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SummitTIMES

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

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Two blasts in Darjeeling, no casualties

DARJEELING (WB), AUG 24 (PTI): Two blasts shook Darjeeling hills this morning, the third such incident since the indefinite shutdown to press for a separate Gorkhaland state began over two months ago, but no one was injured. The blasts were re-

ported from Sukhiapokhri and Lebong areas nearby. "Two blasts took place but there are no reports of any injury. We have started an investigation into both the cases," ADG (law and order) Anuj Sharma said. In another incident, a

godown was set on fire in the hills during the day - the 71st day of the indefinite shutdown in the hills. Police said an improvised explosive device (IED) went off outside Sukhiapokhri police station and caused severe damage to nearby shops

and vehicles, police said. The IED blast was aimed at the police station but the device failed to breach the perimeter walls of the building and exploded on the road, the police said adding no casualties or injuries were reported. The second blast took

place at Lebong area of Darjeeling hills also in the morning. In this case too, few vehicles were damaged but there was no report of any casualty or injury to any person. In the last instance of such violence a grenade was lobbed into the Ka-

limpong Police Station on Saturday causing the death of a civic police volunteer and injuring two others. A night before that, an IED had gone off in the heart of Darjeeling causing some damage to nearby shops but leaving no one injured.

Privacy a protected right emerging from Article 21: SC

NEW DELHI, AUG 24 (PTI): Privacy is the constitutional core of human dignity and a protected right which emerges from the guarantee of life and personal liberty in Article 21, the Supreme Court said today.

The apex court said privacy ensures the fulfilment of dignity and is a core value which the protection of life and liberty is intended to achieve.

Chief Justice J S Khehar and Justices R K Agrawal, S A Nazeer and D Y Chandrachud, who were part of the nine-judge constitution bench, said elements of privacy arise in varying contexts from other facets of freedom and dignity recognised and guaranteed by the fundamental rights contained in Part III of the Constitution.

Justice Chandrachud, who wrote a separate judgement on behalf of himself and three other judges, said privacy safeguards an individual's autonomy and recognises the ability of the individual to control vital aspects of life.

However, the four judges, who concurred with five others in declaring the right to privacy as the fundamental right under the Constitution, said, like other fundamental rights, the "right to privacy is not an absolute right."

Interestingly, Justice Chandrachud overruled a judgement on the privacy issue authored by his father Justice Y V Chandrachud in the famous case

of ADM Jabalpur vs Shivakant Shukla in 1976.

While delivering today's verdict, the judges were cautious of the ramification and dangers to privacy in a digital era and asked the government "to examine and put into place a robust regime for data protection as threats can originate not only from the state but from non-state actors as well."

"We commend to the Union Government the need to examine and put into place a robust regime for data protection. The creation of such a regime requires a careful and sensitive balance between individual interests and legitimate concerns of the state.

"The legitimate aims of the state would include for instance protecting national security, preventing and investigating crime, encouraging innovation and the spread of knowledge, and preventing the dissipation of social welfare benefits. These are matters of policy to be considered by the union government while designing a carefully structured regime for the protection of the data," Justice Chandrachud, who penned 266 out of the total 547-page judgement, said.

They also made it clear that judicial recognition of the existence of a constitutional right of privacy was "not an exercise in the nature of amending Constitution", nor was the court em-

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HC gives Govt 3 weeks to consider suggestion to appoint independent agency to verify COIs

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 24 AUG:**

The High Court of Sikkim today granted the State Government three weeks' time to "consider appointment" of an "independent agency" under the chairmanship of a retired High Court Judge "for the purpose of verification of fake Sikkim Subject Certificates/Certificates of Identification and for issuance of COIs in smart-card format "which would contain all necessary details for instant verification".

These suggestions were made by the petitioner, Biraj Adhikari, through an affidavit filed

yesterday suggesting specific measures to deal with the issue of fake SSCs and COIs.

