



SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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SC orders status quo on renovation of Gurudongmar Dharmastal

GANGTOK/ NEW DELHI, AUG 30 (PTI): The Supreme Court today asked the State Government of Sikkim to maintain "status quo" at the Dharmastal at Gurudongmar which is slated for a renovation by the Lachen Dzumsa.

The order came on a plea seeking a direction to restrain the state government from what the petitioner believes to be demolition of the religious structure allegedly in the name of renovation.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra disposed of the petition after the counsel appearing for the state government said that a similar plea was pending before the High Court, which would come up for hearing on September 13.

The apex court then asked the petitioner to approach the High Court but ordered status quo



till the matter was heard by the High Court.

"We permit the applicant to be impleaded before the High Court. Be it noted, we have not expressed any opinion on the merits of the matter, the High Court is free to decide the same in accordance with the law," the bench, also comprising Justices Amitava Roy and AM Khanwilkar, said.

The petitioner, Amritpal Singh Khalsa, had

moved the apex court alleging that the state authorities have illegally removed the holy book, Guru Granth Sahib, from the site and would demolish the "gurdwara" in the name of renovation.

He had said the petition was filed in extreme urgency due to the threat of demolition or renovation.

The bench had yesterday asked him to serve the copy of the plea

to the standing counsel of the state during the course of the day.

The petitioner had alleged that state authorities have illegally removed the holy book from the gurdwara without following any code of conduct on the pretext of renovation.

He had claimed there was an "imminent threat" of the gurdwara being demolished without prior intimation to the Sikh priest there.

It had sought the apex court's direction prohibiting the authorities from carrying out any demolition or renovation work at the site.

The plea had also said if the authorities wished to carry out any renovation work at the site, a prior notice of one month should be given to the priest so that appropriate action to shift the Guru Granth Sahib as per the Sikh code of conduct could be taken.

The complex, it may be recalled, has been flirting with controversy ever since the Army constructed it back in the mid-1990's in contravention of extant environmental laws as well as the Places of Worship (special provisions) Act.

Concerted deliberations between army and civilian authorities over the matter had led to the army eventually hand-

ing over the complex as Sarva Dharmastal to the Lachen Monastery under the charge of Lachen Rinpoche on 06 July 2001.

Although officially recorded as a Sarva Dharmastal, it had begun to be seen popularly as a Gurudwara. Eventually, on 16 August earlier this month, the complex was readied for renovation and all religious items inside - Buddhist and Sikh - removed. While the Buddhist items were taken and placed in Lachen Monastery, the Sikh religious items were handed over at the Chungthang Gurudwara. The latest development has not been without heartburn and controversy and now that the matter has reached the courts, it will hopefully be settled once and for all.

(with additional reporting by SummitTimes correspondents)

Sharp differences among hill parties on fate of shutdown

Darjeeling (WB), Aug 30 (PTI): Sharp differences have emerged among various hills parties and the GJM on whether to continue the shutdown in the hills which entered its 77th day today over the demand for a separate Gorkhaland state.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee yesterday held talks with political parties of the Darjeeling hills at the state secretariat in Kolkata and requested them to withdraw the indefinite shutdown.

But the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha, which is spearheading the shutdown, had said a decision would be taken at the party's central committee meeting after discussion in the Gorkhaland Movement Coordination Committee (GMCC).

Last night, GJM supremo Bimal Gurung had said in an audio message that there is no question of withdrawing the shutdown until and unless talks begin on the issue of a separate state.

"There is no question of calling off the shutdown until and unless the state government begins dialogue on the one point agenda of Gorkhaland. So many people have died. We have some duties and responsibilities towards the people of Darjeeling," Gurung had said.

"If the state did not agree to discuss the issue of Gorkhaland, then the hill parties should have walked out. We will inform about our stand after discussing the matter in our central committee," he had said.

A senior member of GMCC told PTI today on condition of anonymity that members of GMCC are divided on whether to withdraw the shutdown as many hill parties feel that the two- and-half-month-long shutdown has not borne any fruit.

"What use is the shutdown when we have achieved nothing in these 77 days of it? This weapon (of shutdown) is not working as it has been used on so many occasions," he said.

The GJM took out rallies in various parts of the hills during the day demanding restoration of Internet services, which remain suspended in the hills since June 18 and an immediate withdrawal of police forces from Darjeeling.

Some political party activists dressed in traditional Nepali attire also took out rallies and raised slogans in support of Gorkhaland.

GJM activists and NGOs were seen distributing foods among the local people like other days as food supply has been severely hit by the prolonged shutdown.

No multiple statements on sensitive Doklam issue: Govt

NEW DELHI, AUG 30 (PTI): Defence Minister Arun Jaitley today refused to interpret the significance of resolution of the China-India face-off at Doklam, saying it was a "sensitive" issue and that the government had already conveyed its position.

The External Affairs Ministry has already articulated the government's stand on the issue, he told reporters at a briefing.

"Given the sensitivity of the issue, there is no need to make multiple statements," Jaitley said when asked whether the resolution of the Doklam standoff was a big achievement for India.

Jaitley, who also announced the government's decision to carry out major reforms in the Army to

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Five SCS officials promoted to Special Secy rank

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 30 AUG:**

On the recommendation of the Sikkim Public Service Commission, the state government has promoted five members of the Sikkim State Civil Service today to the post of Special Secretaries in the Pay Band-5 of Rs 32000-60000 and Grade Pay of Rs 5000.

Presently posted as Secretary of SPSC, Deepa Rai has been promoted to the post of Special Secretary on deputation while Tashi Cho-Cho has been promoted as Special Secretary at Home Department.

Likewise, Director-Accounts and Administrative Training Institute, Siphora Targain, Director [Panchayat]-Rural Management & Development Department, MN Dhakal, and Additional General Manager-SNT Siliguri [Transport Department], HL Lamichaney, have been promoted as Special Secretaries.

Land demarcated in Topung for relocation of landslide-affected families

**SUMMIT REPORT
YUKSAM, 30 AUG:**

Spot verification of land for relocation of families affected by the 2014 landslide was done by Sub Divisional Magistrate, Yuksam on 29 Aug.

Houses of 16 families in Topung village under Yuksam-Tashiding constituency were damaged by a landslide which killed an entire family of five persons two years back.

Alternate land has been arranged for them at Topung village itself under Melli-Aching GPU.

A team from Land Revenue department led by SDM, Dr Sonam Rinchen Lepcha demarcated the lands where the affected families are to be relocated.

The land demarcation

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Where there is empty space, there is energy density

**SUDIPTA CHANDA
SILIGURI, 30 AUG:**

The Darjeeling hills seem to be heading for a political void.

The hills' most prominent political face and Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) chief, Bimal Gurung is in hiding. With a serious provision such as the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) slapped against him following the recent explosions in the hills, there is slim chance of Gurung surfacing at this crunch hour.

If he does, he faces arrest. If he does not, he loses control of the movement.

There are only two ways he can get out of it. First by getting arrested, facing trial and coming out clean if adjudged so. The other, negotiated clemency.

In the interim and against his



wish, his once trusted lieutenants have entered into a negotiation with the state government to restore peace and normalcy in the bandh ravaged hills.

GJM representatives, who held talks with the state government in Kolkata on Tuesday, are scheduled

to hold a public rally at Kurseong on Thursday to apprise the people of the negotiations with the state government and seek the people's mandate on whether to continue with the bandh.

Doing so prior to apprising Gurung of Tuesday's proceedings would be a clear indication that at least a prominent section of the GJM leadership has abandoned Gurung.

It is more so since Gurung has meanwhile made two points clear from wherever he is. First, that the bandh would continue and second, Tuesday's meeting would be discussed threadbare before he decides on the next course of action.

Holding a public rally to earn the people's consent before that would be defying the GJM chief's authority. While the situation now demands Gu-

run's public appearance if he has to regain control of the conditions, his breaking cover is fraught with risks.

Running a movement from hiding is virtually impossible unless one intends to turn militant. If Gurung therefore continues to remain in hiding for long his flock is bound to disperse after some time creating a political void, which has historically been the story of the Darjeeling hills.

The first such void in the hills had occurred after the redoubtable All India Gorkha League (AIGL) leader, trade unionist and Darjeeling MLA, Deo Prakash Rai, who was also a three-time minister in the Bengal Legislative Assembly, died in 1981.

That paved way for organizations like the Nilo Jhanda, Pranta Parishad and then the Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF). In the void cre-

ated by DP Rai's demise, in stepped the formidable Subash Ghisingh and his GNLF with the Gorkhaland state demand.

Ghisingh turned indifferent towards politics after the assassination attempt on him in 2001 and in the political void thus created in stepped Bimal Gurung riding a TV reality show, formed the GJM in 2007 and hounded out Ghisingh from the hills.

With Bimal Gurung now in hiding and unable to take the hill situation by the scruff of its neck and guide it the way he wants, and a section of his former associates clearly indicating of discounting him, the situation is akin to another political void in the hills.

If so, whose turn is it to step in now? Only one name is blowing in the wind.

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RMDD Secretary hands over national awards to CM

GANGTOK, 30 AUG [IPR]: Secretary, Rural Management and Development Department [RMDD], DR Nepal, handed over the awards conferred on the State for MGNREGA to the Chief Minister Pawan Chamling at Mintokgang today. Representatives from the Department and respective Panchayats were also present on the occasion.

RMDD was bestowed with five national awards for implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act [MGNREGA] for the assessment year of 2016-17 in a function held at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on 19 June earlier this year.

It is to be mentioned here, Sikkim is the only State in the country to have received awards in all three categories at the State level. Another two awards were received in the District level and Gram Panchayat level Category. A team headed by Secretary-RM&DD along with senior officials of the department



received the National Award from Union Minister for RD, Narendra Singh Tomar.

In the State Category, Sikkim has been awarded for Transparency & Accountability, Sustainable Livelihood through Convergence and Geo-tagging of assets under Geo-MGNREGA while East District of the State has received the National Award for the Best Performing District Category.

Likewise, Maniram Phalidara Gram Panchayat and Namchi Block-South Sikkim have received the award for the Best Performing Gram Panchayat in implementation of MGNREGA.

The Directorate of Panchayati Raj, Sikkim, has also received awards in the Panchayat Award 2015-16 which include Best Performing State for e-Panchayat in 2015-16 with Best District Panchayat Award under Deen Dayal Upadhaya Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar for appraisal

year 2015-16, Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan [RGSA] being conferred to East District Zilla Panchayat, and Best Gram Panchayat Awards under Deen Dayal Upadhaya Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar for appraisal year 2015-16, RGSA, to Poklok Denchung GPU in South Sikkim and Dolephen GPU in East Sikkim.

The Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Puraskar for Best Gram Sabha for appraisal year 2015-16, RGSA, has been awarded to Rey

Mendu GPU in East Sikkim while the National Level Felicitation under Best Practices 2016-17 went to Maniram Phalidara GPU in South Sikkim.

