



GURUDONGMA TSO - BLESSED
BY GURU RINPOCHE
pg02

READING HUMANISM AS RESISTANCE:
ASSERTION AND CONFLICT IN SELECT
WRITINGS FROM NORTHEAST INDIA
pg04

REKAPE PRIMARY
SCHOOL CELEBRATES
GLOBAL TIGER DAY
pg03

on pg08
COMICS,
ACTIVITIES,
HOROSCOPE,
TIMEPASS

SummitTIMES

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

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Three arrested in Tharo Line shooting of Gangtok businessman; Family feud suspected behind 'hit'

SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 29 JUL:

Sadar Police have busted the Tharo Line shooting case and put three involved in the hit behind bars.

Businessman Ajaz Shah [Munna Shah] was shot by a then unknown assailant at Tharo Line on the night of 20 July and fortunately, he survived after sustaining a bullet injury on his left thigh.

Speaking to media persons at Sadar Thana today, Superintendent of Police [East], Ten-

zing Loden Lepcha, explained that within 12 hours of the incident, the police checked all available video footage from CCTVs installed around the spot and found some people "behaving suspiciously".

He added that the police immediately called Yasir Shah, who is the nephew of the victim, for questioning who eventually revealed the long-standing feud in the family and that money was involved.

"It was learnt that a conspiracy was hatched to hurt Munna Shah by his nephew, Yasir Shah,

who hired two persons for the same," the SP informed.

Yasir Shah, as per the police, hired Bhaichung Sherpa of Namchi, presently living at Arithang and shooter, Diwas Sherpa of Sumin, presently residing in Rey Khola area below Gangtok.

The police immediately circulated a photo of Bhaichung Sherpa who was arrested by Rangpo Police at Rangpo when he was about to board a bus to Siliguri on 22 July.

Diwas Sherpa was later arrested from Tadong.

The SP informed that the trio

had begun planning to shoot Ajaz Shah two months ago. He further informed that a pistol with silencer was used in the crime and two bullets were fired, of which the first one hit the victim's thigh and the other missed him.

The police have also seized the weapon used in the crime, it is informed.

The SP adds that the pistol used in the crime was not licensed and was procured by Yasir Shah around a year back with intent to use against his uncle.

The SP further informed that investigation revealed that

the duo was hired for Rs 2 lakh, of which Rs 70,000 had already been paid by Yasir Shah. He is alleged to have paid Rs 40,000 immediately after the incident and Rs 30,000 the next day.

Initially, the police registered the case under section 307 of IPC [Attempt to Murder] and section 27 of Arms Act 1959. They have now added section 120 (b) of IPC [criminal conspiracy]. All accused are presently in 15 days police remand and the case is still under investigation to flesh out further details.

Gorkhaland supporters, police clash at Sukna

DARJEELING (WB), JUL 29 (PTI): After weeks of relative peace in the Darjeeling hills, pro-Gorkhaland supporters clashed with police on the 45th day of the shutdown today, during which, the GJM claimed, one of its supporters suffered a bullet injury.

The GJM claimed that Ajay Chhetri was injured in police firing, a charge denied by the ADG who termed it as "completely baseless".

The present shutdown, which began on June 15, is the longest till date on the statehood issue. The picturesque hill station had witnessed a 40-day bandh in 1988 by the Gorkha National Liberation Front and a 44-day shutdown in 2013 by Gorkha Janamukti Morcha (GJM).

According to Darjeeling district administration, pro-Gorkhaland supporters armed with knives, swords and traditional kukri (Gorkha knife) tried to forcibly

enter Siliguri, demanding that it be included in the Gorkhaland state being demanded by them.

Police which had put up roadblocks near Sukna road crossing asked them to return but the agitators broke the first two barricades and threw stones at them.

Police used water cannons and mild baton charge to disperse the crowd. At this the protesters turned violent and set afire some vehicles parked nearby.

Few police personnel and GJM activists were injured in the clashes. The GJM supporters were admitted to hospitals for treatment.

The pro-Gorkhaland supporters then launched a sit-in on Sukna-Siliguri road and a huge contingent of police and security forces moved to the area to control the situation.

The GJM leadership claimed that the police resorted to firing.

turn to pg03

Centre taking all possible steps to keep NH10 open for Sikkim: Rijiju to PD Rai

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 29 JUL:

In response to Sikkim's Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), PD Rai's letter regarding the ongoing disturbances and hoodlomanism along National Highway-10, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Kiren Rijiju, has assured that the Central Government is taking all possible steps to prevent the blocking of NH-10 for Sikkim.

Mr Rai had requested the Minister of State to look in to the matter and take 'immediate and substantive action' through a

letter recently.

In his response letter, Mr Rijiju has informed that the Central Government has deployed 15 companies of Central Armed Forces (CAPFs) to maintain law and order and to ensure smooth vehicular movement along the highway.

"The Central Government has also taken up the matter with West Bengal Government and other concerned Central Ministers to ensure that the supply of essential commodities reach Sikkim in a regular manner," the letter reads.

Heavy rainfall warning for Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 29 JUL:

Following the Indian Meteorological Department's forecast of heavy rainfall in North Eastern States including Sikkim next week from 31 Jul to 01 Aug, the National Disaster Management Authority has urged the state governments to ask for any kind of requirement in the emergent situation at the earliest.

In a letter addressed to the Chief Secretary of Sikkim, the Special Resident Commissioner, Sikkim House, Ashwani Kumar Chand informs that this was informed during a meeting called by member of National Disaster Management Authority, RK Jain.

Accordingly, the Government of Sikkim has sent an advisory to all District Collectors & Sub Divisional Magistrates to remain on high alert.

Chester Bennington remembered in Kolkata

Kolkata, July 29 (PTI): Tributes were paid to Chester Bennington, the frontman of nu-metal band 'Linkin Park' by city music lovers who curated a memorial concert today to celebrate his life and tracks.

Musicians with acoustic guitars, duos using iPads and LPs of Indian classical songs, assembled at the sprawling Eco Park here to pay their respects to Chester.

The 'Linkin Park Tribute Band', a group of some of the best musicians in the city, performed a unique line-up of songs which was the main segment of the concert named 'Somewhere I Belong - Celebrating Chester'.

"The concert is our way of paying our last respects to a man who shaped all our teenage years with his iconic voice," a Band spokesman said.

The concert featured over 14 acts with each covering one or more Linkin Park songs. There was also a Chester Bennington Memorial Corner reflecting his many sides.



Sportspersons come together to clean up Paljor Stadium

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 29 JUL:

In an initiative of the Sports & Youth Affairs Department, budding and former footballers of different clubs, athletes and members of sports associations and clubs came together to clean up the Paljor Stadium complex this morning.

In an hour-long cleanliness drive, the participants collected garbage and other wastes from the complex.

Sports & Youth Affairs Department

Deputy Director [coaching], Thupten Rapgal, who is also the in-charge of Paljor Stadium, explained that the main objective of the drive was not only to collect waste but also inculcate a sense of ownership among stakeholders as regards the stadium.

"Now, footballers and other athletes whoever is using the facilities at Paljor Stadium will dedicate an hour on the last Saturday of every month to clean the stadium. Such a practice will also encourage others to keep the stadium clean," he said.



Chamling inspects landslide affected areas in South

NAMCHI, 29 JUL (IPR): Chief Minister Pawan Chamling along with Roads and Bridges Minister, GM Gurung, today visited the landslide affected areas in South District.

The CM and Mr Gurung along with the department officials visited Upper and Lower Ghurpisey in Namchi.

The Chief Minister also interacted with the affected land owners and directed the officials of Roads and Bridges and Irrigation Department to immediately carry out the protective maintenance works in the landslide affected places.

He further urged the officers to lay utmost em-

phasis and to effectively examine the smooth maintenance of drainage system in the landslide affected areas so as to prevent any untoward incidents in the future.

During the inspection the Chief Minister laid prominence on the construction of 'Catch Water Drain' extending up to a kilometer from Upper Ghurpisey to Ghattey Khola.

Mr Chamling instructed the officials to construct box drains wherever necessary and to begin the Devithan Jhora training works with immediate effect at Bye-pass road up to Dalle Jhora.



Gurudongma Tso - Blessed by Guru Rinpoche

SONAM TOPGAY TASHI

As per Denjong Nye-Yig [The Pilgrim's Guide to The Hidden Land of Sikkim, by Jigme Pawo, reincarnation of Gyalwa Lhatsun Chenpo] and Nay-Sol texts, Gurudongma Tso/Lake, located at an altitude of about 17,000 feet within the Lachen Dzumsa area in North District, Sikkim, is one of the 108 'Tso-Chen' or major holy lakes of Denjong [Sikkim] believed to be abodes of local guardian deities. The holy lake is located close to Mt Khangchen Gyao, also considered sacred by the locals.

During the eighth century AD, Guru Padmasambhava, also referred to by Buddhists as Guru Rinpoche, hailing from the Swat region in present-day northwest Pakistan, visited Tibet at the invitation of the Tibetan emperor Trisong Deutsen and introduced the practice of Tantric Buddhism to the Tibetans.