Mr Adhikari, it may be recalled, has filed a Public Interest Litigation enquiring into the fate and current status of the fake COIs detected by the State Government in a past exercise. He has demanded re-verification of all SSCs and COIs and sought the institution of a more secure verification process and possible digitalization of COIs.

The hearing today, taken by Chief Justice Satish K Agnihotri and Justice Bhaskar Raj Pradhan, also saw the Amicus Curiae for the court in this case, advocate Jorgay Namkha, place some suggestions on record.

With the State given three weeks to consider the suggestions, the Court also clarified that the Chief Secretary, "being the Head of the State", file the affidavit examining issues discussed today.

NGT quashes petition challenging reduction of ESZ around Protected areas

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 24 AUG:**

The National Green Tribunal has quashed the petition filed by founding member of Affected Citizens of Teesta [ACT], Tseten Lepcha, challenging the Notification of the Ministry of Environment and Forests reducing the Eco-Sensitive Zone around Protected areas. The judgment was delivered by a jury comprising of Justice Sonam Wangdi [Judicial Member] and Professor [Dr] PC Mishra [Expert Member of the NGT, Eastern zone, Kolkata] on 21 Aug.

It may be recalled that the petition was necessitated when the Government of Sikkim, through the Forest, Environment & Wildlife Management Department, in the process of declaring the ESZ in Sikkim, had reduced the Supreme Court mandated 10 kms as a crow flies distance of ESZ to 25 meters in the State of Sikkim.

Mr Lepcha had maintained in the petition
turn to pg03



Fifth State Finance Commission submits report to CM

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 24 AUG:**

Chairperson and members of the Fifth State Finance Commission called on Chief Minister Pawan Chamling at Mintokgang today and submitted its report.

The Fifth State Finance Commission was constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary-Land Revenue & Disaster Management Department, Tsegal Tashi, vide Notification No.22/FCD/Fin/198

on 17/08/2016 followed by an amendment Notification No.22/FCD/Fin/212, dated 30/08/2016 to review the financial position of the Panchayati Raj Institutions [PRIs] and Urban Local Bodies [ULBs] in Sikkim and accordingly make appropriate recommendations for strengthening these institutions for the period 2020-25.

A press release informs that, as per the Terms of Reference, the

Commission was mandated to recommend, among other things, the distribution of fund between the State and each level of PRIs and ULBs of the net proceeds of the taxes, duties, tolls and fees leviable by the State, the determination of the taxes, duties, tolls and fees which may be assigned to or appropriated by the PRIs and ULBs, the Grants-in-Aid to PRIs and ULBs from the consolidated fund of the State, and the mea-

sures needed to improve the financial position of the PRIs and ULBs.

Three other members of the Fifth State Finance Commission are Special Secretary-Urban Development & Housing Department, Tashi Khangsharpa [Member], Director Panchayat-Rural Management & Development Department, Mukti Nath Dhakal [Member], and Additional Director [Accounts]-LR&DMD, Bikram Tamang [Member Secretary].

SOFTWARE FREEDOM LAW CENTRE ON THE TWO MONTH LONG INTERNET BAN IN GORKHALAND TERRITORIAL ADMINISTRATION

In the Hills, in Virtual Darkness

sflc.in

The 18th of August marked the completion of two months of continuous Internet shutdown in Darjeeling, West Bengal. Two months back, on 19th June, 2017, mobile Internet services were blocked in the town following deaths of party supporters in violent clashes between the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha and security forces after the former called for a complete strike in its agitation for a separate state of Gorkhaland.

The protests set off in the city after the house of Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) president Bimal Gurung was raided by the police and security forces. The raids are believed to have been conducted following his party's opposition over the State Government's decision to make Bengali language mandatory in schools. A majority Gorkha population in Darjeeling and adjoining hills speaks Nepali language. An indefinite strike was called by GJM supporters after the

raids, with the protest turning into a demand for a separate state of Gorkhaland.

