and other items have been humiliated and

their goods unloaded.

In most of the cases, the Sikkim registered trucks and smaller vehicles for carriage of goods have been made to load and thereafter unload. Perishable goods like flowers and vegetables exported on the basis of their movement on NH 10 have already been ruined due to the restriction on movement of vehicles. Tourism in Sikkim has suffered huge losses due to cancellation of

more than one lakh tourist reservations this season, he added.

The CM, therefore, requested the PM that the Central forces be deployed at New Jalpaiguri, Siliguri and other crucial points upto Rangpo, West Bengal border with Sikkim, to give protection to the life and property and food commodities meant for the people of Sikkim.

He emphasized that unless the problem of the

**turn to pg03**



JAI JAWAN: Union Minister for Finance, Corporate Affairs and Defence, Arun Jaitley, along with the Chief of Army Staff, General Bipin Rawat, the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa and the Vice Chief of the Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Karambir Singh paying homage to the martyrs at Amar Jawan Jyoti, India Gate, on the occasion of Kargil Vijay Diwas, in New Delhi on July 26, 2017.



## Nitish drops resignation bombshell

**PATNA, JUL 26 (PTI):** Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar resigned today, citing irreconcilable differences with ally RJD over corruption charges against his deputy Tejashwi Yadav, snapping an uneasy coalition cobbled together in the aftermath of the 2014 Lok Sabha poll debacle.

Kumar's resignation capped days of stand-off between his party JD(U), which was insisting on Tejashwi defending himself against the allegations, and the RJD, whose chief Lalu Prasad rejected the demand outright.

"In the circumstances that prevail in Bihar, it became difficult to run the grand alliance government," Kumar told reporters outside Raj Bhavan after submitting his resignation to Governor Keshri Nath Tripathi.

He did not rule out taking BJP's support for forming a new government.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised Kumar for "joining the fight against corruption" saying the entire nation supports his honesty, a move seen as an effort to reach out to the BJP's former ally. JD(U) had ended its 17-year association with BJP after Modi was nominated the saffron party's campaign committee chief for 2014 Lok Sabha elections.

"Congratulations! Mr Nitish Kumar for joining the fight against corruption. 1.25 crore people are welcoming and supporting his honesty," he said in a series of tweets.

"For the bright future of the country, and especially Bihar, it is the need

of the hour to rise above political differences and join the fight against corruption," Modi said.

Kumar, when asked about the chances of his forming a government with BJP's support, said, "Whatever will be in the interest of Bihar will be done. Wait for the future to unfold."

Whatever had to happen has happened. Now see what happens next."

Kumar said his resignation was accepted by the governor who asked him to continue as CM till an alternative arrangement has been made.

"I tried to work it out...I did not ask for anybody's resignation...I just asked Tejashwi to explain the charges of corruption," he said.

The sudden development has thrown the politics of Bihar into turmoil with no party having a majority in the 243-member Assembly. Kumar's JD(U) has 71 seats, while RJD headed by Tejashwi Yadav's father Lalu Prasad, has 80. The BJP has 53.

If JD(U) and BJP come together, the coalition would have a majority in the Assembly. State BJP president Nityanand Rai had recently spoken about the possibility of his party extending outside support to JD(U) but clarified the decision would be taken by its central leadership.

Tensions simmered between the two alliance partners ever since the CBI registered a case against Lalu Prasad, his wife and former chief minis-

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## Refusing to keep pace with everyday politics

### SUDIPTA CHANDA SILIGURI, 26 JUL:

The choice was between ideological purity and political goal. The CPI-M has chosen the first, as a consequence of which, the country will miss the succinct reasoning of Sitaram Yechury in Rajya Sabha after August when the term of the Upper House ends.

Conventionally, no CPI-M member gets more than two terms in Rajya Sabha. Conventionally, no Marxist general secretary becomes an MP either. Yechury was already a two-time MP when he be-

came the party's general secretary. And that robbed him of a third term as the CPI-M Central Committee rejected his candidature.

Whether the step was regressive and yet another blunder the CPI-M has committed ever since stopping Jyoti Basu from becoming the country's Prime Minister in 1996 time will tell. But, the fact remains the Left has lost its most eloquent speaker in Rajya Sabha.

Ironically, this comes at a time when the CPI-M is hard pressed to maintain its national party status or recover

lost ground in West Bengal, its former jewel in the crown.

Intolerance and divisive politics are tearing the country apart, which makes progressive Left persuasion all the more necessary in Parliament to uphold democracy. Yechury's was one of the tireless voices that had lucidly upheld not just the Left's interest, but the larger opposition's end in Parliament. The CPI-M, however, chose to sacrifice the pragmatic Yechury on the altar of political dogma.

It is this rigidity that isolated the CPI-M from national

politics in 2008 when under Prakash Karat it pulled out of the Congress-led UPA-I over the Indo-US nuclear deal. The move cost the CPI-M dear both nationally and particularly in West Bengal.

In the political void thus created in stepped Mamata Banerjee riding the Singur and Nandigram upheavals and with support from the Congress and motley of other organizations ended the Left's 34-year old run in the state in 2011. Left fortunes in the state have been scraping rock-bottom since.

How acceptable a voice was Yechury's in Rajya Sabha? That the Congress had decided to give up its Rajya Sabha candidate claim from West Bengal in favour of Yechury is testimony enough for the CPI-M general secretary's acceptability.

But, that very point weighed against Yechury's candidature beside the ideological angle. Although the Bengal Marxists are amenable towards the Congress and vice versa and was open to Congress support for Yechury's candidature, the Kera-

la CPI-M is altogether against any truck with the Congress, which finally prevailed.

A dynamic speaker, Yechury can speak several languages, is comfortable in both Hindi and English, a prerequisite in current national politics, is media friendly and can resonate with the youth - an ability the CPI-M needs desperately among its leaders to keep the red flag aloft.

Serious internal issues, however, are importing question marks against the CPI-M's survival as a key player in national politics.



## Two teens go missing from Duga

GANGTOK, 26 JUL:

A missing report of two 16-year-old girls was registered at Rangpo Police Station on 25 Jul. The missing girls, Sunita Chhetri and Kumari Chhetri are residents of Duga, East Sikkim. According to their parents, the girls had gone missing from their home on 23 Jul from Duga in Rangpo, East Sikkim.

It was further revealed that the parents had carried out an intensive search before registering the missing case at the police station. The police have deployed sources and alerted the nearby police stations to trace the missing girls. The two girls were reportedly studying in class VI at Duga Senior Secondary School.

## SKM criticizes Health Department's negligence in Rhenock incident

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 26 JUL:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party has expressed its sadness on the death of a teenaged girl in the recent truck accident at Rhenock Bazaar that left two others severely injured. The party has also expressed its condolence to the bereaved family.

An SKM press release issued by its secretary [press & publicity], Arun Uprety, has strongly criticized the carelessness of the Health Department in not providing immediate treatment and ambulance service to the injured girls. The party has stressed that the department and the government needs to think seriously on this issue further alleging that such situation prevails in all health centres across the State.

The department has provided ambulances but the people have not been able to take advantage of this service since most of the time the patient party is asked to bear the expenses for fuel to use the ambulance service, the party has alleged.

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# SDF holds consultation meet at Samdong for Panchayat polls

WANGCHUK BHUTIA

GANGTOK, 26 JUL:

The constituency level Panchayat consultation meeting of Sikkim Democratic Front party for Tumin-Lingee constituency was held today at Lower Samdong in East Sikkim. The meeting was chaired by vice president in charge-East, DB Thapa, along with area MLA-cum-Tourism Minister, Ugen T Gyatso Bhutia, former MLA, Norjang Lepcha, and Chairperson-Health Cell, Lhakila Tongden Lepcha.

General secretary-Panchayat cell, Hari Har Poudhyal, highlighted about the agenda of the meeting.

Chairman-Panchayat cell, Ganesh Kumar Rai, spoke about how the party can be



made stronger and highlighted the role of party workers. He further stressed that the SDF party is leading with good governance but sometimes owing to the lack of strong support from party workers, it gets weakened. He added

that the decision of the party should be respected by all. "We should always be dedicated and work hard for the development. People should stick to one party," said former MLA, Am Prasad Sharma, in his address.

Vice president in charge-Panchayat cell, Manita Manger, said that the Panchayat candidates should be chosen by the people. She also informed that a GPU level committee will be established under the Area MLA along

with constituency level committee after which the name of the candidate will be sent to district level committee for scrutiny and then to the Chief Minister for final approval.

Area MLA, Ugen T Gyatso Bhutia, informed that the Panchayat should follow the party's direction and should not be biased. Sikkim is developing and setting an example across the country under the CM, he stated.

He further added that people should not be disheartened if they do not get ticket to contest and should respect the verdict of the party.

Chairperson of the meeting, DB Thapa, in his address said that the Panchayat election will be held on the basis of reservation

and rotation. He appealed to all the party workers and the committee to work in coordination and make it a success.

"I appreciate that Tumin-Lingee has strong party supporters and has been developing under the guidance of the area MLA. The youth and the chelis should follow directions and work towards the development of the State keeping in view the vision of our CM," he added.

Also present in the meeting were chairperson-Denzong Cooperative, Puran Gurung, Officer on Special Duty to CM, Mohan Khatiwara, general secretary-Panchayat cell [North district], Zomin Thegin, Panchayat members and other party workers.

## Artisans trained in handicrafts packaging

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 26 JUL:

A two-day long soft skill training programme on packaging of handicrafts was organized by the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India in collaboration with Marketing and Service Extension Centre, Gangtok on 25 and 26 Jul at Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP) Kolkata in association with Council of Handicrafts Development Corporation, New Delhi (COHANDS), a press release informs.

The main objective of the training programme was to train the artisans to promote the export



market through innovative package design and development as well as to upgrade the overall standards of packaging.

IIP assistant director, N. Nataraj briefed about the various types and

standards of packaging for export, packaging materials for handicrafts, marking for packaging identification and handling etc.

Handicrafts Promotion Officer, Shashikant Gupta briefed about

various courses related to packaging offered by Indian Institute of Packaging. 20 artisans participated in the training programme, says the release.

Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP) is an au-

tonomous body in the field of packaging under the administrative control of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Government of India. Institute is involved in training and education in the field of packaging.