On his way back from Tibet, Guru Rinpoche is believed to have visited Sikkim and Gurudongma Tso was probably the first major landmark that the Guru came

across upon his entry into the fabled hidden land of 'Denjong/Demojong'. The word 'Dongma Shab Chakpa' refers to his visit to this place. He recognized the lake as a part of Dorje Nyima/Chorten Nyima, a sacred place of worship in northern Sikkim.

It is believed that the Guru, in order to provide drinking water to the local people during winter when the lake freezes, placed his hands on a part of the lake, which miraculously stopped freezing during winter, thereby providing drinking water to the locals. Since then, the water of the lake is considered sacred.

Recognizing the auspicious omens in the lake, Guru Rinpoche saw them as propitious and favorable signs welcoming his entry into the land of Denjong/Demojong. Devotees believe that by offering prayers at the holy lake, one can be blessed with the birth of a child.

[The writer is currently posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Chungthang, North Sikkim]



MLA visits landslide affected area at Upper Chumlok

Namchi, 29 Jul [IPR]: Speaker KN Rai, who is also the area MLA of Poklok Kamrang constituency, today visited the landslide which had occurred at Upper Chumlok under the Wok Omchu GPU on 24 July.

He was accompanied by Superintendent Engineer-Roads, Assistant Engineer-Roads, Junior Engineer-Roads, Gram Vidyut Abhiyanta-Sikkim, GVA-Namchi, officials from Land Revenue and Disaster Management Department, Zilla and Ward Panchayat member, Constituency Level Committee President and SDF party workers.

During the visit, Mr Rai directed the Roads and Bridges Department



to initiate early action for restoration of the road along with proper drain-

age to be maintained so that the general public does not suffer.

He also instructed other line departments to take immediate action

with regard to distribution of compensation to affected land owners.

Public awareness alcoholism, domestic violence and suicides held at Tingting

SUMMIT REPORT
GYALSHING, 29 JUL:

A public awareness programme on ill effects of alcohol addiction, domestic violence and suicide was conducted by West District NGOs Federation in association with the SDM's Office today at Tingting village under Yuksam subdivision. The programme was also supported by National Youth Volunteers of NYK's Yuksam block.

Addressing the awareness programme, Dr. D K Gurung, the main resource person who is also the president of West District NGOs Federation said, "It is impossible to expect a healthy environment in a family where both the parents are drunkards. This will definitely have a negative impact on the mindset of young children. Our NGO is conducting such awareness programmes regularly at villages with



the support of NYKs and Gram Panchayats."

He also highlighted the schemes and programmes initiated by the Central and State governments especially designed for the development of youth.

Later the awareness programme was also joined by the team 'Operation Muskan 3' from the Gyalshing Police Station

led by Sub-Inspector, Upashna Sharma. Operation Muskan 3 was launched by the Ministry of Home Affairs to trace missing children.

Speaking at the programme, Sub-Inspector, Upashna Sharma said, the main aim of Operation Muskan is to prevent child trafficking and rescue children.

Under this pro-

gramme, specially trained police teams will screen all children residing in shelter homes, railway platforms, bus stands, roads and religious places. They also extract required information from these children tactfully, she said. Operation Muskan 3 campaign will continue till 31 Jul, she added.

Addressing the programme, SDM-Yuksam,

Dr. Sonam Rinchen Lepcha who was present as chief guest commended the effort of West District NGOs Federation and NYK Volunteers in creating awareness on ill effects of alcohol, domestic violence and suicide in the village.

He shared the idea of setting up a suicide prevention centre in the district to prevent & control the increasing suicide rate in West district. He assured all possible support to the villagers, youth and students. The SDM further informed of plans to constitute a committee to look into the problems of drug addiction, alcohol addiction, domestic violence and suicide in the subdivision.

Earlier, Panchayat president Yuksam, Budha Subba, Panchayat Secretary, Dichen Wangchuk Bhutia and Headmaster Tingting Primary school, Lendup Lepcha also addressed the programme.

Doctors Assoc of West Sikkim holds its first health camp



GYALSHING, 29 JUL [IPR]: Doctors Association of West Sikkim [DAWS] conducted its first health camp at Kumbuk Saypi Sophaka in West Sikkim today under the guidance and supervision of Additional Director/Chief Medical Officer-West, Dr Thinlay Wongyal.

The team of doctors included Dr Thinlay Wongyal [AD/CMO-West], Dr Yogesh Ghimiray [Medicine Specialist], Dr Chultim Lepcha [Chest Specialist], Dr Praveen Gurung

[Paediatrician], Dr Kunzang Ongmu [Psychologist], Dr Nim Norbu [ENT Specialist], Dr Edna Pradhan [Dental Surgeon], Dr Shivani Tamang [Dental Surgeon] & Mobile Medical Unit from District Hospital Gyalshing, Dr Kanchan Gurung [Medical Officer In Charge-Dentam], Dr Neevidita Pradhan [Dental Surgeon-Dentam Primary Health Centre] and staff from Uttaray Primary Health Sub Centre.

More than 300 patients ranging from pe-

diatric to geriatric age group benefited from the camp. One case of contralateral haemiparasis, a case of brain lesion, was diagnosed by Dr Yougesh Ghimiray wherein the patient was advised to get admitted at District Hospital Gyalshing.

Supported by locals of Sophakha Samaj Kalyan Samiti, the entire camp was sponsored by DAWS with complete health check up along with free distribution of medicine and oral hygiene kit.

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Gangtok on Sunday, 30 July

Temp: 26°C / 18°C
Forecast: Considerable clouds with a shower or thunderstorm in the area.
Sunrise: 04:58 AM
Sunset: 06:26 PM

Indian-origin woman gives birth to first digitally monitored twins in UK

ADITI KHANNA LONDON, JUL 29 (PTI): An Indian-origin woman has become the world's first mother to give birth to twins monitored in the womb using a potentially life-saving digital growth chart, British media reported.

Mala Vast Dhuri gave birth to healthy identical boys Kiaan and Kush, weighing 2 kg and 2.1 kg, by Caesarean at St George's Hospital in south London recently.

The 37-year-old said she was "over the moon" after doctors at the hospital scanned and checked the development of her babies against growth charts designed specifically for twins, the 'Daily Mirror' reported yesterday.

"I am over the moon to meet my gorgeous little boys. Thanks to St George's for ensuring their safe arrival, Dhuri said.

The UK's Twins and Multiple Births Association raised money for the project to create the charts using 10,000 scans of twins.

It means doctors can compare babies' development against what is normal for twins, rather than for single births.

Dr Asma Khalil, consultant obstetrician and multiple births expert based at St George's, led the project and said it could save "hundreds, if not thousands of lives" each year.

Dr Khalil said if doctors had used the singleton chart to monitor Mala, the twins could have been delivered two to three weeks early.

Gorkhaland supporters, police clash at Sukna Contd from pg01

"One of our supporters named Ajay Chhetri was injured in today's police firing. Is this a democracy where no one is allowed to carry out a democratic rally?" Giri said speaking to PTI.

ADG (Law and Order) Anuj Sharma said the claim was "completely baseless".

"Not a single round was fired," he said.

GJM supporters took out rallies at Chowkbazar area during the day amid patrolling by police and security forces.

Normal life remained crippled in the Darjeeling hills due to the ongoing indefinite strike to press for a separate Gorkhaland state. Barring medicine shops, business establishments, restaurants, hotels, schools and colleges remained closed.



Rekape Primary School celebrates Global Tiger Day

YOGEN THATAL SINGTAM, 29 JUL:

Rekape Primary School in South Sikkim today observed the 7th Global Tiger Day with the active participation of

the school staff and students on the theme 'Save the tigers, Save the ecosystem'.

During the programme, a painting competition was organized for the students. With their faces painted like wild an-

imals, the children participated in a short role-play of wild species wherein most of the pupils played the character of tigers such as Bengal tigers, Siberian tigers, South China tigers, etc.

Head of the school, Arjun Ku-

mar Chettri, highlighted the role and importance of tigers in the ecosystem and the need to conserve them.

The event concluded with the distribution of certificates to the student participants.

Inter-house traditional dress compett at Singtam School

SUMMIT REPORT SINGTAM, 29 JUL:

The National Service Scheme Unit of Singtam Government Senior Secondary School conducted an inter-house traditional dress competition here at Singtam GSS school premises today on the theme 'Not Me, But You'.

The winner of the competition was Blue House while Red House took the runners up position.

MLA of West Pandam constituency, Gopal Baraily, attended the event as chief guest accompanied by members of Bihari Jagran Manch, School Management Committee members along with teachers and students.

"The generation today seems to be uninterested when it comes to wearing cultural and traditional dresses as daily wear. India has diverse cultures and tra-



ditions and we need to preserve ours in the long run which is why these competitions are import-

ant in order to help the youth embrace their culture," said Mr Baraily, in his address.