The Chief Minister, while receiving the award, congratulated each and everyone for the hard work which has resulted in the state being recognized at the national level. He said that he just gave dreams and vision but it is the people who have implemented the work and made the state proud by turning it into reality.

Mr Chamling stressed that recognitions give encouragement and thus this should be a stepping stone for more effective implementation of policies. He added that the Sikkimese people should take advantage of the fact that the state is the first Organic state in the country and should fall back to our roots and be a self sufficient state.

He also highlighted that there are many plans of the state government in the pipeline which will

focus on tourism, cultural and pilgrimage aspects of the state which will further the state towards unparalleled growth. Thus, he asked people to have a sense of ownership and work harder.

The CM further elucidated that the state government is fulfilling all possible needs of the Sikkimese people to the best of its capabilities and urged everyone to come forward to make the Sikkim of its dreams.

Secretary-RMDD, DR Nepal, while handing over the awards to the CM said that the awards are indicators of Sikkim doing exemplary work under Panchayati Raj which has been achieved due to devolution of power to the Panchayats and support by the state government. He said that the awards and accolades received by the State have been possible only due to good governance and encouragement of local self governance which has been promoted by the CM.



Amar Subba is West Sikkim Tourism Society's Brand Ambassador

GYALSHING, 30 AUG [IPR]: A co-ordination meeting of West Sikkim Tourism Society (WSTS) under the chairmanship of Minister UD&HD, NK Subba was held here at Hotel Mt. Pandim today.

The meeting was also attended by Advisor UD&HD, Shera Hang Subba, Chairperson Gyalshing Municipal Council, IK Neopany, members of Pelling Tourism Development Association and stake holders of West Sikkim.

The meeting decided to appoint Marathon Man, Amar Subba as Brand Ambassador of WSTS. It was also decided that Winter Tourism festival would be an annual event of WSTS.

Addressing the meeting, Minister Mr Subba said that tourism in the state has been badly affected by the China-India border issue and the Gorkhaland agitation. He appealed WSTS to hold press meets at Kolkata and Delhi for the coming tourist season and assured his full support in this endeavor.

Mr Subba also handed over Rs.50,000 to the Society. Other issues like registration of society, introduction of pilgrims marathon and preparation of vision documents of WSTS were also placed in the meeting.

Newar Guthi to celebrate Indraajatra at Namchi this year

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 30 AUG:**

The auspicious occasion of Indraajatra that falls on 05 Sept will be celebrated at Namchi under the aegis of Sikkim Newar Guthi [SNG] featuring cultural programmes consisting of classical, semi classical and folk and modern Newar dances, a press release issued by president of SNG, Dilu Kumar Pradhan, informs.

Sikkim Newar Guthi has also decided to honour its former president, Khagendra Pradhan, of Turring in Namthang, South Sikkim, for his contribution towards preservation and popularisation of Newar language,

culture and traditional Newari music in the State during his tenure.

The release further informs that SNG will also be felicitating Navin Pradhan of Rhenock, East Sikkim for his achievement in the field of body-building. He has recently returned after competing at the World Police & Fire Games 2017 in Los Angeles, USA with two medals, one gold in the category of Best Men's Physique and one bronze in the category of Overall Body-building.

Sikkim Newar Guthi has extended invitation to all the citizens of the State to the Indraajatra celebration at Namchi on 05 Sept.

Arun Uprety assumes office as SKM secretary general

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 30 AUG:**

Newly elected secretary general of Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party, Arun Uprety, has officially assumed office. He was welcomed by the general secretary [head-quarter/administration], Uttam Lepcha, and other party workers in the party head-office today, informs an SKM press release issued by its general

secretary [press & publicity], Bikash Basnet.

Mr Uprety has expressed gratitude to the party for bestowing new responsibilities which he promised to deliver sincerely. Political parties should attract people with its principles and programmes, he said and appealed to the party workers to work collectively for the good of Sikkim and its people.

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Man accused of molesting step daughter

GANGTOK, 30 AUG: A 14-year-old minor was allegedly molested by her stepfather for the past two months. The case was reported to the police by the victim's class teacher on 29 Aug following which the victim was sent to hospital for complete medical examination while a case under Protection Of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 was registered against the stepfather. However, the police could not arrest the accused as he had already absconded from the village. Efforts are being made to trace the accused.

99% of scrapped notes back in system: RBI

NEW DELHI, AUG 30 (PTI): An astronomical Rs 15.28 lakh crore, or 99 per cent of the junked 500 and 1,000 rupee notes, have returned to the banking system, the RBI said today, prompting the Opposition to question the efficacy of demonetisation in curbing black money.

The Reserve Bank, which has so far shied away from disclosing the actual number of junked currency deposited after the November 8, 2016, decision, said in its Annual Report for 2016-17 that only Rs 16,050 crore out of the Rs 15.44 lakh crore of the old high denomination notes have not returned.

While the counterfeit currency made up for a minuscule number,

GAC criticizes CM's statements on Article 371F

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 30 AUG:**

The Gorkha Apex Committee, in a press release, has criticized the statement made by Chief Minister Pawan Chamling on the concluding day of the Monsoon Session of Sikkim Legislative Assembly regarding special provisions of Article 371F and Sikkim Subject Certificate.

The committee has said that the 'inability to explain the rights, privileges and duties as envisioned under Article 371F to the people of Sikkim have created misconceptions and discontentment'.

Citing the rejection of Local Employment Protection Bill 2010 by the President of India and repealing of Sikkim Registration of Companies Act 1961 by Companies Act 2013, GAC has said that 'every individual has right to debate, discuss and understand the rights and duties as enshrined in the Constitution'.

Further, criticizing the delay on Limboo-Tamang Assembly seat reservation, GAC has appealed to all the political parties, organizations and people to come together to discuss and deliberate on the issue.

"Only when every Sikkimese people are aware of their constitutional rights as enshrined under Article 371F, they will be able to safeguard the special provision and distinct identity of Sikkim for the generations to come," the release reads.



Cleanliness drive by Bermiok Tokal School's NSS unit

GANGTOK, 30 AUG [PIB]: The National Service Scheme unit of Bermiok Tokal Senior Secondary School in South Sikkim organised herbal garden maintenance and cleanliness drive in the institution's premises and surrounding village area on 29 Aug. All NSS volunteers, Principal, staff and students participated in the programme under the guidance of NSS Programme Officer, Prahlad Sharma.

RBI post-demonetisation spent Rs 7,965 crore on printing new Rs 500 and Rs 2,000 and other denomination notes, more than double the Rs 3,421 crore spent in the previous year.

The Opposition was quick to pounce on the data to attack the government, with former finance minister P Chidambaram wondering if demonetisation was "a scheme designed to convert black money into white".

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley vehemently defended the note ban decision, which sucked out 86 per cent of the currency in circulation, curbed economic activity and put common man at much inconvenience, saying the move was not intended to confiscate money but to

bring it into formal channels and tax them.

The move, he said, was aimed at flushing out black money, eliminating fake currency, striking at the root of terror financing, converting non-formal economy into formal one to expand tax base and employment and giving a big boost to digitisation of payments to make India a less-cash economy.

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Land demarcated in Yuksam for relocation of landslide-affected families

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tion was done in the presence of Panchayat President cum Ward Panchayat, Mangal Rai, Head Surveyor, Bimal Gurung, Revenue Supervisor, So-

nam Sangdarpa, Joint Engineers of Yuksam Block Administrative Center, Panchayats, land owners and the affected families.

The affected families will be provided with 25

decimal of land (0.1010 hectare) each for the resettlement. The SDM assured to support the affected families in coming days as well.

The families, Pancha-

yats and local residents expressed gratitude to the state government and Chief Minister for approving and sanctioning the land for relocation.

No multiple statements on sensitive Doklam issue: Govt

Contd from pg01

hance its combat capability, said the exercise had nothing to do with any specific incident and had been going on since much before Doklam.

He was responding to a ques-

tion that whether the reform process was undertaken keeping in view the Doklam incident.

Troops of the two countries had been locked in a standoff in Doklam since June 16 after Indian army personnel stopped the Chi-

nese Army from building a road in the disputed area.

On August 28, the MEA had announced that both the countries agreed to an "expeditious disengagement" at the face-off site following diplomatic communications.

Sensitization on Total Literacy Mission at Kitam-Manpur



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 30 AUG:**

A sensitization programme on Total Literacy Mission was organized today at the Village Administrative Centre in Kitam-Manpur GPU under the initiative of teacher coordinator for the mission, Suresh K Subba, and had president of the GPU, Savitri Chettri, as chief guest, a press release informs.

During the programme, Mr Subba sensitized the illiterate and poorly literate adults of the GPU about the mission and motivated them to attend weekly informal classes for at least 2 hours in their respective wards.

He also entrusted student volunteers from Kitam Senior Secondary School to impart informal education in each ward. The volunteers include Nikhil Regmi for Upper Kitam, Mahima Dhama for Middle Kitam, Pranisha Sharma for Lower Kitam, Arjun Bhujel for Bellbotey and Amisha Tamang for Manpur.

Mr Subba further informed that the best learning participants will be awarded on completion of

the course of one year.

Panchayat president, Ms Chettri, also encouraged and motivated the participants citing various examples and gave a clarion call to emphasize on personal development keeping aside all family engagements for at least 2 hours a week. She assured all possible assistance to run the mission smoothly and successfully.

It is to be informed here, Kitam-Manpur Gram Panchayat has invited womenfolk who have not completed matriculation to continue their education through open schooling to complete matriculation taking due cognizance and action on issues raised during a Mahila Sabha.

The interactive programme today was attended by all members of the Gram Panchayat, GP functionaries and almost 30 potential learners of the GPU. The assigned student volunteers are being instructed to prepare a list of all illiterate persons in consultation with respective Ward Panchayats and invite them to attend their classes regularly, the release adds.

Gangtok on Thursday, 31 Aug
Temp: 26°C /18°C
Forecast: Considerable cloudiness with showers and thunderstorms; not as warm.
Sunrise: 05:14 AM
Sunset: 05:58 PM

Advisory Committee on Pre Natal Diagnostics Techniques meets
GANGTOK, 30 AUG [IPR]: A meeting of the State Advisory Committee [Pre Natal Diagnostics Techniques] was held today under the chairmanship of Secretary-Health Department, Dr K Bhandari.

The meeting started with the welcome address by Member Secretary-cum-Additional Secretary of Health, Kinchoo D Lepcha, which was followed by a report on State Inspection & Monitoring Committee's tour and findings for the month of July 2017 and National Inspection and Monitoring Committee's visit to Manipur by Additional Director Health Services- Reproductive Child Health, Dr N Shenga.

The main issue for discussion was the registration of ultra sound machines in veterinary sciences clinics and all veterinary clinics with USG machines to be registered under Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act 1994.

In his concluding remark, the Chairperson stressed on timely and correct reporting on PNDT to Government of India and strengthening of the state PNDT cell by the concerned Department.