While the mobile Internet blockade was already in place, Darjeeling faced a complete shutdown of Internet services on 20th June, 2017 after an order was issued by the District Magistrate of Darjeeling requesting all broadband and mobile internet service providers to temporarily stop Internet service in the strike-hit hills for a period of seven days. However, the ban was extended till 4th July, 2017 to prevent the deterioration in law and order situations. Since then, the Internet ban has been extended by the district administration several times.

The blanket Internet ban in Darjeeling has plunged the entire region into a state of virtual darkness. While it has impaired the communication services, it has also impeded media reportage of the agitation, effectively restricting reporting to the newspapers from within the city. Verbal

orders have been given by the district magistrate to the local news channels in Darjeeling to stop reporting on the agitation. In the absence of Internet, journalists on ground are having a hard time relaying their stories to the desk. The e-papers published from Darjeeling have also faced a major

hit due to the shutdown.

Students are among those that have been worst hit due to the Internet ban. They have been unable to access the Internet for academic purposes for two months now. SFLC.in reached out to Ayush Chaurasia, a student of class 11, who shared his plight:

"It has been over two months, I haven't gone to school. All the schools in Darjeeling are closed due to per-

sistent upheaval and chaos. As far as the Internet is concerned, I am unable to access any kind of information. I used to continuously visit many online portals for my research work but now I cannot even study a small piece of information as there is no Internet. I cannot connect to my friends

and there is no exchange of any kind of information due to Internet Shutdown."

Due to the lack of Internet connectivity, class nine students were unable

to fill up their board examination forms. Similarly, a lot of students who had finished their 12th standard board exams were unable to fill up their college admissions forms due to the embargo. These students risk losing a year due to the passing of

deadlines for admissions to colleges. While the Darjeeling Teachers' Association met the district magistrate seeking restoration of Internet services, their demands were rejected by the authorities on the grounds of persisting law and order problem in the hills.

Geeta Devi, a class 12th student told SFLC.in:

"The 64 days long Internet shutdown in Darjeeling started in the month of June, that was the time when admissions in most of the colleges and universities begin. As I passed my class 12 exams, I was thinking of pursuing law but could not even apply for the course as there were no Internet services. Even the mobile networks kept on fluctuating which made it difficult to get any kind of updates on admissions and otherwise. I am not the only one who is suffering, all the students in Darjeeling are facing similar issues."

Businesses have also been hard-hit by the Internet ban. With most of the businesses

relying on Internet banking and online transactions in this era of cashless economy and Digital India, they have been facing huge losses with the ban on Internet services. Sunil Prasad, a local businessman, shared his views on the Internet shutdown with SFLC.in:

"Internet Shutdown has severely disturbed our lives. I am the sole bread earner of my family and my entire business has collapsed. As a businessman, I am majorly dependent on online transactions that I make or receive but in the past 60 days, I haven't been able to do that and the entire family is suffering. We are not even able to recharge our phones. My children who stay in Delhi, do that for us. Right now, we are experiencing a complete cut-off from the world outside. I have no access to any kind of information. The situation is getting worse day by day."

The plight of a common citizen is evident in the words
turn to pg03

Sankalp Se Siddhi Abhiyan Samelan held at Mangan

MANGAN, 24 AUG [IPR]: The North District Zilla Panchayat organized 'Sankalp Se Siddhi Abhiyan' Samelan at Zilla Panchayat Bhawan here in Mangan today. The programme was chaired by Zilla Adhakshya-North, Anguli Lepcha, and was attended by Up-Adhakshya, Nim Tshering Lepcha, District Collector-North, Karma R Bonpo, Additional District Collector-Development, Tashi Chopel, Zilla Panchayats and Panchayat Presidents of the various GPUs of North District.

It may be mentioned here, the programme is a call to all citizens of India by the PM to resolve to work towards attaining a New India by 2022. The programme was launched on the eve of the 75 years of Quit India Movement also known as Bharat Choro Andolan.

The District Collector explained the motive of the programme and asked the Panchayat to resolve to work towards the vision of all-round development of the Gram Panchayat by 2022. He said that every Panchayat should take a pledge to ensure that all the basic infrastructure needs of the GPUs is taken care of, all the people are provided with social security, all round economic development of the village takes place and evils like casteism, corruption and poverty are uprooted.

