

SummitTIMES

Vol 02 | Issue 243 | Gangtok | Friday | 15 September 2017

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

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5

DAC South to offer grants to child abuse victims

NAMCHIL, 14 SEPT (IPR): South District Administration under the guidance of District Collector (South), Raj Yadav has taken yet another initiative to support the education and betterment of children in South Sikkim. DAC South is all set to create 'South District Officers Club Welfare Fund' where 10 students from South Sikkim falling in Below Poverty Line (BPL) category and exposed to any form of abuse (sexual molestation and others) will be given Rs 5,000 each on 16 Sept. To maintain the consistency of the initiative, South DAC will begin charging 2% on Officers' Club bills as welfare fund charges which will eventually be utilized for the initiative. In addition, a donation box will also be installed in the Officers' Club office to generate funds from the visitors.

Organic farming is Sikkim's message to world: CM

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 14 SEPT:**

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling addressed an official function hosted by the United World College [UWC] in Frieberg, Germany on 12 Sept in the presence of first Mayor of Frieberg & founder and Managing Director-Rapunzel, teachers and large number of college students.

It may be mentioned here, the UWC is a conglomerate of 16 UWC colleges set up all over the world offering education to some 9,000 students from more than 150 countries.

While welcoming the CM, Principal of UWC complimented Mr Chamling for winning the award and for his 'vision, long commitment' to realize the dream of becoming 100% organic. He also informed that UWC educates children coming from different



backgrounds, different cultures and is a meeting point for all communities of people in the world.

The first Mayor of Frieberg also compli-

mented the CM for his work and called him a 'true pioneer of sustainable farming' and a 'trail blazer' for the rare feat.

Mr Chamling, while

addressing the gathering, referred to his humble background of growing up in a small village in close connect with nature and observing how chem-

ical laden agriculture had been affecting the health of the soil adversely.

In his speech, he spoke about the journey of transforming the farming system in Sikkim to organic right from the articulation of this vision during the Budget Presentation in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly in 2003 to becoming the first and only Organic State of India 12 years later in December 2015 with Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, declaring it on 18 January, 2016.

The CM further informed about the implementation of the scheme of 'Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region' in Sikkim by the state government which aims at the development of certified organic production in a value chain mode, to link growers with consumers and support the development of the en-

tire value chain starting from inputs, seeds and certification, to the creation of facilities for collection, aggregation, processing, marketing and brand building.

Adding that environment protection and conservation has been a high priority from the beginning of his tenure in 1994, the CM detailed about various 'Green' initiatives undertaken by the state government like the inclusion of the 'Smritivan' concept, declaring the years 2000-2010 as the Green Revolution Decade in Sikkim, observing '10 Minutes to Earth', constituting the State Pollution Control Board in 2008 to make Sikkim a pollution free State and enforcement of Sikkim Eco-Tourism Policy in 2012 among others.

In his concluding remarks, the CM said, "The primary qualifying factor for all development

initiatives should be that it does not harm the environment. That should be the top most qualifier for any development initiative. We must protect our forests and take up extensive afforestation measures globally. Annual budgetary allocation should be set aside in every Ministry for all development schemes to undertake measures for the protection of the environment and ecology. Use of chemical agents for agriculture must be stopped and we must adopt the organic way of doing agriculture globally.

Agriculture is an activity that defines the health of a society and it is because of this that we must adopt organic agriculture. For there is no other way but organic agriculture for a healthy, happy and peaceful society. This is our message from Sikkim to the world."



State government asks for 'immediate and unqualified' apology from Priyanka Chopra

GANGTOK, 14 SEPT (IPR): A press conference was held at the Conference Hall of Sookna Bhan today which had the presence of Tourism and Civil Aviation Department Secretary, Chewang Zangpo along with Cultural Affairs and Heritage Department Secretary, Yasoda Bhandari and Information and Public Relations Department Special Secretary, Namrata Thapa.

The press conference was held to address the statement give by actress Priyanka Chopra while promoting her upcoming film 'Pahuna' at the Toronto Film Festival where she referred to the State as an 'insurgency affected' state and that Pahuna from her production house is the first Sikkimese film from the region.

The Chief Secretary said that a letter should be sent to the actress asking for immediate and unqualified apology to the people of Sikkim and the issue should be clarified with the help of social media as well.

In the press conference, Secretary Tourism said, "We strongly condemn the statement given by the actress about the state. Not only has she hampered the image of the State but she has done irreparable loss to the tourism sector as a whole. We have provided the movie with all logistics and financial support but that was not mentioned."

He also said that the statement regarding the movie being termed as the first Sikkimese movie is utterly false as the State has churned out many movies which have been screened at various

film festivals. The first movie which was shot in the State was 'Jewel Thief' which dates back as far as 1967.

The Secretary said that Sikkim is one of the most peaceful States in the country and her referring to Sikkim as a State affected by insurgency has hurt not only the state government but also the people who welcomed her with open arms.

The Secretary also stated that although she has apologized via a written mail to the Tourism Minister, the apology letter is also 'very vague' and a clearer public apology needs to be made by the actress.

Cultural Affairs Department Secretary said that the statements made by the actress are 'highly condemnable' and Sikkim is a peace loving, god fearing and the safest State.

"The image of the State has been tarnished and the actress owes an apology not only to the State Government but also to the people of Sikkim," she added.

IPR Special Secretary reiterated the fact and said maybe she has not realized the extent of damage caused by her words but it has vastly damaged the image of the State. She also said that Priyanka Chopra should take back her statement and issue a fresh statement through appropriate media as her words have done irreparable damage to the image of the State.

Ms Thapa also said that it is her duty to clear all the doubts created by her statements to the world community and she should clearly spell out the support extended by the state government during the making of the film.

CBSE asks schools to conduct psychometric evaluation of staff

NEW DELHI, SEP 14 (PTI): Placing the onus on schools for safety of students on their premises, the CBSE today issued new security-related guidelines that included a psychometric test for teaching and non-teaching staff.

The board has asked schools to complete the evaluation process within two months and implement the other guidelines, failing which they would face derecognition.

The board's directive comes amid increased concerns about safety of students in school premises following the killing of a seven-year-old student in a Gurgaon school and the rape of a five-year-old girl by a school peon in Delhi.

"Such verification and evaluation for non-teaching staff such as bus drivers, conductors, peon, and other support staff may be done very carefully and in a detailed manner. This may be complied and

reported online on CBSE website within two months of receipt of this circular," the CBSE directive states.

Safety audits, installation of CCTV cameras, police verification, constitution of parent-teacher-students committees to address safety needs of the students and taking regular feedback from parents are among the other measures prescribed by the board.

"The onus for safety and security of children in school campus shall solely lie upon the school authorities. It is a fundamental right of a child to engage and study in an environment where he/she feels safe and is free from any form of physical or emotional abuse or harassment," the directive further says.

It also says that access to the school building by outsiders should be controlled and visitors monitored.

"Training should be provided

to the school staff to address their responsibilities to protect children from any form of abuse.

"Any violation/lapses with regard to safety and well being of children in school campus would invite appropriate action including the disaffiliation of the school as per the provisions under affiliation by-laws of the board," it adds.

Schools have also been asked to constitute separate committees for redressal of grievances of the public, staff, parents and students, an Internal Complaints committee to deal with sexual harassment, and committees under the POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offence) Act, 2012.

"Details of these committees along with contact details shall be displayed prominently on school notice board and conspicuously on the school website for

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Sunrise: 05:20 AM
Sunset: 05:41 PM



Priyanka Chopra says her comments were 'misconstrued'

SUMMIT REPORT Gangtok, 14 Sept:

After facing backlash on social media for her comment about Sikkim being 'troubled with insurgency', Bollywood and now Hollywood actress, Priyanka Chopra, sent an e-mail to Tourism Minister, Ugen Gyatso Bhutia, today clarifying her 'stance' on 'the situation'.

In the mail, the actress has said that her comment was 'misconstrued' and that she had meant Sikkim was troubled by insurgencies in 'neighbouring countries'.

However, she goes on to add that, 'I'm fully aware that Sikkim is an incredible host nation to so many refugees and our film shows exactly that through the children's point of view.' Priyanka has offered an apology if her comments have offended or hurt people's sentiments and also acknowledged the support extended by the state government and the people here.

The mail does not talk about her statements on her soon to release film Pahuna being the first film from Sikkim which many in the State have also objected to.

It may be recalled that this controversy arose after Priyanka's comments on Sikkim in an interview with ET Canada a day ago. Her film Pahuna, shot mostly in Sikkim, debuted at the Toronto International Film Festival.

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NAB team calls on Governor to mark Flag Day

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 14 SEPT:

Governor Shrinivas Patil and the First Lady today granted audience to a team of six members from National Association for Blind, Sikkim at Raj Bhavan on the occasion of National Association for the Blind's Flag Day being observed from 14-18 Sept across the country. The group was led by general secretary of the association, Geeta Gurung, a press communiqué received from Raj Bhavan informs.