# CMRHM allotment orders distributed at Chongrang BAC

SUMMIT REPORT

GALSHING, 26 JUL:

The distribution programme of Chief Minister's Rural Housing Mission phase-I allotment orders, GCI sheets, LPGs and pressure cookers was held here at Chongrang BAC, under Yuksam-Tashiding constituency, today.

Area MLA-cum-Parliamentary Secretary [Rural Management & Development Department], Sonam Dadul Bhutia, attended the programme as chief guest accompanied by Advisor-Social Welfare, CB Gurung, Sub Divisional Magistrate-Yuksam, Sonam R Bhutia, Block Development Officer-Chongrang, Tshering T Bhutia, Panchayats from all the GPUs under Chongrang block, Panchayat Inspector, and other Gram Panchayat functionaries.

In his welcome speech, BDO-Chongrang, Mr Bhutia, highlighted the model of CMRHM and the expected cost for the construction of the houses. He also addressed the selection procedure of CMRHM beneficiaries and directed that construction of the allotted houses should begin at the earliest.

The chief guest distributed LPGs, pressure cookers and GCI sheets to the benefi-



ciaries along with the allotment order of CMRHM houses.

A similar programme was held later at

Yuksam BAC wherein Area MLA, Sonam Dadul Bhutia, handed over the allotment orders to Yuksam beneficiaries.



## Dikchu school NSS unit conducts blood donation camp

SUMMIT REPORT

MANGAN, 26 JUL:

National Service Scheme (NSS) unit of Dikchu Senior Secondary School in collaboration with Sikkim State Blood Transfusion Council organized a blood donation camp today at Dikchu PHC at Dikchu Primary

Health Center.

Students of Dikchu Senior Secondary School along with the Dikchu PHC staff participated in the camp along with volunteers from the area and staff of Sneha Kinetic Power Project Limited. During the camp, 66 units of blood were collected.

## Drukpa Tsheshi greetings from Governor and CM

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is one of the most sacred days in the Buddhist calendar as it marks the day on which Lord Buddha gave his first sermon on the Four Noble Truths to his first five disciples at Sarnath, which came to be known as the 'First Turning of the Wheel of Dharma' or Dharmachakra. The day honours the first sermon of Lord Buddha at the Deer Park in Sarnath after he attained enlightenment at the age of 35. The teachings of the sermon include following the 'Middle Path' that avoids the extremes of pleasure and austerity, the Four Noble Truths, and the Eightfold Path. It is

the Four Noble Truths that this sermon is specifically known for. The Turning of the Wheel of Dharma is associated with abandoning negative actions of body, speech, and mind.

Drukpa Tsheshi is celebrated on the 4th day [Tsheshi] of the 6th month [Drukpa] of the Tibetan Calendar.

"We celebrate this day in Sikkim by holding prayers and religious ceremonies at monasteries with great festivity and reverence. Let each one of us become ambassadors of compassion, peace and harmony and inspire rest of humanity," the Chief Minister has stated in his message.

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He left a struggle, returns a star

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**Gangtok on  
Wednesday,  
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**Temp:** 26°C / 17°C  
**Forecast:** Periods of  
sun and clouds with  
a thundershower.  
**Sunrise:** 04:55 AM  
**Sunset:** 06:28 PM

## Relaxation in eligibility criteria for NIT admission

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 26 JUL:**

The Ministry of Human Resources has approved certain relaxations as a one-time measure for ensuring that all vacant seats in NITs, IIST, IIITs and other GFTIs (Except IITs) in North Eastern States are filled on merit basis.

A Special Round of Counseling is being conducted by Central Seat Allocation Board (CSAB) to this effect, registration and fee deposition for which starts from 27 July. With the relaxations in place, candidates who have secured at least 45% (40% for SC/ST/PwD) in the 12th Class will be eligible for admission in Home State quota in Institutes of North Eastern States.

The Ministry has also approved the conversion of vacant Home State quota seats to other State seats of same category. In case, any Home State quota seats are left over even after allotment of seats to the candidates of Home State eligibility, such vacant seats will be filled by the candidates of other states having same category on the basis of JEE (Main) rank.

## Officials inspect shops in Development Area

**GANGTOK, 26 JUL [IPR]:** An inspection was carried out by Sub Divisional Magistrate-Gangtok, Joint Director-Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Gangtok Municipal Corporation, officials from LMU to check the rates in the fair price shops and open market in Development Area in Gangtok today.

Instances of consumers being charged higher rates were reported and as such the inspecting team visited the various shops and stores and took detailed stock of commodities and



enquired about the prices stipulated rates. asked to display rate boards with government

approved rates and the shops where rate boards were missing were instructed to comply with the instruction at the earliest failing which strict action would be taken.

It is to be mentioned here, a Control Room at MG Marg opposite Tourist Information Centre has also been set up to receive complaints and grievances from the public pertaining to shortage of essential commodities. Public can also lodge their grievances by contacting 03592-204995 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

## ATMA organizes training on Organic Seed Production

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 26 JUL:**

Agriculture Technology Management Agency [ATMA], East district under Food Security & Agriculture Development Department, Government of Sikkim, organized a training-cum-inaugural programme on Organic Seed Production at Duga Block under West Pendum constituency in East Sikkim on 25 Jul, informs a press release.

The programme was attended by Area MLA, Gopal Baraily, as chief guest and Panchayat President, Pratap Singh Rai, as guest of honour along with Professor from Alabama University, USA, Dr David Meek, as special guest.

Also attending the event were Additional Director-Integrated Nutrient Management, Sherab Bhutia, Joint Director-East, Beena Rai, Deputy Director-FS&ADD, Palden Lama, Deputy Project Director-ATMA East, Rachna Gurung, Deputy Director-Animal Husbandry, Deependra Pradhan, Horticulture Inspector, JN Giri, Agriculture Inspector, Sangeeta Basnett, and field



functionaries along with 180 progressive farmers of the area.

Deputy Project Director, Rachna Gurung, highlighted the different schemes of ATMA and urged the farmers to avail maximum benefits training, demonstration and exposure visits conducted by the Agency. She further mentioned that Farm School plays a vital role in disseminating technology to the farming community. Ms Gurung also urged the farmers to make use of Kishan Call Centre for information related to Organic Farming.

Joint Director, Beena Rai, highlighted the im-

portant schemes of Agriculture Departments and urged the farm students to acquire knowledge on latest technologies that will be imparted in the Farm School. The Joint Director also spoke on the importance of Soil Health Card.

Additional Director, Sherab Bhutia, shed light on the importance and benefits of large scale production of crops under cluster farming. He explained in detail about Mission Organic Value Chain Development [MOVCD] and marketing of four identified crops viz buckwheat, ginger, turmeric and cardamom. He also educated the

farmers on zero tillage technology.

Special guest, Dr Meek from Alabama University, in his address, said that he was highly impressed by the initiative taken up by the Sikkim Government in making Sikkim an Organic Farming State. He said he was in Sikkim to carry out research work in Organic Farming.

Area MLA, Gopal Baraily, thanked the Department and ATMA for setting up a Farm School and holding a programme that will benefit farmers at large in the area.

"Farmers are the backbone of the society,

they ensure food security to the society," said Mr Baraily urging the farmers to avail all the benefits provided by the Agriculture and line departments to enhance their economic status.

During the programme, work orders for preparation of Rural Compost Pit under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana Scheme and preparation of vermi compost pit under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana Scheme were distributed to 15 and 10 farmers, respectively. Rajma seeds were also distributed to 25 farmers of the newly opened Farm School, the release adds.

## SKM MLA alleges discrimination against opposition MLAs

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 26 JUL:**

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha MLA and the party spokesperson, Kunga Nima Lepcha, in a press release issued today, has accused the state government of discrimination against MLAs of the opposition.

Mr Lepcha has alleged that NoCs/certificates issued by him are not being accepted at the District Collector's office. Stating that there is no legislation or provision that supports such practice, he has said that

"such attitude of government departments belies the assurances or order of the Chief Minister given on the floor of the august Sikkim Legislative Assembly on several occasions that there should no discrimination in dealing with the opposition."

If the certificates or recommendations of the constitutionally elected opposition MLAs are invalid then those issued by MLAs of the party in power are equally invalid and should not be entertained, he further states.

## CRPF 'improvises' troop carriers with locally sourced material

**NEW DELHI, JUL 26**

(PTI): Facing a "tedious" procurement process, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has taken to armour plating hundreds of its vehicles and troop carriers in Kashmir by "improvising" with locally available metal sheets, concrete and wooden planks.

The force, which has come under a spate of attacks on its convoys in the Valley in the recent past, had decided to ensure a partial or full bullet-proof armour to its four-wheeled troop carriers.

But, the force faced a glitch, which it is now resolving with a 'jugaad'.

"We are trying to acquire more bullet-proof vehicles (for deployment in Kashmir). Since, the rate of procurement and procurement through suppliers is a tedious process...we decided to improvise. We have asked our units to use local material and bring in local vendors to do the job," CRPF Director General RR Bhatnagar told reporters on the eve of the 78th Raising Day of the paramilitary force.

He said that even workshops of the force are trying to do the job of partially bullet proofing the vehicles.

"We are stepping up our efforts so that our buses are partially bullet

proofed. We are also in the process of getting regular bullet proofing for our buses. The improvisation is a short-term measure that we have taken recourse to," he said.

The DG said after witnessing these procedural issues, the government was "actively considering" to expedite the process, that will go a long way in saving lives of the CRPF men deployed in the state for conducting counter-insurgency operations and rendering law and order duties.

Stating an example, Bhatnagar said during a recent militant attack on a convoy in the Pantha Chowk area of Srinagar, lives of eight troops were saved because of a similar improvisation of the vehicle that came under attack.

Unfortunately, we lost a sub-inspector in that attack, but the partial bullet proofing of the vehicle using a three-layer plating of metallic sheet, concrete and wood saved the day for us and there were no more casualties, the DG said.

The Central Reserve Police Force was raised on July 27, 1939 as the Crown Representative's Police (CRP) and at present, is the largest paramilitary of the world with a strength of about three lakh personnel.

## Chamling meets PM, requests deployment of Central forces from NJP to Rangpo

**contd from pg01**

Darjeeling Hills is addressed and permanent solution is provided by the Central Government, the problems of the people of Sikkim would continue. He requested for finding permanent solution to the agitation and demand of Darjeeling Hills in West Bengal so that the problems of Sikkim also come to an end.