Chairperson, Ms Lepcha, said that Panchayats should play a vital role in all round development of the Gram and should be change agents of the society. The Panchayats should provide leadership at the grass root level to achieve the various goals of the government.

HRDD asks untrained teachers to enroll in D.El.Ed programme by 15 Sept

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 24 AUG:**

According to a notification issued by Additional Chief Secretary of Human Resources Development Department on 23 Aug, all untrained teachers teaching from Classes I to VII must undergo the Ministry of Human Resources Development offered Diploma in Elementary Education (D.El.Ed) programme and enroll themselves in NIOS by 15 Sept, 2017.

Those who do not possess the requisite

50% (45% in case of reserved category) in Class XII must simultaneously register online in the National Institute of Open Schooling (nios.ac.in) along with registering for D.El.Ed programme in order to avoid removal/dismissal procedure against them. However, they will be awarded the D.El.Ed certificate only after they acquire required marks in Class 12.

Teachers appointed till March 2015 under the Right to Education (RTE) Act will now get

time till 2019 to acquire the prescribed minimum qualifications for firming up their appointments as the Parliament passed a bill in this regard.

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Bill, 2017 was passed by the Rajya Sabha by voice vote. The Lok Sabha had passed it on 22 Jul. According to the existing Act which came into effect from 01 Apr, 2010, these teachers were to acquire minimum qualifications within five

years by March 31, 2015.

According to the amendment bill, every teacher appointed or in position as on March 2015 is now required to acquire the minimum qualifications by 31 Mar, 2019.

All regular untrained elementary level teachers including Head of Schools teaching in Government Schools, Recognized Private Schools and Monastic Schools have to undertake D.El.Ed course through Open Distance Learning on NIOS.

Primary Teachers

who have done Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) or one year diploma course or any other course of less than 02 years duration will be deemed 'untrained' for this purpose and are required to undergo the course.

However, graduate teachers who have done their Bachelor of Education (B.Ed) course need not undergo the training programme for the purpose of training at elementary level (up to class VIII).

Blue Revolution financial assistance distributed to trout farmers

GANGTOK, 24 AUG (IPR):

In a bid to encourage trout farming in the State, the Directorate of Fisheries, Government of Sikkim distributed the first installment of token financial assistance to progressive farmers from all four districts here at a programme organized at Animal Husbandry Training Centre, Sokaythang today. The financial incentive is a part of the Blue Revolution Scheme supported by the Government of India to propagate large scale trout farming in the country.

The beneficiaries were handed over the token amount by Director Fisheries Department, I.K. Chettri who was present as the chief guest.

Token amount worth Rs 40,000 each per unit was distributed to individual farmers as the first installment. Each farmer would get a total amount of Rs 1,20,000 for a single unit to be granted in three installments based on the progress report after each installment. Out of the total of 85 individ-



ual farmers, 70 farmers received the incentive for single unit fish tank while 15 farmers received the first installment for two units each.

Likewise, two cooperative societies namely Maneybong Sopakha Trout Fish Farming Co-operative Society and Upper Sribadam Trout Rearing Cooperative Society received the token amount worth Rs 02 lakh each. The Cooperative Societies would be granted a total amount of Rs 08

lakh each which would be released over a period of time in installments.

In total, construction order worth Rs 44 lakh was handed over in the programme today.

The Departmental assistance has been granted specifically for construction of fishing tanks for trout rearing. In addition to the monetary grant, the Directorate of Fisheries would lend supplementary aid in kind in the form of 2000 number of baby trout, pipes, nets

and other required items to each farmer.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Chettri highlighted some of the initiatives of the Directorate. He stated that the Central Government has supported the trout fish farmers of North Eastern States by providing a subsidy of 80%, and urged the farmers to make the most of the scheme. He stated that trout fish farming, though challenging, would give good returns to the farmer if

all the technical aspects were strictly adhered to.

