



**SANKALP SE  
SIDDHI OUTREACH  
PROGRAMME HELD AT  
JNV RAVANGLA**  
pg03

**SDF STUDENTS' FRONT CONDUCTS  
AWARENESS PROGRAMME ON  
SCHOLARSHIP SCHEMES**  
pg02

**AMPLIFYING THE VOICES OF  
INDIGENOUS PEOPLE THROUGH THE  
LENS OF WOMEN – BIODIVERSITY,  
LIVELIHOODS & CLIMATE CHANGE**  
pg04

on pg08  
**COMICS,  
ACTIVITIES,  
HOROSCOPE,  
TIMEPASS**



# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Pages 8 | ₹ 5



## DK Bhandari to lead SSP as interim president

**SAGAR CHETTRI  
GANGTOK, 25 AUG:**

Dil Kumari Bhandari has been made the interim president of Sikkim Sangram Parishad. She is the wife of former Chief Minister and party president, the late Nar Bahadur Bhandari. It is informed that she has already given her consent on the decision of the party.

This was announced by SSP working president, Rajendra Upreti, during a press conference here today. He informed that Ms Bhandari will assume office as the interim president of the party with immediate effect.

According to Mr Upreti, a committee had been

turn to pg02



## Gurmeet Ram Rahim held guilty of rape, violence sweeps Haryana

**PANCHKULA (HARYANA), AUG 25 (PTI):** Maverick self-styled godman Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh was today convicted of rape by a court here, triggering widespread violence and arson in Haryana where 30 people were killed and over 250 injured after which curfew was imposed here and several other places.

Arson by the frenzied followers of the head of Dera Sacha Sauda was also witnessed in Delhi, Punjab and Rajasthan within a few hours of the pronouncement of the judgement by the CBI court here in the 2002 case.

CBI judge Jagdeep Singh held Ram Rahim, the 50-year-old flam-

turn to pg03

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 25 AUG:**

The High Court of Sikkim today quashed the Sikkim Parliamentary Secretaries [Appointment, Salaries, Allowances and Miscellaneous Provisions] Act 2010 declaring it unconstitutional. The High Court cited the Supreme Court judgment on the Bimolangshu Roy (Dead) through LRs vs. State of Assam passed on 26 July

earlier this year wherein the apex court had said that the State Legislature lacks the competence to appoint Parliamentary Secretaries.

The 2010 Act allowed appointment of 11 Parliamentary Secretaries enjoying the ranks and facilities of Cabinet Minister of the State. Two different groups had filed writ petitions in the High Court of Sikkim challenging the appointment of

the Parliamentary Secretaries. Following the final hearing on Wednesday, the HC had reserved its judgment.

Today the division bench of the High Court headed by Chief Justice Satish Kumar Agnihotri and Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai observed, "In such view of the matter, without examining further in detail, which is not contended by either parties, we are of the

considered view that the issue of the constitutionality of the impugned Act is squarely covered by the judicial pronouncement made by the Supreme Court in Bimolangshu Roy (Dead)1."

The bench said that the Parliamentary Secretaries, partaking character of Ministers is "manifestly impermissible" in the light of mandate enshrined under Article 164(1A) of

the Constitution and is unconstitutional.

The appointment of Parliamentary Secretaries under the impugned Act is a pretence to circumvent the provisions of constitutional provision, as incorporated in the Constitution of India by Ninety first amendment, the Court added.

The Court further stated that the Parliamentary Secretaries appointed under the Act

shall cease to function as Parliamentary Secretaries and shall also cease to draw and avail salaries, allowances, perks, etc. as admissible under the Act forthwith.

While dealing with the issue of disqualification, the bench said, "A feeble attempt is made by the learned counsel appearing for the petitioners to submit that on account of quashing of aforesaid impugned

Act, the respondents, who are Members of the Legislative Assembly, be declared as disqualified to continue as members. Article 192 of the Constitution mandates that the question as to the disqualification of a Member shall be referred to the decision of the Governor and the decision shall be final. In such view of the matter, we are not inclined to pass any order on the issue."

## High Court declares Sikkim Parliamentary Secretaries Act 2010 unconstitutional

## Low-intensity blast at Teesta Bazaar, no casualties

**DARJEELING, 25 AUG:** A low-intensity blast took place in Teesta Bazar area of Darjeeling this morning as the indefinite shutdown in Darjeeling Hills entered the 72nd day. Though there were no reports of any casualty or injury to any person.

The British era Peshok bridge just out of Teesta Bazaar towards Darjeeling was partially damaged in the blast, police officials here inform.

The police is investigating the matter.

The blast comes just a day after twin blasts shook Darjeeling hills. In yesterday's blast also, there was no report of any casualty or injury. Today's blast is the third such incident since the indefinite shutdown to press for a separate Gorkhaland state, began over two months ago.

The blast was triggered at around 1 AM and was heard throughout the bazaar. The people, however, were too scared to venture out at night to investigate what had happened and came out once a police team arrived at the spot in the morning.

Earlier, on Saturday, twin blasts rocked Dar-



jeeling hills in which one civic police volunteer was killed and two others were injured.

Meanwhile, in another development in Kalimpong, the general secretary of the Pedong unit of the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha, Palden Bhutia, was taken into custody today on charges of being involved in the burning down of the police outpost in Pedong on 15 June.

He has been placed under 3-day police remand.

The Gorkhaland Movement Coordination Committee (GMCC) is all set to meet at Kalimpong today to discuss the issue of attending the August 29 talks convened by the state government in response to the GNLF's letter requesting for a dialogue to restore normalcy in hills.

The GMCC compris-

ing members of all the hill parties, including GJM and GNLF, is headed by the GJM.

The GJM yesterday wrote a letter to the West Bengal government expressing its willingness to attend the August 29 talks to resolve the Darjeeling stalemate, abandoning its earlier stand.

The letter, written by Binay Tamang, a leader of Gorkha Janmukti Mor-

cha (GJM) to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, said, "No other alternative or modified step will do justice to our plight... other than creation of a separate Gorkhaland."

Tamang's letter was preceded by a letter GJM chief Bimal Gurung wrote to the state government on Wednesday requesting for a "political dialogue" on the demand for a Gorkhaland.

## Privacy verdict to have 'some bearing' in beef matters: SC

**NEW DELHI, AUG 25 (PTI):** The Supreme Court today said its verdict declaring right to privacy a fundamental right would have "some bearing" in matters related to the possession of beef in Maharashtra.

The apex court made the observation while hearing a batch of appeals filed against the Bombay High Court's May 6, 2016 verdict decriminalising the possession of beef in case of animals slaughtered outside the state.

A bench comprising Justices A K Sikri and Ashok Bhushan was informed by an advocate that yesterday's judgement from a nine-judge Constitution bench, declaring right to privacy a fundamental right, was important for adjudication of the appeal.

"Yes, that judgement will have some bearing in these matters," the bench said.

The Supreme Court had yesterday said "nobody would like to be told what to eat or how to dress" while ruling that these activities come under the realm of the right to privacy.

Senior advocate Indira Jaising, appearing for

some of the petitioners, referred to the privacy judgement and said the right to eat food of one's choice is now protected under privacy.

She also told the bench that Maharashtra government's appeal challenging the high court verdict was already pending before another bench of the apex court.

The bench, after hearing the submissions, posted the matter after two weeks.

The Maharashtra government had on August 10 moved the apex court challenging the high court's verdict striking down sections 5(d) and 9(b) of the Maharashtra Animals Preservation (Amendment) Act, 1995, which criminalised and imposed punishment on persons found in possession of beef of animals, slaughtered in or outside the state, on the ground that it infringed upon a person's "right to privacy".

The court had issued notice on the appeal and tagged the matter along with several pending pleas related to the issue.

The high court had termed "unconstitutional" the provisions which held that mere possession

turn to pg02

## Better safe than sorry, but several questions follow

**SUDIPTA CHANDA  
SHILIGURI, 25 AUG:**

Whoever thought that Durga Puja, that mother of all festivals in Bengal would someday become the object of a political tug-of-war?

But, it has, courtesy the West Bengal government's decision to suspend immersion of Durga idols on October 1 to accommodate Muharram processions. Predictably, the Left and the saffron brigade are punching holes in the policy and it is likely the issue might roll to court.

Durga Puja mood in this state sets with 'Mahalaya', gathers pace from 'Sasti' and reaches rapturous stage by 'Dashami'. The immersion sequence thereafter, which often stretches for days, is a spectacular show by itself. The Durga Puja mood

is not over till all idols are immersed. All other activities are relegated to the background during this period; such is the impact of the festival.

But this year, the West Bengal government has decided to keep idol immersion at bay on October 1, as the day overlaps with Muharram. No wonder, all sorts of inferences ranging from minority appeasement to vote bank politics are being drawn over the policy.

Ours is a strange society. If two persons of the same community squabble over an issue, it is mere quarrel. But, if two persons from the majority and minority communities wrangle over a similar issue, it is communal tension.

The state government's decision to suspend Durga idol immersion on

October 1 understandably is a precautionary measure prompted by the logic to avert possible law and order problem that can erupt if immersion processions and Muharram rallies collide.

If so, it exposes two very disturbing angles. First, it illustrates that the government machinery is not adequate or capable enough to handle the pressure of two major events occurring simultaneously in the state.

Second and worse still, that the state government is not convinced people of the two faiths can observe festivals responsibly.

The importance of Durga Puja and Muharram is acknowledged across communities. In reality, people of both faiths have for years joyously participated in each other's celebrations. Why should people

suddenly start fighting among themselves over Durga Puja or Muharram this year? Is foul play being apprehended then?

Strangely, this is not the first time the two festivals have overlapped. They had done so in 1984 as well, but it did not require the incumbent Left Front government then to suspend either festival to maintain law and order. Both communities observed their rituals as usual and everything had gone off smoothly. The question therefore, why now?

There is a third angle to this development. Remember the unprecedented celebrations by the saffron parties over Ram Navami and Mahabir Jayanti on April 5 and 9 respectively? The demonstrations revealed the growing support base of the BJP

in West Bengal. It was also enough to make the Trinamool-run state government to sit up and take notice.

Then came the Bashirhat episode in North 24 Parganas district where a communal riot was narrowly averted. The dual incidents understandably have turned the state government wary and therefore the decision to suspend one programme. Better safe than sorry.

But, such assessment has instead provided the saffron parties, particularly the BJP, an opportunity to cry foul, level appeasement politics charge against chief minister Mamata Banerjee and go to town with it with a degree of success too.

Worryingly for the Trinamool, it has in reality invited what it wanted to prevent.



## HPCL conducts Quality and Quantity Assurance Campaign

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 25 AUG:**

A Quality and Quantity Assurance Campaign was conducted at HPCL Petrol Pump Kamakhya Fuel Centre in Jorethang today in the presence of Senior Area Sales Manager-HPCL, L Ngaihte.

A press release informs that this campaign is being conducted all over the country to bring awareness to customers about their rights. The campaign has been aimed at informing customers about their right to demand for filter paper test, density test and 5 Litre test at petrol pumps.