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State Population Education Cell organizes role play and folk dance competition

**ARPAN PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 30 AUG:**

The State Population Education Cell of State Council of Education Research & Training [SCERT] Sikkim organized a state-level role play and folk dance competition with the aim to create awareness and develop positive attitude towards population and developmental issues leading to responsible behavior among students, teachers, parents and community at large.

Yuksam Senior Secondary School bagged the first position in the role play competition with Temi SSS and Sadam SSS securing the second and third positions, respectively.

The folk dance competition was won by Modern SSS while Mangang SSS secured the second position with Singtam SSS coming in third.

Member of Parliament, PD Rai, attended the programme as chief guest in the presence of Director-SCERT, officials from various sections of Human Resource Development Department, officials from SCERT & DIET, along with teachers and students.



Brochure on Adolescent Population Education of SCERT was also launched by the chief guest. Further, district coordinators were felicitated during the event for organising competitions at the district level successfully.

Sensitization on RTI Act at Holy Cross School

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 30 AUG:**

A sensitization programme on Right to Information Act 2005 was organized by Sikkim Information Commission [SIC] today at Holy Cross School in 6th Mile, Tadong. The programme was presided over by Principal-Holy Cross School, Sister Celine, Deputy Secretary-SIC, Abinash Rai, in the presence of faculty members and students of the school and staffs of SIC, a press release informs.

Deputy Secretary-SIC, Mr Rai, gave a detailed lecture on RTI Act 2005 and its rules. He further informed that since Holy Cross School is under CBSE board and since CBSE comes under the definition of Public Authority under RTI Act 2005, students can seek certified copy of their answer sheets and have



it re-totaled as per the judgment of the Supreme Court of India. A memento on behalf of SIC was presented by Mr Rai to the Principal of the school.

The programme also included an interactive session which had active participation of the students and faculty of the school.

The release adds that a similar programme on RTI Act 2005 had been conducted at the conference hall of Sikkim Manipal University in Tadong on 11 Aug

which was attended by Secretary-SIC, JD Bhutia, Deputy Secretary-SIC, Mr Rai, Dean, Registrar, Professor-Community Medicine and students of MBBS, Physiotherapy and Nursing of SMU along with staff of SIC.

Mr Rai apprised the gathering at SMU that all medical records of a patient falls under the purview of RTI Act and such information can be provided to the patients and their relatives when they file an RTI application.

KVK Gyalshing conducts Sankalp se Siddhi programme

GYALSHING, 30 AUG [IPR]: Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Gyalshing conducted 'Sankalp se Siddhi' programme at its training hall today. The programme was held as per the directions of Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Department, Government of India to conduct 'Sankalp se Siddhi' programme in every district of the country between 19-30 Aug by all the central government organizations in the country.

The programme was attended by Upadhakshya, L.P Kafley and Agriculture Department officials along with the public.

Addressing the gathering, Mr Kafley talked about the initiatives launched by the state government to promote organic farming in the state. He said that all the projects currently underway in the State under the Agriculture Department are eco-friendly and oriented to promote organic farming.

He assured to support all the initiatives taken by Krishi Vigyan Kendra for the welfare of the farmers. He appreciated the work done by KVK, Gyalshing and motivated the farmers to come forward and take advantage of the technology rendered by the Department.

District Magistrate (West), Kapil Meena read out the message of Prime Minister and administered the 'New India pledge' to the officers and participants.

The programme also witnessed the inauguration of Hatchery Unit, E-Library and an Agriculture Technology Information Centre (ATIC) unit at KVK by Mr Kafley.

A Kisan film forwarded by Ministry of Agriculture was also screened at the programme.

Press Club holds annual general body meeting

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 30 AUG:**

The election for the eighth working committee of the Press Club of Sikkim will be held on 14 Oct. This was decided during the annual general body meeting of the club held today, which was chaired by the PCS president, Bhim Rawat.

As the two-year tenure of the present working committee has come to an end, the meeting today decided the date for the conduct of election for the new working committee. A three-member election committee was also constituted during the meeting.

During the annual general body meeting, PCS general secretary, Puran Tamang presented a brief report of activities and initiatives taken by the club in the last one year. He informed that one of the biggest achievements of the PCS was to provide free bus passes for accredited journalists from SNT.

Likewise, PCS treasurer, Nirmal Manger presented the annual financial report of the club.

PCS president, Mr Rawat expressed his hope that the new body will take forward the good works and initiatives of the last two years. He also expressed his hope that the government will take positive steps on the demands and issues placed by the PCS during the National Press Day on 16 Nov last year on behalf of the journalists.

Mr Rawat informed that the PCS has placed a three-point demand to the government namely own building for the PCS, amendment in the advertisement policies of the state government and pension to journalists above 60 years who have been in this field for a long time.

During the open discussion, advisors and members of the club placed their suggestions. PCS working president, Dilli Ram Dulal mentioned about the various activities and achievements of the PCS.

The meeting also decided to revive its monthly programme, Vichar Kala Sangam.

Final phase of Aadhaar enrolment for minors at Singtam



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 30 AUG:**

The third and final phase of Aadhaar enrolment for minors, starting from newborn babies to those less than

five years old, was held here at the Community Hall of Singtam Nagar Panchayat today. More than 135 children registered in the final phase of the enrolment camp.

DC West inaugurates Anganwadi Centre at Byadung

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 30 AUG:**

District Collector (West), Kapil Meena inaugurated an Anganwadi Centre (AWC) at Aap Dara, Byadung in West Sikkim today, a press release informs.

The AWC was constructed at a cost of Rs 4.5 lakh. The centre has been constructed by the land donor himself as the beneficiary and department nominee, reads the release.



DISHA meets and discusses progress of central schemes in Sikkim

GANGTOK, 30 AUG [IPR]: A meeting of District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee [DISHA] for East District was held today at the conference hall of Chintan Bhawan under the chairmanship of MP Lok Sabha, PD Rai.

The meeting had the participation of Zilla Adhyaksha-East, Bimal Dabari, Mayor-Gangtok Municipal Corporation, Shakti Singh Choudhary, District Collector-East, Prabhakar Verma, Additional District Collectors-Development, Dr AB Karki and Roshni Rai, and members of DISHA from various implementing departments of all flagship central

government schemes along with Panchayat members.

Chairperson, Mr Rai inquired in detail about the implementation and outcome of flagship programmes namely Smart City Mission, Atal Mission For Rejuvenation And Urban Transformation [AMRUT], National Rural Livelihood Mission [NRLM], Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana [PMKVY], Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana [DDU-GKY], Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana [PMKSY], Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana [PMFBY], Watershed Development Component of PMKSY, Na-

tional Rural Drinking Water Programme, Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, and also about the status of ongoing projects of BSNL in the state.

Mr Rai stressed on the need to document the outcome of these flagship programmes in terms of the quantum of benefit they have brought to the people of Sikkim. He stated that this meeting, which ideally takes place quarterly, is a platform to share the progress, challenges and mostly the outcome of Central Government schemes through various implementing departments of the state government.

He said that the implementing departments have

to take into consideration the views of public representatives, members of the public, and other stakeholders at various stages of implementation of these schemes and programmes. This will help to understand the actual needs of the people for whom the programmes are designed, he added.

The MP added that it is a matter of great honour that two cities of a small hilly state like Sikkim have been enlisted in the Smart City Mission, and it will require collective participation from the Government, private agencies, and the people living in these cities to sustain this Mission.



**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT**

No: 18/GOS/R&B(YANG)/17-18/15 Dated: 29/08/2017

NOTICE INVITING RE-TENDER

On behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Additional Chief Engineer (S/W), Roads and Bridges Department, Government of Sikkim invites item rate bids through e-procurement. The bids should be submitted online through the website www.sikkimtender.gov.in for the work as listed below:

Pack- age No.	Name of works	Bid security 2.5% of the value (Rs. In Lakhs)	Bid value (Rs. In Lakhs)	Cost of ten- der/bid form (Rs. In Lakhs)	Completion period.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Construction of 1.24 Km link road from Sangmoo Kadar Turning to Dojok under Yangyang Sub Division, South Sikkim	5.36	214.49	0.30	24 months.

The date and time of pre-bid meeting, submission of completed bid document is as under:

i)	Publishing of Online Tender in e-procurement portal	:	19 th September, 2017
ii)	Uploading of bidding documents in e-procurement portal	:	20 th September, 2017
iii)	Last date & Time for seeking clarification regarding bids.	:	14 th October, 2017 at 1500 Hrs.
iv)	Last date for online Submission of completed bids	:	24 th October, 2017 upto 1600 Hrs.
v)	Date of opening of bids	:	26 th October, 2017 at 1100 Hrs.

For all details on the bid visit www.sikkimtender.gov.in

Sd/-
(K.P. Sharma)
Additional Chief Engineer
Roads and Bridges Department
Government of Sikkim

R.O. No. 278/ipr/pub/classi/17-18 dt. 29.8.2017

Enough!

A Govt which opposes criminalization of marital rape cannot claim to protect daughters

The nation should know that it has a serious problem when its government wears its hypocrisy on its sleeves and its bhakts take sycophancy to new lows of groveling. BBBP, the Beti-Bachao, Beti-Padhaao sham, is projected as a “flagship” programme of the Central government and everything from safai abhiyans to routine adolescent health awareness camps are pegged to this “mission” now. A country where daughters continue to be denied equal access and which has a Prime Minister who was once surprised that the PM of a neighbouring country fought extremists so well “despite being a woman,” one understands the desperate need to have a programme to bachao the betis. But this was always a flawed approach and reeked of male chauvinism which not only sees women as a needing saving (from whom?) but also believes that the same system which has traditionally oppressed her can do the saving as well. What the nation needed was a Beta-Sudharo mission implemented by the Ministry for Women & Child Development, but that is not what we have at hand, and so continues the celebration of hypocrisy which objectifies women to the level that it takes away their individuality and imposes a caricature. The people should know they have a problem when falling fertility rates (the average number of births per woman) is seen instinctively as a social challenge instead of evidence that women are expressing empowerment and exercising more control over their bodies. In Sikkim, this is definitely the case, as a recent study has shown that birth control options are accessed more by women than men in Sikkim. This must be the case in the rest of this male-dominated country as well, and now that we have a chauvinistically right-leaning dispensation in office, gender equality and women's empowerment can be expected to take a beating.