Likewise, Additional Director, Fisheries Department, Sunil Pradhan in his address shed light on the scheme under Blue Revolution being implemented by the Directorate to propagate trout farming in the State. He explained some of the techniques to be adopted while constructing the fish tanks, and emphasized that the quantity and quality of production depended on the quality of the tanks.



Workshop on GST for departments and PSUs held at Namchi

NAMCHI, 24 AUG (IPR):

A daylong workshop on Goods and Services Tax (GST) for Government Departments and Public Sector Undertakings was held at Officers Club, Namchi today. The program was organized by Sikkim State Co-operative Union (SISCO) Bank, Namchi in collaboration with Commercial Taxes Division, Finance, Revenue and Expenditure Department.

The workshop was held in the presence of District Collector (South), Raj Yadav, Head of Departments, officials, bankers and local traders. The resource person of the day was Joint Commissioner (Commercial Taxes Department), Manoj Rai and Assistant Director, Bijay Dyalai (GST).

Resource person, Joint Commissioner, Mr

Rai spoke about the significance of GST as an indirect tax introduced in India on 01 Jul. He explained in detail the GST tax through various power point presentations and further focused on the GST implications, influences and effect on the economy of the State.

Mr Rai briefed on the different components of GST bringing to light especially the merits and demerits of implementing GST. He also underlined that government departments, traders should be vigilant and aware while implementing GST so no malpractices can be encountered.

During the course of the workshop an active interactive session was held wherein queries related to GST were addressed by the resource persons.



Public and Panchayat undertake Lingtyang Monastery restoration

**WANGCHUK BHUTIA
MANGAN, 24 AUG:**

The public and Panchayat of Lingtyang

in Lower Dzong have started the reconstruction of the Lingtyang

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Training on NALSA Legal Services to Senior Citizens Scheme

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 24 AUG: A training and sensitization programme on Na-

tional Legal Services Authority [Legal Services to Senior Citizens] Scheme 2016 was organized by the Taluk Legal Services Committee, Soreng Sub-Division on 23 Aug.

A press release informs that senior citizens of Soreng Sub-Division, panel Advocate, Bar members and Para-Legal Volunteers participated in the programme while Sub Divisional Magistrate, Gayas Pega, Sub Divisional Police Officer, Renu Raj Chettri, Medical Officer-Soreng Primary Health Centre, Dr Biren-dra Subba, and Ex-Officio Chairperson-TLSC, Jwala D Thapa, provided inputs.

Mr Pega and Mr Chettri spoke on various aspects of Central and State government facilities and policies as well as differential treatment by law enforcement agencies to enable senior citizens to enjoy and live their life with dignity.

Dr Subba highlighted on gerontology and the issues and health concerns relating to the elderly. Ms Thapa sensitized the audience on NALSA [Legal Services to Senior Citizens] Scheme 2016 and the benefits under it like free legal aid and advice, etc.

She also spoke on laws and

statutes relating to protection of senior citizens like the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act 2007 and their rights there under.

It is further informed in the release that a special registration drive of all the senior citizens of Soreng conducted by the TLSC-Soreng in collaboration with the office of the SD-PO-Soreng is underway. More programmes are also scheduled to be carried out in phases culminating in the celebration of the International Day of Older Persons on 01 Oct.

Horticulture officials from Manipur visit Orchid centre at Pakyong

GANGTOK, 24 AUG [PIB]: The officials from Department of Horticulture and Soil Conservation, Government of Manipur, visited Indian Council of Agricultural Research-National Research Centre for Orchids, Pakyong on 23 Aug as a part of their exposure tour.

The 25 officials were formally welcomed by Director, Dr DR Singh. On behalf of the Institute, the Director highlighted the research and development initiatives of ICAR-NRCC.

Scientist [Economic Botany & Plant Genetic Resources], Ravi Kishore, presented the core mandate, objective and vision marking the achievements of the Institute. There was a discussion and interaction among the officials on conservation and industrial aspects.