The programme concluded with the distribution of trophies and felicitation of a former

teacher and the Vice Principal of the school by the chief guest.



Inter-house spelling compett at Phalaichadara JHS

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 29 JUL:

Phalaichadara Junior High School in East Sikkim conducted an Inter House Spelling Competition today. The competition was held among students of elementa-

ry level from three houses, a press release informs.

Maenam house [Blue] stood first while Singba house [Red] and Fambong Lho house [Green] stood second and third, respectively.

Reema Gurung, who spelled

all words in Nepali correctly along with other answers, was adjudged the best participant by the judges. The competition was conducted by house coordinators, RB Chhetri and Meena Subba.

Man arrested for killing dog

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 29 JUL:

In one of the rare cases of cruelty against animals that get officially reported, a resident of Setipool, East Sikkim was arrested on 28 July under Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 for allegedly killing a stray dog.

The incident was reported to the police by 'Animals and Us', a Gangtok-based Non-Governmental Organization formed to protect stray animals including dogs and cats.

The NGO has claimed that the accused was involved in the killing of a stray dog at Setipool, East Sikkim on 13 July.

The police visited the crime scene to look for the dead body but it was not traced. The accused on the other hand has been taken into custody. Sources have been deployed by the police to gather more information about the incident.

50th Installation of Rotary Club of Gangtok



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 29 JUL:

The 50th installation ceremony of Rotary Club of Gangtok was held on 28 July at Hotel Tashi Delek, Gangtok, a press release informs.

Assistant Governor of Rotary International District, Bina Sharma attended the function as the chief guest along with ex District Governor, Dr Yogesh Verma as the guest of honor.

The outgoing president, Dr Renu Verma thanked the club members for their support during his tenure while the outgoing secretary, Prakash Mundra presented the report of the activities undertaken last year. The annual issue of Denzong Khorlo, the of-

ficial bulletin of the club was also released on the occasion.

The new president, Dr R.N. Deokota in his acceptance speech, called upon all the members to support him and his team in the discharge of the functions of the club and to take the club to newer heights.

Dr R.N. Deokota has been selected as the new president for 2017-18 along with Gautam Ray as the secretary. New administration members for the year 2017-18 were selected for different positions and responsibilities of the club, says the release.

Prakash Mundra was adjudged the best performing Rotarian of the club for 2016-17.

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Forest Department bids farewell to 16 Officers



GANGTOK, 29 JUL [IPR]: A farewell function was organised by Forest, Environment and Wildlife Management Department at Sidkeong Tulku Hall of the Forest Secretariat for sixteen Officers, mostly DFOs, who retired from their services on superannuation in the last few months.

The officers are Angi Doma Bhutia [Joint Secretary], Nombi Tshering

Bhutia [Joint Director], Lakpa Tshering Sherpa [Joint Director], Phurba Tamang [DFO], Sangay Kazi [DFO], Ashok Pradhan [DFO], Kiran Kumar Gurung [DFO], Phurba Bhutia [DFO], R.P. Sharma [DFO], Anguir Bhutia [DFO], I.P. Acharya [Deputy Director], Dorjee Tamang [DFO], Kamal Gurung [ACF], C.B. Rai [ACF], Samdup Tshering Bhutia [ACF] and Devendra Sha-

ma [Asst. Engineer]. The programme was organised in the presence of Minister for Forest, Tshering Wangdi Lepcha, Principal Secretary cum PCCC, Dr. Thomas Chandy and Chief Conservator of Forest (T), CS Rao. During the programme the retired officers were felicitated for rendering selfless service to the department. They were offered khadas and mementos.

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Migrating People

Understand why rural Sikkim wants to move to urban settings. And plan for it

There has been frequent talk of rural-urban migration in Sikkim and efforts, on the lips and on paper, have been underway for a while now to contain it. It would be wonderful if disruptions or cessations of traditional ways of life could be stopped and people allowed environments in to pursue their ambitions and dreams in surroundings they are familiar with; but that, anyone will attest, is an impossible task. Things change, and even when the change is for the “better”, it requires adjustments and sacrifices, with migration being one of the options that many have to take.

Any effort to contain rural-to-urban migration would obviously require a clearer understanding of the causes. It is common to find poverty held up as the main reason prompting people to migrate to cities, a notion transmitted through the caricature renditions of the plight of the poor in mass-entertainment products. It is a believable explanation, but latest data available on migration in India does not hold up this belief. The poor are invariably temporary migrants, shipping out for temporary jobs and as seasonal labour; the more permanent migration in pursuit of opportunities is a luxury which only the better heeled and the more educated enjoy. In most cases, this is human resource which “leaves home” to study and train does so because it can afford to, and, on many occasions, never returns. And then there is the eye-opening data contained in the report released by the National Sample Survey Office suggesting that a third of all Indians are migrants in their present place of residence! Though one in every three Indians is a migrant, they are not all products of rural-urban migration. Most are not escaping the “drudgery” of rural India, but are, in almost all cases, pursuing gainful employment. There is a difference. Within these are of course those who migrate for marriage [found to be the case in most ‘non-local’ women], or because they have been forced out either by natural disasters or “developmental” projects.

If Sikkim is serious about working on rural-urban migration, it should first understand the exact, and not generalised, reasons for it. Urban amenities might be desired, but cannot by themselves be taken as reasons why people abandon villages. Chasing employment could be a reason, but migration is relatively permanent and that requires complementing opportunities and not just desires to keep rural folk in urban addresses. A data that the country prefers not to unravel, but Sikkim could do well to study and understand, is migration triggered by changes in rural settings. In many instances, land - a people’s mooring to the place - is lost, and with this anchor lifted, moving away becomes an easier decision to contemplate. The loss of land could as much be due to acquisition for projects as it could be because of change in landuse patterns. If farms are no longer of a size which make them sustainable, or when the traditional crops no longer harvest on a scale that makes economic sense, a shift is necessitated. Of course, there is also the general desire of every parent to provide better education and opportunities for children if they can afford it, and these opportunities continue to be available almost exclusively in urban setting even in Sikkim. It would be desirable if these facilities could reach the villages too, but that does not appear to be happening any time soon, so the pull of the urban areas will remain strong.

Urban planning will hence have to factor these realities into its projections for future years and this will require cross-disciplinary and inter-departmental coordination and planning on a scale that the State has not displayed an aptitude for thus far. Very soon, Sikkim, as the rest of the world, will also be looking at migrations forced by climate change as well and it will be advisable for the State to try and begin the processes to project possible scenarios and start adequate preparations for it. It is important to bear in mind that not all rural-urban migration can be stopped, but what can definitely be achieved is for the urban spaces to be planned better to not only accommodate ‘influx’, but also provide them with better basic facilities and more respectable opportunities.

NUPUR CHAWLA

Various parts of Northeast India have witnessed conflict that seems to have had a decisive impact on life in the region. Broadly speaking, issues defining this conflict include demand for an independent nation, feeling of alienation, lack of belongingness to the Indian mainland, the Central Government’s apathy and a differential status of opportunities in the region as compared to the mainland. A crucial outcome of this situation in the region has been an atmosphere of unrest, apprehension, and violence due to armed conflict.

Literary expressions from the region represent this situation imaginatively, while also intervening in the state of affairs in its own unique way. These writings address issues like violation of peace, freedom, justice, and humanity in general. And in this paper I will explore how there is an assertion of human potential in literature from the Northeast and a denunciation of reality wherein values of love, harmony, happy coexistence and freedom are constantly sacrificed at the altar of conflict. This anti-exploitation stance and being pro-people is what I broadly refer to as ‘Humanism’. And this position in itself carries a strong message that any situation working against the interests of the common people is to be condemned. Herein lies the resistance to all such forces that curb a certain people from realizing their true potential.

It is not to deny that each region in the Northeast India has had its own dynamics of conflict and cannot be clubbed together, however, what is being focused in the discussion of these select voices from the region is the common experience of conflict on human grounds and the responses it elicits from people that converge in their refusal to accept such reality and an assertion of that which makes people come together in an attempt to confront it.

DEFINING HUMANISM

Meaning of the word ‘Humanism’, as a life-stance underwent various changes through various epochs and geographies, giving rise to various allied terms. Jean Paul Sartre provides one of the definitions of Humanism in his 1946 lecture titled “Existentialism is a Humanism”. In the lecture he says: “Although it is impossible to find in each and every man a universal essence that can be called human nature, there is nevertheless a human universality of condition...every purpose, however individual it may be, is of universal value. Every purpose, even that of a Chinese, an Indian or a Negro, can be understood by a European...man is thus self-surpassing...This is humanism, because we remind man that there is no legislator but himself; that he himself, thus abandoned, must decide for himself; also because we show that it is not by turning back upon himself, but always by seeking, beyond himself, an aim which is one of liberation or of some particular realization, that man can realize himself as truly human.”