Further, the Assembly seats for the Limboo & Tamang Scheduled Tribes communities was another issue that was discussed during the meet. Similarly, he requested the PM to grant permission to 17th Karmapa Gyen Trinley Dorje to visit Sikkim at an early date, a matter of deep and serious anguish for the followers of

Buddhism and for the general people of Sikkim.

Finally, the PM was invited to visit Sikkim after the rainy season came to an end this year. The PM listened to all the problems and issues to be resolved by the Government of India and gave positive assurances for early resolution of those. He agreed to visit Sikkim as invited by the Chief Minister, the release adds.

The Chief Minister also called on Union Minister, Rajnath Singh, and apprised him of the entire situation in Darjeeling Hills and the resultant suffering of the people of Sikkim. The Chief Minister thanked him for helping Sikkim at a time when the West Bengal Government was not responding to the

request for providing protection to Sikkim bound vehicles and passengers travelling on NH 10.

The CM profusely thanked the Home Minister for taking a personal interest in solving Sikkim's problems.

Similarly, granting Assembly seats to Limboo and Tamang communities, permission for the Karmapa to visit Sikkim and other pending demands of Sikkim were also discussed by the CM for early resolution. The CM also met Minister of Development of North Eastern Region, Dr Jitendra Singh, at the Prime Minister's Office. He was also apprised about the existing situation in Sikkim and the Darjeeling Hills.

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### ANTHYESTHI KRIYA

The Anthyesthi Kriya of former Chief Minister Nar Bahadur Bhandari who left for his heavenly abode on 16 July 2017 falls on Friday 28 July, 2017. All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul at our residence, Primula Cottage, Church Road, Gangtok.

Dil Kumari Bhandari  
Primula Bhandari - 8918061018  
Sharmila and Bikram Pal Singh  
Perilla and Bryan Swartz  
Roshan R Bhandari and Naseeb Puri  
Ashwin, Rehaan and Noor (grandchildren)  
And all Bhandari family



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## Rediscover the Thrill of Competition

*After employability, instill the desire to excel*

Unemployment has a habit of remaining in the news. Or maybe because it is on everyone's minds, that it appears to be in frequent discussion as well and through that affiliation, also getting mentioned often in press releases and becoming standard fare in political pronouncements. Meanwhile, the State Government started with a youth-empowerment year a little over a decade ago and has since developed the initiative into skill development which now has a directorate of capacity building dedicated to it, an institute and livelihood schools in all territorial constituencies. Scholarships are on offer, as are attractive student loans. In a scenario such as this, the focus of those wishing to address the challenge of unemployment should be expending more energy on ensuring that the skill development initiative, the effort which makes the job-seekers employable, are more effectively carried out. Unfortunately, more energy has traditionally been directed at embarrassing the clutch of officers serving on service extensions. The aspiration for government employment is still so strong that these "extensions" still irk many even though their retirement will only open up a sliver of positions. But can one really blame the unemployed who still aspire for government employment at the cost of compromising their chances in private sector advancement or self-employment options? The salary differential is so staggering and the work ethic requirements so relaxed, that it is really unfair to shoo the youth away from government employment and have them pursue opportunities in the private sector.

But this, in a way, is a lost pursuit. There can never be enough government jobs for the youth hoping for employment and it is only a matter of time before government offices are slimmed down and openings shut even tighter. It goes without saying that when the crunch comes, the survival instinct will kick in and the youth of Sikkim will explore and attain new options and livelihoods. But why wait for resoluteness to evolve only when the going gets tough. Sikkim is undoubtedly among the few places which are lucky enough to have the chance of staving off tough times if they "get going" while the going is still good. Few regions have been as pampered and are as blessed with lucky breaks and opportunities as Sikkim is. For a State that has no political clout by way of parliamentarian strength in Delhi, Sikkim has had a good run with the powers-that-be in getting its demands met and problems resolved even in these times of absolute "sevaks" when larger states have been cold shouldered. Many opportunities have been created and continue to be offered. Even a cursory listing of new investments in Sikkim will bear out that opportunities abound in a diverse range of activities, from trading to academics to white-collar jobs. What is now required is for these opportunities to be seized.

Unfortunately, this is where Sikkim is found lacking. Opportunities require hard work for success. It is this drive that Sikkim needs more of. The technical qualifications apart, every job requires only a few more qualities from prospective candidates - diligence, commitment to quality and a tenacity to compete. The faster Sikkim rediscovers these strengths, the sooner the opportunities will start delivering. The Livelihood Schools, apart from the subject-specific trainings they impart, should also include sessions on work-culture and introduce trainees to real achievers from around them and from elsewhere so that they complete their courses inspired to sweat it out, compete, stumble and stand up again.

**YVANE WIART**  
*theconversation.com*

"DOCTOR, what caused my cancer?" For doctors, this question is often perplexing. Some of the population risk factors are known, but when it comes to specific cases, only assumptions can be made. However, scientists have a growing understanding of the mechanisms underlying tumour development. Although some of these are rather polemical.

Two US researchers recently sparked controversy with their work on the role of "luck" in cancer. Their latest article was published in the March issue of the prestigious journal Science. The researchers, Christian Tomasetti and Bert Vogelstein of John Hopkins University in Baltimore, showed that the disease is less dependent on hereditary (a genetic predisposition) and environmental risks (such as smoking, or asbestos exposure) than on random mutations (such as DNA replication errors) arising spontaneously in cells as they divide and reproduce over the course of our lifetimes.

In other words, "luck" has a lot to do with it. In a 2015 article, also in Science, they had already studied the frequency of cancers in different tissues of the human body. For example, the lifetime risk of lung cancer is 6.9%, as compared to 1.08% for thyroid cancer, and even less for brain and other cancers.

### CANCER IS MORE FREQUENT IN THE COLON THAN THE SMALL INTESTINE

These differences are generally ascribed to the greater exposure of specific tissues to risk factors, such as tobacco, alcohol, and ultraviolet rays. But this does not explain why in the digestive system, for instance, the colon is more often affected than other organs. In fact, the small intestine (between the stomach and the colon) is far more exposed to mutation-causing substances than brain cells, yet cerebral tumours are three times more common.

This paradox also holds for hereditary cancers. While the same genetic mutation is responsible for both colorectal and intestinal tumours, the latter remain far rarer. However, in mice with the mutation, the trend is reversed: they develop tumours in the small-intestine more frequently than in the colon.

Tomasetti and Vogelstein therefore hypothesised that the cause for this may lie in the spontaneous mutations occurring during stem cell division (undifferentiated cells). In humans, stem cells renew at a higher rate in the large intestine compared to the small, while the opposite is true in mice. The more often cells divide, the higher the risk of errors in the DNA copying process. This could explain the differences in the frequency of cancers in organs similarly exposed to hereditary and environmental risks.

### TISSUE RENEWAL RATE IS LINKED TO HIGHER CANCER RISK

Their investigation of the presumed link between the known number of stem cell divisions in a given tissue over the course of a lifetime and the risk of cancer in that area revealed a strong correlation. The higher the rate of stem cell renewal, the higher the risk of cancer in that particular tissue. This initial result, based on data from the American population, was backed by a second study published in March of this year, which found the same average correlation across 69 countries.

The researchers then proceeded to isolate the effects of spontaneous mutations from those of

# Is cancer just a question of 'bad luck'?



other cancer risk factors, both hereditary and environmental. They demonstrated that the majority of cancers are caused by "bad luck" – in other words, by random, spontaneous mutations. "Luck" even plays a significant part in cancers for which environmental causes have been firmly established, like those linked to smoking.

Because these results might lead us to believe that encouraging citizens to adopt healthy behaviours, such as quitting smoking and eating more fruit and vegetables, is not as important as once thought, they generated considerable controversy. The researchers' data was even reviewed by a separate team, who found luck did not play such a significant role after all.

### THE EFFECTS OF OXIDATIVE STRESS ON DNA

It's worth noting the scientific literature in microbiology, whether or not directly connected to cancer research, offers numerous articles on mutations and DNA damage. In an article published in 2000, American scientist Lawrence Marnett analysed the effects of oxidative stress (attacks on our cells by reactive oxygen species, or "free radicals") and found they were even more significant than those linked to carcinogenic substances. And, oxidative stress is not the only cause of DNA damage, as can be seen in Roel De Bont and Nicolas Van Larebeke's 2004 summary.

In an article published early this year, Anthony Tubbs and Andre Nussenzweig highlighted that each human cell DNA suffers around 70,000 lesions per day. We would not live long if the body didn't have ways of correcting these errors, especially if they all led to us developing tumours. It's important to remember tumours only appear after several control mechanisms have failed.

First of all, the normal repair process of defective cell DNA must have failed. Then, the cell must be allowed to reproduce in a chaotic fashion, meaning the problem must principally affect the genes responsible for cell duplication, or those regulating it. The defective cell also has to escape its naturally programmed self-destruction (known as apoptosis) and the vigilance of the body's immune system, whose work is to eliminate foreign bodies and other dysfunctional elements.

Cell exposure to external or internal mutagens is therefore only one step in a long chain of failures

that must take place before a tumour can develop.

### THE ROLE OF STRESS

At this stage in the discussion on the role of "bad luck" in cancer occurrence, it is worth looking at the particular part played by individual stress, the subject of my work Stress and Cancer: When Our Attachment Plays Tricks on Us (De Boeck). Each of the steps towards a cell becoming cancerous is sensitive to stress and stress hormones. Therefore, chronic physiological stress, which these days is mainly caused by psychological stress, can be considered a direct cause of cancer. I must add, however, there is still open disagreement on the subject.

Chronic psychological stress does in fact accelerate cell reproduction, inducing telomere shortening, the "caps" that protect our chromosomes from wear. This phenomenon was uncovered by the work of Elizabeth Blackburn, who won the Nobel prize in medicine for discovering telomerase. The more these differentiated cells multiply, the higher the risk of random mutations in their DNA. In addition, the more differentiated cells age and die, the more stem cells will divide to make new cells, heightening the risk of cancer development.

But that's not all. Through neuroendocrine processes, psychological stress also affects the oxidative metabolism, DNA repair, oncogene expression and growth factor production. It results in generalised problems linked to chronic inflammation and a loss of effective immune function, as can be seen in the studies cited in my book.