The executives of the association submitted detailed report to the Governor underlining various initiatives and activities being undertaken aimed at empowering the visually challenged in the State.

During the interaction with members of the association, the Governor enquired about the condition of children enrolled in Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Institute for the Blind in Namchi and asked about their welfare and about resources being mo-



bilised by the association.

On the occasion of Flag Day, he has also appealed to the Sikkimese society to come forward voluntarily towards bringing change in the lives of these differently abled brothers and sis-

ters in whatever possible way.

Stating that charity should be an integral part of life of every responsible citizen and human being, the Governor has urged all to imbibe charity and empathy in our lives and share

the ills and sufferings of our fellow beings.

Members of the association also gave Flag Day stickers to the Governor, First Lady, officers and staff of Raj Bhavan on the occasion.

Steering Committee on Intensified Mission Indradhanush meets



GANGTOK, 14 SEPT [IPR]: The State Steering Committee Meeting on Intensified Mission Indradhanush [IMI] was held today at the conference hall of Manan Kendra in Gangtok. The meeting was chaired by Chief Secretary, AK Shrivastava, who is also the Chairperson of the Steering Committee.

Also present were Additional Chief Secretary-Human Resource Development Department, GP Upadhyay, Director General-cum-Secretary [Health] & Convenor-State Steering Committee, Dr K Bhandari, Secretary-Labour Department, LP Chettri, and senior officers of all the line departments.

A detailed presentation was made on the stages of the IMI campaign by State Immunization Officer, Dr Phumzay Denzongpa.

It may be mentioned here, IMI is a strategic initiative for improving vaccination coverage in identified districts, and is personally reviewed by Prime Minister of India. The IMI entails intensive training and planning before the campaign, intensive monitoring during the campaign, and integration of IMI sessions into routine immunization after the campaign.

As per the directions of the PM, IMI aims to rapidly build up immunization coverage by December 2018 and sustain thereafter

through Routine Immunization. Further, all children should receive all vaccines due for the age as per the national immunization schedule in the geographic area. Special focus should be on children up to two years of age and pregnant women who have missed out routine vaccination. Vaccination would be on demand to children up to five years of age.

Dr Phumzay, in her presentation, explained how the Mission Indradhanush has been upgraded to IMI with focus on better convergence with other departments, steering committee chaired by the State Chief Secretary, intensive monitoring by MoHFW, special focus on urban areas, intensive monitoring and support by partners before, during and post campaign, provision of proposing for additional fund in supplementary PIP, and reward on achievement of target. She also explained the activities to be carried out during the preparation phase, the implementation phase, and post campaign phase, and highlighted the areas where the campaign would focus.

She further explained the structure of the committees formed at the state, district and corporation level to ensure accountability in the planning, implementation and

post campaign stages.

The areas of support from all the line departments were also discussed in detail. Officers representing various line departments namely HRDD, Social Justice, Urban Development & Housing, Rural Management & Development, Sports & Youth Affairs, Information & Public Relations and Labour Department gave inputs on how their respective departments will converge their existing programmes with the IMI.

Chief Secretary, Mr Shrivastava, called for active involvement of officers and staff of each line department. He stated that the campaign provides immense scope for effective partnership between agencies of the government and non-governmental organisations to achieve a common target.

Dr Bhandari said that the State is already doing well in terms of immunization coverage, and called for active support from line departments and non-governmental organizations like the Rotary Club to further the mission. He solicited support from all line departments to furnish adequate data of the population to be immunized so that 100% coverage is achieved.

The meeting also had the presence of president-Rotary Club Gangtok, Dr RN Deokota.

"Paid" news: DAVP bars publications from getting govt ads

NEW DELHI, SEP 14 (PTI): The Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP), the nodal agency for central government's advertisements, has suspended over 20 newspapers from its panel for a two-month period for publishing "paid" news, according to an advisory issued by it.

Around 30 more newspapers, which were not on the panel, would also not be allowed to get empanelled during the period, the advisory said.

This means these publications will not receive any central government advertisement for this period. The development comes in the wake of the Press Council of India (PCI) censuring 52 newspapers for various reasons, mostly for publishing "paid" news.

"The publications, which are already on the panel, have been suspended for two months -- from September 13, 2017 to November 12, 2017," DAVP Director R C Joshi said in the advisory.

He added that it had also been decided by the Director General, DAVP that the publications, which were not on the panel and had been censured by the PCI, would not be empanelled or re-empanelled for the period.

Of the 52 newspapers, 37 were censured by the PCI for publishing "paid" news, three were censured for breach of journalistic norms, including one for publishing "obscene" photographs.



Health awareness by Nursing students of Sikkim Manipal College

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 14 SEPT:

The final year students of B.Sc. Nursing-Sikkim Manipal College of Nursing [SMCON], Gangtok, organized a mass health awareness programme on non-communicable diseases [diabetes mellitus and hypertension] here at Arithang ward today, a press release received from Sikkim Manipal University informs.

The programme was attended by GMC Chairperson and Ward Councilor, Ashish Rai, along with a large number of local residents of the area including Class VII students of CS Rai Government

Junior High School.

The nursing students enacted a role play and disseminated information on diabetes and hypertension. A small skit was also presented on Swachh Bharat Mission.

High risk people were screened for blood pressure and blood sugar levels by the students during the programme. Information regarding the Sikkim Manipal Swasthya Suraksha, the comprehensive health insurance scheme launched by Sikkim Manipal University for the benefit of people, was also disseminated by the Marketing and Insurance team of Central Referral Hospital, Tadong.



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMANDANT GENERAL HOME GUARDS & CIVIL DEFENCE GANGTOK-737101

PH: 03592-202371 (O) 207910(F)

No. 216/POL/SHG/17

Dated:13/09/2017

NOTICE TO PERSONS REGISTERED WITH THE HOME GUARD OFFICE FOR ENROLMENT AS HOME GUARD

All persons who have registered themselves with the Home Guard & Civil Defence office up to 04th September 2017 for enrolment as Home Guard are hereby informed that physical measurement and Physical Efficiency Test (PET) for enrolment of 100 Home Guards (30Female and 70 Male) would be conducted at SAP Camp, Pangthang on 24th, 25th and 26th October 2017 starting at 10 am.

2. They should therefore, collect their admit card from the office of SSP/HG&CD, Gangtok, on any working day between 10 am to 4 pm on or before 18th October 2017 for which they should report with two passport size photographs.

3. Only those candidates who fulfil the following eligibility conditions and possess SSC/COI will be considered for PET:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| i. Education Qualification | : Minimum X Pass from recognized Board. |
| ii. Age | : Not less than 18 yrs and not more than 26 yrs. |
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| iv. Chest | : 32" minimum with minimum 2" expansion for male. |
| v. Weight | : 50 Kgs Minimum for male, 45 kgs. Minimum for female. |

4. The qualification standards for the PET are the same as for selection of a constable in the Sikkim Police and may be downloaded from the Sikkim Police website sikkimpolice.nic.in.

5. Candidates who do not collect their admit cards by 4 pm on 18th October 2017 will not be considered for selection and their names will be struck off from the register maintained in the HG&CD Office.

NB: NO SEPARATE CALLING LETTER WILL BE ISSUED.

6. No TA/DA will be paid.

7. Relevant documents in original should be brought for viva-voce/skill test, date for which will be communicated later.

8. Preference will be given to the candidates having technical qualifications such as Plumber, Electrician, Driver, Motor Mechanic, Welder, Carpenter, etc.

9. It may please be noted that Home Guard is not a REGULAR SERVICE. It is a temporary appointment.

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SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Don't Burden Education with Employability

There is already too much confusion in the classrooms

In an aping of a national obsession, one gets to hear a lot about how the education system and the syllabus in schools need to be made more job-oriented. While there is no denying that the education system, like any other System, could do with an overhaul, the clamour to make education 'job-oriented' is perhaps not as advisable as it appears convincing on first look.

As a nation, we already suffer an education system drafted by the British to keep a people subservient, and to consciously start grooming people for jobs right from school would be a regressively disturbing pursuit of a colonial model, albeit for a different master. Of course, it would be wonderful to have education which also made students 'employable', but employability is too dispersed a spectrum to lend itself to any easy packaging into a curriculum. Since it is not possible to fashion an 'employable' curriculum, it makes sense to let that aspect be left alone and concentrate instead on working towards an education that returns to its true purpose – grooming confident people who can apply themselves to learning and who have a thirst for knowledge. If we can pull this off, the schools will automatically churn out well rounded graduates who can adapt to the challenges and requirements of the job market, even in these fickle times of post-demone-tization recession.