The latest evidence of testosterone-driven and estrogen-repulsive policy positioning of the Centre was displayed in the High Court of Delhi which is hearing a PIL demanding the criminalization of marital rape. Anyone who wonders what marital rape is and whether it is even a “thing” is clearly a brainwashed product of a culture which sees women as the support crew for the men and their plans and ambitions. It is the internalization of this belief that can see women as mothers but never leaders, as the sage counsel behind every great man but never the great leader herself leading several men. In the Delhi High Court on Tuesday, the Centre pleaded that marital rape cannot be made a criminal offence as “it could become a phenomenon which may destabilise the institution of marriage and an easy tool for harassing the husbands”. Marital rape is explained as an act in which the husband forces himself sexually on his wife. That is rape, and to argue that rape by a husband is not rape takes away the wife's right over her own body. But an entire government is now arguing, without even a hint of embarrassment, that a woman signs off her body to the husband with marriage. This is the same line of argument which allows such widespread acceptance of domestic violence in society as well. What this reasoning also sidesteps is the fact that violence - and rape is an act of violence whether committed by a stranger or a relative or even the husband - has no place in any ‘institution’ and no institution is so special or sacrosanct that it needs to be nurtured despite the violence it inflicts. Marital rape, one needs to recognize, is often a chronic form of violence for the victim which takes place within abusive relations.

There are those who argue that the West cannot be copied for everything. Marital rape is a criminal offence in many western countries now. But this is not even so much about copying anyone, just correcting an offensive anomaly in the laws which exempt husbands from rape. The rape laws in our country, after detailing what constitutes rape, exempts husbands from being charged with the rape of the wife. This used to be how things were in most countries and their laws, but have been corrected in many countries. Not so in our country yet. Even if a new law is not written in to deal with cases of marital rape, at least the protection offered to husbands needs to be lifted. Even the UN has recognized the violence of marital rape as long back as 24 years ago. In December 1993, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights published the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women which established marital rape as a human rights violation. Do we want to be a country which continues to defend marital rape?

DEAR READERS, IF YOU ARE HAVING TROUBLE GETTING YOUR COPY OF SUMMIT TIMES IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD, PLEASE MESSAGE US AT 9734152451 AND WE WILL ENSURE THAT THE NEWSPAPER REACHES YOU.

Opinion



Women celebrate in Valparaíso, Chile

Chile: The Long Road to Abortion Reform

CORDELIA FREEMAN
theconversation.com

Chile had one of the most restrictive abortion policies in the entire world. After years of campaigning, Chile's president, Michelle Bachelet, has finally pushed through a bill that will allow the termination of a pregnancy in three cases – when the woman's life is in danger, when a foetus is unviable, or in cases of rape.

Judges in the constitutional court ruled in favour by six to four in a vote that reflected the wider mood on the matter. Among the general public, 70% supported the bill.

Debate has been heated. A viral video campaign showing women how to induce an “accidental” abortion by walking into moving traffic. The point here was that a terrible accident of this kind is the only way to legally end an unwanted pregnancy.

Certain key cases have been used to show the injustice of restrictive abortion policies. The most famous has been the 11-year-old girl raped by her stepfather who was forced to carry to term.

Chile was once a leader in abortion liberalisation. Procedures had been legal in some circumstances since 1931. However, in 1989, the infamous dictator Augusto Pinochet imposed draconian abortion laws, making the practice illegal in every circumstance.

This did not stop the practice but did

make abortions much more dangerous. According to Human Rights Watch around 35% of pregnancies in Chile end in abortions. That's around 160,000 abortions per year – 64,000 of them by girls under 18. In Latin America and the Caribbean the unsafe abortion mortality ratio is 10 times higher than in Europe. So, regardless of moral arguments, the fact is that women have been dying and will continue to die from unsafe abortions.

THE ROAD TO PERU

In my research, I have found that wealthier women do have a few options when they need an abortion. They can pay a doctor in Chile within an elite network of clandestine providers or they can travel abroad for a legal abortion.

Poorer women are not so lucky. They can seek a cheaper illegal provider within the country or obtain medication from the internet. Chile's geography, long and narrow, with the Andes separating it from Argentina, makes leaving the country on a budget very difficult. There is only one place where women can leave for another country quickly and cheaply – the northern border with Peru.

There are no statistics for how many women travel from Chile to Peru for abortions but during my fieldwork there I spoke to healthcare practitioners who all believed it to be common. I managed to speak to one young woman who travelled across the border when she accidentally fell pregnant. She saw Peru as

an opportunity to find the future she wanted but was frightened all the same, knowing that she could face up to five years in prison if she was caught.

The problem is that clinics in Peru can be run either by licensed physicians who specialise in abortions or by people without medical training. Women can't be sure whether the procedure will be undertaken by a professional or a charlatan.

RELAXING THE BAN

The relaxation of the law in Chile will undoubtedly change the lives of women who previously had no right to an abortion. However, the vast majority of women who fall pregnant but do not want a baby remain unaffected. As my interviewee who had an abortion in Peru told me: “there is no right to an abortion”. Her situation would not fall under the “three cases” and so she did not have and still would not have the right to legally choose what happened to her body. Chileans still have not achieved full reproductive justice.

Campaigners have been celebrating the bill, claiming it as a human rights milestone, but opposition is fierce. As a socially conservative, largely Catholic country, religious and pro-life groups have been opposing the bill at every stage. Bachelet may have made history but the fight for full reproductive rights is far from finished.

[the writer is Teaching Associate in Human Geography, University of Nottingham]

HIV is still taboo in Congo: chronicles from Kinshasa

EMILIE VENABLES
theconversation.com

In 2016 I conducted in-depth interviews with patients at a 42-bed AIDS unit run by Médecins Sans Frontières in Centre Hospitalier Kabinda in Kinshasa, as well as caregivers and health staff. My research, which has not yet been published, uncovered the complex, often heartbreaking web of challenges people face living with HIV in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Nearly 570 000 people live with the disease, which is highly stigmatised. In 2016, the unit treated 2500 AIDS patients. At least 30% arrived so severely ill they died after admission.

Seeing people dying of advanced HIV, commonly referred to as AIDS, was routine at the hospital where I was conducting research. As I noted in one of my diary entries from October 2016:

“The hospital register lists the weight of patients on admission: many weigh less than 40 kilograms, some less than 30. One patient in her thirties jokingly lifts her hospital gown and laughs as she shows me the nappy she's wearing. Another is wheeled into the ward unconscious, wrapped in can only be described as a space blanket. Others are wheeled out of the same door they used when they arrived. But this time, they are covered in white sheets and followed by wailing relatives.”

Why do people wait so long before being tested or treated for HIV? Why do those diagnosed stop taking their treatment and wait until they are on the verge of death before seeking medical care?

There are no easy answers. My interviews with health care workers, patients and their caregivers revealed a

tangled web of personal, community and health centre barriers that prevented people from seeking clinical care.

I was told people don't go to health centres when they first become sick due to high costs, lack of knowledge and information about HIV, religious beliefs and, above all, because of stigma.

It's frustrating to still be writing about HIV-related stigma in 2017. Stigma -- and the discrimination that accompanies it -- have been common themes in HIV since I began working in the field as an anthropologist in the late 1990s. Unfortunately, it's no different in Kinshasa today.

STIGMA STILL STANDS

Stigma is about shame, guilt and fear, and often stems from a lack of knowledge or understanding. It's stigma that stops people from seeking an HIV diagnosis when they fall ill. People don't tell those around them they have HIV because they're afraid of being associated with something believed to be shameful. As a result, they don't receive the medical and psycho-social support they need.

Caregivers -- usually mothers, daughters or sisters of people living with HIV -- were frustrated to learn of the diagnosis so late. They felt they could have prevented their relatives from suffering if they had known earlier. Some relatives suspected the person they were caring for was HIV positive, but didn't want to ask. They were too afraid of hearing the answer they believed meant their loved one would die.

Others didn't suspect, or preferred not to see, for fear that HIV would bring shame on themselves and their fami-

ly. One family saw the hospitalisation of their now teenage son as a waste of time, saying he was going to die anyway.

LITTLE INFORMATION, FEWER CHOICES

HIV remains a synonym for death in Kinshasa. There is limited knowledge that someone with HIV can live a normal and healthy life. Unlike South Africa, where billboards proudly display images of people living with HIV, and AIDS activists have had a strong voice for many years, people in Kinshasa aren't exposed to this kind of information. If they are, it's on a much smaller scale. HIV remains shrouded in mystery and fear.

Religion is extremely important to people in Kinshasa but it can also be damaging for those living with HIV. The church plays an essential role in people's everyday lives; it is a source of support, a community, a place of sanctuary. But some churches prevent people from seeking an HIV diagnosis, or from taking their treatment.

I was told of pastors advising people to throw their pills away. Some people had relatives who had disappeared to attend church camps that claimed they could be cured.

COST

The issue of cost can't be ignored when looking at why people are hospitalised. I was shocked by MSF staff accounts that they believed health care workers in other facilities were using HIV to make money.

One clinician described health centres as being “like a boutique”. Patients were sent on the equivalent of a medicalised shopping trip. They had to pay for tests, drugs and consultations, while remaining

powerless to question the diagnoses -- and shopping lists -- given to them.

Many of these consultations were unnecessary and simply a way for some health care workers to make money. Once someone is diagnosed as HIV positive, their treatment is free. But until that point, they remain in a system they can't afford. It's a system with the potential to benefit someone else.

WORKING TOGETHER

Together, these individuals, community and health care system barriers create an environment in which it is incredibly difficult to be HIV positive.

Addressing the issues of stigma, cost, limited HIV knowledge and a weak health care system is complex. Potential solutions to the problem of advanced HIV go beyond the walls of MSF facility into the wider community and beyond. There is a need to focus on stigma reduction at a community level, while giving patients, their relatives and health care workers information about HIV.

People testing for HIV and taking ARVs need to know about their treatment and have ongoing counselling. Civil society and community organisations -- such as those in South Africa -- do not grow overnight. But by taking small steps, such as people living with HIV sharing their stories with their communities, and working with local religious groups, this can help reduce the stigma and enable people in Kinshasa to access lifesaving treatment they so urgently need.

[the writer is Honorary Research Associate with the Division of Social and Behavioural Sciences in the School of Public Health, University of Cape Town]

Heal wounds

EDITORIAL/
The Nagaland Page

It is apparent that some vested interests are bent upon dividing the people by changing the narrative of everything that happens or what they want that to happen in this State. They have developed a habit on their own or at the behest of the interests who benefit by the fissures than the unity of the State. They throw a smoke screen to their vicious plans. In fact, they are doing more harm than good. Not that they are not aware of the reality and the life the people want to live in a peaceful manner. But under the influence of the disruptive forces they are working to break the sensitive State on the basis of non-issues.

There are several issues facing us, which can be dealt with promotion of harmony. But bringing in the non-issues covers up the real issues! The irony is that some of the issues facing us are common to the peoples of all the places. Each and every citizen wants good roads, electricity, water, education, health care and pure air to breathe. But, it is given out as if these common issues are good for some and bad for the others. Few other issues are peculiar to a set of people and areas and a harmonious approach is needed to overcome the problems. Even if one part is ailing, the whole body suffers. Yes, we have an issue, it cannot be overlooked. Our people have a litany of grouses. The real part is that the people have a sense of deep alienation. Some of it comes to them with the cradle, and the rest rises parallel as they grow in particular surroundings, where there is fear of both the known and unknown. This conditions them, and the way their real issues are tackled with in a callous manner, things deteriorate.