The "bad luck" controversy surrounding Tomasetti and Vogelstein's research provides new food for thought. They point out that, according to the British organisation Cancer Research UK, 42% of cancers can be avoided by changes in environment and lifestyle. In France, the national cancer institute reported a similar ratio of preventable cancers. The figures are both high and disappointingly low. Does this mean there is nothing to be done about the other 60% of cases?

Rather, Tomasetti and Vogelstein suggest ways to fight "bad luck". They advise, among other things, the use of antioxidants in cancer prevention. Given the deleterious processes set in motion by stress, protecting one's psychological well-being could also be an effective weapon against cancer.

*[the writer is Chargée de cours, docteure en psychologie, Université Paris Descartes – USPC]*

# In Philippines, climate change and conflict both conspire against rural women

**ALVIN CHANDRA**  
*theconversation*

Heavily exposed to increasing incidence of extreme weather events, the Philippines is among one of the countries most vulnerable to climate change in the world.

Climate-induced disasters in the Philippines frequently disrupt fruit and cash-crop production, resulting in income loss and higher food prices. Over the past four years, weather events have cost the Philippine economy an annual average of 0.3% of GDP.

Typhoon Haiyan alone caused crop loss of 1.1 million tonnes and destroyed 600,000 hectares of farmland in 2013, costing the Filipino agriculture industry and small farmers an estimated US\$724 million.

### MIGRATION AS A COPING STRATEGY FOR WOMEN

Losses in rural areas, especially where there's ongoing armed conflict, are not just financial. Across the world, climate and conflict are deeply intertwined and their negative effects mutually reinforcing.

In the Philippines, this relationship is evident in Mindanao, a farming community on the country's southernmost island. Despite peace efforts to end over 40 years of social and ethnic conflict there, hostilities remain.

According to research conducted by the

University of Queensland and Oxfam, the violence has particularly marginalised women, from female farmers to the widows of those killed in combat. In parallel, the area has also seen an increase in both typhoons and droughts over the past decade.

Conflict and extreme weather have triggered social and economic upheaval in Mindanao in recent years. Studies show that a 1°C increase in growing season night-time temperature in the Philippines can cause a loss of rice yield and biomass by 10%.

Facing limited land availability and persistent poverty, agricultural productivity in Mindanao undergoing long periods of low production and food insecurity is on the rise.

Because young women, wives and widows can find seasonal employment in urban areas more easily the men, many women find themselves compelled to leave the area in quest of jobs that can help stabilise family income and mitigate poverty.

The outcomes are not always positive. In times of conflict and disasters, women and children are particularly susceptible to trafficking, sexual abuse, prostitution and what locals in areas facing scarcity call isang gabi, isang salop, exchanging sexual favours for food.

In Mindanao and elsewhere in southern Philippines, the transit and trade of

underage girls and young Filipino children for the purpose of sexual exploitation, forced labour and use as human shields is on the rise, with an estimated 60,000 to 100,000 children linked to commercial sex exploitation.

### NON-ECONOMIC LOSS AND DAMAGE FROM CLIMATE CHANGE

Female migration is just one of many coping mechanisms that rural Filipinos employ to adapt to the effects of their changing climate.

When faced with prolonged droughts or typhoons, farmers in Mindanao also make difficult choices, such as skipping meals, selling livestock and taking out loans. Many families decide to restrict consumption of food by adults in favour of feeding small children and the elderly.

As the chair of the Climate Vulnerable Forum, the Philippines has pushed international partners to develop mechanisms that would address the kind of non-economic loss and damage that can result from climate change.

There is now growing acceptance that extreme weather does not just impact tangible economic products that are traded on the market but also affects other, less tangible goods.

Recurring crop failures, for instance, have forced farmers into long-term lease arrangements and agreements with the

private sector and traders, often at exorbitant interest rates. Other farmers have seen themselves compelled to give up their land, abandoning farming entirely and moving to the city.

In Mindanao, people told the University of Queensland and Oxfam researchers that they now associate annual extreme climatic events with the loss of belongings, death of family members, increased hardship, famine and hunger and loss of livelihood and income.

For women, these community-level concerns are compounded by the specific risks they face during seasonal migration to cities. Fear and psychological distress are a growing presence in their lives.

According to the research findings, all of these climate- and conflict-related changes have fundamentally shifted values, lifestyles and gender relations in Mindanao. Such social and cultural loss often goes unnoticed or unaddressed in climate change policies and disaster assessments.

### FOCUS ON GENDER

To help rural communities in the Philippines adapt to climate change and mitigate its negative effects, aid and development efforts should focus on improving the lot of women, particularly female combatants, widows and poor female smallholder farmers, many of whom face land-tenure problems.

That means stabilising the agricultural sector and fostering agricultural investments, which in conflict-prone parts of rural Philippines cannot be done without accompanying long-term peace and reconciliation processes.

Given the local sociocultural issues that must be navigated, the national government is likely better positioned than international aid agencies to spearhead programs that would link peace, security and reconciliation programs to agriculture and economic reforms.

It is the national government, too, that must integrate risk-transfer mechanisms, such as weather-index insurance policies, into the Philippines' existing public safety nets, subsidies and compensation schemes.

NGOs and international organisations do have a role in breaking the cycle of conflict, climate and gender inequality in Philippines. Access to micro-credit can play an important role in refinancing rural farming activities after disasters, and there's some evidence that such programs work particularly well to build community resilience when they're aimed at women.

*[Karen Elizabeth McNamara, Senior lecturer, The University of Queensland, also contributed to the article. Alving Chandra is Postdoctoral Research Fellow, The University of Queensland]*



## Assam lawon parlmntry secys unconstitutional: SC

**NEW DELHI, JUL 26 (PTI):** The Supreme Court today held as “unconstitutional” a 2004 legislation in Assam on parliamentary secretaries saying the then Congress-led government lacked the competence to enact it.

A bench headed by Justice J Chelameswar allowed the plea challenging validity of the Assam Parliamentary Secretaries (Appointment, Salaries, Allowances and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2004 on the ground that it violated the mandate under Article 164 (1A) which stipulates an upper limit of 15 per cent as the strength of the council of ministers.

On January 1, 2004, the Constitution 91st Amendment Bill, 2003 was passed by both the Houses of the Parliament and after the President's assent, it became an act with modifications made to articles 75 and 164 of the Constitution.

Article 164(1A) of the Act stipulated that the size of the council of ministers in the state should not exceed 15 per cent of the total strength of the assembly.

“We are of the opinion that the Legislature of Assam lacks the competence to make the impugned Act. In view of the above conclusion, we do not see it necessary to examine the various other issues identified by us earlier in this judgment.

“The writ petition is allowed. The impugned Act is declared unconstitutional,” the bench, also comprising justices R K Agrawal and A M Sapre, said.

The bench noted in its judgement that at

the time of the coming into force of 91st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003, the strength of the council of ministers in Assam was at 36 out of a total 126 members which amounted to 28.57 per cent of the strength of the Legislative Assembly.

It further noted that in view of the mandate contained in Article 164(1A), the strength of the council of ministers was to be brought down to 19 as per the 15 per cent ceiling.

The Assam Parliamentary Secretaries (Appointment, Salaries, Allowances and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance, 2004 was promulgated on November 3, 2004 and on December 29, 2004, the Act was passed and published in Assam's official gazette.

Thereafter, on May 30, 2005, eight parliamentary secretaries were appointed under the Act and they took oath of office, but were not assigned any ministry.

The petitioners had challenged the validity of the Act contending that the state was not competent to enact it and it was intended to “over-reach the mandate of the Constitution Amendment Act”.

However, Assam government had contended before the apex court that it has the legislative competence to enact the Act and functions of parliamentary secretary were different from the functions of a minister and therefore neither the principle of collective responsibility nor the mandate of the Constitution was violated.

## Hills parties take out rallies, criticise Centre

**DARJEELING (WB), JULY 26 (PTI):** GJM activists and those of other parties took out processions in various parts of the Darjeeling hills today on the 42nd day of indefinite shutdown, flaying the Centre for ignoring people's aspirations for a separate state.

Several hills parties including Gorkha Janamukti Morcha (GJM) and Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF) took out the processions but there

was no report of any violence or arson.

“The Centre should respect the aspirations of the people of the hills for a separate Gorkhaland. When they (Centre) are well aware of the ground realities, they should respect it,” GJM general secretary Roshan Giri said hitting out at the BJP-led government.

The comment comes a day after Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Hansraj Gan-

garam Ahir told Parliament in reply to a question that there was no proposal to form any committee to look into the demand for a separate state for the Gorkhas and others agitating in Darjeeling.

“The BJP is making fun of us with such statements. This is an indication that they are not giving importance to our demand. If they think that they can get away with making only false promises to us during elections

for the sake of votes, they are wrong. The people of the hills will give them a befitting reply,” a senior GNLF leader said.

The ban on internet services which was imposed on June 18 was extended by the district administration yesterday till August 4.

The police and security forces patrolled the streets of the hills and kept a tight vigil at all entry and exit routes.

West Bengal Director

General of Police Surajit Kar Purakyastha, who was camping in North Bengal for the last few days, told newsmen at Bagdogra on his way back to Kolkata that the situation in the hills is under control and the administration is committed to provide security to the peace-loving people of Darjeeling.

Nobody would be spared if they try to resort to violence in the hills, he added.

## Amit Shah to contest Rajya Sabha polls from Guj

**NEW DELHI, JUL 26 (PTI):** BJP president Amit Shah is set to make his debut as a member of Parliament with the BJP parliamentary board today announcing that he will contest the August 8 Rajya Sabha elections from Gujarat.

Union minister Smriti Irani will also contest the Rajya Sabha polls from Gujarat from where she is already an MP and her term ends on August 18.

Shah at present is an MLA from Gujarat, where BJP has a government.



Their names were announced by senior party leader J P Nadda after the meeting of the party panel. The terms of nine Rajya Sabha members from Gu-

jarat and West Bengal are ending on August 18. These include Irani, CPI-M general secretary Sitaram Yechury and Trinamool Congress leader Derek O'Brien.

Out of the 9 retiring members, four are from the Trinamool Congress, two from the Congress, two from the BJP and one from the CPI-M. The retirement of Ahmed Patel (Cong), Dilipbhai Pandya (BJP) and Irani (BJP) -- all from Gujarat -- is due on August 18.