Sartre here talks of “a human universality of condition”. He also states that every purpose is also universal. Here words ‘condition’ and ‘purpose’ can be understood vis-à-vis certain values and aspirations that come to define human experience or existence. And because of the common factors shaping humanity, Sartre elaborates, issues of a Chinese are comprehensible to a person living in Africa and other parts of the world. What are these common factors, one may wonder. The values of coexistence, freedom, harmony, justice, love, security, happiness are common human pursuits. To this, Sartre adds, that man is his own legislator, shaping himself and striving to realize himself. This faith in human potential is crucial to an understanding of the humanist stance.

Toni Davies furnishes a more recent definition of the phenomenon in his book Humanism. He charts how understanding of the word Humanism kept changing through the time, its meaning having no fixity. However, he makes a significant statement while summing up his discussion on the subject. He says: “The freedom to speak and write, to organize and campaign in defense of individual or collective interests, to protest and disobey: all these, and the prospect of a world in which they will be secured, can only be articulated in humanist terms.”

This statement makes clear the interventionist potential of a humanist stance. It comprises freedom to express freely, to protest and disobey and defend certain interests. Securing these aspects of experience comprises humanist articulation. Here one can then locate the element of resistance that can be said to be an important aspect of this position. Affirming certain ideas and protesting against those forces that go against collective interest comprises Humanism. Hence he adds, “The meanings of ‘humanism’ have operated most powerfully

Reading Humanism as Resistance: Assertion and Conflict in Select Writings from Northeast India

precisely at those moments when they have been most contested, and thus most elusive or opaque to definition.”

These aspects will be located in the writings from Northeast India.

VIOLENCE DENOUNCED: EXPRESSING THE PAIN OF CONFLICT IN POETRY

Violence is a constant theme in both poems and short stories from the region. There are references to death, fear and bullets. However, the expression of this painful reality is in terms that make readers look critically at those who perpetuate it. The resultant anger and a complete refusal to accept this state of affairs comes across well. Violence, a reality that has coloured many a lives in the region, is the primary target of the humanist position, because inherent in such circumstance is the violation of values that humans hold dear - freedom, spontaneity and harmony.

Monalisa Changkija, a poet from Nagaland, questions this reality in no uncertain terms. Her anger and impatience with the atmosphere perpetuated by conflict is evident. In her poem “Child of Cain”, she says, “No one has this right to make anyone live with the stench of burnt human flesh/ in our hearts and minds for the rest of our days/ ...no one has the right to burn human flesh- body, mind and soul.”

Words “burnt human flesh” is a stark reminder of what armed conflict often entails - loss of life, and in a really brutal manner. The poet’s choice of words conveys the pain of a sensitive soul who observes the gory reality around. And as the quotation suggests, it is not

ed. Personal and political are deftly interwoven by the poet as experiences of women from behind the closed doors of their homes joins with the larger question of exploitation in society.

Violence, in this case, is both visible and hidden. She refers to “bodies battered, bruised and bent... violence induced miscarriages,/ black-eyes and bloodied lips/ blue bruises and broken ribs”. In the same vein, she refers to “unwritten Pages of Pain”. Perhaps this refers to stories of such violence that never found expression. In this case violence always remained invisible, unknown to the world outside. And she reiterates “but I must write against unseen chains, on these Pages of Pain or pay more in silence.” This making public, an issue that needs attention, is how the poet fulfills her responsibility of spreading the requisite message through her writings.

Robin S Ngangom is another prolific poet who grapples with the issue of violence in his poems. There is a wistful flavor to his poems, with references to his land and how he has had to move away from her. There is a deep connection with his place of birth and in many poems the place is even personified. This deep connection with the land is also evident in his understanding of the ravages of conflict witnessed by it. And the pain in articulating this reality is clearly evident.

In the poem “The First Rain”, Ngangom highlights how writing from the region reflects the reality that has coloured their everyday life. A violent reality needs equally violent modes of expression and an instance of this is evident in the following lines from the poem:

We’ve drawn our borders with blood

Even to write in our mother tongue

We cut open veins and our tongues

Lick parchments with blood.

Cutting “open the veins and tongue” signifies the extreme passion with which people from the region have articulated their thoughts. The uninhibited expression of reality in the region is a means to make the truth of their times available to those outside the region and for generations to come. “Blood” signifying struggle is an aspect of experience that must be preserved in imaginative narratives, thus enriching region’s history.

In Ngangom’s poems, violence due to conflict, inspires not just anger and criticism but also a deep pain for the long drawn suffering of people. This being able to recognize the common pain of people is a crucial feature of a Humanist stance. In the poem “The First Rain”, the poet says, “If I told you how babies have been shot down/ from their mothers’ breasts/ you would put it down to a poet’s overworked heart.” Babies being forcefully taken away from mothers come across as a powerful symbol of common people being wrenched away from their places of security by ravages of violence. And the poet acknowledges that this scenario is so disturbing that many might consider it merely an imaginative sweep.

Another aspect of pain is evident in the poem “Everywhere I Go”. Here the poet tries to rationalize the extreme sadness he experiences, lest sadness should give way to despair. He says, “I know I must stop agonizing”.

ASSERTION OF FAITH IN PEOPLE’S COURAGE

Having fulfilled the first aspect of resistance, denouncing values that work against interests of the common masses, next crucial step is having a hope and vision to overturn the existing circumstance that is exploitative in nature. Robin Ngangom in the poem “First Rain” says,

They can stop us but not our thoughts

From coming out into the streets,

They can shoot us but cannot kill the air

Which carries our voices.

Here one realizes the power of thoughts and ideas during a conflict situation. Violence inflicted at the physical level also has an ideological aspect. Truth, which may often be manipulated, is put in perspective by means of such creative expressions. While on the one hand the line “they can stop us but not our thoughts” highlights the extreme resilience of spirit of people to confront the enemy, at the same time it alerts us to the shaping potential of culture, as it helps form new or parallel discourses to contend with the already existing ones. And herein lies the in-

turn to pg05



just a physical violation but also that of the mind and soul. This further deepens the gravity of the matter as expressed by the poet. The words “No one has this right” have a powerful impact on the reader as they convey a strong sense of questioning the wrong.

Her poem “One of these Decades” juxtaposes the difficult reality surrounding people with the faith in people’s potential to overcome this damage by restoring the harmony and bonhomie they had experienced before their land was ravaged by conflict. Poet Changkija says,

One of these decades when our dreams become as real as the nightmare now we will gather around the fire on moonlit nights as did our forefathers and silence the gunfire with our songs loud and clear across our green hills in rhythm with all humanity...

The phrase “in rhythm with all humanity” is a clear humanist stance evident in her poems. The poet emphasizes that the songs will not be sung by individuals separately but keeping in tune with all those who witness conflict. This further extends the scope of her imagination, not restricting to those suffering around her but also elsewhere in the world. Words “all humanity” surpass all divisions along lines of nation, ethnicity, or religion and gather everyone in the common struggle with conflict. The juxtaposition of “dreams” and “nightmares”, “gunfire” and “songs” brings alive the contrast inherent in the situation whereby people, as the poet, refuse to give in to exigencies of a violent circumstance.

In her poems is also evident a parallel discourse of domestic violence. During conflict, pressures from the outside often trickle into the space of the homes thereby creating another reality that needs to be equally condemned. In her collection titled “Weapons of Words on Pages of Pain”, Monalisa Changkija paints an extremely evocative picture detailing the experience of the victim. The candid tone adopted here leaves a deep impact on the reader, making them visualize the predicament of the one exploit-

(left to right): Monalisa Changkija, Robin Ngangom and Temsula Ao



Indian, Pakistani lineage of S’pore’s next president debated

GURDIP SINGH

SINGAPORE, JUL. 29 (PTI):

The identity of candidates seeking nominations for the post of Singapore’s next president has come under the scanner with a debate swirling around whether they are “Malay enough” as the two likely contenders are of Indian and Pakistani descent.

The favourite for the ceremonial head of the state post is Speaker of Parliament Halimah Yacob but according to media reports her father was Indian and mother Malay.

The election, to be held in September this year, will be the first reserved for Malay Muslim candidates following changes passed by the Parliament last November to ensure multiracialism of the office.

But Halimah, 62, said that she is still mulling over whether to run in September’s presidential election, which she first told local reporters two weeks ago.

A debate has swirled around whether the hopefuls who have put their names up for election are “Malay enough”.

The critics also took aim at aspirant Salleh Marican, who also has Indian heritage and struggled to speak in Malay.

A third aspiring candidate, Farid Khan, has Pakistani heritage. Salleh has said he is taking Malay lessons.

Nitish expands ministry, inducts 27 new ministers

PATNA, JUL 29 (PTI): Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar today expanded his Cabinet by inducting 27 new ministers from his Janata Dal (United) and the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance.

The new ministers were administered the oath of office and secrecy at a function at the Raj Bhavan by Governor Keshri Nath Tripathi.

Only Kumar and Sushil Modi were sworn-in as the chief minister and the deputy chief minister on July 27 and the ministry was expanded a day after the new JD(U)-NDA government won the confidence vote in the Bihar Assembly.