## DK Bhandari to lead SSP as interim...

**Contd from pg01**

constituted to decide on the new president of the party and in a recent meeting the committee unanimously adopted and passed the resolution to appoint Ms Bhandari as the new president.

"We met her yesterday and she has given her consent on the decision of the committee," he informed.

He further informed that within 40 days, the party will have its high level meeting which will approve Ms Bhandari as the new president of the party.

Mr Upreti highlighted that Ms Bhandari worked effectively as Member of Parliament, especially in securing Constitutional recognition for Nepali language, and on other issues of the State in the Parliament. He informed that she has also played an active role in leading the party workers.

# New India Manthan-Sankalp Se Siddhi programme at Mangan

**WANGCHUK BHUTIA**  
**MANGAN, 25 AUG:**

Krishna Vigyan Kendra of Mangan in convergence with Agriculture Technology Management Agency, North Sikkim organised 'New India Manthan-Sankalp Se Siddhi' programme in Mangan, North Sikkim today.

The function was chaired by Member of Rajya Sabha, Hishey Lachungpa, accompanied by District Collector-North, Karma R Bonpo, Additional District Collector-Development [Rural Management & Development Department], Tashi Chopel, officials from line departments along with the Panchayats and progressive farmers of Ringhim-Nampatam GPU.

It may be mentioned here, the programme is a call to all citizens of India by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to resolve to work towards attaining a New India by 2022. The programme was



launched on the eve of the 75 years of Quit India Movement also known as Bharat Choro Andolan.

Delivering the welcome

speech, programme coordinator-KVK, Tshering Thendup Bhutia, stressed on doubling the income of farmers through the campaign.

A short film on the PM's message was screened during the function while the attendees took the pledge to create a New India.

Zilla member of Ringhim-Nampatam, Tshering Choden Lepcha, presented the achievement of Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana village of

Ringhim-Nampatam.

The public and Panchayats raised various queries during an interactive session which was explained by the concerned line departments.

While addressing the gathering, Mr Lachungpa urged everyone to stay focused and dedicated towards fulfilling the mission. Referring to the government employees, the MP said that the employees should be responsible, sincere and committed.

He further said that all the pending works need to be completed and urged to maintain a data of food record of the people in SAGY village. Priority should be given to health, he added.

He informed that the public of Ringhim-Nampatam have not yet provided the nominations for Progressive House Award which carries a cash incentive of Rs 50,000, an announcement he had made last year.

## SDF Students' Front conducts awareness programme on scholarship schemes

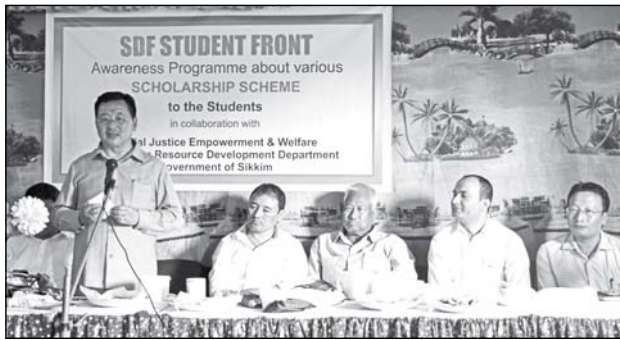
**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GYALSHING, 25 AUG:**

Sikkim Democratic Front party's Students' Front in collaboration with Social Justice, Empowerment & Welfare Department and Human Resource Development Department, conducted an awareness programme on various scholarship schemes initiated by the state government for the welfare of students at the auditorium of Yuksam Senior Secondary School in West Sikkim on 24 Aug.

Senior students from various schools under Yuksam-Tashiding constituency attended the programme along with teachers and parents.

The event is a part of the series of awareness programmes which will cover schools at all other constituencies in the State.

Advisor-HRDD, OT Lepcha, attended the



programme as chief guest along with area MLA, Sonam Dadul Bhutia, Social Welfare Advisor, CB Gurung, and former Minister, Mohan Gurung.

Welfare Officer, Gyaltsen Lepcha, gave a detailed presentation on various scholarship schemes available for students initiated by State and Central Government. The gathering was also introduced to various online portals and websites available to students

through which they can apply for scholarships.

Addressing the students, area MLA, Mr Bhutia, said that students are the future of the state and country and education is their biggest asset.

He also appealed to the students to become responsible and good human beings in the future besides being degree holders.

"Sikkim is one of the best performing States in the country in all round

and the Government cannot do it alone. Students need to come forward and contribute to the nation building process," he added.

Earlier, Officer on Special Duty to CM, Mohan Khatiwara, who is also the secretary of SDF Students' Front, urged the students to make good use of the assistance and scholarship provided by the state government.

The programme was also attended by Deputy Director-HRDD, Pema G Bhutia, Executive member of Students' Front [Central Working Committee], Tashi Gyatsho Bhutia, Panchayat members and the local public.]

On 26 Aug, a similar programme is scheduled to be held at Sombaria School for Daramdin constituency and at Gyalshing Girls School for Yangthang constituency on 28 Aug.

## Deadline for Aadhaar-PAN linkage to stay: UIDAI CEO

**NEW DELHI, AUG 25 (PTI):** Tax payers will have to link their PAN with Aadhaar by the stipulated deadline, which is this month-end, as the Supreme Court verdict on privacy has no bearing on the requirement, UIDAI CEO Ajay Bhushan Pandey has said.

The requirement for Aadhaar being quoted for availing government subsidies, welfare schemes and other benefits will also continue unhindered for now, he told PTI. The government had mandated linking of PAN with Aadhaar by the extended deadline of August 31.

Asked about the implication of the Supreme Court ruling (privacy being a fundamental right) on linking of Aadhaar and PAN, Pandey said: "There also, linking of PAN to Aadhaar is mandated by an amendment in income tax act...the linking will continue under that act and law. There is no change". Pandey said various

deadlines that have been prescribed, be it under provision of Aadhaar Act, Income Tax Act or money laundering rules will "have to be adhered to" as "those laws are valid".

He exuded confidence that Aadhaar Act, with its data protection safeguards, will pass the test of privacy being a fundamental right.

The biometric identifier is currently required for services ranging from getting subsidised cooking gas to opening bank account and obtaining a new phone number.

The Supreme Court "judgement has not said anything about the Aadhaar Act so the Aadhaar Act is a valid Act passed by the Parliament (and) is the law of the land", Pandey said.

Section 7 of the act "prescribes that for getting certain subsidy or benefit the government can insist on an Aadhaar number. That position holds today," he added.

## SKM welcomes High Court judgment on Parliamentary Secretary appointments

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 25 AUG:**

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party has expressed its immense happiness on the judgment of the High Court of Sikkim cancelling the appointment of Parliamentary Secretaries. While welcoming the judgment of the court, the party has stated that it is a historic decision and a victory for the common people.

High Court of Sikkim today pronounced the Sikkim Parliamentary Secretaries (Appointment, Salaries, Allowances and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2010 and consequential notifications as unconstitutional today. It has to be mentioned here that one of the writ petitions challenging the appointment of Parliamentary Secretaries was filed by Sikkim Krantikari Morcha through its general secretary [legal cell], TD Kazi and secretary [headquarters], Kamal Neopaney in November last year.

Addressing a press



conference today, the petitioner's advocate, Raghavendra Kumar stated that SKM took a courageous step to challenge the appointment of Parliamentary Secretaries. These appointments have incurred huge expenditure on the State exchequer, he said.

Mr Kumar stated that fortunately the recent judgment of the Supreme Court on Parliamentary Secretary appointments in Assam also supported this case. Now with the judgment out, all Parliamentary Secretaries need to vacate their office immediately and

they will not get any benefits either, he added.

The Governor may take necessary actions for the disqualification of these MLAs by respecting the judgment of the High Court, he further added.

On other three posts also challenged by the petitioners, Mr Kumar stated that the High Court has given the liberty to file fresh petitions.

Petitioner, Mr Kazi stated that SKM was the aggrieved party as seven MLAs left the party illegally for their personal benefits.

"We knew that the

appointment of the Parliamentary Secretaries was illegal and unconstitutional so the party moved ahead to file the writ petition," he said.

SKM party East District in-charge, Anand Lama stated, "We respect and welcome the judgment of the court," he said. He added that the appointment of Parliamentary Secretaries was an unnecessary expense on the State exchequer. He stated that these MLAs should return all the money and benefits enjoyed as Parliamentary Secretary on moral grounds.

## Privacy verdict to have 'some bearing' in beef matters: SC

**Contd from pg01**

sion of beef was a crime, saying only "conscious possession" of the meat of animals slaughtered in the state would be an offence.

The plea assailed the judgement, saying the restriction imposed by the 1995 Act on possession of flesh of cow, bull or bullock could not be interpreted and concluded to be an infringement of "right to privacy".

The state government had said the high court "while coming to the

finding that right to privacy forms part of the fundamental right to personal liberty guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution, ought to have appreciated that right to privacy was not yet designated as a fundamental right".

The plea had said that according to the verdict, obligation upon the state to prove "conscious possession" of beef would "constitute an unsurmountable circumstance readily available to the wrongdoer to escape sentence".

In its judgement, the high court had upheld the ban on slaughter of bulls and bullocks imposed by the Maharashtra government, but decriminalised possession of beef in case the animals were slaughtered outside the state.

The judgement had come on a batch of petitions filed in the high court challenging the constitutional validity of the Act and, in particular, the possession and consumption of beef of animals slaughtered outside Maharashtra.

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Sunrise: 05:11 AM  
Sunset: 06:03 PM

Nawin Kiran welcomes High Court judgment on Parliamentary Secretaries

SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 25 AUG:  
Nawin Kiran Pradhan, who had also filed a writ petition along with Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party challenging the appointment of Parliamentary Secretaries by the state government, has welcomed the High

turn to pg05

# Sankalp Se Siddhi outreach programme held at JNV Ravangla

SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 25 AUG:  
As part of the countrywide programme, Jorethang unit of Directorate of Field Publicity [DFP, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting] assisted by DFP-Gangtok unit organized a two-day special outreach programme at Ravangla Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya School premises on 24-25 Aug, informs a DFP press release.

The programme was organised in close coordination with the school authorities, State ICDS, Self Help Groups, Panchayats, and the Health Department.

The event was inaugurated by Panchayat President, Jasoda Chettri, as chief guest along with senior citizens of Ravangla and commenced with the oath taking ceremony of 'New India-Sankalp Se Siddhi' pledge.



Chief guest, Ms Chettri, appreciated the programme organized for sensitizing the youth and the gathering on

issues like corruption, cleanliness and making the country free of poverty and terrorism.  
Principal-JNV Ravangla, KV Suresh, highlighted on various ideas for a New India which includes corruption free India as corruption has affected the economy and development of the country at all levels.  
The members of the teaching staff of the school said that the vision of a New India is vibrant, prosperous, corruption free and technologically updated.  
The two-day programme included poetry recitation, debate competition, fancy dress competition, patriotic song competition, various games, face painting competition, quiz session, and embroidery on mufflers which is to be gifted to the Defense Ministry, the release adds.