The tenure of members from West Bengal -- O'Brien (TMC), Debabrata Bandhopadhyay (TMC), Pradip Bhattacharya (Cong), Yechury (CPM), Sukhenduhakhar Roy (TMC) and Dola Sen (TMC) ends on August 18.

## Army officers in forward bases will continue to get ration

**NEW DELHI, JUL 26 (PTI):** Armed forces' officials serving in forward bases will continue to get their free ration without any change while those posted in peace stations will be provided the benefit in cash, government sources said today.

The clarification came amid widespread anguish among Army officials serving in peace stations against a recommendation by the seventh pay commission to scrap free rations to them.

A senior army official recently had even sent a legal notice to the defence secretary over the scrapping of free rations to those posted in peace stations.

The sources said the cash would be credited directly into the bank accounts of the officers and the decision will benefit nearly 43,000 officers.

The seventh pay commission in its recommendations on pay and allowances of the armed forces had said that the provi-

sion of free rations and the grant of ration money allowance to officers of defence forces posted in peace areas should be withdrawn.

However, the government while considering this recommendation took a different view, given the important role of the armed forces, the sources said.

“While those in forward stations, will continue to get their free ration without any change, officers posted in peace sta-

tions will be provided this benefit in cash.

There is no change in ration allowance for (JCOs) junior commissioned officers and PBORs (Personnel Below officer rank) numbering more than 9 lakh.

As far as an ongoing case in this regard in the tribunal is concerned, the government will give the rationale behind the decision, in the judicial process as and when a notice is received, said the sources.

## Indian banks most at risk among South, S-E Asian peers: Poll

**NEW DELHI, JUL 26 (PTI):** Indian banks are most at risk in South and South-East (S-E) Asia, and being under-capitalised, they lack sufficient loan provisioning, says a Moody's poll.

It said the government has appeared reluctant to increase capital injection into PSU banks despite the limited ability of these lenders to access equity markets for the much-needed capital.

Earlier this month, Moody's polled 210 market participants on some of the industry's most pressing credit issues.

“Indian banks are most at risk

in South and South-East Asia. We agree that many banks in India remain undercapitalised and continue to lack sufficient loan-loss provisions. Moreover, the government has appeared reluctant to increase capital injections into the PSU banks, despite the limited ability of these to access equity markets for the much-needed capital,” the Moody's poll said.

Earlier this week, Moody's had revised the outlook on several Indian banks to stable or negative from positive, signaling a lowering in potential government support, and/or weaknesses in solvency metrics.

## Army pays homage to Kargil martyr in Shillong

**SHILLONG, JULY 26 (PTI):** The Indian Army paid homage today to Kargil martyr and local lad Capt Keishing Clifford Nongrum, who died fighting Pak intruders in 1999 in an operation to recapture an important point in Batalik sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

General Officer Commanding of 101 Area, Lieutenant General DS Ahuja and other senior army officials laid wreaths at the bust of Nongrum at Rhino Heritage Museum here during the ceremony on Kargil Vijay Diwas today.

Nongrum's parents, Keis-

hing Peter Nongrum and Saily Nongrum besides his other family members were also present on the occasion.

He is the first and the only person in Meghalaya to have been awarded the second highest gallantry award, the Maha Vir Chakra for bravery posthumously.

Born in March 1975, Nongrum did his schooling here.

Prior to being commissioned in the 12th Battalion Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry, he graduated from Officer Training Academy in 1996.

## Govt rejects Reporters Without Borders' free media index

**NEW DELHI, JUL 26 (PTI):** The government has rejected international advocacy group Reporters Without Borders' press freedom index, which gave India a poor ranking, citing threats to the media as one of the reasons for it, Rajya Sabha was informed today.

India ranked 136 out of 180 countries in RWB's World Press Freedom Index, released recently.

“The Press Council of India in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has taken note of the report of the RWB and found out that the sources of RWB in India are ambiguous,” Minister of state for Home Hansraj Ahir said.

The minister said, “The sampling is quite random in nature and does not portray a proper and comprehensive picture of freedom of the press in India”.

Ahir also said 73 people were arrested for 142 incidents of attacks on journalists in different parts of the country during 2014-15. He said 32 people were arrested in 114 cases of attacks on journalists registered in 2014.

In 2015, there were 28 incidents of attacks on members of the media, for which 41 people were arrested, he said, replying to a written question.

The highest number of such cases in 2014 was registered in Uttar Pradesh (63), followed by Bihar (22). In 2015, Madhya Pradesh, with 19 complaints, registered the highest number of such cases.

## Trump bars transgenders...

*contd from pg01*

not “allow or accept” transgender service members, reversing a major last year's decision of his predecessor Barack Obama.

“After consultation with my Generals and military experts, please be advised that the US Government will not accept or allow transgender individuals to serve in any capacity in the US Military,” Trump said in a series of tweets.

“Our military must be focused on decisive and overwhelming victory and cannot be burdened with the tremendous medical costs and disruption that transgender in the military would entail,” Trump wrote.

Last year, former US President Barack Obama had decided to allow transgenders to serve in the US military.

Announcing the decision on June 30, then Defence Secretary Ashton Carter had argued that the Defence Department and the military needed to avail themselves of all talent possible in order to remain the finest fighting force the world has ever known.

Last July, the Pentagon lifted a long-standing ban against transgender men and women serving openly in the military, removing one of its last discriminatory hurdles and placing gender identity on par discrimination

based on race, religion, colour, sex and sexual orientation.

The policy part of the Obama administration's “Force of the Future” initiative which aimed to make the straight-laced, male-dominated US military more inclusive.

In 2015, the administration opened all combat positions to women and in 2016 appointed the first openly gay Secretary of the Army, Eric K Fanning, local media reported.

The Obama plan allowed transgender service members currently on duty to immediately serve openly. Armed services had to come up with medical and training plans and until July 1, 2017, for full implementation. The Trump administration initially pushed that date back, and now has reversed the policy.

While there is no definitive data on the number of transgender service members, Carter had said that according to RAND, an US global policy think tank, there were about 2,500 people out of approximately 1.3 million active-duty service members, and about 1,500 out of 825,000 reserve service members who were transgenders.

The upper end of their range of estimates is around 7,000 in the active component and 4,000 in the reserves.

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## It's a beginning of good time for Women's Cricket:

### Mithali Raj

**MUMBAI, JUL 26 (PTI):** Overwhelmed by the warm reception on returning home after their memorable campaign at the ICC World Cup, Indian skipper Mithali Raj today said it is just a beginning of good time for women's cricket.

"It's overwhelming to see such kind of reception, it's first of kind for all of us, I faced kind of similar one in 2005, then we were not under BCCI," said Mithali, who guided India to the finals of the ICC Women's World Cup.

"I was wondering had we been under BCCI what kind of reaction we would get, girls would have enjoyed being received like that, it is just a beginning of good time for Women's Cricket," she added.

Raj and Co. received a rousing reception after their arrival here with fans turning out in big numbers at the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport.

The Indian team finished as runner-ups in the quadrennial event after losing narrowly by nine runs against hosts England in the final last Sunday and the skipper said her team deserves every bit of accolades.

"They always deserved it, now because of broadcasting and televising of the game it is more, coming under BCCI has made a difference. I always believed if more matches are televised we can attract more people," said Raj, who became the leading run-scorer in women's One-day Internationals during the event.

"The way the girls have played, Indian and other teams have put up good standard of cricket in World Cup and it has given impetus to women cricket globally, it has given us more positive feedback," she added.



## Kumar Sporting Club to take on Renzong FC in C Div S-League finals

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 26 JUL:**

Kumar Sporting Club will take on Renzong Football Club in the finals of the knock-out round of Sikkim Football

Association C Division Sikkim-League here at Paljor Stadium on 28 Jul.

In the second semi-final match played today, Kumar Sporting Club edged past Manik

Football Club by a solitary goal. In a neck-to-neck played match, Bishal scored the winning goal for Kumar Sporting Club in the 73rd minute.

Renzong FC is already in

the finals after defeating Sadarian Football Club in the first semi-final match played on 25 Jul.

The final match will be kicked off at 2 p.m. on 28 Jul.

## HIL's 2018 edition cancelled, future uncertain

### NEW DELHI, JUL 25

**(PTI):** The future of Hockey India League (HIL) looks jeopardised after only five seasons with the organisers postponing the next edition of the cash-rich tournament to 2019.

Hockey India claimed that the move to not hold the HIL next year was taken to review the five seasons of the league.

But sources aware of the development said the decision was taken after some cash-strapped franchises decided to withdraw from the event.

According to sources present during HI's Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Tuesday, atleast three franchises were unhappy with the organizers and expressed their inability to be a part of the league any further due to financial issues.

"We don't know what is in store for the future. But some franchises were



unhappy with the organizers, which has assured to bail them out. There are two franchises, which have serious financial issues and one more franchise has also threatened to discontinue participation if there isn't a relaxation," a HI official, who can't come on record told PTI on Tuesday.

"HI said that the league will return in 2019 but the future looks bleak," he added.

HI, however, claimed that tournament will return in 2019 with a fresh outlook.

A statement from the

organisers said that the tournament's Governing Committee, comprising representatives of HI and other stakeholders, have unanimously decided to schedule the next edition of HIL in 2019 instead of 2018 January and February.

"After five years of successfully organising the Hockey India League, we felt that it is time to review the league, evaluate its success and come back with a fresh outlook that will benefit the development of the sport," HIL chairman and secretary general of HI Mohd

Mushtaque Ahmad said. "This decision was made after consultation with all our commercial partners and meeting the contractual obligations of all parties involved," he added.

Ahmad clarified that it is a temporary discontinuation and the HIL will return in 2019.

"Due to a conflict in dates of the schedule of Hockey India League 2018 and a major international tournament, which was likely to restrict the participation of international players, it was decided that the best solution was to postpone the conduct of the sixth season of the league," Ahmad said.

"I want to emphasise that we want to resume the league in 2019 with greater prospects to make it more viable financially not only for the stakeholders but also for the players," he added.

Even one franchise

official too said that all the participating teams have received letter from HI, stating that 2018 edition cannot be held because of unavailability of foreign players as they will be busy throughout the year due to international assignments.