In the 243-member House, a maximum of 37 ministers are allowed as per the constitutional provisions.

Vijendra Prasad Yadav of the JD(U) was the first to take oath followed by the BJP's Prem Kumar, who was the Leader of the Opposition in the previous JD(U)-RJD-Congress government.

Others who took oath included the JD(U)'s Rajiv Ranjan Singh Lallan and the BJP's Nand Kishore Yadav and Manju Verma.

Mangal Pandey of the BJP, who was also party in-charge of Himachal Pradesh, could not come on time for the oath-taking.

While 14 from the JD(U) were made ministers, the NDA's share was 12 from the BJP, one from the LJP -- Pashupati Kumar Paras, a brother of Union minister Ramvilas Paswan.

The RLSP and the HAM, the two other NDA allies, went unrepresented.

Besides Kumar, Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi, LJP chief Ramvilas Paswan and the Speaker of the Bihar Assembly Vijay Kumar Choudhary attended the swearing-in function.

Kumar had on July 26 dumped the previous ministry comprising the JD(U), the RJD and the Congress and joined hands with the BJP to form the new government.

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Toll mounts to 31 even as Bengal flood situation improves

KOLKATA, JUL 29 (PTI): The flood situation in West Bengal marginally improved today even as three more persons died in the last 24 hours, taking the toll to 31 since July 21, an official said.

With the weather conditions improving slightly and the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) releasing less water, the situation in the 11 flood-hit districts improved slightly, he added.

Over 23 lakh people were affected in over 165 villages, which were inundated by heavy rains and the water released by the DVC, said the official.

Nearly 45,000 people have taken shelter in over 2,000 relief camps set up in the flood-hit districts.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said the flood situation had improved in the state.

"The flood situation is better but the problem will again arise if it rains and more water is released (from the DVC).

Many people have been rescued from Ghatat," she said at the state secretariat.

An official at the state secretariat, however, said on the condition of anonymity that the flood situation in Ghatat had, in fact, worsened.

Sources said the state gov-



ernment was yet to estimate the loss incurred by the farmers as over 2.5 lakh hectares of agricultural land were submerged.

The chief minister had earlier described the flood as "man-made" and said the current situation in the state was worse than the one caused by the floods in 1978.

Meanwhile, an Indian Air

Force (IAF) helicopter rescued nine members of a family from a house at Ghatat in West Midnapore district this morning.

"Nine persons, including three women and five children, of the same family were winched to safety from a submerged house in Ghatat," said an IAF official.

"There are a few more peo-

ple still inside the house, who were reluctant to leave it...we understand their sentiment and will again request the helicopter to pursue them to be rescued," he added.

Another IAF helicopter distributed 500 kg of relief materials including medicines, food and water pouches in the flood-hit areas.

First SSB rescue and relief team inaugurated

GUWAHATI, JUL 29 (PTI): Union Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju inaugurated the first Sasashtra Seema Bal Rescue and Relief Team here today to provide immediate succour to the local people during calamities.

The new team was raised from SSB's existing workforce in its 18 sectors in Assam and are armed with modern equipment, he said adding besides providing succour to the people it would also provide help and facilities to the other stakeholders and sister organisations to work jointly to overcome the calamity.

Such teams should also be raised in the rest of the country to be the first responders within minutes during natural disasters and accidents, he said at the programme and appreciated SSB for the help rendered by it to local administrations and people during natural calamities and accidents.

Besides guarding the Indo-Bhutan and Indo-Nepal borders, J and K frontiers and fighting naxalites, the SSB jawans also come forward



The Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju visiting the equipment display, organised by Sasashtra Seema Bal (SSB), on the occasion of inauguration of the Rescue & Relief Team (RRT), at Guwahati, Assam on July 29, 2017. [PIB]

during bus or train accidents, fire, earthquakes and tsunamis in the spirit of service, security and brotherhood, he said.

He urged the SSB to create awareness among the people on how to keep themselves safe during natural calamities and accidents.

The union home ministry, he assured, would accept the SSB director general Archana Ramasundaram's proposal for national level SSB training school at Saloni-bari in Sonitpur district of Assam.

Rijiju said he had toured the flood-hit ar-

reas of Assam on the instructions of Prime Minister Narendra Modi during which he saw police, SDRF and all central forces speedily reacting to the crisis.

The BJP government's response and rescue operations were better than that of the the previous

Congress government in Assam, he claimed.

The SSB rescue and relief team demonstrated how they respond during floods and use easily available items like foot balls, jerry cans, water bottles, hay inside gunny bags, banana trees and others to wade to safety.

Child trafficking case: CID sleuths quiz BJP MP Roopa Ganguly

KOLKATA, JULY 29 (PTI): The West Bengal CID questioned BJP Rajya Sabha MP Roopa Ganguly here today in connection with a child trafficking case in Jalpaiguri.

A team of the agency's officers went to Ganguly's south Kolkata residence and questioned her for over two hours on her alleged meeting with former BJP women's wing general secretary Juhi Chowdhury, an accused in the case who is under arrest, a senior CID officer said.

The criminal investigation department (CID) had unearthed a child trafficking racket earlier this year in which babies and children were allegedly sold, some even to foreigners through illegal adoption deals.

Another senior officer of the agency said that the CID officers who went to interrogate Ganguly were "not satisfied" with the BJP MP's replies and were mulling to question her again.

"Our officers are not satisfied with what she has answered. They may question her again sometime next week," he said.

Ganguly later told reporters, "They wanted to ask some questions to solve the case and understand the situation. I told them what I knew. There is no charge against me. It is a political vendetta. I am saying this from day one. They are wasting my time."

Alleging that false cases were slapped against the BJP workers

in the state, the Rajya Sabha MP said she believed that Chowdhury was not guilty.

The CID had also summoned BJP national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya and two other leaders for interrogation in the same case.

The probe agency had arrested several people, including the head of a child protection agency in Darjeeling and a member of a child welfare committee on charges of child trafficking.

Those arrests were part of a widening probe into the adoption racket at Bimala Shishu Griho, a children's home in Jalpaiguri town.

Chowdhury and the chief adoption officer of the children's home, Sonali Mondal, the home's chairperson Chandana Chakraborty and her brother Manas Bhowmik were arrested earlier.

They have been charged with selling about 17 children, aged between one and 14 years, to foreigners while falsely claiming that the children were handed over for legal adoption to needy couples after due screening and official procedures.

The CID had unearthed the child trafficking racket during raids at homes and nursing homes in the Baduria area of North 24 Parganas district, in Behala in the southern fringes of Kolkata and some other parts of south Bengal in November last year.

Wary Cong keeps Guj MLAs at Karnataka resort after desertions

BENGALURU, JUL 29 (PTI): After its six MLAs deserted ahead of Rajya Sabha polls, a wary Congress has lodged its 44 Gujarat legislators at a private resort on the outskirts of Bangalore, saying it is "protecting" them from the BJP's "hooliganism".

Ashok Gehlot, the Congress' general secretary in-charge for Gujarat, defended the party's action and repeated the allegations that the BJP was using money, muscle and state power to force party MLAs in Gujarat to quit.

"They (MLAs) were picked up, harassed, threatened and forced to quit. The way the state machinery, the police are being misused (in Gujarat), why can't we then bring them at one place to protect them from the hooliganism and anti-social activities there," he said.

Bengaluru Rural MP D K Suresh, who is overseeing the arrangements, however, said that the leaders from Gujarat "have come to our state for rest and tourist purpose and we are stationed here to facilitate it".

The MLAs wish to visit some tourist destinations and religious places, he said, adding "they want to seek the Almighty's blessing to save Gujarat and democracy."

Police personnel have been deployed around the resort for security.

Reading Humanism as Resistance: Assertion and Conflict in Select Writings from Northeast India

Contd from pg04

interventionist potential of culture, resisting all those forces that work to curb human potential.

In a similar vein, in the poem "Not be Dead," Monalisa Changkija says,

If tomorrow
My body
Is riddled
With bullets,
I shall not be dead.

...
The event would only mean
The recognition
Of the impact
Of my words...

The above courageous assertion is the poet's understanding that her thoughts have the potential of infuriating forces she is critical of, however she is ready to confront the consequences. In fact, such an event would only go on to assert the power of her ideas. This reminds us of the argument of cultural materialists who state that culture is material, as are ideas since they have the capacity of impacting reality.

SIDING WITH THE EXPLOITED: NARRATIVES OF COMMON PEOPLE
Temsula Ao narrates stories of common people and their daily struggles. This discourse of

capturing their life and bringing to fore their issues, contributes to Ao's humanist assertion. These narratives represent how people confront daily challenges and evolve. In the context, Ao's women characters are important. We see them emerge as the real heroes during times of strife and confusion. Their heroism is not of the traditional kind but lies in the strength of character that is evident during duress. It almost seems as if Ao's women characters bloom during the exigencies of conflict or conflict serves as a backdrop for their potential to shine out, which otherwise may have been blurred due to tradition.