## Gurmeet Ram Rahim held guilty of rape, violence...

Contd from pg01  
boyant chief of the dera, guilty of rape in a case that was registered on the basis of an anonymous written complaint in 2002 that he had sexually exploited two female followers.

On the basis of the report, a case was registered against him in December 2002 by the CBI on the directions of the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

The quantum of sentence against Ram Rahim, who enjoys 'Z' category security, will be pronounced on August 28, CBI counsel HPS Verma told reporters outside the court.

The punishment can be a jail term not less than seven years but may even extend to life imprisonment.

Ram Rahim travelled to the court from Sirsa, about 260 kms from Chandigarh, in a huge convoy of vehicles which had his security guards and several followers.

As the news spread and his thousands of followers gathered near the Panchkula court went on the rampage, Ram Rahim was taken by a helicopter to a jail in Rohtak.

His followers, ironically called 'premis' (who believe in love), unleashed violence and set afire a large number of vehicles, buildings and railway stations in Panchkula, otherwise a peaceful city on the outskirts of Chandigarh, as

well as in Sirsa, where the dera is based, and in Punjab.

Media persons and assets were among the main targets of the mobs.

Police and paramilitary used force, including firing and lobbing teargas shells, to control the volatile situation created by the dera followers who had gathered in thousands defying the prohibitory orders like Section 144 of the CrPC, which bars assembly of more than four people at one place.

"Seventeen people are dead and at least 200 are injured," said Vivek Bhatu, Chief Medical Officer at the civil hospital in Panchkula. He said most of the deaths were due to bullet injuries.

Another seven deaths were recorded at PGIMER hospital in Chandigarh and four at Government Medical College in Chandigarh, officials said. Two deaths were reported from Sirsa where seven were injured.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi condemned the violence, terming it as "deeply distressing" and urged everyone to maintain peace.

Modi, who reviewed

the situation with National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Home Secretary Rajiv Mehreshi, said the law and order situation is being closely monitored.

"Urged officials to work round the clock to restore normalcy and provide all possible assistance that is required," he tweeted.

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, under attack for alleged inaction, said tonight that some perpetrators of violence, including those "who opened fire", have been identified and will be arrested.

At least 32 incidents of violence and arson were reported from Malwa region of Punjab, police said. However, no casualty was reported.

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh said curfew has been imposed in 10 districts of Malwa region as a precautionary measure and appealed to the people to maintain peace.

"The Army is staging flag march in the curfew-bound areas of Punjab to restore the confidence of the people," he said.

In Punjab, Malout and Balluanna railway stations were partially

torched, Northern Railway spokesperson Neeraj Sharma told PTI.

The Northern Railway had cancelled 211 trains to and from Haryana since August 23 up to August 27. Of the total number of trains cancelled, 91 are Express trains and 120 are passenger trains.

The railways has also short terminated/short originated 24 trains.

"In all, the services of 236 trains have been affected one way or the other due to the law and order situation in Punjab-Haryana," Sharma said.

The unrest reached even Delhi where two coaches of a stationary train were set ablaze at Anand Vihar Railway Station, after which prohibitory orders were promulgated in 11 districts of the national capital.

In neighbouring Loni in Uttar Pradesh's Gaziabad district, a bus was set afire.

A vehicle was also set on fire by a group of people in Rajasthan's Sriganganagar, the birthplace of the dera chief.

Following large scale destruction by the mobs, curfew was imposed in Panchkula, Sirsa and

Kaithal in Haryana and Punjab's Mansa, Bathinda, Ferozepur, Patiala, Sangrur and Barnala and Faridkot, the areas considered as stronghold of the dera followers.

Six columns of the Army, comprising a total of 500 to 600 soldiers, were deployed in Panchkula.

The Punjab and Haryana High Court, meanwhile, ruled that the losses caused due to the violence will be recovered from the dera.

Hearing a PIL, the full bench of the court also asked the state to use force and weapons, if needed, to maintain peace.

The court will have further hearing in the matter tomorrow.

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh called up chief ministers of Haryana and Punjab to take stock of the situation.

Singh, who rushed to his office directly from the airport after arriving from Kyrgyz Republic, assured them all assistance in restoring peace.

Singh also held a meeting with top officials and directed the central agencies to monitor the situation and apprise him regularly, said a home ministry official.



### CHUTTI, MAKAI BHUTTI

GANGTOK, 25 AUG: The smiles on these elementary school kids of Baha'i School in Linkey, East Sikkim, as they return home from school shows that they will clear their ongoing exams with flying colors. And with friends around, it gets a lot easier to combat post-exam stress. [Rebyna Rana]

NorthEast Career Guide

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**BUILDINGS & HUSING DEPARTMENT**

No: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated:23/08/2017

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

Offers are hereby invited by the Buildings & Housing Department on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim from bonafide firms specialised in Conceptualising, preparation of drawing, designing and executing the under-mentioned turnkey projects on lump sum contract basis:

Sl.No.	Name of works	Bid security (Rs. In Lakhs)	Cost of tender/ bid form (Rs in Lakhs)	Completion period.
1	Conceptualizing, drawing, designing and Executing of "Folk Healer Tourist Centre" at Assam Lingzey Gaucharan, East Sikkim)	50.0	2.0	36 months
2.	Conceptualizing, drawing, designing and Executing "Ethnic Cultural Centre" at Buriakhop, West Sikkim.	50.0	2.0	36 months.

For all details on the bid please contact the Buildings & Housing Department visit [www.sikkimtender.gov.in](http://www.sikkimtender.gov.in) ii) [www.sikkim-building.gov.in](http://www.sikkim-building.gov.in) iii) [www.sikkim.gov](http://www.sikkim.gov).

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**CHIEF ENGINEER**  
**BUILDING & HOUSING DEPARTMENT**  
**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM**

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## Police!

***A required force, but ironically also a lesser liked arm***

Policing is a tricky issue. Too little and there is anarchy on the streets and too much and the fundamental rights of the people start getting trampled upon. It is a fine balancing act, and it is not always that everything falls in place to everyone's satisfaction. And it is perhaps because a foot soldier, already over-worked and stressed cannot work out the right balance that officers are trained by experts for two years on the finer points of policing. The policy makers have been working at ways to take the exclamation mark that normally conjoins itself to "Police!" in public conversation. That is a tough task. Sikkim has a reasonably comfortable association with the cops, but not everyone is always satisfied with run-ins with the khaki. Before one complains too much, a drive to Siliguri will be recommended to get a feel of how offensive people can become once they are cloaked in the power of a police uniform.

Why does a force which is tasked to protect and to serve evoke such negativity among the people? Well, clearly because the force has been the long arm extended for centuries by colonial rulers and then by democratic masters to keep an unruly janata in check. The feeling of invincibility that such power can inflict is not easy to abandon and the day-to-day grind of policing after all falls on the beat of constables who take an inflated sense of power as granted.

Let's take Gangtok's case. The most frequent complaints would be voiced by the taxi-drivers against traffic police personnel and home guards. This is understandable at one level because taxi drivers are the lay people who come in contact with police personnel most often and not always in pleasant circumstances. Their experiences can thus not be too much fun. Frankly speaking, if the cops on traffic detail are over-stepping their authority (in the language they use or aggression they display), they are not displaying uncommon traits. Grant too much power to any individual and it does not take long before it goes to the head. Ever wondered why reports of police brutality and human rights violations come only from troubled areas? The answer is simple - it is because the police are granted more powers there. Even in Sikkim, the only instances of human rights violations by local cops were recorded at a time when the police was being excessively used as the enforcer. Thankfully, that time is many decades in the past now.

Since that is not the situation anymore, one must wonder why we are exposed to an ugly side of the force almost every day. The answer perhaps lies in the fact that the cops have taken it upon themselves to police every aspect of public activity. For example, it would be only logical for cops to check vehicle documents and licenses to curb thefts and dangerous driving. The nitty-gritty's of whether all taxes have been paid or whether a vehicle is environmentally "non-polluting" should be left to motor vehicle inspectors. The local force is already short-staffed and expecting them to implement too many rules at too many places stretches their patience and professionalism. Cops are forced to take the help of home guards and this force is less trained in policing than the career policeman/ woman. Their reactions to a situation are thus more emotional than professional. This is a force that is underpaid and overworked and not even trained properly for the job.

What too many rules also lead to is an increased public interaction with police personnel. No one is comfortable around khaki and the cops too are instinctively aggressive. Increased interaction automatically leads to increased attrition and flare-ups occasionally happen.

That, perhaps, is where the problem lies for Sikkim. Too much policing; policing to an extent that it starts intruding on a person's privacy. No one wants anarchy, but there does not seem to be too much public support for a police state either. Someone has to strike the right balance.

**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)

## Opinion

# Amplifying the voices of Indigenous People through the Lens of Women – Biodiversity, Livelihoods & Climate Change

MONALISA CHANGKIJA

The word "Indigenous" basically means native, original, aboriginal, home-grown, local, etc., and is the antonym of foreign or alien. For centuries, peoples and communities have either been born to certain lands and areas or have marked out lands and areas for themselves after migrations and became the "indigenous" peoples and communities of such marked land. Till today we are witness to disputes arising of two or more peoples or communities claiming to be indigenous to such lands and areas ~ not least us Nagas ~ and wars have been waged and lives and limbs lost to such claims. The very word "indigenous" itself has assumed multi-dimensional political, economic, social and cultural connotations and implications over the decades and this has unfortunately given rise to not only polarizing ideologies and politics but such ideologies and politics have also dictated and determined the quality of life of those on both side of the debate. However, because life has never stopped being "short, nasty and brutish" ~ increasingly more so now, since neo-colonialism, liberalization and globalization have become the hallmarks of our increasingly unrecognizable world, perhaps time has come for us to re-look at the word "indigenous" and look at it from more and much wider perspectives than we used to. So then, is it possible for us to look at the word "indigenous" from the perspective that all human beings are indigenous to Mother Earth? That when Mother Earth unleashes her furies, they leave no indigenous and non-indigenous unscathed; and that her bounties are meant for all?

Let's look at the word "indigenous" from the perspectives of the civil wars, terrorism, wars on terrorism and communal conflicts in their most virulent and violent forms across the globe, which are not only rooted in power politics and economics but in discords related to cultures, belief-systems, traditions, customs, etc. Yes, the word "indigenous" also has very negative, disruptive and disabling connotations, which we must also at all cost prevent to become the leit motif of our discourses on matters indigenous ~ particularly the indigeneity of our political, social, economic, cultural and religious intercourses and interfaces. So, today as we observe the International Indigenous Peoples Day, let us do so keeping in mind and truly believing that every human being on earth is indigenous to the earth.