Meanwhile, national players have expressed disappointment over the decision and hoped HIL will return stronger in 2019.

"It is a big blow to Indian hockey. The HIL not only gave financial stability to the players but also gave young domestic players a chance to rub shoulders with the best players of world hockey," Uttar Pradesh Wizards captain and veteran drag-flicker VR Raghunath said.

"But we have full faith in Hockey India and we are sure they will come out with a new strategy and plan for the league in 2019," he added.

## Mumbai City FC retains Lucian Goian for ISL 4



**MUMBAI, JUL 26 (PTI):** Mumbai City FC has retained central defender Lucian Goian to strengthen the team's defence for the next two seasons of the Indian Super League, including the fourth season.

Goian was considered as one of the top three defenders due to his wealth of experience and strong performance in the last season.

He will join Amrinder Singh and Sehnaj Singh, who were also retained by Mumbai City FC for the upcoming season.

In addition, the team has picked some of India's finest domestic football talent, at the recently concluded Player Draft, making up for yet another formidable season, a media release issued here said today.

The 34-year-old represented the Romania U21 national team and

has spent the majority of his career playing in the top division of the Romanian League. He emerged a two-time Romanian Cup winner.

He has represented top clubs such as Dinamo Bucuresti in the UEFA Champions League.

Goian has played under coach Alexandre Guimaraes in the Chinese Super League side Tianjin Teda. He joined the A-League side Perth Glory FC after the conclusion of ISL 2016.

Mumbai City FC's head coach Alexandre Guimaraes said, "I didn't have to think twice about asking Goian to return. He was a leader on and off the field, and was an integral part of our campaign last season."

Goian said, "It's great to be back in Mumbai. I have a great working relationship with coach Alex, and my experience in the ISL was top notch."

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

## Nitish drops resignation bombshell

### contd from pg01

ister Rabri devi and son Tejashwi in a land-for-hotels case.

The offence was allegedly committed when Lalu was the railway minister in the UPA government. He was allegedly instrumental in handing over the maintenance of two hotels of Indian Railways-owned PSU ICRTC to two Patna businessmen in return for a prime plot of land in the Bihar capital where his family is now constructing a shopping mall.

Reacting to the development, Lalu gave a new twist to it, saying a pending case against Kumar and not the

differences over corruption charges against Tejashwi was at the root the the JD(U) leader's "resignation drama".

In the 1991 Lok Sabha polls, a woman was killed at a polling station in Pandarak and Nitish Kumar is among the accused. He had made a mention of the case in the affidavit he filed while contesting the Legislative Council election, Lalu told a press conference.

He claimed a court in Barh had taken cognizance of the charges against Kumar in 2009 and that the case was still alive in the Patna High Court.

"Nitish knew that he was

soon going to be hauled up by the court and will have to quit in any case. He made the Tejashwi issue a ruse to exit before that happens," the RJD boss claimed.

He slammed Kumar for seeking explanation from Tejashwi over graft charges against him, saying "We will give the documents to CBI. Who are they to ask for it? Has Tejashwi engaged in any act of corruption as a minister in Bihar?"

"There is the involvement of Narendra Modi in all this.

Nitish has slapped the people of Bihar and now people like Sushil Modi (a top

state BJP leader and former deputy chief minister) are eager to form government with JD(U)," he said.

Replying to a question, Lalu said he had not sacrificed the grand alliance government for "love of his son".

"We were the largest party in the grand alliance.

Tejashwi got the post of the deputy chief minister. We had the mandate of the people," he said.

On his part Nitish Kumar said, "I ran the coalition government for 20 months, which is one-third the term of the grand alliance, despite

facing great difficulties...but it was not possible for me to run the coalition any longer in such an environment."

Kumar said he had informed Lalu and Congress in-charge of Bihar C P Joshi before heading to the Raj Bhavan to tender his resignation.

"While supporting demonetisation, I had suggested that it could yield good results only if there is a simultaneous attack on benami property (a property which is not registered in the name of its real owner). How can I back out of it," he said.

Several members of La-

lu's family, including his MP daughter Misa Bharti and son-in-law Shailesh Kumar have been accused of acquiring benami properties with tainted money.

Kumar said he had met Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi seeking his intervention to resolve the issue.

"I met Rahul Gandhi who had torn an ordinance that sought to enable people sentenced to more than two years in jail to contest elections (a move that was seen as an attempt to help Lalu). But except for some superficial talk nothing happened," he said.

## Sister Nivedita's UK home to be honoured with special plaque

### ADITI KHANNA

**LONDON, JUL 26 (PTI):** Sister Nivedita's family home in London, where she lived before moving to India in 1898 to set up a girls' school and help the poor, is to be commemorated with a special plaque on her 150th birth anniversary.

"Sister Nivedita, the educationalist and campaigner for Indian Independence," is the inscription confirmed by English Heritage for the blue plaque to be unveiled on October 28.

The London Blue Plaque Scheme, run by English Heritage, celebrates the link between important historical figures and the buildings in which they lived or worked. Founded in 1866, it is believed to be the oldest scheme of its kind.

The Scottish-Irish social worker and disciple of Swami Vivekananda

began her professional life as a school teacher in southwest London and set up the Ruskin School in the area.

The school was to later become the inspiration for her girls' school in Kolkata, then Calcutta, she set up in 1898 after accompanying Swami Vivekananda to India that year.

Born Margaret Elizabeth Noble, the name Nivedita or 'the dedicated one', was given to her by Swami Vivekananda.

In India, she served the poor in Bengal during the times of flood, plague and famine and was a very vocal campaigner against the partition of Bengal proposed by the British in 1905.

"We are happy that English Heritage is recognising her contribution in the areas of education and as a campaigner of Indian In-

dependence on her 150th birth anniversary for the first time on English soil," said Sarada Sarkar, a London-based teacher who led the campaign for installing the plaque.

Later, Sister Nivedita briefly travelled back to London with Swami Vivekananda, arriving at the 21 High Street in Wimbledon on July 31, 1899. He stayed there for a couple of days while Sister Nivedita's family found him an accommodation nearby.

The house remained Sister Nivedita's family home until January 1902, though she had permanently moved to India.

The Ramakrishna Mission and Sister Nivedita's followers have invited West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to deliver the keynote address at the unveiling of the plaque.





## Sikh man asked to take off kirpan in Aus bus

**MELBOURNE, JUL 26 (PTI):** A Sikh man in Australia was asked to take off his kirpan and "get out" of a bus when a passenger called police in panic after seeing the ceremonial knife, a media report said today. Police boarded a busy commuter bus in Auckland yesterday after a passenger was seen carrying a ceremonial knife, traditionally worn by Sikhs.

"We looked out the window and we could see and the police car behind us with sirens blaring and armed men all around us. One policeman stormed into the bus with a gun in his hand and said to the guy, 'Get your hands up so we can see them and get out of the bus,'" New Zealand Herald quoted a witness as saying.

The passenger, thought to be in his 20s, was wearing a turban and had a long, curved "sword-like" kirpan strapped behind his back on the left side, which the police removed, said the witness.

A police spokeswoman said officers were called after a member of the public reported seeing a kirpan. She said the armed offenders squad was not sent and the officers were not armed.

"Police spoke with the man, who is a Sikh."

"He was in possession of a ceremonial kirpan, which is customary for Sikhs. The man, who is lawfully living in New Zealand, was polite and cooperative and no further action was taken," the report said. The spokeswoman said the ceremonial kirpan was not confiscated.

# Withdrawal of Indian troops precondition for dialogue: China

BY K J M VARMA

**BEIJING, JUL 26 (PTI):** China today reiterated that no meaningful dialogue can be held with India until it "unconditionally" withdraws troops from the disputed Doklam area and said Foreign Minister Wang Yi has authoritatively made Beijing's position clear on the issue.

Wang, who is the first top Chinese leader to have commented so far on the Doklam impasse, yesterday claimed that India "admitted" to entering Chinese territory. He said that India should "conscientiously withdraw" its troops from the area.

"The remarks of Foreign Minister Wang Yi are authoritative and has made our position clear. I don't have anything to explain," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang told a media briefing.

Lu, however, declined to react to reports that both sides



have deployed over 3,000 troops each at Doklam, saying that the question should be referred to the Chinese Defence Ministry. He once again said China will not hold any meaningful dialogue without Indian troops' withdrawal.

"I have stressed many times that the crux of this incident is

that the Indian border troops illegally trespassed into China's territory and the solution as Wang put it is for Indian border troops to pull-out unconditionally. This is a precondition basis for any meaningful talks between the two countries," Lu said.

The Doklam issue is expect-

ed to be discussed during the visit of Indian National Security Adviser Ajit Doval to Beijing for a meeting of the NSAs of BRICS countries - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - on July 27-28.

Chinese and Indian soldiers have been locked in a face-off in Doklam area in the southernmost part of Tibet in an area also claimed by Indian ally Bhutan for over a month after Indian troops stopped the Chinese army from building a road in the disputed area.

China claimed it was constructing the road within its territory, and has been demanding immediate pull-out of the Indian troops.

But External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj told Parliament last Thursday that both sides should first pull back their troops for any talks to take place, favoring a peaceful resolution of the border standoff.



## PM Modi unlikely to attend UNGA session in September

YOSHITA SINGH

**UNITED NATIONS, JUL 26 (PTI):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi is unlikely to attend the annual UN General Assembly session here in September and External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj will address the high-level session, according to the provisional agenda released by the UN.

According to the first provisional list of speakers for the General Debate of the 72nd session of the General Assembly, Swaraj will address the high-level session on the morning of September 23. She had addressed the General Debate last year as well. The General Debate will open on September 19 and run through September 25. All eyes will be on US President Donald Trump, who will deliver his first address to global leaders from the General Assembly hall's iconic green podium on September 19. The US is traditionally the second speaker on the opening day of the General Debate, after Brazil.

According to the list

of speakers, Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is scheduled to address global leaders on September 21. Modi had visited Washington late last month for his first bilateral meeting with Trump. Modi had given his maiden address to the UN General Assembly as Prime Minister in 2014.

In 2015, he had attended the high-level UN Sustainable Development Summit ahead of the General Debate, when the world leaders had adopted the ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, an intergovernmental set of aspiration Goals with 169 targets. He had also attended the UN Peacekeeping Summit hosted by President Barack Obama when he had announced that India will contribute an additional battalion of 850 troops for UN peacekeeping operation. The summit was the only forum when Modi and Sharif had come face to face during their visit for the UN General Assembly.