The fault clearly lies with the politicians, who allow the vested interest to exploit the situation and create the narrative of negativity. In such a situation, things go wrong. Of course, the atmosphere of conflict cannot be kept aside. This becomes a part of life because of the persistent conditions in which the sense of conflict and alienation grow. The conflict will persist unless

turn to pg05

CBSE amends order, allows schools to run book shops

NEW DELHI, AUG 30 (PTI): Amending its April directive, CBSE has now allowed schools to open shops in their premises to sell NCERT books, stationery and other material required by students.

The Central Board of Secondary Education had in April asked schools to not run as "commercial establishments" and stop selling books and uniforms in their premises.

However, the board has now allowed schools to run the shops to facilitate the sale of NCERT books.

"Schools are allowed to place indent for purchase of NCERT books directly through its website for distribution among their students and for this purpose, a tuck shop may be opened inside the premises of the schools," said a fresh circular issued to schools.

"Stationery and other material required by students are also allowed to be sold from this tuck shop. The earlier circular stands amended," it added.

to book advertisements in SummitTimes, call 03592-208698 9734152541

Extreme weather events the new normal? Experts take stock

PRASHANT RANGNEKAR NEW DELHI, AUG 30 (PTI): From Houston all the way to Mumbai and from Nepal to the desert state of Rajasthan, rains have cut a swathe of destruction with flooded streets and thousands marooned at their cities and villages go under.

With people across the globe dealing with the humanitarian and economic fallout of unusually heavy rains this year, are extreme weather events the new normal?

Scientists, meteorologists and climate change experts blame rising global temperatures for the erratic weather patterns, leading to instances like heavy rains and floods.

Heavy rainfall, cloudbursts, thunderstorms and heat waves are indeed becoming the new normal, said former India Meteorological Department (IMD) director general Laxman Singh Rathore.

A worrying trend, added the consultant with the World Bank for

South Asia on Climate Change, was that "periodicity and severity" had increased.

"In case of rainfall, the average precipitation has more or less remained the same, the dry spells have increased but the amount of rainfall remains the same. This means there is heavy concentration of rainfall over a particular region while other areas go dry," explained Jatin Singh, CEO of Skymet, a private weather forecasting agency.

IMD recorded 2016 as the hottest year since 1901. And, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) fifth assessment report on climate change, observations since 1950 show changes in some extreme events, particularly daily temperature extremes and heat waves.

The IPCC report also noted that it is likely that the frequency of heavy precipitation will increase in the 21st century over many regions.

The numbers are alarming.

According to the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 41 million people have been affected due to torrential rains in India, Nepal and Bangladesh this year.

Nearly 900 people have died in the three countries, a report on the UN news website said.

An IMD report added that 1,600 people in India died due to extreme heatwave conditions which 475 lives were lost in floods and thunderstorms in 2016.

Rathore said South Asian countries have been affected due to torrential rains and floods because of high population density.

But how does global warming lead to heavy rainfall?

Roxy Mathew Koll, a scientist researching climate change with the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, a premium institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, explained that the atmosphere and

the oceans were getting warmer due to increasing carbon dioxide, a result of human activities.

"A warmer atmosphere holds more moisture. This results in two factors. The first is that warm moist air is lighter than cold dry air and hence makes the atmosphere unstable as it rises up," said Koll.

The second factor, he added, is that since the atmosphere holds more moisture, it dumps it all together -- a heavy rainfall event.

These factors leads to erratic weather, including extreme rainfall events across the globe.

There are domestic factors, too, that aggravate losses in times of extreme weather.

Former IMD DG Rathore pointed out that in case of cities, natural drainage systems have been "altered" at the cost of infrastructure development.

One major reason for the 2005 Mumbai deluge, in which more than

500 people were killed with 944 mm of rain in a single day, was the damage done to natural drainage systems like the Mithi river. The river, which runs through the suburbs, has been revived to some extent now.

Vineet Kumar, programme officer (Climate Change) with the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), said research on climate change and its effects was insufficient for exigency plans at the micro-level.

"Due to this, there is a huge gap in planning a policy to deal with the problems occurring due to climate change. For instance, there are not enough studies on the adverse impact on crops due to this phenomenon to come up with a policy on how to deal with it," Kumar said.

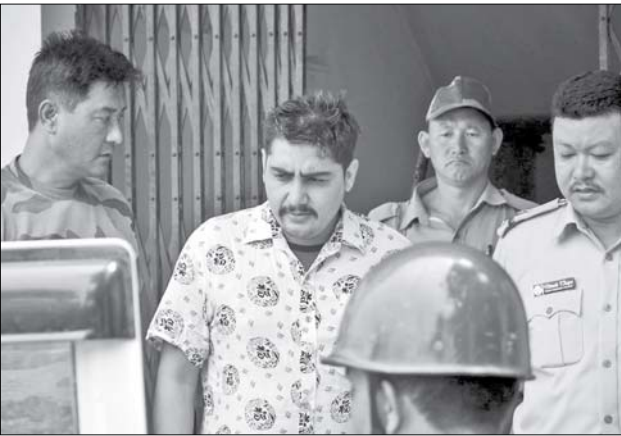
As states like Bihar count their dead -- an estimated 500 killed in the floods this year alone -- and Mumbai gets back on its feet after the heavy rains yesterday, the hope is that next year will be different.

One arrested in connection with Kalimpong blast case

SUMMIT REPORT KALIMPONG, 30 AUG: Kalimpong police today arrested one, Bijay Chettri in connection with the blast that occurred in Kalimpong on 19 Aug. The blast had killed a civic police guard and left a Sashastra Seema Bal jawan and a home guard injured.

The accused hails from Alaichikhop and was produced before the Kalimpong Court today where he has been slapped with Explosive Substances Act, 1908, Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, 1967 and Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act, 1984.

The police have already charged Gorkha Janmukti Morcha chief,



Bimal Gurung and four other party leaders under Unlawful Activities Prevention Act for the blast. According to police sources, on 19 Aug, an

explosive substance that seemed to be a grenade was thrown towards the police station in Kalimpong. One civic police guard died while two

Cabinet clears hike in GST cess to 25% on mid, large size cars

NEW DELHI, AUG 20 (PTI): Mid and large sized cars, luxury vehicles, hybrids as well as SUVs are likely to cost more as the Cabinet on Wednesday cleared the issuing of Ordinance to raise the GST cess on them to a maximum of 25 per cent, from 15 per cent at present.

Car prices had dropped by up to Rs 3 lakh following the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) from July 1 and the ordinance is being seen as an attempt to rectify the anomaly where rates of certain common use items had gone up but luxury cars were costing less under the new regime.

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said the ordinance, or an executive

order, will amend the GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017 to raise the maximum rate of cess.

However, he added, the actual cess on different classes of vehicles and as to when it will be implemented is to be decided by the GST Council.

Headed by Jaitley and comprising representatives of all states, the Council is to meet in Hyderabad on September 9.

The Ordinance, which is issued to enact a law or amend an existing legislation during times when Parliament is not in session, will now be sent to the President for promulgation.

The amendment would have to be approved by the Parliament within six months. The next session of Parliament is likely in November/December.

Jaitley said the objective of a taxation policy cannot be to make luxury items cheaper, and essentials costlier.

"If at all relief is to be given, it has to be given

to a common man's item rather than a luxury item. So a person who can afford Rs 1 crore for a vehicle can also afford Rs 1.20 crore," he said.

Under GST, which replaced over a dozen central and state levies in the biggest tax reform since independence, cars attract the top tax rate of 28 per cent. On top of this, a cess of 1 to 15 per cent is levied for the creation of a corpus to compensate states for any loss of revenue from implementation of GST.

After the introduction of GST, the total tax incidence on motor vehicles (GST plus compensation cess) has come down when compared with the total tax incidence in the pre-GST regime.

The highest pre-GST tax incidence on motor vehicles worked out to about 52-54.72 per cent, to which 2.5 per cent was added on account of Central Sales Tax, octroi etc.

Against this, post-GST the total tax incidence came to 43 per cent.

Tibetan Rehabilitation Policy will not affect Arunachalees: BJP

ITANAGAR, AUG 30 (PTI): Amid growing protests in Arunachal Pradesh against the recent decision by its cabinet to implement the Tibetan Rehabilitation Policy, 2014, the ruling BJP today said that the policy will not affect the indigenous population in any way.

"The Tibetans are not claiming any citizenship but staying in three settlements in the state in an organized way unlike the Chakma and Hajong refugees," state BJP president Tapir Gao said during an interaction with the media here.

He said, the state government has no separate policy on the Tibetans but is following the central policy which is mandatory as India was a signatory of the Geneva Agreement.

"The Rehabilitation Policy was framed during 1959 when the Dalai Lama fled Tibet and took political asylum in India. The policy which is being reviewed every 20 years is not an act so far. Since we respect human rights, we are obliged to follow the policy," he said.

Several organizations like All Arunachal Pradesh Students

Union, Arunachal Citizen Rights, Arunachal Pradesh Congress Committee and Peoples Party of Arunachal have protested against the decision of the state cabinet to implement the policy and demanded immediate its rollback.

The decision, they claimed, would badly affect the indigenous tribal population of the state especially in job and other facilities from state as well as central schemes.

As per the 2009 census, a total of 1,10,095 Tibetans are present in the country and settled in 45 settlements in ten states. There are six settlements in Karnataka, one each in Maharashtra, Odisha and Chattisgarh, three in Arunachal Pradesh, two in Sikkim, two in West Bengal, four in Uttarakhand, 16 in Himachal Pradesh and nine in Jammu and Kashmir.

Gao informed that out of the 7,530 Tibetans settled in three settlements in Arunachal Pradesh, 935 have been rehabilitated in Canada last year.

"As per the Rehabilitation Policy, the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) conducts census of the

Tibetan refugees every five years and submit report to the Centre as well as the respective state governments," Gao said

He said the Centre found that the level of assistance and facilities extended by various state governments to the Tibetans were not uniform. The Rehabilitation Policy, 2014 was framed to provide an uniform guideline demarcating the facilities to be extended to the Tibetan refugees living within the jurisdiction of each state government.

As per the policy, the state government should necessarily sign a lease document for the land occupied by the Tibetans for a period of 20 years or till it is revoked or cancelled.

Moreover, Rent Tenancy Certificate should be issued by the respective state governments and land under their occupation should not be disturbed.

The state government had also been advised to permit qualified professionals amongst the Tibetans to pursue jobs in private and non-government sectors in any field.

of the matter is that it is powerful, but the pedestal is different. It is working to save the lives not destroy the same. Germany is known for the fall of the Berlin Wall at the fag end of the last century and that was its turning point. Yes, if the conflict was to be resolved by guns and bombs, then by now all conflicts in the world would have ended. That has not happened, because the lexicon of the conflict only expands conflict. At the moment, the venomous narrative is being added, that everyone else is an enemy. This feeling is being raised not only against the people outside but also within. There are indeed certain sad and bad chapters that leave wounds that fester for years, but those cannot be kept forever.