Unless we do so, we marginalize half the world's population, which is us, women. It is ironic that while we observe and celebrate indigenous people across the globe, indigenous people across the globe do not even count women as full-fledge human beings, much less celebrate us as indigenous persons ~ to Mother Earth, to community and to society. Unfortunately, even women do not realize this most unjust status we are assigned to and forced to live with. In an article titled A Field of her own, published in the Indian Express recently, an MBA student at the Yale School of Management, who is currently an Intern in the agriculture programme at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation India Country Office, wrote: "The stereotypical image of an Indian farmer is a mustachioed man, clad in a white dhoti with farming tools in hand. The reality is the Indian agricultural landscape is fast being

feminised. Already, women constitute close to 65% of all agricultural workers. An even greater share, 74% of the rural workforce, is female. Despite their hard labour in the field, women are not officially counted as farmers, and are either labelled "agricultural labourers" or "cultivators". This is because the Government does not recognise as farmers those who do not have a claim to land under their name in official records." I wonder whether Naga women, and women in the Northeast, irrespective of race and religion, urban or rural, recognize ourselves in these statistics, in this picture of our reality, as we observe and celebrate the International Indigenous Peoples Day? When we are so marginalized by and from our indigeneity, what are we really observing and celebrating?

The same article further says: "As many as 87% of women do not own their land; only 12.7% of them do. There are two primary reasons for the alarmingly low number: One, land being a state subject is not governed by the Constitution under a uniform law that applies equally to all citizens but rather is governed by personal religious laws, which tend to discriminate against women when it comes to land inheritance. Second, the cultural aspect of the deep-rooted biases that hinder women's ownership of land in patriarchal societies cannot be discounted." Does this not resonate in perfect harmony with Article 371 (A), which is the fountainhead of the State of Nagaland? The question we must ask today is: while we observe and celebrate the International Indigenous Peoples Day, are we also celebrating the indigenous women in our state, our region, our country and our globe, who are the principal mainstay of the home, the family and as a natural corollary, the mainstay of the state, the region, the country and the globe? You know, what we must take very serious note of is the fact that whenever we talk of "people" and/or "peoples", women are inevitably excluded from the discourse and the interface. This you might have noticed in the discourse of both "Naga sovereignty" and now the "Naga Peace process" besides so many other issues ~ unfortunately, women have also have marginalized ourselves from these discourses and interfaces. This basically means that women have peripheralized ourselves from our own societal existence.

Yet I concede that our over-all societal existence is incomplete without women being and providing the main prop. Women's problem is that we tend to take the backseat and to assume the role of the supporting cast to the lead roles seemingly played by men ~ while in reality it is women who are the lead players in this drama called life, more so in "indigenous" communities and societies like ours. My suggestion would be to acknowledge, claim and own for ourselves the lead roles women play to keep ourselves in Mother Earth's good books. Who, after all, sacrifices and slaves to protect and promote our bio-diversity by way of feminizing the landscape and space of our agriculture and allied activities, even though we do not own the land in the technically legal sense? Women do it because inherently we know that Mother Earth owns us and we owe it to her to acknowledge and respect her ownership of us human beings. This has then created livelihoods for both women and men, which translates into food on our tables. This is what has created jobs in the Government and private sectors

~ please never make the mistake of thinking that jobs in the Government and public sectors sustain human beings, particularly women's sustenance relationships with Mother Earth. As long as women till the land, secure seeds and plant them, there will always be food on the table ~ all the money in the world cannot be a substitute for food.

It is becoming increasingly hard to secure seeds, plant them and harvest food for the table with the unpredictable and drastic climate change every day of our life. It is tragically ironic that in the recent month or so when heavy and incessant rains descended down on us, some of the human casualties were that of women farmers in their rice and vegetable fields in Nagaland. This must have also been the case in other Northeastern and Himalayan states. Clearly, this further accentuates women's lead role in sustaining agriculture, sustaining the family and providing food on the table. Unfortunately, no indigenous people, community and society will ever concede and acknowledge the centrality of women's roles and contributions to people, community and society's sustenance. This is so very crystal clear in most indigenous people, community and society's cultural, customary and traditional discourse and interface, even belief-systems, which totally disenfranchise women as full-fledged human beings hence women's peripheralization from the political and economic discourses and interfaces of indigenous communities and societies. A prime example is what happened when the ULB elections were slated to be held with 33% women reservation.

Today I am extremely happy and proud that women have documented issues of Biodiversity, Livelihoods and Climate Change ~ issues women have been dealing with for centuries, no let me say "since time immemorial", and bring such documentations to the notice of an uncaring, insensitive and egoistic world ~ to register our existence, our strength and our gratitude to Mother Earth for sustaining us ~ the human race, indigenous to Mother Earth. Today as we observe and celebrate indigenous peoples across the globe, our voices must be amplified through women's lens because these are the only lens that gives the most rational and credible picture of how the most peripheralized half of the earth holds up the sky.

While what I have said may not have been what you had expected me to say ~ for which I apologise, I also would like to convey my gratitude to the North East Network for inviting me to this celebration and giving me the platform and the opportunity to express my opinions, however ill-informed they are, and to all of you who have worked tirelessly to underscore that women too have our lens through which we speak and register our existence. I want to say a very special "Thank You" to North East Network for creating in women, especially in our rural areas, the awareness that "We Can" and building the capacity to say so in no uncertain terms ~ and emphatically.

***(The above was the Keynote Address delivered by the writer at the Film Festival & Workshop themed, "Amplifying the Voices of Indigenous People through the Lens of Women ~ Biodiversity, Livelihoods and Climate Change", at Kohima on August 9, 2017 and is reproduced here by arrangement with the author who is the Editor, Nagaland Page)***

# Facing disasters: lessons from a Bangladeshi island

SONJA AYEB-KARLSSON  
*theconversation.com*

The death toll of Bangladesh's brutal monsoon season keeps growing. Authorities estimate that flooding has killed at least 120 people and affected some 5 million others since mid-July.

Disasters are common in Bangladesh. The fertile country is situated on the Ganges-Brahmaputra delta and irrigated by the Meghna river, which enables it to sustain a dense population but also exposes it to floods, cyclones and other hazards.

These days, climate change is making such events both more frequent and more intense for Bangladeshis. Loss of life and property during the monsoon is a near-daily occurrence in most parts of the country.

In a global effort to reduce such hazards, the United Nations has crafted the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience, a 15-year plan to reduce the human, social and economic impacts of disasters.

Adopted in 2015, this international strategy aims to help countries that are particularly vulnerable to climate change prepare for the challenges they face. However, as our research in Bangladesh reveals, critical knowledge gaps remain. Though there are systems to warn people about impending hazards, officials have found that they do not necessarily evacuate before danger arrives.

Our ongoing study, which began in 2013, offers some insight into

their reasoning.

## LIFE ON MAZER CHAR

In examining evacuation behaviour and decision-making in the face of environmental threats to Bangladesh, it quickly becomes clear how important it is for climate-change adaptation plans to include local inputs. Talking to the people about their experiences and perceptions of disaster risks can uncover unexpected views.

One study site from our nationwide research painfully demonstrates this point: Mazer Char, a delta island in Pirojpur district, is located about 330 kilometres southwest of Dhaka, Bangladesh's capital. When I arrived there with my research team, curious residents greeted us, asking why we had chosen to study their island.

As we began to explain our research subject, they instantly started connecting it with their own struggles.

On Mazer Char, the land is rich in vegetation and the waters are full of fish. Most residents of the forest-covered island, which is home to about 800 people spread across 180 households, make a living from fishing and livestock.

When disasters hit this low-lying island, they hit hard. "Four people died in this village during Sidr", a 2007 cyclone that killed about 10,000 people across the country, one woman told me. At that moment, a man passed by, carrying wood for his kitchen stove. "He lost his wife", she whispered.

The man overheard the exchange. He invited us to his house later that

day to tell us his story, which is captured in the video below.

## NURMIA'S STORY

When we arrived the man, Nurmia, welcomed us. We sat down on the bamboo carpet. "I was born about 70 years ago", he said, on the mainland, in a place called Ogolbadi. Nurmia left home after a dispute with his brothers over the family's land, so he crossed the river to Mazer Char, hoping to build a new life.

Nurmia spends most of his time fishing, though because his boat is currently broken, he hasn't been out on the water for a while.

"The wood here on the island is not very good, so I end up repairing it every year", he sighed, adding that in the meantime he has been net fishing from the shore to put food on the table.

Nurmia then recounted the November night when Cyclone Sidr struck the island.

## RIDING OUT THE STORM

Although the residents of Mazer Char were warned about the cyclone approaching, Nurmia did not evacuate, nor did many other islanders, who could not bear to leave their homes and belongings behind.

People face complex and careful considerations in deciding whether to stay or to go during a cyclone. Some may want to evacuate but lack the financial means to do so, or feel constrained to simply abandon everything they own.

That was the case with Nurmia's

family. At the time, they had saved enough money to send their eldest son to Saudi Arabia for work. Sidr changed all of that. That night in 2007, the cyclone took nearly all of Nurmia's possessions, and claimed the life of his wife.

Nurmia explained to us how riding out a cyclone at home can be much more costly than dropping everything and evacuating to a shelter. "We survived the cyclone once and this is what it taught us," he concluded.

## LIFE AND DEATH DECISIONS

For researchers, Nurmia's tale offers other lessons, too, which is that there is no right way to face a disaster. People dealing with environmental shocks in Bangladesh confront an impossible reality and a set of unthinkable choices.

Climate action strategies are a crucial tool to support populations living under extremely vulnerable circumstances. Yet it is our assessment that for such policies to be effective, closer attention must be paid to the differing local approaches that people take to climatic risk.

Some people are simply more vulnerable to disasters than others. While certain families may be able to afford to leave everything behind, the survival of others depends on their homes, livestock or property. To save their livelihoods, they may put their lives in danger.

***[the writer is PhD candidate, University of Sussex]***



## Invite all or no talks: GMCC

**SUMMIT REPORT  
KALIMPONG, 25 AUG:**

The Gorkhaland Movement Coordination Committee today announced that individual parties would not go for talks offered by the West Bengal government if a specific invitation letter was not sent to GMCC which is spearheading the movement.

GMCC coordinator, Kalyan Dewan, said today, after a GMCC meeting, that all stakeholders of GMCC must be called for talks.

On the indefinite strike underway, he said that since the strike was called by GJMM before GMCC was formed hence whatever decision GJMM takes on it will be agreed to by the GMCC.

The GMCC plans to hold another round of talks on 27 August, two days ahead of the date set by the Bengal government for talks. JAP was absent from today's GMCC meeting.

## WB govt to induct more one lakh local artists

**KOLKATA, AUG 25 (PTI):** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today said her government would induct one lakh more local artists to propagate government schemes and policies on a monthly stipend.

"We already have 85,000 artists under our stipend scheme and will induct one lakh more from September onwards," Banerjee told a music event 'Anurodher Asor' in which a galaxy of singers participated. She said the state government would sponsor live 'Anurodher Asor' (request songs) with a few television channels on Saturdays and Sundays for six weeks beginning this month end.