At least 10,000 people have been forced to flee campsites and homes after a new fire broke out along the French Riviera. Wildfires have already consumed swathes of forest in tourist-packed southeastern France in recent days, as well as on the island of Corsica. The new blaze, in the middle of the holiday season, is raging near Bormes-les-Mimosas, southwest of the popular resort Saint-Tropez on the Mediterranean coast. The fire broke out just before 11pm on Tuesday and burned 800 hectares of forest by Wednesday morning, with 540 firefighters sent to tackle the blaze. Around 3,000 campers were among those evacuated from La Londe, La Lavandou and Borme-les-Mimosas.

## HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

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## Russia says US sanctions vote hits chance of better ties

**MOSCOW, JUL 26 (PTI):** An overwhelming vote by the US House of Representatives to slap tough new sanctions on Moscow is a "serious step" towards wrecking chances of improving ties, Russia's deputy foreign minister said today.

"What has happened goes beyond the realms of common sense," Sergei Ryabkov told state-run TASS news agency.

"The authors and sponsors of this bill are taking a very serious step towards destroying the possibilities for normalising relations with Russia."

The sanctions package -- which also contains measures aimed at Iran and North Korea -- passed 419 to three on Tuesday after weeks of negotiations. It now heads to the Senate before President Donald Trump will face the tricky choice of whether to veto the legislation, which has been opposed by the White House and considerably constrains his ability to lift the penalties.

If Trump does sign off on the bill then Russia looks likely to retaliate,

with Ryabkov insisting Moscow has warned Washington "dozens of times" that any new sanctions would "not go unanswered." But for now Moscow appears to be keeping its powder dry as it waits to see how Trump reacts.

"We are not giving in to emotions," Ryabkov said.

"We will work to look for ways to move ahead, persistently and consistently searching for ways to compromise of issues important to Russia and the US."

Ties between Russia and the US plummeted to their lowest point since the Cold War after the Kremlin's seizure of Crimea from Ukraine in 2014 saw Washington impose sanctions on Moscow. Trump repeatedly pledged during his campaign to try to boost relations with Russia, but allegations that the Kremlin meddled in the vote to get him to the White House have made any signs of going soft on Moscow politically toxic.

## 26 Afghan soldiers killed in Taliban attack on Kandahar base

**KANDAHAR, JUL 26 (PTI):** At least 26 Afghan soldiers have been killed and 13 wounded in a Taliban attack on a military base in Kandahar province, the defence ministry said today, the latest blow to struggling security forces.

The militants "attacked an army camp in Karzali area of Khakrez district of Kandahar last night," MoD spokesman General Dawlat Waziri said. Afghan soldiers "bravely resisted", he said, killing more than 80 insurgents.

Residents in the area



described an hours-long attack launched by a 30-strong convoy carrying "hundreds" of Taliban who assaulted the base from multiple directions. Air support was called in, several residents told

AFP, though that was not immediately confirmed by officials. The insurgents claimed the attack via their Twitter account.

The resurgent Taliban have been ramping up their campaign

against beleaguered government forces, underscoring rising insecurity in the war-torn country throughout the warmer weather fighting season. Afghan security forces, beset by killings, desertions and non-existent "ghost soldiers" on the payroll, have been struggling to beat back insurgents since US-led NATO troops ended their combat mission in December 2014.

According to US watchdog SIGAR, casualties among Afghan security forces soared by 35 percent in 2016, with

6,800 soldiers and police killed. The insurgents have carried out more complex attacks against security forces in 2017.

In April more than 140 soldiers are believed to have been killed on a base outside the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif, one of the deadliest ever Taliban attacks on a military installation. While in early March gunmen disguised as doctors stormed the Sardar Daud Khan hospital -- the country's largest military hospital -- in Kabul, killing dozens. (AFP)

## Doval to meet Chinese President Xi along with BRICS NSAs

**BEIJING, JUL 26 (PTI):** Amid the Sikkim standoff, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval will call on Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday along with fellow top security officials of the BRICS countries.

Officials here confirmed that Doval who will be taking part in the Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa (BRICS) NSAs meeting in Beijing will be meeting President Xi.

The group of NSAs would call on the Chinese President for an interaction on security issues relating to BRICS countries.

China currently holds the Presidency of the BRICS and is due to hold 2017

summit of the five-member group in September at Xiamen city.

Ahead of his meeting with Xi, Doval is expected to hold separate talks with China's State Councillor Yang Jiechi to discuss resolution of the standoff at Doklam in Sikkim sector.

Both Doval and Yang are Special Representatives of the India-China border mechanism.

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**O/o GMDT, GANGTOK, SIKKIM**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

**E-TENDER NO.**  
1. GTK/PLG/CABLE/2017-2018/02 DATED 26.07.2017  
2. GTK/PLG/ARC-CDOT/2017-2018/02 DATED 26.07.2017

Sealed tender are invited on behalf of the GMDT, Gangtok for 1. Rehabilitation of Outdoor under Gangtok SSA, 2. Repair contract (ARC) for Repair of Faulty PCB's of CDOT. Details are available in the website [www.tenderbids.com](http://www.tenderbids.com)

ACM (HR/ADNIN)  
O/o GMDT, BSNL, Gangtok

**NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES**

**DEAR SINCERE EVENING**

**Draw Time : 8:00 pm onward**

Draw No:118 DrawDate on:26/07/17

1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 811 06331  
(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 06331 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9500/-

01776 02098 09250 14205 45497

70321 80528 84337 88991 93638

3rd Prize Rs.9000/-

01455 10692 11721 14034 25758

42330 45823 48992 65674 99965

4th Prize Rs.1000/-

1463 1911 2234 4410 4584 5049 8057 8170 9015 9019

5th Prize Rs.600/-

0516 1894 3449 3536 5172 5599 5912 6961 8064 9458

6th Prize Rs.250/-

0213 0234 0356 0387 0506 0778 0981 1269 1343 1450

1560 1563 1583 1616 1688 1932 1938 2044 2050 2056

2073 2152 2315 2339 2386 2492 2493 2779 2868 2957

2990 2995 3078 3094 3300 3314 3455 3468 3566 3687

3768 3797 3806 3930 4086 4196 4241 4247 4408 4464

4634 4689 4753 4847 4945 5096 5237 5284 5349 5661

5743 5841 5919 5951 5960 6083 6176 6362 6506 6535

6810 6819 7126 7145 7148 7472 7489 7667 7699 7793

7831 8004 8187 8334 8522 8554 8573 8601 8616 8617

8645 8768 8800 9034 9039 9442 9622 9723 9908 9966

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The Director, Nagaland State Lotteries, Kohima, Nagaland

For Result, Please Visit : [www.nagalandlotteries.com](http://www.nagalandlotteries.com)

KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE

**SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES**

**DEAR FORTUNE**

**Draw No:54 DrawDate on:26/07/17**

1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 93L 87490  
(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 87490 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9500/-

08401 18116 20897 53337 62789

72041 73324 77828 82095 85134

3rd Prize Rs.9000/-

33653 37426 41616 49397 59661

67270 80724 86300 93276 99801

4th Prize Rs.1000/-

3124 4962 5066 6427 6538 7237 7743 7867 9011 9547

5th Prize Rs.600/-

1641 4771 5728 6984 7321 7906 7975 8000 8728 8869

6th Prize Rs.250/-

0012 0113 0278 0379 0456 0555 0713 0726 0747 0975

0982 0988 0997 1129 1304 1307 1327 1377 1406 1487

1702 1790 1829 2003 2033 2280 2399 2426 2655 2687

2840 2885 2887 2925 2980 3049 3309 3530 3571 3575

3631 3670 3750 3818 4039 4227 4354 4420 4602 4739

4867 5278 5329 5349 5448 5601 5655 6013 6021 6062

6179 6724 6740 6933 7155 7178 7188 7299 7304 7340

7386 7388 7404 7512 7709 8093 8155 8215 8235 8263

8301 8587 8695 8699 8793 8916 8929 8931 8941 9041

9086 9167 9265 9358 9487 9626 9640 9920 9921 9963

Issued by:

The Director, Sikkim State Lotteries, Gangtok

please visit: [www.sikkimlotteries.com](http://www.sikkimlotteries.com)

**MIZORAM STATE LOTTERIES**

**DEAR FALCON MORNING**

**Draw No:50 DrawDate on:26/07/17**

1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 93H 67856  
(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 67856 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9500/-

03063 05768 15000 25944 57087

62127 64384 76939 79338 99717

3rd Prize Rs.9000/-

00212 11273 19269 37389 56883

60139 67130 79002 93535 95570

4th Prize Rs.1000/-

1455 1767 1951 2423 2935 4698 6114 6686 6743 8431

5th Prize Rs.600/-

0451 0602 1646 1995 3573 5090 5870 7692 8874 9814

6th Prize Rs.250/-

0024 0141 0279 0439 0577 0593 0629 0636 0738 0897

1303 1467 1789 1918 2041 2063 2106 2107 2263 2397

2406 2489 2616 2647 2747 2830 2896 3067 3077 3468

3672 3839 3888 3919 3959 3990 4005 4037 4050 4209

4361 4662 4727 4747 4770 4806 4852 4976 5167 5432

5449 5703 5765 5931 5937 5946 5984 6014 6170 6185

6302 6418 6425 6543 6617 6741 6853 7167 7206 7213

7356 7502 7556 7671 7735 8010 8269 8282 8393 8515

8602 8697 8800 8914 8924 8954 8975 9066 9072 9101

9114 9147 9178 9185 9361 9596 9858 9889 9942 9993

Issued by:

The Director, Mizoram State Lotteries,

For results please visit: [www.mizoramlotteries.com](http://www.mizoramlotteries.com)





**REBEL COSTARS:** Liam Hemsworth and Rebel Wilson were spotted on the set of *Isn't It Romantic* in NYC. The movie also stars Priyanka Chopra and Adam DeVine

## Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham... Kajol not sure of working with KJo

**MUMBAI, JUL 26 (PTI):** They were one of the most popular Bollywood buddies once upon a time and have given hits such as "Kuch Kuch Hota Hai" and "My Name Is Khan", but Kajol now refrains from even talking about filmmaker Karan Johar. The actress also hints that chances of her teaming up with the film-maker again are remote.