In her short stories, can we compare and contrast the position of women in peaceful times and that during conflict?

This comparison will provide useful insight into gender patterns of the Naga community and more importantly into the 'positive' contribution of conflict, which is a rare expectation.

Inherent in the Naga society depicted by Temsula Ao are two mutually opposite dynamics vis-à-vis women - while the existing circumstance is deeply patriarchal, at the same time we also see a counter-impulse simmering in women. These instances of questioning women in the narratives are particularly interesting; they depict a spirit of re-

sistance in that it is incipient and may develop into a full-grown confident voice of protest.

This juxtaposition of the repressive social forces and resistance is best exemplified in the story "The Night". A young girl Imnala gets pregnant twice without being married - once when she is in school and later when her first illegitimate child is young. This circumstance provides sharp insights into the social and customary attitude towards women. The narrator says, "Fate of the unborn child would be determined on that day, depending on the admission or denial of parentage by the man involved."

At another point, the narrator says that Imnala would have to face "...the censure if society whose balance of justice always tended to tilt against the woman. A married man was equally guilty but today she was the sole accused." The lover who betrays Imnala, her father, the entire society and even her own mother are seen against this young girl. Imnala seems to convey to her mother that her second pregnancy could have been averted had her father agreed to marry her off to a widower who had agreed to accept her as a wife. There is a suggestion here that she found herself in need of a partner that was denied to her. She was not given the space to make this simple life choice for

herself. Here her father's response is interesting. He says:

"As for that no good daughter of mine, she has the audacity to tell her mother that I am partly to blame...she told her that I should have agreed to let her marry the widower...but how could I have allowed such a thing to happen to her? She is young, beautiful and deserves a better husband."

Imnala's mother responds in a manner that makes us aware of another dynamic.

"Beyond the village boundaries, she deliberately slackened her pace and fell back. As she walked alone for a while, all the outward show of normality and nonchalance seemed to abandon her and she slumped down on a boulder by the wayside...she wept for the daughter so helplessly caught in the web of youthful passion..."

She does not castigate her daughter. In fact she keeps her emotions at bay, silently absorbing the impact of the circumstance. She is the sensitive one who is able to see the situation for what it is, blaming nobody; her daughter's youthful passion overtook her, father allowed the stranger man to enter their household only so he could make some profit and get timber for the house and she wept for herself "for being a mere spectator of the sorrow now engulfing them

all including the innocent unborn child."

Alongside these forces that curb the young girl's freedom, exists a parallel discourse of the subjugated woman. It comprises a questioning and courageous spirit of these women who are subjugated. They respond to the treatment meted out to them. The reader becomes aware of this by two ways - first, when Imnala confesses her real feelings to her friend. Second, such questioning becomes evident by the narrator's description of the girl's thoughts. Both these cases make evident that such a counter-discourse is brewing but is still beneath the surface. Open defiance is yet to precipitate as external clutches of orthodoxy or patriarchy have their stranglehold.

With the instances of writings discussed above one may note that a people-centered stance is a crucial feature of conflict narratives. Questioning violence, representing experiences of the common people, displaying faith in their potential and their strength to stand up to challenges are some characteristic aspects that define resistance in such narratives. (The writer is a Research Scholar, Shivaji College, Delhi University. This paper was presented in a two-day National Conference on Cultural Studies, held at Manipur University, on 12 & 13 May, 2017)

Aamir Khan urges fans to help flood victims in Assam, Gujarat

MUMBAI, JUL 29 (PTI): Aamir Khan has asked his fans and followers on social media to help flood-stricken states of Assam and Gujarat by contributing in the Chief Minister Relief Fund.

The 52-year-old star today shared a video message on Twitter urging everyone to come together to support those affected floods.

"Some areas of Gujarat and Assam are terribly affected by floods. People are facing a tough time. Many have lost their lives. We are helpless in front of nature, but can surely do something for our brothers and sisters.

"Let us come together and help the people in Gujarat and Assam. Let us contribute in the Chief Minister Relief Fund of both the states," Aamir said.

In Assam, as many as 79 people have lost their lives in the devastating floods, till yesterday.

According to the figures of the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC), Gujarat, 72 people have drowned in the state this monsoon. Till July 26, 123 people had died in the state due to rain-related incidents.

India crush Sri Lanka by 304 runs in 1st Test

CHETAN NARULA GALLE, JUL 29 (PTI):

A vastly superior India today outclassed an injury-ravaged and out-of-sorts Sri Lanka by 304 runs in the opening Test to bury the ghosts of a humiliating loss at the same venue, exactly two years ago. India lead the three-match series 1-0.

This was India's biggest overseas win (in terms of runs) surpassing 279 run-victory against England at Leeds in 1986.

For Sri Lanka, it was their biggest defeat (in terms of runs), surpassing their 301-run loss against Pakistan in 1994.

A gigantic victory target of 550 was out of question for the hosts but they fizzled out in the final session of the fourth day to finish on 245 in 76.5 overs -- their innings terminated with injured skipper Rangana Herath and Asela Gunaratne ruled out.

This was after India captain Virat Kohli struck his 17th Test hundred with India declaring their second innings

at 240 for three.

The Sri Lankans, especially their opener Dimuth Karunaratne (97) batted gutsily for the first two sessions reaching 192 for 4 at tea.

However Ravichandran Ashwin (3/65 in 27 overs) ran through the middle-order. Once Karunaratne was dismissed trying to play paddle sweep, it was all over for the islanders.

After the tea break, India made short work of proceedings. The breakthrough was achieved in the fifth over after the break. Niroshan Dickwella (67) top-edged off Ashwin with Wriddhiman Saha collecting an easy catch.

Dilruwan Perera (21 no) added 23 runs for the sixth wicket with Karunaratne. The Lankan resistance ended for all-purpose when the latter was bowled off Ashwin, dragging a sweep back onto his stumps. Overall, he faced 208 balls and hit 9 fours.

Two balls later, Virat Kohli



took a great catch at leg slip and accounted for Nuwan Pradeep (0) as well. The end came swiftly when Lahiru Kumara (0) skied off Ravindra Jadeja (3/71).

Herath and Gunaratne were unable to bat owing to on-field injuries. Umesh Yadav (1/42) and Mohammed Shami (1/43) took a wicket apiece at the start of the innings.

In post-lunch, Karunaratne and Kusal Mendis (36) continued their partnership for the third wicket. The two batsmen looked to play for time and cut out any aggressive strokes. They did capitalise on run-scoring opportunities, as this atypical Galle pitch didn't provide much support to the

Indian spinners. In all, they put on 79 runs.

Karunaratne scored his 12th Test half-century off 81 balls. Overall, he faced 166 deliveries and hit 9 fours. In doing so, he brought up Sri Lanka's 100 in the 27th over.

In that same over, Mendis survived a DRS review off Ashwin for caught behind as Ultra-Edge didn't show any deviation.

Four overs later, Mendis was caught behind off Jadeja as the DRS review was turned in India's favour; this time an edge clearly detected off the batsman. It became a double blow for Lanka thereafter as Angelo Mathews (2) was caught going for a wild slog at backward point off Jadeja

again.

Karunaratne though held his ground and put on another 79 runs for the fifth wicket with Dickwella. The two batted out 22.3 overs until the tea break to defy India's bowling.

In the morning, starting from overnight 189/3, Kohli and Ajinkya Rahane showed an eagerness to score runs.

It was obvious that the visitors were waiting for the captain to get to his landmark before putting Lanka into bat again. And to his credit Kohli didn't waste any time as he reached his hundred off 133 balls in the sixth over of the morning. Overall, Kohli faced 136 balls and hit five fours as well as a six.

In doing so, he equalled

the records of former Indian skipper Dilip Vengsarkar (116 Tests) and VVS Laxman (134 Tests), who both have 17 Test hundreds. Kohli reached his milestone in only his 58th Test. The Indian declaration came after the very next over. It was the second highest target set by India in a Test after 617 versus New Zealand at Wellington in 2009.

Kohli and Rahane put on 51 runs for the 4th wicket. In doing so, they became the 14th pair to put up 2000-plus runs in Test cricket for India. Kohli also became the quickest captain to score 1000 overseas Test runs, reaching the mark in 17 innings. He improved Sachin Tendulkar's record of 19 innings.

Harikrishna shares spoils with Leko in fifth round

BIEL (SWITZERLAND), JUL 29 (PTI): Indian Grandmaster Pentala Harikrishna played out a hard-fought draw against Peter Leko of Hungary in the fifth round of the 50th Biel Chess Festival, here.

The World No. 20 Indian, playing with black pieces, had to be at his defensive best as the Hungarian piled on the pressure from the initial moments of the game.

However, Harikrishna's staunch defence paid rich dividends and helped him in salvaging half a point from the game, which lasted 57 moves, last night.

"It was a really tough game but at the end of it I accurately moved my



pieces to reach a draw," the 31-year-old from Guntur said after the game.

Harikrishna has three points so far courtesy a win and four draws, and is placed joint third in the

standings.