A host of noted singers performed in the presence of the chief minister. Some new music albums were also launched.

## Deuba faces flak over his remarks on Constitution

**KATHMANDU, AUG 25 (PTI):** Nepal Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba today faced criticism from political parties in the country for assuring India about Constitution amendment to address the issues of Madhesis.

Deuba, who is currently on a state visit to India, during a joint press conference with Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed confidence that a Constitution "encompassing" the views of the people from all sections and ethnicities would be a reality.

Talking to reporters at the Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) before heading to Thailand for a medical check-up, main opposition leader and CPN-UML chairman K P Oli criticised him for raising the issue in a foreign country.

# 24 colleges participate in NE India Inter College Debating Competition

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 25 AUG:**

The North East India Inter College Debating Competition, organised by Sonapur College of Assam and powered by national daily 'The Telegraph', was held on 24 Aug at Sonapur College in Assam, a press release informs.

Principal of Sonapur College, Dr Devabrot Khanikor, delivered the welcome address.

Columnist, poet & Editor of Nagaland Page, Monalisa Chankija, addressing the gathering from the speaker's chair said, "If we posit that the Northeast is always exploited by centre, we must ask why this region's leadership is allowing it. If Gopinath Bardoloi alone could save this region from going into the hands of those who



espoused partition of the country, why is it that we have failed to nurture political leadership of his calibre in the

Northeast? While discussing the exploitation and the step-motherly treatment of the centre towards the Northeast,

we often forget very crucial factors like the psychological profile of our people."

Forty-eight young de-

baters of the region put forward their arguments in the competition which was represented by 24 colleges of the region in-

cluding two each from Meghalaya & Nagaland and one from Arunachal Pradesh. The participants had debated on the topic, in the opinion of the house - "View that North East India is being exploited by the Central Government is factually incorrect".

The release informs that the jury of the debate competition comprised of journalist & Editor of Assamese periodical 'Jeevan', Suresh Ranjan Goduka, Associate Professor of Arya Vidyapeeth College of Guwahati, Sangeeta Kakoty, and the Chief Public Relations Officer of Indian Institute of Technology-Guwahati, Labanu Knowar.

In the debate competition, Anwesha Saha and Shabnam Firdausi of Guwahati Medical College jointly became the best debaters while Abhishek

Kabra of JB College-Jorhat and Bwenye Kemp of Tetso College-Dimapur were adjudged the second and the third best debaters, respectively. They received the Sinam Uriba Singh Memorial Prizes along with the cash prizes of Rs 10,000, Rs 7,000 and Rs 5,000, respectively.

The Guwahati Medical College and the North Lakhimpur College won the best and the second best teams, respectively, and lifted the Sinam Uriba Singh Memorial Prizes besides receiving cash awards.

A special prize, 'The Telegraph Unputdownable Debater of North East India Inter College Debating Competition 2017', sponsored by 'The Telegraph', was received by Anwesha Mahanta of Cotton University-Guwahati, the release adds.

## 8th edition of Mountain Echoes begins in Thimphu



**THIMPHU, AUG 25 (PTI):** Set against the stunning backdrop of the Eastern Himalayas, the 8th edition of Mountain Echoes festival opened here today.

Inaugurated formally last evening at India House here by Bhutan's Queen Mother Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, the annual literary festival will explore globally relevant issues such as environmental conservation, natural history, spirituality, and Buddhism among others.

Speaking about the India and Bhutan's shared love for literature and art, the queen emphasised on the impact the festival has made on "young Bhutanese minds".

"Our shared love for literature and arts has brought India and Bhutan together to create

and celebrate yet another edition of Mountain Echoes.

"Over the years since we started the literary festival, I have noticed the impact this festival has had on the young Bhutanese minds -- there is a growth in interest in literature among the young generation. And it is also evident by the increased number of Bhutanese speakers and authors at this year's event," she said.

Jaideep Sarkar, Indian ambassador to Bhutan, said that events like the Mountain Echoes opens Bhutan to the world and quipped it would supersede the Jaipur Literature Festival in popularity soon.

"I am thankful to the government of Rajasthan for their continued support and association with this event. It is not long

before Jaipur Literature Festival will be but a successful imitation of Mountain Echoes!

"This year more than half of the listed speakers are from Bhutan. As Bhutan opens its society and culture to the rest of the world, we realise there is much to learn from the world but the world is also realising that there is a lot that they can learn from Bhutan through its lessons of harmony, balance and coexistence," Sarkar said.

The three-day festival will be attended by eminent Bhutanese and foreign authors including Markus Zusak, Shashi Tharoor, Ruskin Bond, Ashwin Sanghi among others.

The first day saw a discussion by Indian bestselling writer Ashwin Sanghi on "The Karma of Writing".

UK-born Bhutanese nun Emma Slade participated in a session titled, "Set Free" talking about about her life as the founder of charity 'Opening Your Heart to Bhutan' which works for specially abled Bhutanese children.

In the opening session on the first day, the queen talked about "The Legacy of Zhabdrung", shedding light on the life and legacy of the founding father of Bhutan, Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel.

The day also witnessed sessions by writers K Anis Ahmed, Sujeev Shakya, Tenzing Lam-sang, along with a conversation between 'The Book Thief' author Markus Zusak and Linda Leaming.

The festival will come to a close on August 27.

## Delay in central projects causes Rs 2000 cr cost overrun in Meghalaya

**SHILLONG, AUG 25 (PTI):** Undue delay in implementing central projects worth over Rs 7000 crore in Meghalaya has resulted in additional cost overrun of nearly Rs 2000 crore.

"The total original cost of six central projects in Meghalaya was Rs 7108.02 crore and the anticipated completion cost is Rs 9,025 crore implying a cost overrun of Rs 1,916.98 crore," an official told PTI here today after a review of the progress of these projects by Union Minister of Statistics and Programme Implementation D V Sadananda Gowda on Thursday.

Rs 6000 crore was earmarked for construction of the 108 km railway line connecting Shillong with the rest of the country by 2021, the official said.

The railway project has, however, been halted following arson by Khasi Students Union activists earlier this year in which heavy construction equipments worth several crores of rupees was damaged.

Gowda, he said, directed Meghalaya Chief

Secretary Y Tsering to convene regular meetings of the Central sector Project Co-ordination Committee (CSPCC) to resolve problems faced by the central PSUs in the state and for timely completion of the projects.

Gowda today went on a site inspection at the North Eastern Indira Gandhi Institute of Health and Medical Sciences where the construction of the regional cancer centre, the medical college Building, the hostel and nursing college is on.

Gowda, who was accompanied by Meghalaya lone Rajya Sabha MP Wansuk Syiem and other officials, urged the concerned parties engaged in construction work to complete it on time.

The total project cost is approximately Rs 280 crore.

The union minister, who ended his two day visit to Meghalaya to hold a review meeting of railways, national highways, health, steel and arts and culture ministries, also attended a public meeting on Swachh Bharat Abhiyan at Umsning town during the day.

## Nawin Kiran welcomes High Court judgment on Parliamentary Secretaries

**contd from pg03**

Court judgment declaring the appointments unconstitutional.

Addressing a press conference today, he said that the case was not filed for political vengeance or mileage but was filed by concerned citizens against an illegal act.

He clarified that the Court has given the liberty to file fresh petitions for the disqualification of their membership from the State Assembly and also to challenge the appointment of Chairman of Public Accounts Committee and Estimates Committee and Chief Whip.

"We will be approach-

ing the Governor for the disqualification of these 11 MLAs and if that doesn't work then we will approach the Court," Mr Pradhan said. He further mentioned that a fresh petition will be filed against the appointment of Chairman of PAC and EC and Chief Whip.

"However, since SKM is an opposition party it should take the case up and we will wait for 10 days for it to do so failing which we will move court," he said.

Petitioners counsel, OP Bhandari explained the legal aspects of the case. The press conference was also addressed by other two petitioners.



# PV Sindhu assured of bronze at World Championship; Srikanth bows out

**GLASGOW, AUG 25 (PTI):** PV Sindhu today completed a hat-trick of medals at the World Badminton Championship as she stormed into the semifinals, lifting India's spirit after Kidambi Srikanth's quarterfinal exit here.

Sindhu, a silver medallist at the Rio Olympics, assured herself of at least a bronze with a clinical display against world number six Chinese Sun Yu.

The 22-year-old, who has won a bronze at the 2013 and 2014 editions, disposed off Sun Yu 21-14 21-9 in 39 minutes at the Emirates Arena.

The world No. 4 Indian will next take on another Chinese - world No. 10 Chen Yufei, who saw off former world champion Ratchanok Intanon of Thailand. Earlier, Srikanth went down fighting 14-21 18-21 to world No. 1 Son Wan Ho of Korea in men's singles competition.

Srikanth had emerged as India's best bet at the event after clinching back-to-back titles at Indonesia and Australia and a final finish at the Singapore Open.

The 24-year-old from Guntur had come into the match with twin victories over Son Wan in June at the Indonesia Super Series Premier and Australia Super Series but it counted for little as the Korean dished out a near-perfect game to outclass the Indian in a 49-minute clash.

Among other top shuttlers, Denmark's Viktor Axelsen, five-time champion Lin Dan also reached the semifinals in men's singles.

Sindhu dished out an aggressive game and never



looked in doubt as she led from start to finish during the 39-minute lop-sided match. Sun, on the other hand, looked out of sorts and nervous.

In the first game, Sindhu led 5-4, which she extended to 8-4. The duo then engaged in one of the longest rallies that had 39 shots. Sindhu eventually sealed it with a half cross court smash and quickly grabbed a 11-4 lead at the break when Sun made a wrong judgement at the baseline.

Playing the faster side of the court, Sindhu tried to make her opponent bend and move across the court with her acute-angled strokes. She sometimes used her deception and changed her pace to outwit the Chinese.

The result was Sindhu

quickly moved to 15-5 lead. Sun reduced the margin to 10-16 but Sindhu eventually earned seven game points with a smart return at the forecourt that left her opponent stranded.

Sindhu faltered with a return before sealing the first game with a lovely drop shot.

The second game started with another long rally which Sindhu won with an onrushing body smash. The Indian continued to pile on the pressure to lead 11-4 at the interval.

The breather didn't bring any respite for Sun as Sindhu moved to 18-8. Frustration was clear on the face of Sun, who tried her bit to upstage the Indian but Sindhu seemed to have all the answers as she reached 11 match points with a low cross court flick. She

sealed the contest when Sun went long once again.

Srikanth, on the other hand, made a nervy start to the quarterfinals, allowing Son Wan to open up a 6-1 lead early on but the Indian slowly got his bearing as he made it 5-6. His movement improved and his trade mark smashes helped him to make it 8-8.

However, Son Wan managed to move ahead and a return from Srikanth going to net helped the Korean to have the 11-8 advantage at the first break.

The duo looked to outwit each other by changing the angles and pace of their strokes during the rallies. Srikanth reduced the margin to 12-13 but the Korean once again managed to move up to a 15-12 lead with a deceptive back

hand return.