The best way to ensure that education does not lose its focus would be to divorce it from any overt responsibilities of feeding into employment. That should be an independent pursuit. Sikkim has made the right start by setting up an independent Directorate of Capacity Building which has thankfully not been clubbed with the Human Resource Development Department which looks after education in the State. The task for this Directorate is straightforward and it is required to groom the young for job openings within and outside the State. The focus for the planners of Education should thus solely be on education. If education is delivered efficiently, then even the skill development trainings will end up being more effective, because it would be taken by youth who are inquisitive, willing and who respect knowledge. One does not get to see enough of that in the skill development programmes being dispensed across the State at present and that is probably because the schools are not successfully inspiring true learning. Deliver in the latter aspect and everything will fall in place, do not address this issue and burden classrooms with vocational learning as well and the already stressed classrooms will prepare an even more confused generation.

MONALISA CHANGKIIJA

Nagaland's overall development-deficit is unique ~ as most things are here. The reasons are also unique. The simplest explanation for this deficit is, of course, corruption ~ but the corruption here is also unique.

I always hesitate to invite people to Nagaland because even I don't want to travel on what has been passing off as our roads for almost over two decades. Yes, cosmetic repairs are done particularly before the famed Hornbill Festival but soon the rains and the heavy vehicles wipe away the cosmetics of our roads unceremoniously. What exactly is the problem here since it doesn't rain only in Nagaland? You see, the same reasons pertain to almost all other sectors such as health, education, etc.

One of the primary reasons for such deplorable development-deficit here is administrative-and-governance-deficit. But obviously this is not really an issue with our people because the same people are elected over and over again. If one looks at the sharp divisions in the ruling party, which has been in power for almost fifteen years, it's the same old same old. With a few exceptions, the same old people have been elected in the past three consecutive state Assembly elections ~ despite non-performance. How do we explain this phenomenon? It would be too simplistic again to cite factors such as tribe, clan, etc. While these factors are very real, I would also cite factors such as the low level of awareness and education of our people ~ never mind that we have one of the highest literacy rates in the country. As a sub-category, I would cite the proclivity of our people to talk and believe all kinds of things without studying and analyzing whether there is any grain of truth or logic in the talks, especially about politics. We live on the rich diet of rumours, suspicions, assumptions, presumptions, accusations and allegations, which are all taken as the Gospel truths. In this atmosphere, clearly persons with social standing by way of having been elected before or now, or serving/having served in Government service, even a driver or peon, card-carrying members of political parties, NGOs, members of constitutionally-recognized traditional bodies, moneyed people, non-state players, etc., have the advantage of totally colonizing the minds of the people. Then, there is the sub-category of most of our people becoming politicians, political analysts and commentators, even political scientists come elections. As history has proved, it is very difficult not to be swayed by persuasive tongues, especially of those who hold office or have a high status at any level of society. But, I'm not sure whether being simple is the same as being gullible.

Another factor is the complicity of voters in corruption. It is very difficult to anyone to say no



to a politician or bureaucrat, who has helped get you or a member of your family jobs in Government service through the backdoor. In fact, backdoor appointments, a huge issue here in the last couple of years, are done with the sole objective of political returns. Nepotism inevitably transcends to the political domain. So yes, it is often the refrain here that because we sell our votes, our elected representatives are corrupt and get away with murder. While this true, it doesn't explain why our politicians forget their oath on the Constitution. But being unique, who amongst voters remember and remind our elected representatives of the Indian Constitution?

The other factor is our skewed perceptions and perspectives of development. As far as we are concerned, as long as we get what we want in terms of education, jobs and make enough money to better the Jones, we are not bothered about our neighbours, much less about our roads or the state of health and education. The very practice of proxy teachers and nurses and the increasingly growing private practice of doctors underscore self-prioritizing at the cost of the greater good of the greatest number of people. This is actually astounding considering that as a tribal community Nagas had prioritized the collective over the individual ~ at least in our foreparents' days. What has made us so individualistic and self-absorbed? What has made us stop being our brothers' keepers? The forced transition from a subsistence economy to an alien form of capitalism ~ and now liberalization and globalization? Or have these merely provided the latitude for us to be our natural selves - individualistic, self-absorbed, now that capitalism, liberalization and globalization have contributed to weakening tribal bonds?

Nagaland is also perhaps the only state in India that is totally politics-and-Government-centric. Without political and Government patronage, nothing can happen here ~ not even a concert, a fashion show, a beauty contest, a student union's or a church programme. Politicians and bureaucrats have total financial control over all spheres of hu-

man activities, which is one explanation for the almost non-existence private sector and non-flow of investment into the state and the non-existence of tourism, one of the most revenue-earning sectors in states like Meghalaya and Sikkim. True, these states don't have insurgency issues or ILP, etc. But see how cleverly these issues are used and abused to justify Nagaland's overall development-deficit? Despite worse insurgency issues in Assam and Manipur, development activities to a certain extent have not stopped in these states. Manipur has an international airport, while we have just two flights a day. Nagaland is the only state that has no direct flights to Guwahati in the Northeast.

What of the Act East Policy then ~ how far can this Policy be realized without smooth communications within the Northeast?

One major factor for the development-deficit here that has been regurgitated endlessly over the decades is the insurgency issue. Our powers-that-be repeatedly "exhort" that peace is a precursor to development ~ the connotations being: once the Naga issue is honourably settled, development will inevitably ensue. This does not explain where funds from the Centre have disappeared, the emergence of crony capitalism, emergence of the small but very fabulously affluent and powerful class that indubitably controls the maximum wealth of Nagaland and the increasing impoverishment of the ordinary citizen. Our unique concept of democracy is another factor that must be addressed especially because evidently dissent of "mainstream narratives" is still not tolerated.

Perhaps the most unique reason for Nagaland's development-deficit is the absence of a value-system in our society. We have erased the line between right and wrong, true and false, good and bad ~ worse still, successfully defeating right with might, now we live by the axiom "wrong is right". Surprising for a state that proclaims "Nagaland for Christ" ~ but then as we no longer seek wisdom in the "fear of the Lord", development-deficit is inevitable. A value-system and wisdom are intrinsically linked ~ because we have abandoned both, we cite numerous political, economic, social, cultural, sociological factors and analyze them through the prism of local, regional, national and global trends at an intellectual level so while change is our favourite topic, it certainly isn't our favourite action. Salvation comes only with change ~ based on a value-system and informed by wisdom. Change comes only when we concede we are human ~ and our inability to be human like everyone else on this planet is another unique factor for our development-deficit.

(The writer is a journalist and poet, and Editor, Nagaland Page. This article was originally published in the Assam Tribune and is reproduced here by arrangement with the author)

This old Catholic ritual is giving Brazil's economy a small boost, one Virgin Mary statuette at a time

BERNARDO FIGUEIREDO & DAIANE SCARABOTO
theconversation.com

Brazilians are moving away from Catholicism. Today, fewer than 50 percent of Brazilians identify as Roman Catholic, down from 92 percent in 1970. But after 500 years in South America, the Catholic Church remains deeply enmeshed Brazil's economy and society.

Among its many footholds is a little-known tradition called the Movimento das Capelinhas, or "small chapel movement." This phenomenon, which takes place in hundreds of cities and towns across Brazil, centers on the circulation among Catholic households of small sanctuaries containing a Virgin Mary statuette.

ALTERNATIVE ECONOMIES ON THE RISE

The Movimento das Capelinhas is an example of a circulation-based collaborative network, a kind of hyper-local economy that is popping up across the globe, from one London district's alternative currency to the time banks of New Zealand.

Such systems appeal because they exchange a narrow focus on economic value (only money matters) for a broader definition of what has value to people. By circulating dear objects in a certain pattern, these collaborative networks distribute their benefits to all involved, and the "profit" goes well beyond the small economic bump communities may see.

The small chapel movement forms part of a long history of Roman Catholic rituals involving sacred relics and statues sent out to tour the world's parishes.

Protected by their wooden homes, Brazil's moving Marys pay one-day "visits" to various parishioners' homes in a semi-formal process determined by neighbors, parishes and lay volunteers. Most chapel groups include about 30 families, such that each family receives one visit a month. Local clergy oversee the Marys' progress around town.

In doing their rounds, our research found, these peripatetic chapels do more than just physically circulate – their travels actually create profit and value for participants. The end result is a de facto local Catholic "economy," one based on shared values rather than money.

RIUALS AND RELICS

To understand the economic impact of the popular small chapel tradition, we spent two years studying the Marys' circulation in two southern Brazilian cities: Curitiba, which has 1.76 million residents; and



Campos Novos, a small town southwest of there.

Our study, which was published in February in the Journal of Macromarketing, found differences in the size and organizational level of each city's small chapel movements. But in both places, everyone in this ritual receives some kind of benefit, be it economic, spiritual or social – creating what's called "hybrid value systems."

Curitiba's system is well-coordinated by the church, with approximately 100 volunteer messageiras (messengers) who steward an estimated 10,000 small chapels from household to household.

In Campos Novos, which has 32,800 inhabitants, the market was less robust. Approximately 100 Marys circulate among local Catholics, overseen by about the same number of messageiras.

For participating communities in both cities, the effect of the moving chapels is to create an alternative economy, one based not on traditional capitalist values but on participation, community and faith.