He will take on the three-time Women's World Champion of Chi-

na, Hou Yifan, in his sixth-round encounter of the single round-robin tournament.

Garagaparru Dalits in Delhi, seek end of their social boycott

NEW DELHI, JUL 29 (PTI): A group of Dalits from Andhra Pradesh's Garagaparru village is in the national capital to seek help against the community's "social boycott" allegedly by an upper caste group over the installation of an Ambedkar statue.

The group comprising four villagers today said the boycott by "upper caste landlords" was continuing and posing "livelihood and safety issues" for the families in the West Godavari district village.

They are trying to meet central government ministers, MPs and the National Human Rights Commission over the issue.

There has been unrest in the village for about three months between the upper caste Kshatriyas and members of the Mala community (a scheduled caste group in AP).

It started when the Kshatriyas allegedly objected to the SC community's move to install a statue of Dalit icon BR Ambedkar on the village tank bund.

On July 25, Social



Welfare Minister Nalka Anand Babu, Labour Minister Pithani Satyanarayana and SC Corporation chairman Jupudi Prabhakar had visited the village and brokered peace between the warring factions. They had also handed over cheques of Rs 1 lakh each to the Dalit families.

"We demand that the Centre and the government of Andhra Pradesh take immediate steps to end the social boycott otherwise it could spread to other parts of the state," said V Srinivas Rao, national coordinator of Dalit Shoshan Mukti Manch, in a press conference.

The Dalits in Garaga-

parru who used to work in the fields of the landlords have been rendered jobless, Rao said.

A Dalit leader was killed recently in an accident but there are "doubts" over it, he claimed.

"An atmosphere of insecurity and helplessness is prevailing as there are no jobs. Dalit families are getting food from a community kitchen set up by social organisations," he said.

In May, the social boycott had begun with the Dalits being stopped from working in the fields and doing other jobs of maids and drivers, Rao claimed.

Big focus on LGBTQ, women and children films at IFFM: Lange

NEW DELHI, JUL 29 (PTI): In its seventh year, the Indian Film Festival Melbourne (IFFM) has diversity as its central theme and will have movies that celebrate the spirit of the LGBTQ community, women and children.

In an interview to PTI, festival director Mitu Bhowmick Lange says, "Staying true to its theme this year, the IFFM has big focus on films for the LGBTQ community, children and movies made by women directors to celebrate cinema that celebrates human spirit."

The IFFM will showcase over 60 films in 20 languages, not only from India but also the sub-

continent such as Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

It will recognise regional cinema such as Telugu, Tamil, Bengali, Assamese, Gujarati and Marathi among others.

"We have over 30 events planned that also include e-conversations, lots of screenings and Q & A sessions with Konkona Sensharma and Alankrita Shrivastava talking about their films 'A Death In The Gunj' and 'Lipstick Under My Burkha', respectively," she says.

Spread over 13 days, the festival will hold Masterclasses by eminent personalities such as director-producer Karan Johar, "Baahubali"

series producer Shobu Yarlagadda, "Dangal" director Nitesh Tiwari and filmmaker Shoojit Sircar.

With the advent of many film festivals cropping up each year, what makes IFFM stand out, according to Lange, is its diverse spread that has something for everyone.

"The IFFM caters to right from a serious cinema lover to a massy film-goer to someone who loves their good, old Bollywood movies. We have also organised a short film competition for up-and-coming filmmakers.

"There's a dance contest that will be judged by Malaika Arora. There are lots of interactive events to watch out for that cel-

ebate the best of Indian cinema and culture. All of those who come to the festival will take all this away with them," she says.

The fest that closes

on August 22 will feature Onir's "Shab" and Mahadeb Shi's documentary "Tramjatra".

IFFM will open with "Lipstick..." on August 10.

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Macchil encounter: Justification for granting bail scary, says Omar

SRINAGAR, JUL 29 (PTI): Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah today termed as “unbelievably scary” the “justification” for the Armed Forces Tribunal decision’s to grant bail to five army personnel convicted in the 2010 Macchil fake encounter case.

The Armed Forces Tribunal suspended the life sentence awarded to the Army personnel, including two officers, for allegedly staging the killing of three Kashmiri men in Macchil and granted them bail.

“They wore Pathan suits, which are worn by terrorists... What an unbelievably scary justification. You can be killed for what you wear!” Abdullah Tweeted.

He was reacting to a media report that claimed the tribunal had suspended their sentence and granted them bail on the grounds that the victims of the encounter were wearing Pathan suits which are worn by terrorists.

The five army personnel had approached the tribunal challenging the punishment given to them following court martial proceedings in 2014.

The encounter of the three civilians on the intervening night of April 29 and 30 in 2010 in Macchil sector had triggered widespread outrage and violence in the state.

Lanka, China sign Hambantota port deal

COLOMBO, JUL 29 (PTI): Sri Lanka today signed a USD 1.1 billion deal with China to sell a 70-per cent stake in the strategic Hambantota port to a state-run Chinese firm, a move that could raise security concerns in India.

The deal had been delayed by several months over concerns that the deep-sea port could be used by the Chinese Navy.

Cash-rich China has invested millions of dollars in Sri Lanka’s infrastructure since the end of a brutal civil war in 2009.

As part of the deal, the stake in the loss-making port has been sold to China’s state-run conglomerate China Merchant Port Holdings (CMPort).

Sri Lanka’s Minister of Ports and Shipping Mahinda Samarasinghe and China’s envoy to Colombo Yi Xianliang were present when the Concession Agreement was signed.



The US and South Korea have carried out a live-fire exercise in response to North Korea’s launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile capable of striking the American mainland. The display of firepower came as experts said the trajectory of the rocket fired by Pyongyang, which landed in the Sea of Japan, indicated major cities across the US were now within range. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, who personally supervised the launch of the missile on Friday night, said it served as a “stern warning” for the US, according to the North’s official KCNA news agency. He claimed it brought the whole of the US within firing range that could be hit “at any place and time”.

China unlikely to gain anything from Bhutan border standoff with India: US expert

WASHINGTON, JUL 28 (PTI): China is unlikely to gain from the border standoff with India as the road being built by it in the Sikkim sector’s Dokalam area leads to nowhere and this would push India more closer to the US and Japan, an American expert said today.

The standoff will also add to the mistrust among the generation of young Indians who don’t have a lot of experience with conflict with China, Jeff Smith, director of the Asian Security Programmes, Kraemer Strategy Fellow, at the American Foreign Policy Council, said.

It will, in fact, push India more closer to the US and Japan, and generate an anti-China sentiment in India, he said.

“What are the stakes for China? It’s on a road to nowhere, essentially,” he told a Washington audience during a panel discussion on India-China border standoff.

“I’m not exactly sure what China gets out of building this road. We know what the outcome is going to be, it’s souring ties with India significantly with the Modi administration, which were already on a downward trajectory.

“It’s giving the Indian military all the ammunition it needs to lobby for more upgrades, to order infrastructure, to push India closer to the US and Japan as it’s been moving already, something that China says it doesn’t want,” he said at the event organised by Woodrow Wilson International Centre.

“Opinions of China are not very high in India to begin with, but there has not yet been a crisis like this in recent memory that would galvanise public opinion against China.

“It’s not clear to me exactly what China’s going to achieve or what strategy or goals it’s advancing by taking an uncompromising position on this dispute. It’s not clear to me exactly what China’s going to achieve or what strategy or goals it’s advancing by taking an uncompromising position on this dispute,” the American expert said.

On the other hand, stakes are very high for India. The stakes for India are quite clear and very high. Chinese control over this territory would not only nullify the one place over the line of control where it has a significant

tactical advantage, but it would position Chinese forces near its very vulnerable Chicken’s neck and in the eyes of India’s military planners, present an existential threat, he said.

Nirupama Rao, who served as India’s envoy to China and the US, said the relationship between India and China, which was so carefully constructed over the last three decades, “seems to be disintegrating before our very eyes and it is all happened in a space of four to five weeks”.

“If China were to consolidate its presence of Dokalam and not move out of there, essentially what you have is the pushing southward of the border line between Bhutan and China in that section, and a certain strategic advantage being offered thereby to the Chinese in terms of their ability to overlook the south Siliguri Corridor, with obvious strategic implications for India,” Rao said.

Robert Daly, director, Kissinger Institute on China and the US, said that China’s goal is most likely simply to consolidate its control over what it sees as its sovereign

territories, during what it calls the period of strategic opportunity when time remains on its side.

According to Michael Kugelman, deputy director and Senior Associate for South Asia at the Wilson Center, while these border standoffs again are nothing new, but there’s a reason to fear this one could be a lot more serious than any of previous ones for several reasons.

“First, overall bilateral relations between India and China are quite tense at the moment. Second, this dispute involves a third country Bhutan. Third, this plateau is highly strategic real estate to say the least. It leads to the Siliguri Corridor, a narrow area of land that connect North Eastern India to the rest of the country.