Srikanth's errors helped Son Wan to move to 19-13. The Korean grabbed six game point opportunity and sealed it when the Indian hit the net twice.

After the change of sides, Srikanth struggled to get his length right and his returns missed the baseline twice. The Indian even lost his left shoe during one of the rallies.

Srikanth struggle with his precision and placement of strokes and it helped Son Wan to eventually enter the breather with a handsome seven-point advantage.

After the break, Srikanth played a good rally with patience and it helped him to win the point but he seemed to go back to his power game, which backfired as the Korean kept moving ahead to 13-5.

Srikanth changed gears then and strengthened his defence to reel off seven straight points, making it 12-16 but Son Wan managed to break the streak with a return that found the Indian short at the forecourt. The Indian missed the line again and also hit the net to allow Son Wan move to 19-14 advantage.

The Korean misjudged a shuttle to gift a point to Srikanth, who replied with a cross court smash to reduce the deficit to 17-19. Another smash from Srikanth and it was 18-19.

However, Son Wan grabbed the match point when Srikanth rushed into a shot and hit the net. The Indian once again found the net to hand over the match to the Korean and see his 13-match winning streak lay in tatters.

## AITA gets back recognition from Sports Ministry

**New Delhi, Aug 25 (PTI):** The Sports Ministry has granted recognition to the All India Tennis Association (AITA) almost a year after the tennis body's renewal as a National Sports Federation (NSF) was put on hold due to non-compliance with the contentious Sports Code.

The ministry on Thursday sent a communication in this regard to the AITA, which elected a new president early this year after Anil Khanna was forced to quit in 2016.

Threatened with de-recognition, AITA had elected senior bureaucrat Praveen Mahajan as the new chief of the body at its Executive Committee meeting On December 1 last year.

However, the government insisted that AITA holds proper election, hence, a Special General Meeting (SGM) was held on February 3 in Pune and Mahajan was elected president till 2020.

"We had just kept their recognition in abeyance, pending a verification with regards to new AITA President. After Mr Anil Khanna quit, they elected Ms Mahajan but we had to see if there's approval from the competent authority," a senior ministry official told PTI.

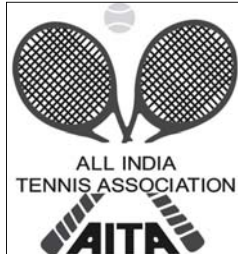
"It was a routine verification process and nothing else.

After receiving documents (from CAT), we see no reason to delay it. Actually we should have clarified earlier that we never derecognised AITA. So this recognition is outcome of a verification process and it was not an issue which required any adjudication," the official added.

Mahajan, who was the first woman to be chief of

Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC), is now posted in Jodhpur as administrative member of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT).

The ministry had asked Khanna to quit, arguing that his election as president in 2012 after serving two consecutive terms as general sec-



retary, was against the Sports Code that bars officials from re-election after serving two consecutive terms of four years.

A cooling off period of four years is required before being eligible for the post again.

After offering to quit, Khanna was re-elected AITA president for a four-year term till 2020 but he refused to accept it unless the issue was resolved. Eventually he decided to quit the position.

"We now figure in priority list," said AITA secretary general Hironmoy Chatterjee.

"Our election for post of President was in accordance of the Code after Mr Anil Khanna quit."

The secretary general said they will soon introduce grants system for state associations for hosting tournaments.

It has been learnt that the ministry has asked the AITA to fund one third of the cost of the tournaments.

One third of the total cost will be provided by the government and one third has to be raised by the host association.

## Assam flood situation improves; Brahmaputra flowing below red mark

**GUWAHATI, AUG 25 (PTI):** The flood situation in Assam improved considerably today with waters of the Brahmaputra river and many of its tributaries flowing below the red mark, even as seven districts in the state were still inundated.

Around 2.67 lakh people in 472 villages of the state are still affected by the deluge. Dhemaji, Lakhimpur, Barpeta, Chirang, Morigaon, Nagaon and Golaghat districts are flood-hit, an Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) report said.

Nearly 36,000 hectares of farmland are still inundated, it said, adding only the Dhansiri river at Numaligarh in Golaghat is flowing above the danger level.

With people returning to their homes, only 62 relief camps were operating in Lakhimpur, Morigaon, Chirang and Nagaon districts where 25,253 people were taking shelter.

There were reports that roads in Jorhat district, a bridge in Morigaon and a school in Dibrugarh district have been damaged.

The third wave of the devastating flood has so far claimed the lives of 72 persons across Assam. In total, 156 people have died in this year's flood-related incidents in the state.



## Another win for Unicorn FC in B Division S-League

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 25 AUG:** Continuing its winning streak, Unicorn Football Club registered one more victory in the on-going Sikkim Football Association B Division

Sikkim-League 2017 here at Paljor Stadium. Playing its third match in the league today, Unicorn FC registered a convincing 4-1 victory over Pendam Football Academy.

Sandip Subba contributed a hat-trick to Unicorn FC's victory in the 32nd, 79th and 80th minute, while one more goal was added by T Wangyal Bhutia in the 64th minute. The lone

goal of Pendam FA was scored by Sonam Lepcha in the 42nd minute.

On 26 Aug, Howlers Football Club will take on Brotherhood Football Club in its next match in the league.

## Govt restricts import of gold, silver items from S Korea

**NEW DELHI, AUG 25 (PTI):** The government on Friday restricted imports of gold and silver items from South Korea in a bid to check spurt in inbound shipments of precious metals from that country.

The importers will now have to obtain a license from the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) for importing gold and silver from South Korea.

These restrictions are being imposed against the backdrop of sudden surge in imports of precious metal from South Korea, with which India has a free trade agreement since January 2010.

Gold imports from South Korea has jumped to USD 338.6 million between July 1 and August 3 this

year. The import in 2016-17 stood at USD 70.46 million.

"Imports from South Korea of articles of jewellery and parts thereof, of precious metal or of metal clad with precious metal...articles of goldsmiths' and silversmiths' wares and parts thereof...and coins are restricted," the DGFT said in a notification.

Under the free trade pact between India and South Korea, basic customs duty on gold was eliminated.

Further, the 12.5 per cent countervailing duty on gold imports has been subsumed in the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Accordingly, the imports now attract only 3 per cent integrated

GST.

Imports of gold from non-FTA countries, attract 10 per cent customs duty.

India is the world's second biggest gold consumer after China. The imports mainly take care of demand by the jewellery industry.

The collections from customs duty and IGST from imports post implementation of GST has almost doubled to Rs 30,000 crore in July.

Gold imports contributed significantly to this increased collection.

The revenue collected include those on account of customs duty, Integrated-GST (IGST) from imports, countervailing duty (CVD), special addition duty (SAD) and cess collection on imported items.

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

## Would you like to wind up NGT: HC asks government

**NEW DELHI, AUG 25 (PTI):** Expressing concern over the posts of judicial and expert members in the National Green Tribunal (NGT) falling vacant shortly, the Delhi High Court today asked the government if it wanted to wind up the environmental protection body.

A bench of Acting Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice C Hari Shankar raised the question after it was informed that after December, only three judicial and two expert members would remain in the tribunal.

"Would you like to wind up the National Green Tribunal?", the bench asked the government, while directing it to file a status report within two weeks.

The matter will now be heard on September 14.

The court was hearing a petition filed by lawyer Gaurav Kumar Bansal, seeking filling up of vacancies in the NGT.

Bansal, who was represented by advocate Sumeer Sodhi, said, "Due to the red-tapism involved in bureaucracy, a fine institution like the NGT is heading towards a premature death."

The court was also informed that on account of retirement of most of its members, two zonal benches of the NGT would stop functioning by October.

The petition said currently, there were eight judicial members and six expert members in the NGT and with retirements due, after December 9, the number of expert members would come down to two and after February 13, 2018, only three judicial members would be left in the panel.

"The lackadaisical attitude and apathy of the government in not filling up the vacancies in the posts of judicial and expert members is intriguing and appalling," the petition said.



## India in Afghanistan poses "no direct threat" to Pakistan: US

**WASHINGTON, Aug 25 (PTI):** India's economic activities in Afghanistan pose "no direct threat" to Pakistan, a senior US official has said, asserting that Islamabad needs to change some of its "unhelpful behaviour" by cooperating with America to achieve the counter-terrorism goals in the region.

US President Donald Trump has sought an enhanced role for India in bringing peace in Afghanistan as he ruled out a hasty withdrawal of troops while announcing his Afghanistan and South Asia policy on Monday.

Trump had said that a critical part of his South Asia policy was to further develop America's strategic partnership with India. He also sternly warned Pakistan for providing safe havens to terrorists.

"While we welcome India's role in Afghanistan, it has a lot of goodwill, they are doing developmental projects. They have given USD 3 billion in aid and US appreciates that and wants that to continue. But again we do not see that a direct threat to Pakistan," the White House official said on condition of anonymity.

"I am not going to discuss the steps and measures that the US is considering pursuing with Pakistan," a White House official said when asked about the critical statements coming from Pakistan after Trump's South Asia strategy announcement.

"There is some frustration in Pakistan. We just want to emphasise that Pakistan really has the choice here. It can choose to cooperate with the US and change some of the unhelpful behaviours. That is very much in its interest. The US is not taking a tougher approach just to make Pakistani lives more difficult," the official said yesterday.

**SEOUL, AUG 25 (AP):** Samsung heir Lee Jae-yong, the de facto leader of South Korea's most successful business group, was sentenced today to five years prison for offering bribes and other crimes.

Lee, 49, was groomed to lead the conglomerate that was founded by his grandfather and became such a dominating force in South Korea that it's mockingly called "Republic of Samsung" by the public.

He took a higher profile role at the world's largest maker of smartphones, television sets and microchips that power consumer electronics after his father suffered a heart attack in 2014 and was poised to cement control.

Instead, at the end of last year Lee was implicated in a massive political scandal that culminated in President Park Geun-hye's ouster.

The court said he was guilty of offering bribes to the former president and her close friend Choi Soon-sil to facilitate a smooth handover of power at Samsung, which is a publicly traded company. Park and Choi are also on



trial. A Samsung lawyer said the guilty verdict would be appealed.

It's almost a rite of passage for the bosses of family-controlled South Korean conglomerates known as chaebol to go to prison for white collar crimes only to later make a comeback. Some were pardoned and others got sentences reduced on appeal.

Lee's own father was

twice convicted for tax evasion but received a special presidential pardon so he could help South Korea win its bid to host the Winter Olympics for the first time.

But the princeling's case may be different because the public is increasingly unwilling to indulge the double standards long enjoyed by families who were lionized a generation ago for helping to

turn South Korea into a manufacturing powerhouse.

The ousted Park's replacement as president, Moon Jae-in, was elected on hopes his administration would end cozy ties between government and business and end the emperor-like rule of chaebol families.

"It's an entirely different world now," said Park Sang-in, a professor at Seoul Na-

tional University. "The public's perception of the problems at chaebol and the need to reform chaebol has significantly changed."