Director, ICAR-NRCC also extended his views on the orchid wealth of Manipur and ideas on flo-



ricultural prospects of Manipur and emphasized on strengthening the conservation of orchids in the State.

The officials visited the institute farm and conservation sites under the guidance of Mr Kishore, Horticulture Assistant, Tshering Chomu Bhutia, and Young Professional II [Plant Breeding], AL

Meitei, also assisted the official team in visiting the conservation and propagation sites.

The officials appreciated the efforts of the Director, ICAR-NRCC and all the scientists for their immense contribution in conservation, improvement and production of orchids.

Phalaichadara JHS students visit martyr's family in Rakdong

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 24 AUG:

Students and teachers of Phalaichadara Junior High School visited the family of Havaldar-Central Reserve Police Force, Late Binod Rai, at Rakdong Village in East Sikkim on 23 Aug in order to pay tribute to the martyr; a press release informs.

Born on 05 July, 1985, to Prem B Rai and Krishna M Rai of Rakdong Village, he did his schooling from Rakdong and Samdong. He was a distinguished Taekwondo player and had joined CRPF in 2003.

On the fateful night of 18 Dec, 2006, he was killed by Naxalites while fighting against them in Bankura District of West Bengal. He was awarded Rashtrapati Sevaa Medal



[Posthumously] by the then President of India, Pratibha Devi Singh Patil, in 2008.

Students and teachers offered khadas to the portrait of the martyr and prayed for the departed

soul. They also interacted with the family members of Late Binod Rai.

The release informs that the programme was organised as a part of Sankalp Programme suggested by Ministry of Hu-

man Resource Development, Government of India, to mark the 70 years of Quit India Movement and its celebration from 09-31 Aug. The school team was led by RB Chettri and Meena Subba.

Gangtok on Friday, 25 Aug

Temp: 28°C / 17°C
Forecast: Periods of clouds and sun with widely separated thundershowers.
Sunrise: 05:11 AM
Sunset: 06:04 PM

CAEPHT organizes seminar on New India Manthan: Sankalp Se Siddhi

GANGTOK, 24 AUG: A seminar on 'New India Manthan: Sankalp Se Siddhi' was organised by the College of Agricultural Engineering and Post Harvest Technology [CAEPHT] and College of Horticulture, Central Agricultural University at CAEPHT campus in Ranipool today. The day-long seminar was attended by progressive farmers from different parts of the State. The seminar had Agriculture Minister, Somnath Poudyal, as chief guest.

In his address, the Minister spoke about the vision of the Prime Minister to encourage people to work towards creating New India by 2022. He urged every village to work as a science academy and every individual as a scientist.

After getting political freedom now everyone needs to work together to achieve economic and social freedom, he added.

The Minister informed that the state government has been working towards setting up more organic stalls in the market for the benefit of farmers in the State.

Likewise, CAEPHT Dean, Professor RP Mishra, mentioned about the

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Passion and patience is butterfly lover Nawang Gyatsho's mantra

**REBYNA RANA
 GANGTOK, 24 AUG:**

President of Butterflies and Moths of Sikkim Nature and Conservation Society [BAMOS NCS], Nawang Gyatsho Bhutia, recently registered his name in the Limca Book of Records for managing to get 95 different species of butterflies to perch on his fingers.

Hailing from Yuksam in West Sikkim, 32-year-old Nawang says that the study of butterflies has always been his passion.

In conversation with SummitTimes, Nawang says, "Butterflies are just so elegant and pretty. Initially, I just loved watching them. Then I started using field guides available to me at that time to identify

some of them. I continue to do it even today. In addition, I interact with other butterfly lovers and attend butterfly meets at every chance I get. Even my BAMOS NCS team participates in every butterfly event organised in the country."

Nawang has been studying butterflies since the past seven years with members of BAMOS [Butterflies and Moths of Sikkim] including Dr Sanjyok Rai, Dr Karma Dorjee Bhutia, Martika Sharma, Kavita Rai, Tenzing W Bhutia, Lakpa Tenzing Dorjee and Chewang Bhutia.