The best option is to heal the wounds. Of the two options, which one is better - to re-open and deepen the wounds by retelling the tales of vicious politics, or there should be sincere ventures to heal the wounds. Indeed, there is a future ahead for all of us. The attempt should be to stick to the truth and not distort it for the personal gains. The commitment toward society should be honoured.


Heal wounds

contd from pg04

it is resolved. That is natural. If there are sincere efforts, the problems can be resolved and the theme of winning hearts and minds would gain meaning if it is taken as a mission and not as chessboard game. But this feeling should not be allowed to become a vehicle of clash between peoples. There always can be arguments and counter-arguments in a civilised society.

Nagas are sagacious people to understand that the conflict talk can neither be extended to cover everything nor can it be limited to just a debate. As we recall the world history, Germany that thrust two world wars in the 20th century today is working hard to contain the conflict in Europe. It doesn't want repeat of the ugly history that had besmirched its landscape. Germany is an economic powerhouse in Europe, to which almost all countries look up to. It was a military power in the last century and today it is the economic power. The sum

LOST: I, Dorjee Sherpa, S/O Gyetlsen Sherpa R/O Dew Damthang, have lost my original Class X pass certificate bearing roll number 11545, year 1981, CBSE, Temi Senior Secondary School. If found please contact 9832612188



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
SIKKIM STATE TEACHERS' RECRUITMENT BOARD
UPPER SYARI, GANGTOK

Ref. No 20/ SSTRB

NOTICE

On the basis of the written examination and viva-voce the following candidates bearing Roll Nos. in order of Merit are declared qualified for the post of Principal of Senior Secondary School.

Sl. No.	ROLL NO.	NAME OF CANDIDATE	QUOTA PGT/ HM
1	20170044	Ms. Sujata Subba	PGT
2	20170067	Ms. Sushma Tiwari	PGT
3	20170038	Ms. Sandhya Sharma	PGT
4	20170041	Dr. Keshav Gautam	PGT
5	20170045	Mr. Rupesh Kumar Pradhan	PGT
6	20170016	Ms. Lata Sharma	HM
7	20170029	Ms. Jag Maya Chettri	PGT
8	20170030	Mr. Karma Sonam Bhutia	PGT
9	20170022	Mr. Pushpa Raj Dhungel	HM
10	20170056	Mr. Bishnu Prasad Thapa	PGT
11	20170018	Mr. Yenten Gyatso Bhutia	HM
12	20170084	Ms. Jamuna Gurung	PGT
13	20170070	Mr. Ranjay Sinha	PGT
14	20170052	Mr. Pradeep Gurung	PGT
15	20170013	Mr. Prahlad Sharma	PGT
16	20170043	Ms. Yangchuk Donka	PGT
17	20170080	Mr. Laxmi Prasad Gurung	PGT
18	20170054	Ms. Dechen Ongmu Bhutia	PGT
19	20170019	Mr. Santosh Kumar Chettri	HM
20	20170020	Mr. Chandra Bahadur Sapkota	HM
21	20170023	Mr. Parsuram Sharma	HM
22	20170024	Mr. Lok Nath Sharma	HM
23	20170017	Mr. Nanda Kumar Karki	HM
24	20170015	Mr. Rudra Prasad Sharma	HM
25	20170021	Mr. Bishnu Kant Sharma	HM
26	20170025	Ms. Kalpana Gurung	HM
27	20170012	Ms. Kamala Devi Rai	HM

(T.P. Sharma, SCS)
Controller of Examination
Sikkim State Teachers Recruitment Board

R.O. No: 282/IPR/Pub/Classi./17-18. Dt:30.8.2017

MLA inaugurates badminton court in Shanti Nagar

YOGEN THATAL
SINGTAM, 30 AUG:

Area MLA cum Agriculture Minister, Somnath Poudyal today inaugurated a badminton court here at Shanti Nagar in Singtam, East Sikkim. The day also marked the birth anniversary of India's hockey wizard, Major Dhyan Chand which is celebrated as National Sports Day all over the country.

Shanti Nagar Gaon Sudhaar Samiti president, Krishna Chettri in his address thanked the people for contributing towards the establishment of the badminton court. He also laid down the objective behind constructing the court saying, 'the court is built to promote sports and physical health of the upcoming generation of youth.'

An inaugural match was also played between Station Head Master of Singtam Police Station, Ajay Rai and Kiran Rai.

The function was also attended by Dr AH



Khan, a veteran badminton player who has suc-

cessfully represented the state in many national

level badminton championships.

All state capitals to be connected to Delhi by rail: Gohain

UMIAM (MEGHALAYA), AUG 30 (PTI): The Union Minister of State for Railways Rajen Gohain today said the Centre has fixed a target to connect all state capitals to Delhi by rail to help farmers sell their products.

We have already fixed the target to connect all state capitals to Delhi through rail, Gohain said, while addressing a program meat the ICAR-NER here.

"It(railways) will not only help in intercommunication but will also help the farming community to export their produce to different parts of the country and fetch them high income."

According to the union minister, Railways will also help in bringing visitors to Meghalaya and its people stand to benefit from the tourist inflow.

"Not only will the rail bring in tourists, the cost of importing and exporting materials in the state will also go down by using the goods train services,"

he said to opposition railways in the state on the grounds that it would cause influx of immigrants into the tribal state.

Criticising the Congress government in the state, Gohain said, "Meghalaya government has

not taken interest in railways. I don't understand why they have kept the project halted."

"Because land acquisition was not done, the project has come to a standstill," he added.

Earlier, Gohain reiterated

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement saying that focus on a second green revolution in the north east should be through organic farming.

He said the ICAR has initiated different programs for doubling the

farmer's income in the next five years by 2022 on a pilot basis in their adopted villages.

"The abundance of natural resources, congenial climatic conditions and a large number of educated youths make the

region suitable for India's second green revolution, he said.

He said, north east continues to buy foodgrains but its demand-supply gap has narrowed down in the last decade.

Derailment survivor gets stuck in Mumbai local

MUMBAI, AUG 30 (PTI): He survived a derailment only to get stuck in a local train for eight hours as incessant rain brought Mumbai and its suburbs to a grinding halt yesterday.

For 54-year-old Sukhdev Meshram, a passenger on the Nagpur-Mumbai Duronto Express that derailed between Maharashtra's Vasind and Asangaon stations early morning yesterday, it was a day he will never forget.

After the accident, caused by a landslide, Meshram walked till the Vasind station and took an auto till Kalyan where he boarded a Mumbai-bound local train

on the Central Railway network.

"After the derailment, I saw that no trains were operating on the track so I walked to the nearest station and took an auto to Kalyan," Meshram told reporters.

But home in Mumbai was still many hours away.

"After spending almost eight hours in the local train, we hadn't even reached Sion station. There was no announcement, neither did anyone inform us about the status of the train amid the heavy downpour," he said.

A day later, it was not much different for 40-year-old Kedarnath Bhaskar Shinde, who

works as a security person in an office in south Mumbai and lives near Kalyan.

"I normally take around an hour and half. Today, I traversed the distance in seven hours," he told PTI.

"I left home at 4.30 am and at 5.30 am boarded a local train at Kalyan. I got down at Thane at 6 am, had to change platforms to board the next local which reached Kurla at 7.15 am. I waited for the next train which arrived at 8.15 am."

However, that train had moved barely two kilometres when it stopped.

"Passengers got down and I followed suit. I then walked till Dadar station. The journey took me an hour," Shinde said, recapping his morning journey.

"As there were no trains proceeding from Dadar to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, I went to the Western Railway platform and took a train for Churchgate, where I reached at 12.30 pm," Shinde said.

Torrential rain pounded the metropolis throughout the day yesterday. The city recorded 298 mm of rainfall, the highest in a day in August since 1997.

Mission impossible? Nadal wants New Yorkers to be quiet

NEW YORK, AUG 30 (AFP): Rafael Nadal has conquered the French Open 10 times and battled career-threatening knee and wrist injuries, but his greatest challenge awaits him -- telling rowdy New Yorkers to be quiet.

The world number one and two-time US Open champion took his first-round record at the season's concluding Grand Slam to 13-0 on Tuesday with a 7-6 (8/6) 6-2 6-2 win over Serbia's Dusan Lajovic.

But with torrential rain lashing the Flushing Meadows site, the roof on the showpiece Arthur Ashe stadium was shut tight, creating a giant echo-chamber for the boisterous crowd of 24,000 beneath.

"Being honest, it (the noise) is a little bit too much," said the 31-year-old Spaniard, whose Grand Slam collection of 15 titles includes the 2010 and 2013 US Open crowns.

"The energy and support of the crowd is massive. I enjoy it and I have unforgettable memories from this tournament and this court, because the energy is different from in other places."

"But at the same time, under the roof, it's too much noise. I was not able to hear the ball when hitting."

"I understand it's a show, but under the roof we need to be a little bit more strict about the noise. All the noise stays inside, and this is difficult."

Nadal's complaints echoed similar concerns made by Andy Murray last year when the huge 150 million roof over the world's biggest tennis stadium was rolled into action for the first time.

Murray, the 2012 champion, claimed that when the rain was bouncing off the outside of the roof, it was impossible to



hear line calls inside.

Even the umpire in that match appealed to spectators to cut the volume, a desperate and often futile appeal during the tournament's famed night sessions when the alcohol-fueled atmosphere is not for the meek.

Nadal said the noise on Tuesday meant that he was unable to hear the ball and that his opponent couldn't hear him when he asked for a service game to be delayed.

Meanwhile, Nadal said he was equally flummoxed by Murray's decision to withdraw from the US Open last Saturday -- after the draw had been made.

Murray was suffering from a hip injury and his decision to pull out of the event, where he would have been second seed, came too late to affect Nadal's half of the draw which he shares with old rival Roger Federer.

"Was a little bit strange that he retired just the morning after the draw was made," said Nadal.

"You don't retire Saturday morning. You retire Monday morning or Sunday afternoon. If not, you can do it before the draw. That's why I say it's strange."

"Was something that is a little difficult to understand, but the worst thing is he is not healthy and I wish him a very fast recovery."

Fist of Bidhuri: Gaurav 'hooks' self-doubts to win World medal

**POONAM MEHRA
HAMBURG, AUG 30 (PTI):**

Confidence bruised by near-misses and a nagging back injury -- this is what Gaurav Bidhuri carried into the World Boxing Championships here before his career got a new lease of life by the lone medal he assured for India.

The 24-year-old was not even meant to be in the team till the second half of July which is when fortune smiled on him and he was handed a wildcard entry by the Asian Boxing Confederation (ASBC).