Perceptions of Lee's business competency have also been damaged by the trial. To insist on his innocence, he gave testimony that made him appear clueless and not in charge.

"He was stumbling, stammering, unsure of the basic functions of his own company and its offices," said Geoffrey Cain, the author of an upcoming book on Samsung.

Many expected Lee would get a prison sentence because the judiciary has been criticised for past leniency toward major white collar crime. Lee's sentence is among the longest prison terms ever handed out in South Korea to a member of a prominent business family. Usually they get suspended sentences or pardons.

Civic groups said sentencing Lee to prison time was a meaningful step toward justice. But others thought the punishment was too light.

"I think the court should have accepted prosecutors'

request for 12 years in prison," said Choi Sukun, a 37-year-old teacher in Seoul. "Given the gravity of the case, I think the ruling is too generous."

Business lobby groups, while refraining from openly criticising the verdict, expressed concerns that Lee's absence from the helm of Samsung would take a toll on the South Korean economy, given Samsung accounts for about one fifth of the nation's exports.

"Samsung Electronics represents South Korea as a global company so we are deeply worried about the fallout from his long absence," said a spokesman at the Korea Employers Federation, a pro-business lobby group. "It will be a disaster not just to an individual company but to the nation's economy."

But South Korea's presidential office took the verdict as a step forward, issuing an unusual commentary on a court ruling. "We hope that it would pave the way to end persistent government-business collusion," a presidential spokesman said, according to Yonhap.

## Pak may call Parliament joint session over Trump threat: report

**SAJJAD HUSSAIN ISLAMABAD, AUG 25 (PTI):** Pakistan government is planning to summon a joint session of Parliament to discuss and finalise the way forward in the wake of US President Donald Trump's remarks warning Islamabad against providing safe havens to terrorists, according to a media report.

Dawn News reported that Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi in his brief remarks made in the Senate late yesterday had indicated that a joint session could be called to deliberate the issue. Abbasi described the US' stance as a critical issue and said the federal



cabinet had deliberated on it for three hours on Tuesday while the NSC discussed the matter for about four hours.

Senate Chairman

Raza Rabbani had earlier informed the prime minister that a Senate panel had been formed to frame recommendations spelling out the

way forward after the US president's aggressive remarks. He said the panel was on the verge of completing a draft. He proposed that the recommendations be taken to the joint sitting of Parliament for adoption or any amendments -- an idea apparently accepted by the prime minister, the report said.

Rabbani indicated that after adoption of the draft by the Senate, it would be taken to the joint session of Parliament, it said. Earlier, taking part in the discussion on Trump's remarks, Senators said the US must remember that Pakistan was a frontline state in the war on ter-

ror and had suffered the most.

They said the US, that mocked Pakistan for receiving dollars in aid, should keep in mind that it had not given a fraction of the losses incurred by Pakistan in the war amounting to around USD 150 billion.

The Senators said that the educational institutions and health facilities and other infrastructure of Pakistan had badly

suffered due to blasts in the country following the then military ruler "General Pervez Musharraf's complete surrender before the US", the report said.

Besides this, they said, thousands of civilians and armed forces personnel had laid down their lives. Former interior minister Rehman Malik said that the threat emanating from Washington should be taken seriously.

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### Anthyesthi Kriya



The Anthyesthi Kriya of Late Tika Devi Chhetri, wife of Ram Krishna Chhetri, who left for her heavenly abode on 14 August 2017 falls on **Saturday, the 26th of August 2017**, at her residence at IBM, below Gati Courier Office, Rangpo, East Sikkim. All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join in offering prayers for the departed soul

Ram Krishna Chhetri (husband), Sons: Dilip Kumar Chhetri (9800411418), Roshan Chhetri (7430827829), Menka Chhetri (9851588397) Daughter in law, Daughters: Anita Bhattacharai (8768970708), Anjana Bhattacharai (9735022861)

### Kutse Shegu



The 49-day Kutse Shegu of our beloved father late Norbu Thendup Bhutia falls on **30th August 2017 [Wednesday]**. All friends, well-wishers and relatives are requested to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul at our residence at Upper Samdong, Kambal, East Sikkim. We also take this opportunity to thank everyone who stood by us during the time of our bereavement.

Tshering Doma Bhutia (Wife), Didup Bhutia, Gyalchen Bhutia, Sonam Cheda Bhutia (Sons), Kessang Bhutia, Susang Lepcha (Daughters-in-Law), Tshering Bhutia, Gyalmu Bhutia, Chumjei Bhutia (Daughters) & all family members. Contact: 9593386426, 9434632401, 9734973422, 9734158848

### NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR VULTURE EVENING  
Draw Time : 8:00 pm onward

Draw No:4 DrawDate on:25/08/17  
1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 94A 18778  
(Including Super Prize Amt)  
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 18778 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)  
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-  
04565 05535 10030 19689 32616  
59355 76042 76175 79515 86204  
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-  
12611 14568 19963 51199 57252  
80553 82437 87677 91036 94927  
4th Prize Rs.1000/-  
2836 4722 6418 6843 6914 7276 7763 8345 8590 9649  
5th Prize Rs.500/-  
2237 2327 3489 3985 4992 5609 5647 8363 9155 9616  
6th Prize Rs.250/-  
0010 0050 0277 0282 0376 0619 0748 0761 0956 1019  
1051 1078 1170 1191 1276 1445 1631 1756 1772 1956  
2013 2198 2260 2291 2371 2422 2443 2469 2622 3020  
3038 3060 3124 3193 3233 3323 3346 3355 3516 3601  
3668 3711 3715 3858 4075 4103 4111 4183 4388 4563  
4989 5011 5041 5046 5278 5318 5390 5411 5429 5461  
5690 5883 5922 5970 6674 6758 6906 7020 7025 7110  
7142 7149 7299 7303 7683 7851 7869 8047 8277 8278  
8340 8402 8552 8597 8749 8750 8799 8843 8894 9095  
9102 9143 9168 9279 9606 9823 9858 9860 9915 9985  
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The Director, Nagaland State Lotteries, Kohima, Nagaland  
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KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE

### SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR TENDER

Draw No:4 DrawDate on:25/08/17  
1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 89C 78000  
(Including Super Prize Amt)  
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 78000 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)  
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-  
02054 12903 26531 31600 36822  
48005 48155 61610 65584 85676  
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-  
17713 23519 23896 29220 32071  
34977 61226 70657 76491 93908  
4th Prize Rs.1000/-  
0710 2205 3968 4621 4850 5819 5827 7102 7731 8722  
5th Prize Rs.500/-  
0057 0435 1378 2110 2549 2587 2922 2933 5152 9215  
6th Prize Rs.250/-  
0054 0087 0346 0876 0896 0938 0970 1089 1158 1202  
1261 1388 1477 1609 1796 1870 1918 1972 2381 2526  
2654 2669 2716 2761 2890 2909 3147 3169 3261 3585  
3755 3781 3807 4012 4076 4183 4319 4389 4502 4733  
4748 4812 4819 4885 4969 5014 5033 5036 5051 5062  
5079 5143 5242 5313 5385 5478 5531 5612 5647 5680  
5790 5791 5821 5852 5907 5945 6063 6114 6338 6493  
6692 6708 6896 7114 7247 7276 7306 7440 7477 7714  
7736 7961 8004 8035 8264 8449 8848 9141 9176 9180  
9278 9474 9581 9588 9627 9654 9727 9802 9877 9950  
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### MIZORAM STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR HONOUR MORNING

Draw No:4 DrawDate on:25/08/17  
1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 92D 28651  
(Including Super Prize Amt)  
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 28651 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)  
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-  
08026 09755 14898 32468 39780  
47246 52664 55013 58255 66066  
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-  
04232 05621 09560 19517 32030  
33101 40499 59624 69419 79640  
4th Prize Rs.1000/-  
0778 1206 2317 3301 5269 5908 6513 8019 8238 9796  
5th Prize Rs.500/-  
0485 2795 3692 4556 5501 6229 6980 6981 8710 9415  
6th Prize Rs.250/-  
0001 0079 0362 0365 0383 0614 0729 0779 0912 0996  
1061 1064 1258 1328 1465 1489 1951 2246 2278 2350  
2404 2531 2610 2683 2884 2892 3242 3267 3283 3296  
3360 3370 3479 3557 3567 3622 3661 3977 4253 4408  
4526 4586 4601 4625 4654 4669 4687 4705 4753 4869  
5058 5196 5214 5323 5511 5537 5579 5625 5773 6026  
6039 6068 6087 6090 6108 6200 6276 6416 6558 7061  
7373 7422 7523 7539 7544 7610 7620 7651 7665 7736  
7740 7758 7960 7963 7964 8074 8107 8359 8576 8813  
9238 9376 9418 9424 9522 9766 9842 9849 9857 9909  
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# TAYLOR SWIFT RELEASES FIRST SINGLE FROM UPCOMING ALBUM 'REPUTATION'

The "old" Taylor Swift is dead, the singer proclaims in her new single "Look What You Made Me Do."

After a week filled with cryptic teasers and an album announcement, the 27-year-old pop star returned Friday with an angsty new jam, the first single from her upcoming sixth album, Reputation.

"I don't like your little games/ Like your tilted stage," Swift begins in the tune, which she co-wrote with 1989 collaborator Jack Antonoff and includes an interpolation of "I'm Too Sexy" by Right Said Fred. "The role you make me play, the fool/ No, I don't like you."

Clearly addressing her public image and the spotlight shone on her public feuds and relationships since her first country

album was released in 2006, Swift is tongue-in-cheek about the changes in her life: "I'm sorry, the old Taylor can't come to the phone right now," she says near the end of the song. "Why?/ Oh, because she's dead."

The phone lyrics might also be a reference to her long-running feud with Kanye West, whose wife



Kim Kardashian last the song. "Why? I made that bitch fa-

July leaked video of a phone conversation West and Swift had about his song "Famous," leading to a they-said-she-said of epic proportions over what Swift did and didn't know about the song's lyrical content prior to its release. ("I feel like me and Taylor might still have sex," he raps in

mous.") For listeners trying to find a reference to her feud with former friend Katy Perry, look no further than these lyrics: "The world moves on/ Another day, another drama, drama/ But not for me, not for me/ All I think about is karma." (In "Swish Swish," a supposed Swift diss track and response to Swift's "Bad Blood," Perry famously sings, "And karma's not a liar/ She keeps receipts.") Also on the same day, Swift released a lyric video for "Look What You Made Me Do."