“Fourth, the rhetoric on both sides, and notably from the Chinese media, has been noticeably sharp and strident. And fifth, perhaps most importantly, this dispute has set a potentially destabilising new precedent... This is the first time that Indian troops have engaged China on the soil of a third country,” Kugelman said.

Trump ousts Priebus as his chief of staff



LALIT K JHA
Washington, Jul 29 (PTI):

US President Donald Trump has abruptly fired his chief of staff Reince Priebus and replaced him with Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly after the continuing feud among senior White House staffers came out in the open. Priebus is the fifth top Trump administration official to be either sacked or to have resigned in the past six months.

Trump has previously lost a deputy chief of staff, national security adviser, communications director and press secretary. Priebus’s exit comes nearly a week after press secretary Sean Spicer quit the White House, apparently unhappy over the appointment of Anthony Scaramucci as communications director.

An ongoing public fighting between Scaramucci and Priebus had dominated the headlines in recent days. Scaramucci had described Priebus as a “paranoid schizophrenic”.

Priebus previously served as the chairman of the Republican National Committee. Trump tweeted the change after he

returned to Washington from New York yesterday.

“I am pleased to inform you that I have just named General/Secretary John F Kelly as White House Chief of Staff,” he said.

Over the past a few weeks, Trump expressed frustration over leaks coming out of his White House. With a retired general in charge, he hopes to bring in discipline and end the chaos inside the White House. White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said in a statement that Kelly would begin his new role on Monday.

Sanders told reporters that Trump began the process of appointing a new chief of staff some two weeks back. But Congressman Peter King, who accompanied Trump aboard the Air Force One to New York and back, told reporters that he saw no indication of Priebus’ exit during the flight.

“We didn’t even know it. We were sitting right across from him and he kept a poker face,” King said, referring to Priebus. King said Trump told him about the change as they were about to get off the flight.



Kutse Shegu

The Kutse Shegu (49 days) of Late Sonam Wangchuk Lachungpa who left for his heavenly abode on 13th June 2017 falls on **31st July 2017 [Monday]**. All Relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us in prayers for the departed soul at our residence at **Chandmari, near MP Dara JN Road**. We Would like to thank everyone who stood besides us during the time of bereavement.

Nimphuty Lachungpa(Wife) & family. Ph- 8016303146

Human remains found on Mont Blanc may belong to Air India victims

GRENOBLE (FRANCE), JUL 29 (AFP): Body parts that could belong to passengers killed in one or other of two Air India plane crashes more than 50 years ago have been found on Mont Blanc in the French Alps, sources said.

Daniel Roche, who is fascinated by air plane accidents and has spent years combing the Bossons Glacier looking for remains, made the discovery on Thursday.

“I had never found any signif-

icant human remains before,” he told AFP. This time however he had found a hand and the upper part of a leg.

In January 1966, an Air India Boeing 707 from Bombay to New York crashed near Mont Blanc’s summit, killing all 117 people on board.

Another Air India flight crashed on the mountain in 1950, killing 48 people.

Roche said the remains he had found could be of a female pas-

senger from the 1966 Boeing 707 flight, as he also discovered one of the plane’s four jet engines.

Roche contacted local emergency services in the Chamonix valley who took the remains down the mountain by helicopter and they were due to be examined by experts.

“These remains are probably not from the same person,” said Stephane Bozon of the local gen-darmerie.

“They are probably from passengers, but between the two aircrafts, it’s difficult to say”.

Just 10 days ago, two bodies were found lying near each other, preserved in a receding glacier in the Diablerets massif in the Swiss Alps.

A DNA search identified the couple as Marcelin Dumoulin, a 40-year-old shoemaker at the time, and his wife Francine, a schoolteacher aged 37, who had disappeared in the Alps 75 years before.

IN THE COURT OF THE SUB-DIVISIONAL MAGISTRATE AT SORENG, SUB-DIVISION WEST SIKKIM

AFFIDAVIT

I, Binu Ruth Tamang w/o Norden Bhutia D/o Pema Lama aged about 44 years, by faith Christian, by occupation Home-Maker, Resident of Sombaria, P.O. & P.S. Sombaria, West Sikkim do hereby solemnly declare on oath as follows:-

1. That, Tamang and Lama is the Connotation of the same community.

2. That, my true and correct name is “Binu Ruth Tamang” and the same has been recorded in my Aadhaar Card bearing Aadhaar No. 3765 9055 2774 dated 13.06.2013Issued by Unique Identification Authority of India, Government of India.

3. That , my name has been recorded as “Binu Ruth Tamang” in my Electoral Identity Card bearing Card no. ATQ0035121 dated 9.1.2013 issued by Electoral Registration Officer, 06-Daramdin (Bl) Constituency.

4. That, my name has been recorded as “Binu Ruth Lama” in my academic testimonials of Bachelor or Theology issued by Principal of the Seminary, President of the Board of Director, Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

5. That, the names “Binu Ruth Tamang” and “Binu Ruth Lama” are the names of one and same person, i.e. myself and henceforth I shall be known as “Binu Ruth Tamang” for all official purposes.

6. That, this affidavit is made bonafide.

Sd/-
Binu Ruth Tamang
DEPONENT

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR TENDER EVENING

Draw Time : 8:00 pm onward

Draw No:118 DrawDate on:29/07/17

1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 92K 14135

(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 14135 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9500/-

07206 15528 20002 22711 25419

25450 35900 51507 72910 94514

3rd Prize Rs.9000/-

05465 22422 34682 71200 76300

76708 77419 78123 92994 94697

4th Prize Rs.1000/-

0143 0381 0416 1302 3161 4950 7050 7468 8248 8470

5th Prize Rs.600/-

2179 2892 4238 5141 6371 6853 7448 8552 9128 9182

6th Prize Rs.250/-

0028 0124 0291 0456 0488 0503 0841 0843 0958 0992

1029 1064 1143 1237 1347 1508 1578 1624 1654 1755

1788 1945 2096 2171 2235 2351 2836 2904 2960 3031

3131 3164 3310 3438 3622 3777 3842 3866 3939 4066

4242 4598 4753 4783 4964 5273 5306 5312 5373 5381

5518 5573 5614 5654 5715 5745 5914 6005 6191 6525

6540 6615 6799 6880 7044 7058 7198 7201 7331 7383

7567 7631 7773 7833 7953 8002 8129 8230 8348 8410

8417 8434 8589 8626 8633 8639 8665 8708 8718 8842

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SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR HONOUR

Draw No:54 DrawDate on:29/07/17

1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 84A 62613

(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 62613 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9500/-

25771 30145 38188 45036 61137

65660 65926 81199 83274 86366

3rd Prize Rs.9000/-

12898 19700 20990 24237 27736

66419 74466 76622 78778 86472

4th Prize Rs.1000/-

0571 1005 1340 2278 2616 5209 8907 9048 9113 9144

5th Prize Rs.600/-

0327 1527 3298 4660 6864 7243 8122 8530 8690 9849

6th Prize Rs.250/-

0038 0075 0086 0233 0435 0437 0450 0944 0986 1037

1050 1165 1572 1657 1769 1775 1813 1893 1975 2129

2134 2154 2351 2397 2477 2733 2759 2792 2862 2872

2947 3292 3395 3401 3487 3529 3530 3558 3666 3725

3898 3977 4089 4180 4210 4215 4331 4475 4477 4494

4509 4529 4718 4747 4749 4859 4938 5082 5210 5449

5490 5601 5692 5725 5773 6082 6263 6502 6599 6625

6746 7153 7173 7185 7187 7244 7656 7913 7925 7978

8024 8264 8318 8452 8587 8711 8725 8779 8863 8965

8984 9051 9062 9063 9070 9074 9124 9403 9957 9969

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MIZORAM STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR HAWK MORNING

Draw No:50 DrawDate on:29/07/17

1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 90A 54170

(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 54170 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9500/-

03667 05830 22380 36344 38718

53360 62554 82457 85200 89539

3rd Prize Rs.9000/-

00088 06264 33524 39113 46406

53609 53661 69842 91408 93357

4th Prize Rs.1000/-

0273 3824 4415 5312 6570 7195 7559 7562 9077 9933

5th Prize Rs.600/-

0910 1081 1274 1453 2165 2975 3878 7140 8921 9532

6th Prize Rs.250/-

0220 0246 0360 0385 0543 0772 0814 0924 1031 1220

1262 1492 1617 1629 1712 1739 1815 1844 1881 2177

2223 2243 2255 2309 2476 2482 2592 2669 2771 2835

2856 2989 3106 3202 3295 3386 3467 3552 3808 3921

3926 3977 4086 4115 4200 4333 4616 4655 4826 4834

4959 5034 5035 5120 5152 5179 5293 5376 5423 5535

5565 5695 5824 5905 6051 6169 6238 6306 6704 6784

6900 7098 7101 7381 7546 7571 7675 7966 8052 8078

8178 8291 8337 8355 8428 8447 8463 8573 8607 8725

9006 9111 9116 9184 9436 9530 9580 9631 9772 9932

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