Money does, of course, play some role. Households

make monetary donations to the Catholic Church for the honor of hosting a chapel. Some small capelinhas even come equipped with their own coin slot.

In Curitiba, we found that these small contributions earn the church about 1.5 million Brazilian reals (approximately US\$500,000) per year. In Campos Novos, the church's profit was significantly less, likely garnering the local archdiocese just several thousand reals.

MONEY CAN'T BUY YOU FAITH

Host families and community members see less tangible but equally valuable benefits from the traveling Marys.

For lay messageiras, it's social status: Working as your neighborhood's representative of the church is a prestigious role. Likewise for the families, parishes and communities interconnected by the regular visitation of these small chapels.

There is a spiritual value, too. For Catholics, Mary, as the mother of Jesus Christ, is one of the most powerful holy figures, and recipients of the small chapels that house her feel blessed by their access to divinity,

support and good luck.

The Brazilian Catholic church carefully manages this aspect of the chapel visits, presenting them as a source of comfort. The Marys "move," says Church doctrine, and in doing so sustain their devotees emotionally.

The capelinhas often become a favored local symbol of their family group, transcending their religious significance to be, quite simply, beloved and familiar objects.

The Curitiba archdiocese's Movimento das Capelinhas Facebook page and blog reveals host families, messengers and priests celebrate the traveling Marys. After one family posts about a chapel's arrival to their home, other commentators excitedly retell their visitation stories.

The church also takes to Facebook and to the pulpit to recognize the volunteers who help to circulate the chapels, even honoring them in special Masses. Lauding participants in the small chapel movement gives them a special social status, or what we call "reputational value" – another benefit created by this alternative economy.

The church actively promotes the social and reputational value of the Marys. When a new church opens in town, for example, the small chapels will be given new circulation routes as a welcome to new parishioners.

Priests in Curitiba train and mentor the small chapel messengers, helping to ensure that the Marys circulate in ways that mutually benefit all participants, either economically, spiritually, socially or on multiple levels.

One type of value often translates into another. Spiritual value becomes economic whenever someone donates to a small chapel, for example. Then, when this money, in turn, is used to educate an apprentice priest or to introduce a new route for a small chapel, the value again changes, becoming social or reputational.

Brazil's "Marys that move" may not be able to pull Brazil out of its deep recession, but our research reveals that these hybrid systems do hold the potential to combat economic malaise, albeit on the local level, by reminding Catholics that even if money is in short supply right now, friends, family and faith are not.

[Bernardo Figueiredo is Senior Lecturer in Marketing, RMIT University; Daiane Scaraboto is Assistant Professor of Marketing, Universidad Católica de Chile]

Darjeeling limps back to normalcy, Gurung wants bandh intensified

DARJEELING (WB), SEP 14 (PTI): The Darjeeling hills were limping back to normalcy as several shops, markets, government offices and some government-aided schools reopened today, while GJM chief Bimal Gurung asked his partymen to intensify the bandh that started 92 days ago.

The shops and markets opened, defying the indefinite bandh, sponsored by the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) for a separate Gorkhaland.

The state-run North Bengal State Transport Corporation plied a few buses, which were escorted by the security forces.

The buses plied from Siliguri to Darjeeling and back via Kurseong, besides between Siliguri and Mirik in Darjeeling district, official sources said.

Several government and government-aided schools have started functioning and teachers have been asked to join immediately.

Government sources said the

situation in the hills remained tense but incident-free despite threats and intimidation by the GJM.

For the sixth day in a row, the police, along with the administration, appealed to the locals via public address systems to open shops and restore normalcy in the hills.

Expelled GJM leader Binay Tamang said that normalcy was returning in the hills.

Tamang is one of the key GJM leaders who had represented the party in the two rounds of dia-

logues with the state government to discuss the Darjeeling issue.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had appealed to the hill parties to withdraw the bandh and restore peace and normalcy.

Gurung, who is in hiding, had rejected Banerjee's appeal and said that the bandh will continue till the Centre holds a tripartite meeting on the Gorkhaland issue.

He threatened that if the tripartite meeting is not called soon the situation will worsen in the

days to come.

In an audio statement released from an undisclosed location, Gurung said if something untoward happens in future, the state government would be responsible for it.

He also asked the GJM cadre to intensify the bandh in the hills and ensure that no one made an attempt to break it. Peace rallies were taken out by residents in Kurseong, Darjeeling and Mirik.

The GJM supporters took out rallies in some parts of Darjeeling,

Sonada and Kalimpong supporting creation of Gorkhaland and the ongoing shutdown, the sources said.

Internet services remain suspended in the hills since June 18.

Meanwhile, unidentified miscreants raided 'Roy Villa', a heritage house in Darjeeling last night where Sister Nivedita, social worker and disciple of Swami Vivekananda, had died.

The miscreants damaged it and took away some cash, police said, adding that investigation is on.

MNF bandh lifted 2 hours before scheduled end

AIZAWL, SEP 14 (PTI): A 12-hour bandh organised by the opposition MNF today in protest against bad road conditions in Mizoram was lifted two hours before its scheduled end, MNF senior vice president Tawnluia said.

Tawnluia claimed that the bandh was lifted at 3 pm, two hours before its scheduled end, due to the support given by the people.

"The bandh was imposed in almost all the villages, including the remote ones," the Mizo National Front leader said.

He alleged that the bad road conditions in the state are due to corruption as the contractors offer higher revised estimates though their work is of sub-standard quality.

The bandh was peaceful and no untoward incident was reported, the police said.

Heavy rain forecast in Sub-Himalayan West Bengal tomorrow

KOLKATA, SEP 14 (PTI): The Met department today forecast heavy rain at isolated places in Sub-Himalayan West Bengal while thunderstorms are likely to occur in some parts of Gangetic West Bengal.

The Sub-Himalayan districts are likely to receive heavy rainfall at isolated places till tomorrow after which the monsoon in the region is likely to go for a pause over the next three days, the weatherman said.

The districts in Gangetic West Bengal, which may receive thunderstorms till tomorrow, are likely to receive scattered rains at isolated places.

The Met department has forecast a cloudy sky with possibility of moderate rain in the metropolises, which remained dry and humid during the day.

There was scant or no rainfall in different parts of the state in 24 hours till 8.30 am today.

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India sends relief materials for Rohingya refugees in B'desh

ANISUR RAHMAN DHAKA, SEP 14 (PTI): India today sent 53 tonnes of relief materials to Bangladesh for Rohingya Muslim refugees from Myanmar, who poured into this country following the ethnic violence in the neighbouring Buddhist-majority nation.

The first consignment of India's assistance comes days after Dhaka briefed New Delhi about the problems faced by it due to the influx of these refugees.

Bangladesh High Commissioner in New Delhi Syed Muazem Ali had met Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar last week and discussed the issue of Rohingyas in detail.

"In response to the humanitarian crisis being faced on account of the large influx of refugees into Bangladesh, Government of India has decided to extend assistance to Bangladesh," External Affairs Ministry in New Delhi said in a statement.

The relief material consists of items required urgently by the affected people, namely rice, pulses, sugar, salt, cooking oil, tea, ready to eat noodles, biscuits, mosquito nets etc, it said.

"Operation Insan-



iyat: High Commission handed over 1st consignment humanitarian assistance by India to Bangladesh," the mission tweeted.

"1st consignment of #Indian humanitarian assistance of 53 MT for #Bangladeshii arrives under Operation #Insaniyat @SushmaSwaraj," it said.

India will provide 7,000 tonnes of relief materials to Bangladesh.

Bangladesh s Road Transport Minister Obaidul Quader received the materials from Indi-

an High Commissioner Harsh Vardhan Shringla after an Indian aircraft carrying the assistance landed at southeastern port city of Chittagong.

The mission said Quader likened the aid to India's assistance to Bangladesh during the 1971 Liberation War.

Bangladesh, which is facing a big influx of Rohingyas from Myanmar, has called on the international community to intervene and put pressure on Myanmar to address

the exodus.

According to the UN estimates, over 379,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled Myanmar's Rakhine state into Bangladesh since August 25 when fresh wave of violence erupted.

According to media reports, the violence began when Rohingya militants attacked police posts in Myanmar's northern Rakhine state.

Rohingya residents - a stateless mostly Muslim minority in a Bud-

dhist-majority nation - allege that the military and Rakhine Buddhists responded with a brutal campaign against them, according to the reports.

Bangladesh had earlier said the new influx of Rohingya refugees is an unbearable additional burden on the country which has been hosting around 400,000 Myanmar nationals who had to leave their country in the past due to communal violence and repeated military operations.

Shocked by Cottalorda's resignation: Mary Kom

NEW DELHI, SEP 14 (PTI): Top Indian woman boxer M C Mary Kom says coach Stephane Cottalorda's resignation has left her shocked and she would try to convince him on reconsidering it.

Cottalorda, India's first foreign coach for women boxers, resigned within a month of taking over, complaining of delay in salary payment and lack of professionalism in the national federation.