"When I got to know that I have got a wildcard entry, I went around confirming it with every coach, I kept asking 'is this right?' I asked each one of them. I asked everyone and only after each one of them said that I have made it, I finally eased up a bit," the relief was palpable as Gaurav spoke to PTI during an interview after the bout.

The Delhi-boxer has never been among the most talked about in Indian circuit and has been prone to making quarterfinal exits in almost every tournament he was picked for.

The most recent of these quarterfinal exits happened in the Asian Championships in Tashkent earlier this year, where he twice missed the chance to qualify directly for the world showpiece.

"I have nearly always lost in the quarterfinal stage of every tournament that I have competed in. Here also, once I reached quarters, I was having these negative thoughts that 'may be again the same thing will happen, I will lose, that I am not good enough'. But then another part of me was also telling me to break this jinx," he spoke about how he sparred with creeping self-doubts.

Asked how he steeled up for competing despite his seemingly volatile mind, Gaurav conceded it wasn't easy to shake off negativity.

"It is the toughest part of being an athlete, to control the mind. I was having all kinds of thoughts. All of them were not negative but then not every thought was positive too."

There was a lot of noise in my mind, something which only I could hear," smiled the youngster.

And now, Gaurav might become the first Indian boxer to win a medal



better than bronze at the prestigious championships should he go on to win his semi-final on Thursday.

"I have been battling a lot of injuries but did not care about them. I have had severe back problems for the last seven-eight months but I did not care about that and have been training relentlessly and finally I have won a medal," Gaurav said.

Gaurav will fight his bantamweight (56kg) semifinal bout against American Duke Ragan tomorrow.

By advancing to the last-four stage, he joined Vijender Singh (2009), Vikas Krishan (2011) and Shiva Thapa (2015) in a select band of Indian boxers to have finished

on the podium at the biennial mega-event.

Tomorrow, he wants to go a step ahead of Vijender, Vikas and Shiva and make the final to ensure that India finishes with a medal better than bronze.

He said it would also help him get closure for all the near misses of the past, which also includes a quarter-final exit from an Olympic qualifying event last year.

This, despite the fact that he had been in good form coming into the tournament. He had won a gold medal at an invitational tournament in Czech Republic in July but was still a long way off from being even considered a top medal contender here.

However, his prequarterfinal win over Ukraine's Mykola Butsenko, a two-time European Championships' silver-medallist and 2013 world championship bronze-winner, brought him into focus.

He is ready to fight pain as he would like to add a different colour to his medal.

"I am suffering actually. I can't sit for too long and can't even sleep for too long. I have trouble walking as well but it's all worth it now," the Delhi lad said.

India's Swedish coach Santiago Nieva, perhaps, summed it up best.

"He got a lucky break, he made it count. That's luck, that's life."

CONTACT

Summit TIMES

REPORTERS

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TROPICAL STORM HARVEY: Civilians on jet skis rescue children in Texas. Volunteers with boats and jet skis are joining rescue efforts as water levels continue to rise in much of Texas.

China invites five countries as guests for BRICS summit

KJM VARMA
BEIJING, AUG 30 (PTI): China has invited Egypt, Kenya, Tajikistan, Mexico and Thailand as guest countries for the upcoming BRICS summit but clarified that the invitation is not an attempt to expand the group under its 'BRICS Plus' approach. China will host the BRICS summit in Xiamen city from September 3 to 5 in which leaders of the five countries will participate, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "We need to have some further explanation about the BRICS Plus to help people better understand the rationale of this idea," Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said here, addressing the media about BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) summit. Wang has been floating the 'BRICS Plus' approach from March this year sparking speculation that Beijing is mooting the expansion of the emerg-

ing economies bloc. Explaining the 'BRICS Plus' approach, Wang said the member countries have been inviting different countries during the annual summits of the group and referred to India's decision to invite leaders of BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic) for last year's Goa summit in which Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal are members. Referring to the Goa summit, Wang said Chinese President Xi Jinping also attended the dialogue with BIMSTEC leaders and respected and supported the initiative of Prime Minister Modi. "That dialogue was very effective," he said, replying to a question seeking explanation about China's 'BRICS Plus' concept whether it has support of all other members as the group takes decisions on consensus.

Wang also referred to Russia, Brazil and South Africa inviting their neighbouring countries when they hosted the BRICS summits. "So actually this has been a practice that we have for number of years and this time, inspired by the experiences of previous BRICS leaders meeting, we have invited some countries for dialogue," he said, referring to the invitation to the five countries. "Our practice is little bit different, we are not just inviting countries in our neighbourhood, but also countries from all around the world that are interested in BRICS mechanism, altogether five countries have been invited," he said. "I want to stress that this is the arrangement for this year, doesn't mean that these five countries will always will be invited to BRICS meetings in fu-

ture," he said. China's invitation to the five countries has been supported by the leaders of the four other countries including India, Wang said. "We have given a name to this practice of inviting non-BRICS countries, that is BRICS Plus, but as to how many countries that are going to be invited as Plus countries, it is not a fixed number," he said. The guest countries will be decided by the host country, he said adding that BRICS Plus acts with the aim and purpose of the dialogue which is consistent. "We want to broaden the discussion to non-BRICS countries as well. I am confident that the dialogue this year will also be a success and also help expand BRICS influence. This is not only consistent with the interests of BRICS members but also

meets the common aspirations of emerging markets and developing countries," Wang said. He also sought to allay concerns that only India and China have been registering faster growth in the BRICS bloc while the economies of Russia, Brazil and South Africa remained sluggish. "The five BRICS countries have maintained economic growth to different degrees. You mentioned that China and India are growing relatively faster than the rest three countries. They actually have recovered growth and enjoy a bright prospect," Wang said. Their recovery is no easy achievement as the world economic recovery is sluggish, the impact of the international financial crisis is still lingering. "The five BRICS countries enjoy bright prospects of development," he said.

290 children died at BRD Medical College this August: Official

GORAKHPUR (UP), AUG 30 (PTI): A total of 290 children have died in the Baba Raghav Das Medical College here in the month of August, of which 213 died in the neo natal ICU and 77 in the encephalitis ward, principal P K Singh said. There have been 1,250 deaths since January this year at the hospital, especially in encephalitis, infant and children's wards, he said. Giving a break up of the casualties at the infamous medical college, Singh said 37 children have died on August

27 and 28, of which 26 died in the neo natal ICU (NICU) and 11 in encephalitis ward. The toll in January was 152 (143 in NICU and nine in encephalitis ward), in February it was 122 (117 and five), in March 159 (141 and 18), in April 123 (114 and nine), May 139 (127 and 12), June 137 (125 and 12), July 128 (95 and 33), he said. The principal said children with different complications and ailments arising out of premature delivery, under weight, jaundice, pneu-

monia, infectious diseases and encephalitis are admitted to the hospital, mostly in a very serious condition. "A lot many lives can be saved if patients are brought here earlier," Singh stressed. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had formed a committee on August 12, a day after the death of children were reported at the hospital. The state government had also shunted out additional chief secretary medical education Anita Bhatnagar Jain.

18,000 Rohingya flee violence in Myanmar into Bangladesh

COX'S BAZAR, AUG 30 (AP): The International Organisation for Migration said today that 18,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled fresh violence in Myanmar and crossed into Bangladesh, with "hundreds and hundreds" stranded in no man's land at the countries' border. Sanjukta Sahany, a spokeswoman for the IOM in Cox's Bazar, on the Bangladesh border with Myanmar, released the latest figures as human rights groups and advocates for the Rohingya say the Myanmar army was retaliating for attacks by Rohingya militants by burning down villages and shooting civilians. The Myanmar government blames Rohingya insurgents for the violence, including the arson. The official death toll in the violence was 96 as of Sunday, and the actual number is likely to be higher. A majority of Myanmar's estimated 1 million Rohingya live in the northern part of Rakhine state, where they have faced persecution in the Buddhist-majority country. Last week, Rohingya insurgents launched coor-

minated attacks against police posts, setting off retaliation by government forces. Sahany said the Rohingya crisis was not an issue between Myanmar and Bangladesh but of international concern. Ali Hossain, Cox's Bazar district's top government official, told The Associated Press that their resources were under huge stress after some 87,000 Rohingya entered Bangladesh since October last year and now another 18,000 in just one week. "I have already informed the government's high-ups about the trouble we are facing here," he said. "This is a very complex situation." In another development, police said a boat carrying an unknown number of Rohingya capsize in the Naf River, leaving at least four dead.

The boat was trying to enter Bangladesh through Shah Porir Island in the Bay of Bengal when it sank, said police official Main Uddin. He said they recovered four bodies and "most probably" many others were missing. "Our search is on. We don't know how many were on the boat," he said. Also Wednesday, Bangladesh's border guards turned back 171 Rohingya after detaining them at different border points over the last two days, said Col. S.M. Ariful Islam, a director of the Border Guard Bangladesh. He said that border guards provided them with food and medicine before pushing them back, but it was not clear what happened to them later. Myanmar refuses to recognize Rohingya as a legitimate native ethnic minority.

UN Council unanimously condemns North Korea missile test

UNITED NATIONS, AUG 30 (AFP): The UN Security Council has denounced North Korea's latest missile test, unanimously demanding that Pyongyang halt the program after a rocket was fired over Japan into the Pacific. Following the emergency closed-door session called by the United States and Japan, Tokyo's envoy at the UN suggested that a new sanctions declaration could be issued. "Next step starting now. We can't predict the outcome but I certainly hope it would be a strong resolution following this statement," Koro Bessho said yesterday. The 15-member body maintained its unity after Kim Jong- Un's latest provocation, with China and Russia agreeing to sign up to a statement condemning his isolated regime's action. But the US-drafted statement, while noting that the test contravened several previous Security Council resolutions, will not immediately lead to new or tightened measures against Pyongyang. Still, diplomatic sources told AFP that the speed with which the members had reacted underlined their determination to remain united. "The Security Council stresses that these DPRK actions are not just a threat to the region, but to all UN member states," said the statement.

NOTICE

The State Civil Service mourns the passing away of Mr Tempo Gyamtso, former civil servant, Government of Sikkim on 26 August, 2017. He will always be remembered for his positive outlook, tremendous zest for life and his encouragement for his juniors. In his passing we have lost a good human being. We express our heartfelt condolence and extend our sympathy to the bereaved family.

STATE CIVIL SERVICE MEMBERS, GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

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Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 81750 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)	
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-	
21928 34721 38190 51422 54189	
58968 59683 90346 92585 95528	
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17466 22187 41806 43997 49388	
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4th Prize Rs.1000/-	
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2nd Prize Rs.9500/-	
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2nd Prize Rs.9500/-	
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TAYLOR SWIFTLY BREAKS FOUR YOUTUBE AND SPOTIFY RECORDS

In just four days, the star has broken four major streaming records, beating the likes of Adele and Ed Sheeran.

Look What You Made Me Do was played a total of 10,129,087 times on Spotify last Friday, the day of its release, more than any other song has achieved in a single day.