Swift's first new solo material since 2014's massively successful 1989, the song gives the world its first impression of Reputation, which arrives Nov. 10. Five versions

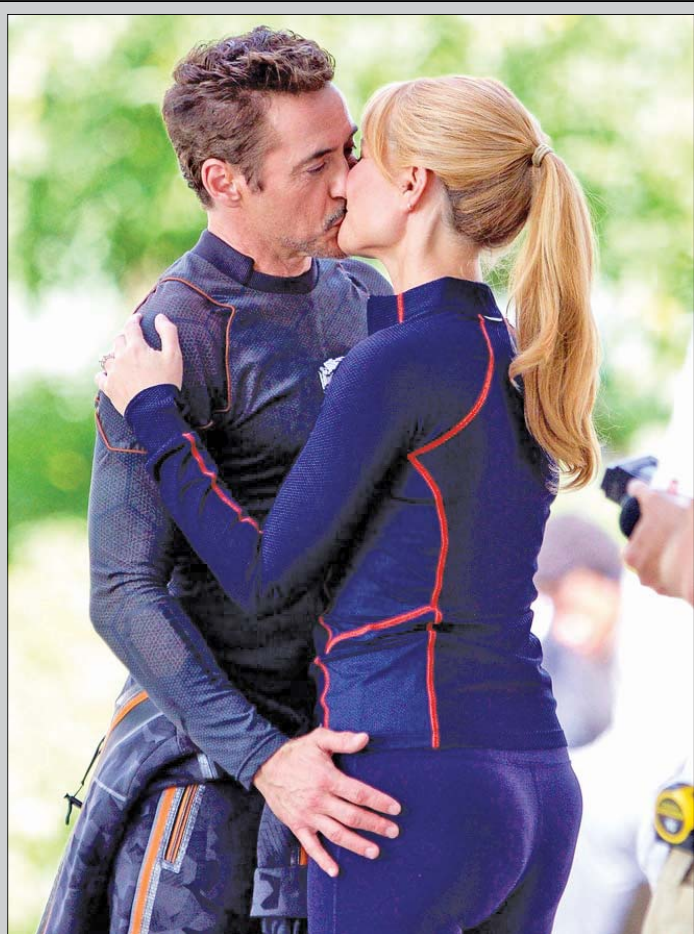
of the album will be released, with each including a double-sided poster with new art of Swift, according to a press release.

Though Swift released her fifth album 1989 in October 2014, she's remained a large pop culture presence.

Three of the LP's singles — "Shake It Off," "Blank Space," and "Bad Blood" — hit No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100, topping the chart for a collective 12 weeks.

Two more of its hits, "Wild-est Dreams" and "Style," made it into the chart's top 10. In 2015, Swift staged the 1989 tour, a commercial juggernaut that also featured appearances from Swift's numerous A-list friends at nearly every stop.

## what's TRENDING



**KISSING COSTARS:** Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr.) goes in for the kill with Pepper Potts (Gwyneth Paltrow) while filming Avengers 4 in Fayetteville, Georgia.

## LADY GAGA ANNOUNCES NEW NETFLIX DOCUMENTARY 'FIVE FOOT TWO,' TALKS MADONNA FEUD



Lady Gaga is ready to open up. The "Joanne" singer has a candid documentary titled Gaga: Five Foot Two premiering on Netflix on September 22. Gaga, 31, took to social media early Thursday, August 24, to share a series of teasers for her new project, in addition to revealing the stunning, artistic poster. Directed by Emmy-nominated filmmaker Chris Moukarbel, the documentary will provide "an intimate and unfettered portrait of a year in the life of Lady Gaga," according to a press release from Netflix. Offstage, in the studio, unplugged and at home, audiences get an unguarded glimpse at Gaga through a series of personal highs and lows and the culmination of a year's emotional journey," the release continues. "From

struggles with relationships to health issues, from finding solace in her inner circle to conquering her insecurities, Gaga: Five Foot Two navigates the divide between life as a superstar and life as an everyday woman." In one of the teasers for the film, Gaga breaks down in tears after her July 2016 split from fiancé Taylor Kinney. "I'm alone every night. And all these people will leave, right? They will leave, and then I'll be alone," she explains. "And I go from everyone touching me all day and talking at me all day to total silence." In another clip, the six-time Grammy winner opens up about her long-standing feud with Madonna. "I admired her always, and I still admire her no matter what she might think of me. The only thing that really bothers me about her is that..." she says before the video cryptically cuts off.

## FEUD

## VARUN-JACQUELINE-TAAPSEE AT THEIR GROOVY BEST IN CATCHY RECREATION OF TAN TANA TAN

Bringing back 'Judwaa' after almost two decades, makers would definitely look for ways how they can make the film look different while keeping the same flavour.

With Varun Dhawan stepping into Salman Khan's shoes and Jacqueline Fernandez and Taapsee Pannu into Karisma Kapoor and Ramba's, the makers have definitely tried to offer a fresh take on the comic tale of the twins in second installment of 'Judwaa' franchise.

But as was evident in the trailer as well, the makers, also intend on keeping the basic premise alive. Their decision to incorporate two songs from the original film stand testimony to this fact. It was reportedly several months ago that 'Tan Tana Tan Tan Taara' and 'Oonchi Hai Building' will be recreated and the former has been released by the makers on Friday.

The recreation titled 'Chalti Hai Kya 9 Se 12' keeps the basic essence of the song alive, but tries to give it a bit more 'rock' or



'techno' feel to it, while the lyrics remain largely unchanged. Just like Salman dances with Karisma on the stage and with Rambha in the jail, Varun's twin avatars shuffle between Jacqueline and Taapsee in the club and the prison, but this one also sees the trio coming together.

Varun matches Salman in the ener-

gy, dance and charm departments while the ladies look their glamorous best. The original music composer of the song Anu Malik has co-composed the song with Sandeep Shirodkar, with vocals lent by Dev Negi and Neha Kakkar.

'Judwaa 2', directed by David Dhawan and produced by Sajid Nadiawala, gears up for release on September 29.

## BOLLYBUZZ!!!

**ARIES:** A miscommunication with a business or romantic partner might cause some ruffled feathers today, Aries. You can divert this by explaining the facts clearly whenever you give information. Make sure your partner understands what you're saying before they go and act on it! For your own part, don't be shy about asking what someone means. Remember, it's better to ask a stupid question than make a dumb mistake!

**TAURUS:** Do you work with a lot of documents, Taurus? If so, you might find today that some of the papers you need are missing. They might seem to have vanished into a black hole. Look everywhere, of

course, but chances are that someone has them and isn't aware of it. Don't be too shy to ask people about the papers. You could save yourself a lot of unnecessary effort this way. **GEMINI:** A missed communication - or miscommunication - with a romantic partner could find you waiting in the wrong place, Gemini. If you're planning to get together with someone special tonight, make sure you get the full details of the location, including the exact address, cross street, and driving directions. Write it down! And don't forget to note the time. **CANCER:** Today you could find that you've left something at home, perhaps a book or letter that you

need. There's no way around it, Cancer, you'll have to go back. This could make you late. Stay calm! This is a temporary irritation that will pass. Making yourself crazy over it will only stress you out. At lunch, treat yourself to a glass of wine or a soothing cup of tea. **LEO:** You may need to spend a lot of time in the car today, Leo. You could hit traffic and miss some of the people you need to see. Irritations could quickly turn to anger if you aren't careful. Park your car and walk to some of the places. This will get you out of the crush of cars and work off your frustration at the same time. **VIRGO:** Paperwork involving

money may need doing today, Virgo, and this could take you away from what you love most - working on your own projects and spending time with a love partner. Don't get too crazy over it or you might make mistakes. Correcting those errors would eat up more time. Take care of it methodically and quickly and you'll be able to get back to your life. **LIBRA:** An unhappy visitor, probably a woman, could come to your home today, Libra. This person has a lot of anger right now and probably won't make much of a conversationalist. If you can't make your excuses, put on some music or perhaps a funny movie.

You might be surprised at the results! Some soothing chords or a few laughs might accomplish wonders. Be clever! **SCORPIO:** Have you been expecting an important letter, Scorpio? If so, it may not arrive for a while. If it doesn't appear today, call the person who sent it and ask for a duplicate because the original could be lost in the mail. Better to have two copies than wait for one that will never come. **SAGITTARIUS:** Money worries could have your nerves on edge, Sagittarius. It's better to focus on doing what you have to do to resolve your difficulties than it is to waste time fretting over them. Your

business head is operating at a high level today. If you stay focused, you can accomplish wonders. Formulate a plan of action and put it to work. **CAPRICORN:** A lot of tedious paperwork is probably waiting for you, and you will want to get it done as quickly as possible. You might be distracted and irritated by everyone goofing off. Don't worry about everyone else. Concentrate on your own work. You will only cause further irritation by getting upset with everyone. You will be done with your tasks when they're just getting started on theirs! **AQUARIUS:** Some facts that you may need for certain projects might prove elusive today, Aquarius. No

matter what website or periodical you consult, you'll probably come across some interesting stuff but not exactly what you're looking for. If the task isn't urgent, it might be a good idea to put it off for a bit. Otherwise you'll spend too much time looking for the impossible. **PISCES:** You should pay attention to your dreams, Pisces, but tonight your subconscious might send you some garbled information that means next to nothing. If the message is obvious, pay attention to it, but if you have to perform too many mental gymnastics to discern what the symbols mean, they might mean nothing. Sometimes a dream is just a dream.



## 26<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST WORLD HISTORY

**1743:** Antoine Laurent Lavoisier, the father of modern chemistry, was born. He discovered "dephlogisticated air" which he called oxygen.

**1789:** The Constituent Assembly in Versailles, France, approved the final version of the Declaration of Human Rights.

**1813:** The Battle of Dresden was Napoleon's last major victory against the allied forces of Austria, Russia and Prussia.

**1944:** In World War II, Bulgaria announced that it had withdrawn from the war and that German troops in the country were to be disarmed.

**1957:** Ford Motor Company revealed the Edsel, its latest luxury car.

## INDIAN HISTORY

**1303:** Alauddin Khilji of the

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY

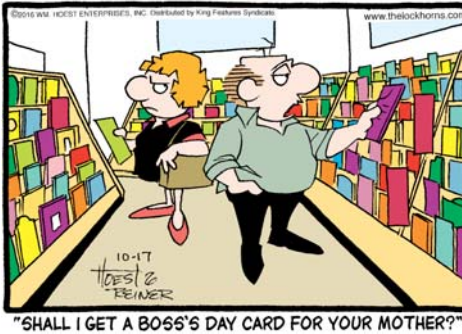
**Dr. RAJEN UPADHYAY**  
Assistant Professor in History,  
Namchi Govt. College

Khilji Dynasty attacked and captured Chittorgarh in a historic battle. Having heard to the legendary beauty of Queen Padmini he went to Chittorgarh intending to see Queen Padmini. After a prolonged discussion, the Queen agreed and Khilji was allowed to see a reflection of her in a mirror. Thus, created the famous Padmini episode of medieval Indian history.

**1914:** Bengali revolutionaries waylaid a cartload of 50 Mauser pistols and 46,000 round of ammunition while being unloaded at Kolkata port.

**1989:** Sumita Laha of Bengal set a new world record in squat by lifting 227.5 kg in the seventh National Powerlifting Championship.

## LOCKHORNS - HOEST & REINER



## ARCTIC CIRCLE - HALLATT



## BABY BLUES - KIRKMAN & SCOTT