The 41-year-old Frenchman, who took over in August, e-mailed his resignation to the Boxing Federation of India (BFI), saying that he could no longer wait for the fulfillment of promises made to him.

Reacting to the development, Mary Kom, a five-time world champion and an Olympic bronze-medallist, told PTI, "It is very disappointing and I am quite shocked. Speaking as an athlete, I can only say that he had been an excellent addition to the camp."

"It was our responsibility to take care of his requirements. I hope he comes back, in fact, I will personally try to convince him on coming back," said the boxer, who is also a government observer for the sport.



Cottalorda alleged that he repeatedly communicated his concerns to the federation, which did not act on them.

The federation, on its part, asserted that most of Cottalorda's demands have been met and they would try and persuade him to come back. Ironically, his initial arrival itself was delayed by over a month owing to some procedural issues.

Besides being an experienced coach for women boxers in France, which earned him a three-star rating from the In-

ternational Boxing Association, Cottalorda has also been a certified coach in the AIBA Pro-Boxing and the World Series of Boxing.

When asked if he would be open to reconsidering his decision, Cottalorda said, "I do not have any confidence in the system. I must do what is best for my family."

Cottalorda, also a member of the European Boxing Confederation's (EUBC) Coaches Commission, had travelled with the Indian women's team for a training

trip to Ireland last month.

He had decided to head back to France at the conclusion of the trip as he was unhappy with the delay in the disbursement of his salary.

His resignation comes as a blow to the women's team, which is gearing up for the Asian Championships in November in Vietnam.

"Everybody tells me it is the Indian system. But in Europe if you have a job, you are paid for it. If you don't get results, the contract is stopped."

DRI busts smuggling racket, seizes goods worth Rs 18 cr in Kolkata

KOLKATA, SEP 14 (PTI): The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has seized Rs 18-crore worth of branded footwear, clothes and other items and arrested four people who were allegedly involved in the smuggling of goods from China and Hong Kong using shell companies.

The DRI said in a statement today that the smuggling racket was being run in connivance with Custom House Agents.

The items were illegally brought in from Hong Kong and China through the Kolkata port by fudging the description, quantity and value of the goods, and thereby evading a heavy custom duty, it said.

"The fraud literally amounts to outright smuggling of consumer goods in commercial quantities concealed in containers... as a part of a systematic racket," the DRI said.

The four arrested were part of the shell companies.

The worth of the goods would be 80-100 times more than what was declared by the shell companies if the value declared before customs was compared with the market value of the goods, it said.

As a part of the DRI's operation, four consignments from China and Hong Kong for a Kolkata-based firm were intercepted and examined.

While such miscellaneous items as hair clip, lights, unbranded footwear and unbranded baby garments were declared in the documents filed before the custom authorities, a whole ar-

ray of articles -- from ladies' undergarments to branded shoes and massage chairs -- were wrongly declared, it said.

"The total market value of these goods has been estimated to be around Rs 18 crore," it said.

The cartel involved used a unique method. The actual importer used a Kolkata-based shell company with a valid Import Export Code (IEC) issued by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).

The shell company's directors in connivance with others forming a part of the syndicate would allow the IEC to be misused for a hefty consideration without going into the nitty gritty of the imports.

The IEC holders in such cases are usually proprietorship or partnership firms, which do not require a registration from the Registrar of Companies.

In such rackets, some people even run a brokering business between actual importers and IEC holders.

To top it, there are also customs brokers who clear the consignment on behalf of such defunct IEC holders, turning a blind eye to the law. They ignore such necessities as the Know Your Customer (KYC) norms that are required for verifying the bona-fides of the IEC firms.

Thus, the cartel runs the whole job of importing mis-declared goods, getting them cleared without much effort, dupe the government and evade a huge amount of custom duty, the DRI said.

Govt giving final touches to national tourism policy: FICCI

NEW DELHI, SEP 14 (PTI): The Centre is giving final touches to a national tourism policy, which is expected to provide single window clearance for organising meetings and conferences.

Satyajeet Rajan, director general, Union ministry of tourism, made a suggestion in this regard while addressing the second edition of Global MICE Travel Mart, a MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences, events/exhibitions) in-bound tourism platform in the country, a FICCI statement said today.

The event was organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in association with the ministry of tourism.

Concurring with the view of stakeholders, Rajan said that there was a need to provide incentives to this sector to make it competitive in the world market.

He said "there was a pressing need to conduct a study to assess the size of the industry and a consultant was being appointed to suggest a workable road map for the development of the sector," the statement said.

On the occasion, a FICCI-MRSS Knowledge Paper on 'MICE: Tourism Powerhouse of a New Era' was also unveiled.

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Arm wrestlers return with four medals from National C'ship

**SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 14 SEPT:**

Sikkim Arm Wrestling team is back in Sikkim after participating in the 36th edition of National Arm Wrestling Championship 2017 held from 08-10 Sept in Guwahati, Assam with four medals. The 12-member State team has bagged one silver and three bronze medals.

Pempha Tamang won a sil-

ver medal for the State while the bronze medalists are Tashi Tenzing Lepcha, Joseph Sharma and Manisha Tiwari.

Other members namely Ranju Sundas, Binita Subba, Ratna Hang Subba, Phung Diki Hang Subba, Den Hang Subba and Kharka Dhoj Subba also performed well but were not able to win any medal. The team was led by Pema Dorjee Bhutia as the team coach, Ganesh

Kumar Subba as official and Tashi Tenzing Lepcha as team manager.

Speaking to media persons today, team coach, Mr Bhutia, mentioned that the championship was really tough and Sikkim players gave a tough fight to their opponents. He informed that Ganesh Kumar Subba has also been appointed as the vice-president of Arm Wrestling Federation of India during the championship.

Ronaldo returns to lead routine Real win

MADRID, SEP 14 (AFP): Cristiano Ronaldo wasted no time in showing Real Madrid what they have been missing during his five-game domestic suspension, by scoring twice as the holders began their Champions League defence with a routine 3-0 win over APOEL Nicosia on Wednesday.

Ronaldo, banned for pushing a referee after being sent off in the first leg of the Spanish Super Cup, opened the scoring after just 12 minutes from Gareth Bale's low cross.

The Portuguese doubled his tally from the penalty spot before Sergio Ramos's overhead kick rounded off the scoring.

Real move to the top of Group H alongside Tottenham Hotspur, who ended their Wembley hoodoo with an impressive 3-1 win over Borussia Dortmund.

Ronaldo described the length of his ban as "persecution" on the part of the Spanish football federation and his absence has been felt by Real in profligate performances in being held at home by Valencia and



Levante.

Real boss Zinedine Zidane admitted that the club's failure to replace Alvaro Morata had left his striking options limited, particularly in the absence of Karim Benzema through a hamstring injury.

However, with Bale excelling back on the left, Ronaldo filled that void as he swept home at the back post from the Welshman's cross.

Ronaldo then headed into the side-netting from a similar position from another Bale delivery moments later.

Real suffered an injury setback midway

through the half as Mateo Kovacic limped off to be replaced by Toni Kroos.

And the hosts' rhythm was disrupted as they struggled to create more clear-cut chances against the dogged Cypriot champions before the break.

Ronaldo thought he had doubled his tally a minute into the second half as his volley from Dani Carvajal's pinpoint cross came off the underside of the bar, but didn't cross the line despite his protests.

Madrid's luck turned moments later when Roberto Lago was very harshly penalised for

handball from Bale's deflected cross and Ronaldo smashed home the resulting penalty.

Ronaldo showed his hunger for more goals as he retrieved the ball from the net and raced back to the halfway line.

However, it was Ramos who struck next in acrobatic fashion from point-blank range.

Ronaldo thought he had bagged an eighth Champions League hat-trick when he swept home Luka Modric's cross, but was denied by the offside flag as Real had to settle for three as they began their quest for a 13th European Cup.

Fitch has negative outlook on banks, raises capital concerns

MUMBAI, SEP 14 (PTI): Fitch Rating today held out a negative outlook on the country's banking sector, citing weak capital position and financial performance.

The global rating agency said banks look vulnerable with poor capitalisation and without adequate support from the state and capital markets.

"The negative outlook is based on our assessment that the banking sector's weak core capitalisation continues to pose downside risks to standalone credit profiles amid expectations of continued poor loan growth, weak earnings, volatile asset quality and elevated credit costs," the agency said in a report.

Banks will need USD 65 billion in additional capital to meet Basel III requirements by March 2019 with the state-run banks alone requiring more than 90 per cent of this, it said.

Some of the state-run banks are planning to raise fresh equity from the markets this financial year but it will not be easy due to low investor confidence and bleak earnings prospects.

"Government will have to pump in significantly more even on a bare minimum basis if it is to address the system-related risks of huge NPAs, weak provision cover and poor loan growth," the report said.

However, the report said, private sector banks

are well-placed although they have been under pressure due to deterioration in asset quality.