RECORD BREAKER

The video also broke YouTube's one-day streaming record.

It received 43.2 million views in 24 hours, smashing the record set by Psy, whose video for Gentleman was watched 38 million times in one day in 2013. She also overtook Adele's Hello as the most-watched video on day of release.

As Swift sped ahead of Psy's tally, her

director Joseph Kahn celebrated on Twitter, telling fans "you are all amazing". Swift also set a new benchmark with the song's lyric video, which attracted 19m views on its first day - more than double the previous record-holder, Something Just Like This by The Chainsmokers and Coldplay.

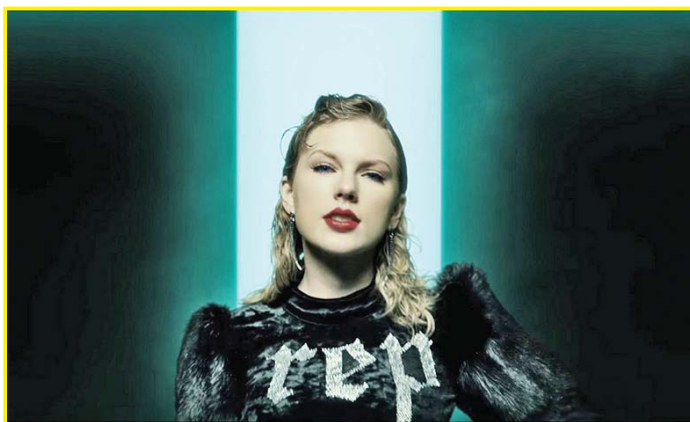
And in achieving the most Spotify streams in a day, Look What You Made Me Do also beat the record for first-day streams, formerly held by her friend Ed Sheeran for 'Shape of You'. The figures defy the polarising reviews for Swift's comeback single, a melodramatic pot-boiler which sees the pop queen turn on her critics declaring, "maybe I got mine, but you'll all get yours".

Spin magazine called the track "hard" and "cheerless", while the New York Times described the lyrics as "powerful, yet joyless".

Rolling Stone was more positive, praising Swift and playing the villain and "owning her bad press instead of merely brushing it off". The lyrics contain a barely veiled reference to Kanye West and Kim Kardashian, who tussled with Swift when she objected to the line "I made that bitch famous" in one of West's songs.

The video casts its net wider, referencing everything from Swift's relationship with Tom Hiddleston to her recent victory in a sexual assault case.

Look What You Made Me Do precedes Swift's new album, Reputation, which is released in November.



FIERCE FOURSOME: Fresh from their second VMA win, Fifth Harmony stopped to pose while visiting the Build Series studio in New York City.

CONFIRMED! SALMAN KHAN AND JACQUELINE FERNANDEZ TO BEGIN SHOOTING FOR RACE 3 IN OCT



Ever since Salman Khan was roped in for the third film of the Race franchises, there were enough speculations as to who will play the lead actress in the film. But recently, his Kick co-star Jacqueline Fernandez was finalized for Race 3. The film will be helmed by Remo D'souza who was initially in talks with Salman for the dance film, Go Daddy.

But what's news now is that the duo will kick start shooting this October for which preparations are already on roll. Ramesh Taura-

ni who is the producer of the Race franchise confirmed the news and revealed that, "As of now, Salman and Jacqueline have been finalised for the lead while Remo D'Souza is directing it. We are yet to lock the rest of the cast and crew. We start shooting on a set in Mumbai in October, followed by a long international schedule. We are currently figuring out the dates and foreign locations. The story is set abroad and will be completely different instead of taking off from the previous two films."

BOLLYBUZZ!!!

'DESPACITO' TIES FOR LONGEST RUN AT No. 1 IN BILLBOARD HOT-100'S HISTORY

With a 16th week at No. 1, the smash matches Mariah Carey and Boyz II Men's "One Sweet Day" for the longest command in the chart's 59-year archives.

Luis Fonsi and Daddy Yankee's "Despacito," featuring Justin Bieber, matches perhaps the most vaunted record for a song in the 59-year history of the Billboard Hot 100 chart, as it leads the list for a 16th week, the most weeks at No. 1 ever for a single. It equals the reign of Mariah Carey and Boyz II Men's "One Sweet Day," which spent 16 weeks at No. 1 in 1995-96.

However, Taylor Swift's new single, "Look What You Made Me Do," should soar to No. 1 on next week's Hot 100.

Following a first chart week of sales and streaming data tracking, after its Aug. 25 arrival, and a first full week of airplay tracking the song should storm to No. 1. "Look," the first single from Swift's album Reputation, due Nov. 10, could sell between 400,000 and 500,000 downloads in its first week. That could



mark the highest weekly total since Adele's "Hello" sold 480,000 downloads in its third week (ending Nov. 12, 2015). (It was previously reported on Saturday, based on initial projections, that "Look" was aiming for a start of 500,000 downloads sold following its explosive

retail debut)

Along with first-week streaming totals, powered by its lyric video released Aug. 25 and its official clip which premiered Sunday (Aug. 27) during the MTV Video Music Awards, as well as a full first week of airplay, "Look" should vault to No. 1 on the Hot 100 next week.



THIS DAY IN HISTORY

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

31ST AUGUST WORLD HISTORY

1385: English King Richard the Second invaded Scotland with a force estimated at 80-thousand men.

1842: Micah Rugg patented a nuts & bolts machine.

1864: At the Democratic convention in Chicago, General George B. McClellan was nominated for president.

1870: Maria Montessori, educator and physician, was born in Chiaravalle, Italy. She opened her first Montessori school in San Lorenzo, Italy in 1907.

1887: Inventor Thomas A. Edison received a patent for his Kinetoscope, a device which produced moving pictures.

1910: Theodore Roosevelt laid out his progressive phi-

losophy as he delivered the "New Nationalism" speech at Osawatomie, Kansas, affecting a split in the Republican Party.

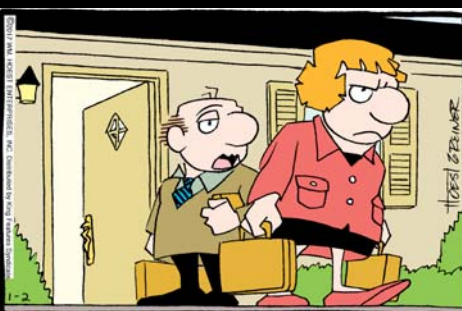
INDIAN HISTORY

1947: Jawaharlal Nehru visits riot-hit Punjab, along with Liaquat Ali and Sardar Patel.

1956: The President of India gave his assent to the States Reorganisation Bill, which is now known as the States Reorganisation Act.

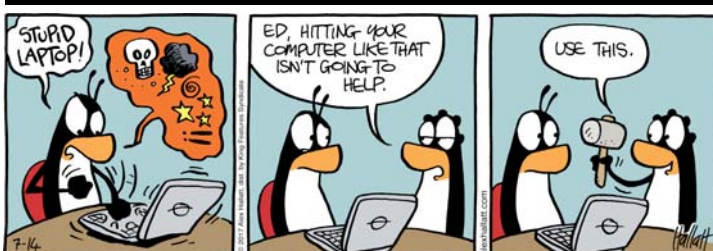
1995: Beant Singh, Chief Minister of Punjab assassinated in a bomb blast. He is remembered for playing a very important role in quelling militancy in Punjab.

LOCKHORNS - HOEST & REINER



"WOW! BAD NEWS DOES TRAVEL FAST."

ARCTIC CIRCLE - HALLATT



BABY BLUES - KIRKMAN & SCOTT



THE DAY AHEAD

ARIES: Relationships should go well for you, Aries. You should be able to find emotional stability when you form a relationship with someone you trust. Don't get discouraged if this person tends to be aloof. Your friend is just giving you space to breathe and grow. Direct more of your energy outward so you may begin to manifest the ideas that you store up inside.

TAURUS: Extend the day by getting up earlier than usual, Taurus. Even though it may be hard to leave the comfort of your bed, the rewards will be many. The celestial energy beckons you to get up and join the activities of the day. You'll be much more productive

and accomplish a lot by the end of the day.

GEMINI: You may be trying to cling to something that doesn't want to sit still, Gemini. It's like trying to grab a wet fish. The more tightly you squeeze it, the likelier it is to slip out of your grasp. The trick is to be more strategic and less frantic. You also might consider letting the fish go. It isn't yours anyway.

CANCER: Overall, this should be a pleasant day, Cancer, and you'll be properly recognized for the person you are. You may feel like royalty, so feel free to dress in your most regal attire. Take an independent viewpoint when asked

about running your castle. Be creative, honorable, and permissive in your rule.

LEO: Frustration may set in early today, Leo, but things should pan out for you as the evening approaches. Once you deal with an issue, let it rest. There's no need to keep revisiting an old dispute just because you want to prove you're right. If people don't agree the first time around, they probably won't agree the second or third time either.

VIRGO: Whether you realize it or not, you'll have the upper hand today, Virgo, so take advantage of this opportunity. Things may be going so well that you might not

even notice what a fantastic time you're having. Sit back and take a moment to appreciate your good fortune. Others will gravitate to you naturally, and you'll always seem to have the right answers to the questions.

LIBRA: Be careful about planning things too much, Libra. Leave the morning open for spontaneous acts and haphazard events. Let the structure of the afternoon slowly evolve from the morning's events. You don't need to build Rome in a day. Enjoy a leisurely morning, and see if you can convince someone to bring you breakfast in bed. This is the perfect way to start the day.

SCORPIO: Keep up the positive self-esteem that you've been working on for the past several weeks, Scorpio. This is one of those days when you'll be presented with a situation where you can demonstrate your courage and independent mind. Use your powerful spirit to overcome any fears you have. There's no reason to doubt yourself now. Feel free to strut your stuff.

SAGITTARIUS: You may wake up to a cloudy brain fog, Sagittarius. Emotionally, you may find it hard to make decisions about anything even though you're feeling called to do so. There are so many choices and you want them all.

The good news is that you should feel much more clearheaded and stable by evening. Hang in there.

CAPRICORN: Independence is key for you, Capricorn, so even though it may not be Independence Day, feel free to celebrate anyhow. Give thanks to all the freedoms you have, and make sure you're taking advantage of them. You are your own entity with a strong life force that's capable of anything. Gather your spirit, mount your horse, and ride off to adventure.

AQUARIUS: Things may be unstable for you this morning, Aquarius, but improve quite a bit by the end of the day. If you can,

you should probably just sleep this morning. Get a full amount of rest so you can fully enjoy the latter part of the day. This will leave you with plenty of energy so you can make the most of your night with someone special.

PISCES: Make sure you have an equal amount of give and take in your life, Pisces. If someone gives you a compliment today, know how to receive it graciously instead of brushing it off as something meaningless. At the same time, be generous with your compliments to others. It costs you nothing and it's worth a treasure chest of gold. How can you beat a deal like that?