In his autobiography, Karan had said his nearly 25-year-long friendship with Kajol ended prior to the release of his and her actor-filmmaker husband Ajay Devgn's films -- "Ae Dil Hai Mushkil" and "Shivaay". The two films clashed at the box office during Diwali last year. Ajay had said "nasty" things to him before the release of films and so he vowed

"no matter what, she's out of my life", Karan wrote.

In an interview, Kajol says she works with only those people with whom she has a certain kind of comfort level.

"If you're not comfortable with the people you're working with, if you cannot speak up, or speak to the people you're working with...I think communication is a key element in working with people. You can't work alongside them if you don't talk," she says.

When asked if she is open to work with Karan, Kajol says, "Let me put it this way, I am not answering any questions on that particular point. If any of my other friends want to offer me a film I'll definitely do it."

## ARJUN KAPOOR AND PARINEETI CHOPRA TO STAR IN NAMASTEY CANADA

It was recently announced that Ishaqzaade pair Arjun Kapoor and Parineeti Chopra will be starring in Dibakar Banerjee's *Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar*. Now we learn that Arjun and Parineeti have also been signed Vipul Shah's *Namasteey Canada*.

Arjun thus confirmed the news: "I'm excited to be a part of this project. After working with giants like Amitabh Bachchan and Akshay Kumar, he has chosen me. *Namasteey Canada* has heart and humour, making it a family entertainer."

Parineeti too commented, "This is exactly the film I was



looking for! It's a desi story with a videshi heart. I'm ex-

cited to be directed by Vipul sir with who I have shared an

amazing friendship over the last few years."

Vipul Shah cleared the air that *Namasteey Canada* wasn't a sequel to *Namasteey London*. "I want to set the record straight. *Namasteey Canada* is not a sequel to *Namasteey London*. I thank Akshay for standing by me and being graceful about sharing the title with me." He added that he was happy with Arjun's and Parineeti's pairing. "I'm also happy that Arjun and Parineeti agreed to join me on this journey. I hope this film becomes one of their best outings together."

## KENDRICK LAMAR, KATY PERRY & THE WEEKND LEAD MTV VIDEO MUSIC AWARDS NOMINATIONS



Kendrick Lamar should Kbe bringing home a few more moonmen next month.

The Compton rapper leads this year's MTV Video Music Award nominations with eight nods for his "HUM-BLE" video, the network announced on Tuesday (July 25), including video of the year, artist of the year and best hip-hop video of the year.

Meanwhile, Katy Perry and The Weeknd follow the Compton rapper with five nominations each for the Aug. 27 event. This year's award show has done away with gendered categories, such as best female video and best

male video, and combined them for the all-encompassing artist of the year award. As well, the best fight against the system category has been added to celebrate videos that shine a light on social injustices, including Logic, Big Sean, Alessia Cara, John Legend and others among its nominees.

Fans can vote now for eight VMA categories, including video of the year, artist of the year, best collaboration and more by visiting [www.vma.mtv.com](http://www.vma.mtv.com). Nominees for the socially voted best song of summer category will be announced at a later date.



27<sup>TH</sup> JULY

**WORLD HISTORY**

**1663:** British Parliament passed a second Navigation Act, requiring all goods bound for the colonies to be sent in British ships from British ports.

**1694:** The Bank of England received a royal charter as a commercial institution. The mission of the bank was to provide war finance. Financiers agreed to lend the crown £1.2 million in return for a partial monopoly on the issue of currency.

**1794:** French revolutionary leader Maximilien Robespierre was overthrown and placed under arrest; he was executed the following day.

**1890:** Artist Vincent van Gogh shot himself in Auvers-sur-Oise, France. He survived the impact, but not realizing that his injuries were to be fatal, he walked back to the Ravoux Inn. He died 2 days later.

**1914:** British troops invaded the streets of Dublin, Ireland, and began to disarm Irish rebels.

**1941:** During the course of Sec-

**THIS DAY IN HISTORY**

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

ond World War, the Japanese forces landed in Indo-China.

**1965:** The US President Johnson signed a bill requiring cigarette makers to print health warnings on all cigarette packages about the effects of smoking.

**INDIAN HISTORY**

**1880:** During the second Anglo-Afghan War the famous Battle of Maiwand was fought between a joint force of British and Indian troops and the Afghans at West of Kandahar in Southern Afghanistan.

**1940:** Bharati Mukherjee, Indian novelist (*The Middleman* and *Other Stories*), was born.

**2002:** Krishan Kant, the former vice-president of the Republic of India died.

**2005:** Swami Shantananda, Indian Saint and Philosopher died. The day is observed as Mahasamadi Day.

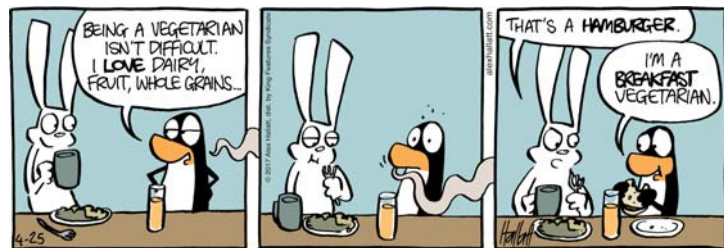
**LOCKHORNS**

- HOEST & REINER



**ARCTIC CIRCLE**

- HALLATT



**BABY BLUES**

- KIRKMAN & SCOTT



## JAMES BOND SET TO RETURN - BUT WHO WILL PLAY HIM?

James Bond is set to return to the big screen for the 25th time in November 2019, and reports suggest Daniel Craig may reprise the role. According to the New York Times, sources "briefed on the matter" have confirmed the actor's return as 007, while producers say it is too early to confirm cast and director.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer announced on Monday the next instalment will arrive in cinemas in 2019, scripted by long-standing Bond writers Neal Purvis and Robert Wade. Purvis and Wade started in 1999's *The World Is Not Enough* and penned the last six Bond films. In a statement, the company also confirmed Michael G Wilson and Barbara Broccoli will return as producers. They have



been associated with the franchise since the 1970s.

**NEWSWORTHY!!!**

"James Bond will return to US cinemas on November 8, 2019 with a traditional earlier release in the UK and the rest of the world," the film's official Twitter account posted on Monday. The announcement comes amid

rumours that Craig would not be playing Bond again, after he famously told Time Out magazine he would "rather slash my wrists" than do it again.

He later excused his comments, saying he has "the best job in the world", and "will keep doing it as long as I still get a kick out of it".

Meanwhile actors like Idris Elba, Tom Hardy and Tom Hiddleston have all said they would be honoured to succeed Craig as the film world's most famous spy. If Daniel Craig does return as Bond, it will be the fifth time he has played the role. His last 007 film, *Spectre*, was released in 2015 and took more than £95m at the UK box-office - making it the third most successful film of all time in Britain.

2012's *Skyfall*, which took £103m, is Britain's second biggest grossing film ever.

**ARIES:** You might be sidestepping in order to avoid a commitment today, Aries. Don't keep giving someone the runaround. Be strong and let people know your thoughts even if you think their feelings will be hurt. Your job is to protect your emotions. Other people can handle their own. Be aggressive if you have to. Your sanity depends on being true to yourself. **TAURUS:** You're at a dramatic climax in your monthly emotional cycle today, Taurus. It's quite possible that you will erupt like a volcano. Don't be ashamed about releasing these emotions. Your feminine and masculine natures are connected, and they're work-

ing harmoniously to express themselves to the fullest. Open up the gates of communication and let the stampede charge through.

**GEMINI:** Your philanthropic side may want to come out and do good works today, Gemini. Your default mode is to care for others. This is fine, but make sure it doesn't deplete your vital life force. The key is to offer advice and then walk away from the situation. You aren't responsible for other people's actions. Offer information, but leave the final decision up to the person you're trying to help.

**CANCER:** Today is a terrific day, Cancer, and you can get a lot accomplished using your quick mind

and sharp wit. Information is flying quickly. Grab what resonates with you and discard the rest. The more informed you are, the better equipped you will be to handle the decisions of the day. Get all the facts before you proceed.

**LEO:** Why me? You may feel like you ask yourself this question more than anyone else, Leo. Your life may seem like an intense roller-coaster ride that never stops. But deep down you realize that you would have it no other way. Take a break from it all today if you can. Communicate your thoughts and feelings. By talking, you will feel much better about the situation.

**VIRGO:** Your brain may buzz like a beehive today, Virgo. That's good. There is a great deal of information to process now. Have you been thinking about buying some new electronic equipment or small appliances for your home? Now is a great time to do some research on this project before you hand over your credit card. Use today to gather facts.

**LIBRA:** Don't automatically assume that you can work out all your problems alone, Libra. Just talking things out with others may help shed light on a situation that baffled you earlier. Enlist the help of others in areas where you need it. Don't be ashamed to ask for

assistance. We all have problems and issues to deal with. You aren't alone.

**SCORPIO:** If people start to hassle you today or give you a hard time about your appearance, pay them no mind, Scorpio. You have the right to live your life any way you want. If that means you want to go around the house in a grubby shirt and sweatpants that haven't been washed in months, so be it. Be the person you want to be.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Reach for the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, Sagittarius. It's closer than you think. Indeed, your dreams are completely within your reach. There are forces at work today

helping you to achieve your goals. You should be in a positive mood all day, and people will be very responsive to you. Let your fantasies lead the way.

**CAPRICORN:** Today is your day to dream big, Capricorn. Think about what you want most out of life. Aim at the stars. There's no limit to how far you can go. Your only limitation is your imagination. Don't worry if your plan doesn't seem to make rational sense. Worry more about what you want and less about how you're going to get it.

**AQUARIUS:** Expand your mind to its furthest reaches today, Aquarius. There's an incredible opportu-

nity opening up in which you can make great strides in a creative realm. Follow the music today. Pick up an instrument, go to the record store, or listen to a live band. Let the artist within you have room to shine. Shoot for a goal and don't stop until you reach it.

**PISCES:** Your mind may seem rather cloudy today, Pisces, but don't let this hinder you. In fact, you can use this dreamy feeling to your advantage. Try to bring more magic into your life. The more you accept your bizarre feelings and ideas, the more things will fall into place. Don't think that everything in life has to be completely rational.