The agency believes the asset-quality outlook could remain challenging in the next 12 months due to incipient stress in the power sector and concerns about farm loan waivers and SMEs.

Gross NPA ratio touched 9.7 per cent in FY17. The report said satisfactory resolution of large stressed loans is going on under the RBI's oversight and it can have a positive effect on NPAs.

Provisions are likely to rise in the interim as NPA cover is moderate at 40-50 per cent, it said.

It expects banks'

earnings to remain subdued in the near term. "Banks will find it difficult to manage elevated credit cost pressures as income generation will suffer due to the income loss from NPAs and the weak growth outlook," it said.

Treasury gains and sale of non-core assets may provide support but state-run banks are unlikely to see any meaningful revival in earnings this year as they reported consecutive negative return on assets in the previous fiscal.

Loan growth, which slumped to 4.4 per cent in FY17, lowest in several decades, is expected to remain subdued for the foreseeable near-term, the report concluded.

Royal United and Pakyong United register strong wins in Sikkim Premier League



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 14 SEPT:

Royal United Sikkim Football Club [RUSFC] registered its second consecutive victory in the on-going Play247 Sikkim Premier League 2017 here at Paljor Stadium. Riding on a brace by Karan Rai, RUSFC outplayed Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club 3-1 in its second league match of the day today.

Bright Mands scored an early lead for SHSC

in the 5th minute of the game, but Karan Rai scored the equaliser for RUSFC in the 18th minute while Ashish Rai extended the lead to 2-1 in the 27th minute.

RUSFC started the second half with a 2-1 lead. SHSC players played their hearts out to equalize, but missed some good chances. Karan Rai completed his brace in the 82nd minute to seal a 3-1 victory for RUSFC.

In the first match of the day, Sikkim Police went down to Pakyong United Football Club 1-3. The first half of the neck-to-neck played match ended in a goalless draw.

The second half also seemed to be headed the same when until a goal by Isaac Lepcha for Pakyong United FC opened the floodgates in the 77th minute. Soon after, Phip Raj Subba scored the equaliser for Sikkim

Police in the 81st minute.

Bouncing back well, Smile Rai won back the lead for Pakyong United in the 84th minute. Another goal by his teammate, Pratap Rai, in the injury time sealed a 3-1 victory for Pakyong United FC.

Dzongri Football Club will take on the State Sports Academy in the first match of the day on 15 Sept followed by Boys Club taking on Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club.

NPAs to touch 10.5% by March as banks recognise entire stress

MUMBAI, SEP 14 (PTI): Crisil Ratings today said banks have only recognised two-thirds of their stressed loans as non-performing assets, and estimated the bad loan ratio to rise by 1 percentage point to 10.5 per cent by March 2018.

The 9.5 per cent NPA figure for March 2017 includes only two-thirds of the overall stressed assets, it said.

The agency said it estimates the total amount of stressed loans, which includes NPAs and standard assets that are under pressure currently and could deteriorate into NPAs, to be at Rs 11.5 trillion or 14 per cent of the system.

Assets under pressure comprise the not-yet-recognised bad loans, which are recognised as NPAs in one bank, but not in others, restructured standard accounts, and stressed assets structured under schemes, such as the strategic debt restructuring, the 5/25 and the S4A, it said.

"Gross NPAs will be 10.5 per cent of advances by March 2018, up from 9.5 per cent in March 2017," it said adding that infrastructure, power, engineering, and construction sectors contribute bulk of the stressed assets.

Faster resolution of stressed accounts through the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code and various structuring schemes, is critical to improving the asset quality of banks, the agency said.

The report, however, said over the medium-term, a big increase in stressed loans is unlikely on factors like higher commodity prices, lower interest rates, improved capital structure, and efficiency gains for corporates.

"With the majority of stressed assets now recognised as NPAs, rest of the corporate loan portfolio of banks can be expected to perform better over the medium-term," Crisil president Gurpreet Chhatwal said.

He said there will be asset quality deterioration in loans to small businesses and farmers, which are impacted due to introduction of the goods and services tax and demonetisation, and debt waivers, respectively.

But Chhatwal said this is unlikely to put pressure on bank balance-sheets the way large exposures are doing. Fresh NPA creation will decelerate this fiscal, but the overall stock would continue to rise because slippages would still outpace recoveries.

"In the past couple of years, recoveries have been poor and the bulk of the reduction in gross NPAs has been because of higher write-offs," senior director Krishnan Sitaraman said.

He blamed sluggish economic growth, continued stress in some sectors, and slow place of resolution proceedings as the factors hindering the recovery efforts.

Sonowal dismisses Chirang DC for corruption

GUWAHATI, SEP 14 (PTI): Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today suspended the Chirang deputy commissioner with immediate effect on the basis of a report by the directorate of vigilance and anti-corruption.

An official release the deputy commissioner Binod Deka was suspended from service as per the chief minister's direction and Assam Civil Services officer Ratul Baruah was posted in his place.

Sonowal said the state government has taken a "zero tolerance" stand against corruption and no corrupt official will be spared.

"The state government will continue its anti-corruption drive more stringently in the coming days," he said.

The government is emphasising on proper and honest utilisation of all schemes so that people get the benefits,



Sonowal said.

"Corruption is the main hindrance in this direction.

We will not tolerate corruption in any case," he added.

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The UN has called on Myanmar to end the ongoing violence against Rohingya Muslims in the majority-Buddhist country. Secretary General Antonio Guterres said the situation in the country's western Rakhine state was best described as ethnic cleansing. "When one-third of the Rohingya population had to flee the country, could you find a better word to describe it?" he said. Thousands of Rohingya Muslims have fled to Bangladesh from Myanmar since 25 August.

Pak court summons Sharifs in two more corruption cases

ISLAMABAD, SEP 14 (PTI): Pakistan's ousted prime minister Nawaz Sharif and his children were today summoned by an anti-graft court to appear before it on September 19 in two more corruption cases. They were summoned after the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) last week filed four cases against Sharif, his family members and finance minister Ishaq Dar.

The Islamabad-based accountability court today ordered Sharif and his children -- Maryam, Hussain and Hassan and son-in-law captain (retd) Muhammad Safdar -- to appear before it on September 19 in Azizia Steel Mill, Hill Metal and Avenfield properties cases.

The summons come a day after the same court asked the ousted prime minister and his sons and daughter to appear before it on September 19 in another corruption case related Flagship Investment company in the UK.

The cases are based on the July 28 judgement of the Supreme Court in the Panama Papers case. The court disqualified 67-year-old Sharif and ordered cases against him and his family.

Should have partnerships not alliances: China to Japan, India

KJM VARMA BEIJING, SEP 14 (PTI): China today hoped that the growing ties between India and Japan would be conducive to the peace and stability and insisted that the countries in the region should work for partnership instead of forming an alliance. The comments by the Chinese Foreign Ministry came as New Delhi and Tokyo sought to firm up their close ties during Japanese Prime Minister Shizo Abe's visit to India.

India and Japan inked 15 agreements to further broad-base their strategic partnership and agreed to strengthen cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region where China is increasing its assertiveness. Asked about the growing Indo-Japan strategic partnership, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said, "We advocate that regional countries should stand for dialogue without confrontation and work for partnership instead of alliance."

Hua was replying to a question about Abe's visit to India. Hua, however, declined to comment on specific issue like Japan's plans to sell US-2 amphibious aircraft to India, saying she would like to wait till a detailed read-out from the two countries following a meeting between Abe and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Japan's plans to sell



the amphibious aircraft to India raised eyebrows here as this is first such move by Tokyo to sell defence equipment to any country. China is also concerned about Japan getting the first bullet train project in India between Ahmedabad and Mumbai.

China too is vying for high speed rail projects in India, specially the New Delhi-Chennai corridor. China and Japan also have a longstanding dispute over islands in the East China Sea. Chinese ties with Japan have also been strained by what Beijing see as Japanese leaders' reluctance to atone for the country's wartime past.

Hua said China will "stay open and welcome normal development of relations between the countries in the region", as long as they are conducive to peace and stability in the region.

"We hope that relations will be conducive to regional peace and stability and can play a constructive role in this regard," she said.

Commenting on Abe's visit to India, Chinese think-tanks expressed concern over the "Freedom Corridor", as well as several joint infrastructure projects being launched by India and Japan together in different countries as strategic move by the two countries to counterbalance China's ambitious multi-billion Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The Indo-Japanese initiative, called the "Freedom Corridor", stretching from Asia-Pacific to Africa, aims at stabilising the region.

"The Freedom Corridor, designed to serve as a counterbalance to China's BRI is expected to figure prominently in talks between Abe and Modi," Hu Zhiyong, a research fellow at the Institute of International Relations of the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences told state-run Global Times today.

However, the Japanese-Indian initiative is

just a beginning. It is unlikely to reach the same level as the BRI, Chu Yin, an associate professor at the University of International Relations said. The Chinese analysts also referred to report that India and Japan were embarking on multiple infrastructure projects across Africa, Iran, Sri Lanka and South-east Asia in what could be viewed as pushback against China's unilateral infrastructure initiatives connecting it with Europe and Africa.

India boycotted the Belt and Road Forum (BRF) held this year due to its sovereignty concerns over the USD 50 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor which passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

"Though India objects to CPEC, India's real reason is that it doesn't want to see China's influence in South Asia and refuses to open its domestic market to China," Ye Hailin, director of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences' National Institute of International Strategy, said.

Also the Global Times tabloid, in an editorial titled 'India-Japan intimacy no threat to China' said "in a changing world, the India-Japan intimacy is more like a contrivance".

It said Japan is unlikely to challenge China as it has strong bilateral trade relations with Beijing.

Rohingya militants say they have 'no links' with global terror

YANGON, SEP 14 (AFP): Rohingya militants, whose raids in western Myanmar provoked an army crackdown that spurred a humanitarian crisis, denied any links to global terror groups today, days after Al-Qaeda urged Muslims to rally to their cause.

The Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) says it is trying to defend the minority group from a long campaign of persecution in Buddhist-majority Myanmar, where the Rohingya are denied citizenship. But its actions have plunged a region, already a crucible of religious and ethnic tension, deeper into crisis.

Around 380,000 Rohingya have sought sanctuary in Bangladesh since the outbreak of violence three weeks ago, fleeing burning villages and alleged army atrocities, joining what has become one of the world's largest refugee camps in Cox's Bazar. Nearly 30,000 Buddhists and Hindus have also been displaced inside Rakhine.

Rights group say Myanmar's army has used the ARSA's attacks as cover to try to push out the estimated 1.1 million Rohingya population. Myanmar's government, led by Aung San Suu Kyi, has denied the allegations. It labels the militants as "extremist terrorists" who want to impose Islamic rule over a portion of Rakhine state.

They have also previously described the group as harbouring fighters who have trained with the Pakistani Taliban, ideas that have become the currency of arguments among the mainly Buddhist public for why the crackdown is justified.

Al-Qaeda on Tuesday urged Muslims around the world to support the Rohingya cause and "make the necessary preparations -- training and the like -- to resist this oppression" in a

statement on Telegram.

ARSA has repeatedly distanced itself from the agenda of international jihad, instead insisting its claims are local and in defence of major state repression.

"ARSA feels that it is necessary to make it clear that it has no links with Al Qaeda, the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), Lashkar-e-Taiba or any transnational terrorist group," the group said in a statement posted on its Twitter account.

"We do not welcome the involvement of these groups in the Arakan (Rakhine) conflict. ARSA calls on states in the region to intercept and prevent terrorists from entering Arakan and making a bad situation worse."

According to the International Crisis group, ARSA is steered by Rohingya emigres in Saudi Arabia and commanded in the field by overseas-trained guerrilla fighters. But most of its recruits are armed with crude weapons like machetes and sticks.

Analysts warn the treatment of the Rohingya -- and the huge number of new angry and dispossessed refugees in Bangladesh -- is rich pickings for militant Islamist recruiters. The refugee camps in Bangladesh are bursting at the seams, with aid groups and authorities scrambling to erect new shelters and provide food and medical support to an endless tide of hungry and traumatised arrivals.

More than 100 Rohingya have died while making the perilous boat crossing over to Bangladesh, with two more bodies, including a one-month old baby, washing up on shore on Thursday. Two thirds of the Rohingya refugees are children, according to the UN, hundreds of whom have arrived in Bangladesh alone after being split from their families in the swirl of violence.

Malaysia school fire kills 24 children and teachers

KUALA LUMPUR, SEP 14 (AFP): Twenty-four people, mostly children, were killed today when a blaze tore through a Malaysian religious school, trapped in their dormitory by metal grilles on the windows. Pupils and teachers inside the Islamic study centre in downtown Kuala Lumpur screamed for help as helpless neighbours looked on.

Many of the bodies of the victims -- who included 22 boys aged between 13 and 17 -- were found piled on top of one another, indicating there may have been a stampede as the students sought to escape the blaze which erupted before dawn.

Firefighters rushed to the scene and the fire was out within an hour but it wreaked terrible devastation. Pictures in local media

showed ash-covered, fire-blackened beds in the students' sleeping quarters.

"The building was on fire as the (morning call to prayer) was sounding," Norhayati Abdul Halim, 46, who lives opposite the school, told AFP.

"I could hear screaming, I thought there were people fighting. I opened the window to my house and I could see the school on fire -- they cried for help but I couldn't do anything."

By the time firefighters arrived at the Darul Quran Ittifaqiyah religious school in the heart of the capital, "the screams had stopped", she added. Federal Territories Minister Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor said the children, who were boarders at the school, were "desperately trying to escape the flames" but metal security grilles covering the windows of their dormitory prevented them.

Officials said they were unable to leave through the only door to the dormitory, as it was on fire. Khirudin Drahman, director of Kuala Lumpur's fire and rescue department, told AFP it was one of the country's worst fire tragedies in 20 years. Fire officials said they suspected the blaze was caused by an electrical short circuit, or a mosquito repelling device.

Officials initially said 23 students and two teachers were killed in the blaze. Police later revised down the death toll to 22 students and two teachers. Six children were also in critical condition in hospital. Only a handful escaped unhurt.

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

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES
DEAR FALCON EVENING
Draw Time : 8:00 pm onward
Draw No:7 DrawDate on:14/09/17
1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 81E 69508
(Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 69508 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
02217 24316 38609 41964 51629
64415 67763 72060 82630 83366
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
13543 24226 35126 42735 49568
57173 57885 75846 94377 94819
4th Prize Rs.1000/-
0276 2973 3762 5159 5678 6479 7405 8579 9165 9807
5th Prize Rs.500/-
0610 1861 3260 3847 4021 5386 6322 7736 7754 7836
6th Prize Rs.250/-
0278 0359 0430 0504 0527 0545 0592 0642 0685 0732
0746 0925 1370 1458 1508 1687 1783 1849 1888 2053
2117 2220 2236 2247 2311 2359 2376 2380 2394 2510
2590 2635 2768 2884 2957 3213 3527 3556 3592 4054
4367 4373 4432 4639 4677 4739 4774 4892 4894 4912
5043 5147 5155 5179 5362 5399 5506 5509 5542 5824
6058 6454 6532 6687 6710 6812 6814 6844 6896 7021
7078 7228 7264 7299 7667 7705 7899 8034 8094 8103
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KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES
DEAR WORTHY MORNING
Draw No:2 DrawDate on:14/09/17
1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 99I 09239
(Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 09239 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
04003 15565 19617 28473 61808
71886 74411 78663 84838 86106
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
10819 34012 35685 38103 49395
70887 77405 81210 89730 94763
4th Prize Rs.1000/-
0398 3054 3080 4593 5061 6653 7425 7451 7526 9437
5th Prize Rs.500/-
0479 2574 3187 3508 4049 5360 6163 7269 8438 9909
6th Prize Rs.250/-
0270 0276 0300 0563 0680 0818 0886 0910 0965 0968
0976 1000 1017 1151 1281 1341 1439 1631 1806 1948
1957 2074 2102 2192 2271 2278 2441 2585 2626 2654
2932 3085 3219 3251 3273 3335 3377 3385 3399 3598
3612 3781 3828 4105 4303 4326 4366 4528 4836 4894
4902 5064 5118 5121 5175 5379 5382 5684 5688 5816
5893 6012 6092 6100 6198 6255 6349 6455 6548 6627
6700 6759 6838 6892 6950 6958 7214 7274 7286 7780
7897 8041 8069 8300 8477 8522 8674 8722 8768 8805
8814 8988 8990 9057 9303 9403 9415 9618 9658 9927
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DASHING DICAPRIO: Leonardo DiCaprio participated in the Hand in Hand: A Benefit for Hurricane Relief event in Universal City, California.

ZAYN MALIK: 'I NEVER REALLY SPOKE' TO HARRY STYLES IN ONE DIRECTION

Zayn Malik and Harry Styles have a whole lot of history, but they haven't stayed in close contact since the "Dusk Till Dawn" singer left One Direction in March 2015.

"To be honest, I never really spoke to Harry even when I was in the band," Malik, 24, exclusively revealed to Us Weekly.

"So I didn't really expect that much of a relationship with him when I left. And I haven't [had one] to be honest." Still, the "Pillowtalk" crooner — who hosted Us Weekly's Most Stylish New Yorkers party at The Jane Hotel in New York City on Tuesday, September 12 — wouldn't be opposed to a 1D reunion down the road. "Who knows? I've said it before: Never say never," he told. "If I wanted to come back in 10, 15 years time, then yeah, why not? I don't know. If I didn't want to [be in the band] then, I might not. It just depends on how I'm feeling at that time."

For now, Malik is focusing on his upcoming second album and enjoying the slower pace of being a solo artist. "We were basically going at, like,

500 miles per hour. We did everything to an extreme in the band," he reflects. "[Now] it's not as full on, it's not as extreme, it's not as in-your-face. It's at my own pace. So this way, it feels 100 times more manageable. It's just easier. It's a lot less work."

The vibe of the Bradford, England and native's as-yet-untitled sophomore album echoes the cornucopia of sounds that created his debut solo record, Mind of Mine. "There are a lot of different kinds of music on it," he dishes to Us of his next effort. "I don't really like to stick to one genre and go off of that. I like to do whatever I'm feeling that day, whatever's feeling good. There's still a lot of soulful R&B tunes on there, there's some club tunes on there, there's some more obvious pop songs as well."

Styles, 23, is another genre-bending singer. His self-titled debut album, which dropped in May, has received critical acclaim for its '70s rock leanings, though it also extends the sounds of 1D's latter music. In addition to singing his hits "Sign of the



Times" and "Two Ghosts" during a recent BBC Radio 1 Live Lounge

performance, Styles covered Fleetwood Mac's "The Chain" as well as DJ Khaled and Rihanna's "Wild Thoughts."



15TH SEPTEMBER WORLD HISTORY

1789: The U.S. Department of Foreign Affairs was renamed the Department of State.

1830: British MP William Huskisson was killed under the wheels of the "Rocket" train at the opening of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway. He was the 1st person to be run-over by a railroad train.

1858: The third debate between senatorial candidates Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas was held in Jonesboro.

1890: Agatha Christie, English writer of mystery novels, was born. Her books included "Death on the Nile" and "And Then There Were None."

1917: Russia was proclaimed

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

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

a republic by Alexander Kerensky, the head of a provisional government.

INDIAN HISTORY

1909: C.N Annadurai, one of the founders of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, was born.

1948: Independent India's first flagship INS Delhi [alias R.N Achilles] arrived at Mumbai port.

1953: S. Vijayalakshmi Pandit was elected as the first lady President of the eighth session of the United Nations Organisations General Assembly.

1959: Doordarshan [DD] India's Public Service broadcaster was launched in New Delhi.

SELENA GOMEZ REVEALS SHE'S HAD A KIDNEY TRANSPLANT DUE TO BATTLE WITH LUPUS

The singer shared a picture from her hospital bed with best friend who donated her organ, as well as a series of shots of her scarring. The singer broke the news by sharing a picture of herself in her hospital bed — revealing her donor was her best friend. In a lengthy post she explained why she had been absent for most of the summer as she shared a series of pictures of her scars.

Lupus is a chronic autoimmune disease with symptoms including body aches, fevers and extreme fatigue - it can also lead to kidney and heart damage.

She wrote: "I'm very aware some of my fans had noticed I was laying low for part of the summer and questioning why I wasn't promoting my new music, which I was extremely proud of. So I found out I needed to get a kidney transplant due to my Lupus and was recovering."

"It was what I needed to do for my overall health. I honestly look for-



ward to sharing with you, soon my journey through these past several months as I have always wanted to do with you. Until then I want to publicly thank my family and incredible team of doctors for everything they have done for me prior to and post-surgery."

Selena, who is dating The Weeknd, went on thank her friend who had donated

her kidney, revealing she felt 'incredibly blessed'.

She continued: "And finally, there aren't words to describe how I can possibly thank my beautiful friend Francia Raisa. She gave me the ultimate gift and sacrifice by donating her kidney to me. I am incredibly blessed. I love you so much sis." Selena first opened up about having Lupus in 2015 and last year she was forced to take a break from the limelight after

suffering from anxiety, panic attacks and depression — stemming from the disease.

She told fans at the time: "As many of you know, around a year ago I revealed that I have lupus, an illness that can affect people in different ways. I've discovered that anxiety, panic attacks and depression can be side-effects of lupus, which can present their own challenges. "I want to be proactive and focus on maintaining my health and happiness and have decided that the best way forward is to take some time off."

After opening up about her Lupus she admitted the support had been 'overwhelming' and revealed why she had waited to speak about it publicly. She told Billboard: "It has been overwhelming and the response has been very supportive, which is nice -- but it still makes me a little uncomfortable."

"I waited for the right time to talk about it because I am in a great place and I'm very healthy. I'm not trying to be loud about it: It was time to use my platform to help."

what's TRENDING

PRIYANKA CHOPRA DELIVERS A FAN MESSAGE TO KATRINA KAIF FROM ZA'ATRI

Baywatch star, Priyanka Chopra is not only known for her contribution in Bollywood and Hollywood. She's also known for contributing to the wellbeing of the society. PeeCee, who has worked with UNICEF India for 12 years, is now the Goodwill Ambassador of UNICEF. She is currently in Jordan reaching out to Syrian refugees. As she's super active on her social media hands, she frequently keeps us updated by sharing her moments with children there.

Priyanka Chopra shared a video of a girl with a special message for Katrina Kaif from a fan all the way from Jordan. The



features Wafaa talking about her love for Katrina Kaif. The fan is heard saying, "I love Katrina Kaif a lot and I am one of her fans. I

have watched all her movies and never missed one, even if a movie is played more than once I watch it. I love you Katrina and love your beauty." To this PeeCee added, "This

is for you Katrina, a message for you from all the way from Za'atri."

Priyanka further added, "Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan, Akshay Kumar, Kareena Kapoor Khan and Anushka Sharma... a big shout out to you all and Hindi movies from these amazing kids who are huge fans... our movies give them much joy. This was something I honestly did not expect...but it made my day."

Katrina while replying to PeeCee's video said, "Thank you Priyanka for his video and the wonderful work u doing there...PL send all my love to Wafaa and give her the biggest hug from me, this was very special. I hope I get to visit there one day soon."

ARIES: It may seem like everyone else has a purpose and project except you, Aries. While everyone is charging out of the gate, you may still be unsure that this is the race you want to run. Don't push yourself into something you don't want to do. The energy of the day is fast and adventurous, but if you aren't feeling up for a fight, don't force it. **TAURUS:** This is a great day for you, Taurus. You'll find that long-term trends are coming together harmoniously. Connections are being made when you share good times and laughter with close friends and other people. Stick with the things that feel right. You have love and bravery to share with

the world, so don't be afraid to go out and conquer. Take action and be strong.

GEMINI: Don't let others push you around today, Gemini. People may talk themselves up, but there's little behind the words. Be careful that you don't misfire. This is a day to care about you and your needs. Take steps toward making sure you're getting what you want. Connect with people you've met recently. There's significance in these serendipitous meetings.

CANCER: Stay positive and radiant today, Cancer. This is a great day for you to take control. Connect with others on group projects and feel free to offer creative input.

Let the artist within take the spotlight, and cultivate this talent in any way you can. Take the time to engage in long conversations with people regarding recent events. You have a great deal to share.

LEO: People may be tired of your harsh attitude, Leo. This doesn't mean you should necessarily change your ways or who you are. Just be more aware of how your words affect others. Be prepared to take the heat when people defend themselves. Don't kick people around and expect them to never kick back. There's a frenzy of warlike energy in store for you today.

VIRGO: You may feel the need to act aggressively regarding this cli-

matic period in your life, thanks to long-term trends. There's expansive energy today encouraging you to take action, Virgo. There may be opposition, but keep in mind that you have a great deal of strength on your side. The warrior inside you is ready to fight, and you have a fire burning within.

LIBRA: Try not to be harsh and judgmental today, Libra. You don't understand others' perspectives and the codes they live by. Differences are no reason to find fault with people. You have a powerful personality that's perceptive and creative. Use these gifts in a positive, healthy manner instead of using them to get down on others and

their behavior.

SCORPIO: Long-term trends are coming to a favorable point for you, Scorpio. This is a good day to examine them and make some moves forward in pursuit of your goals. There's a great deal of energy working in your favor today and asking you to take charge and lead the fight toward a better reality. Get out of bed early and get moving. **SAGITTARIUS:** This isn't a day to sit around and wait for good fortune to come to you, Sagittarius. It's time to make it happen. Get off the couch and get moving. Now that you've internalized, contemplated, and received information, it's time to direct that energy and

wisdom outward. Express your creative, artistic self in any way you can.

CAPRICORN: Get ready for action, Capricorn, because today could be a fast-paced adventure sure to keep you on your toes. Your desire to fight and conquer is probably much stronger than usual, and communication with others is the very thing that will fuel this fire. Your action-oriented instinct is likely to be bold, so use caution in all situations. Pace yourself and avoid confrontation!

AQUARIUS: It may seem like people are trying to pick fights with you today, Aquarius. Any opposition you encounter may have a

loud roar, but in reality, there's very little bite to fear. Keep in mind that arguments may be unsubstantiated. Don't work yourself into frenzy over an issue that has no solid foundation to back it up. Don't be intimidated by fast talkers.

PISCES: Kick up your heels and get moving, Pisces. The fast-paced energy of the day is just what you need to get things done. You're ready to take action. You have power and strength behind you, so feel free to expand and explore this desire to conquer. New adventures are on the horizon now and you have a great opportunity to take advantage of situations that resonate with your true self.