Talking about the start of his journey in the field of butterflies, Nawang expressed, "It all started with curiosity which turned into

a hobby. I gradually realized that this was my passion. It is this passion that brought me in contact with other people who shared the same passion. We started a group on Facebook to connect with people who had similar interests. This is how BAMOS NCS was formed. In September this year, we will be organizing our second butterfly meet in Sikkim."

"The first step towards conservation is appreciating the richness of the world of butterflies and moths and the ecological role played by these winged beauties in nature. Bringing these points forth effectively through communication, photos and meets to the people is how we

contribute towards conserving the essential elements of Mother Nature," says Nawang while highlighting the aim of BAMOS NCS.

Speaking on his special ability to attract butterflies, Nawang informs that it involves nothing but patience.

"Patience is the key. I wait for them with utmost patience and while I do that, I don't even feel like I'm straining myself waiting for them. Friends often tell me that I am always grinning stupidly throughout the waiting time," says Nawang.

Nawang has expressed gratitude to the members of BAMOS NCS and butterfly lovers all over the world for his achievement.



Gangtok MLA begins campaign against overhead cables in the capital



ARPAN PRADHAN

GANGTOK, 24 AUG:

Parliamentary Secretary-cum-Gangtok MLA, Pinto Chopel Lepcha, today met the General Manager of BSNL to discuss the removal of overhead cables of BSNL in and around Gangtok.

Overhead telephone lines/cables are an eyesore and can pose danger to life and property, especially during monsoons.

During the meeting, the matter of removing the cables in order to improve the aesthetics of Gangtok without disturbing the service provided by BSNL to its customers was discussed.

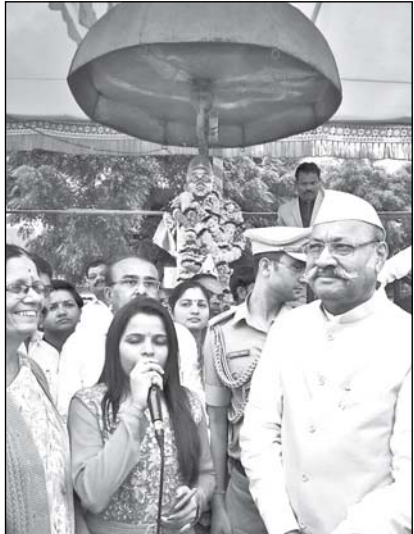
The General Manager-BSNL appreciated the idea put forth by the MLA and has agreed to

remove the overhead cables in the near future.

The Gangtok MLA has started visiting the concerned authorities to request the removal of existing cables or stopping overhead installation of cables in and around Gangtok altogether.

Speaking to SummitTimes, Mr Lepcha said that he will request all the concerned agencies for the same and will hold a coordination meeting with all the agencies soon to discuss the matter.

"This is a serious matter and has to be addressed now as we are heading towards making Gangtok more beautiful and develop the capital into a smart city," said Mr Lepcha.



Governor pays tribute to Rajguru

**SUMMIT REPORT
 GANGTOK, 24 AUG:**

Governor, Shrinivas Patil, today paid homage and floral tributes to Shivaram Hari Rajguru, popularly known as 'Rajguru', on his 109th Birth Anniversary at his native place in Khed, renamed as Rajgurunagar, near Pune in Maharashtra, informs a press communiqué received from Raj Bhavan.

It may be mentioned

here, Rajguru was one among three famous revolutionaries and compatriot of Bhagat Singh and Sukhdev, the leaders of Hindustan Socialist Republican Association. They fought against the British and were together sentenced to death on 23 March 1931 in Lahore for their role in the assassination of a British police officer, JP Saunders, at Lahore in 1928.



TEEJ AT TADONG

GANGTOK, 24 AUG: Women celebrating Teej at Tadong Mandir. Hartalika Teej celebrated today is the most important Teej out of the three, including Hariyali Teej and Kajari Teej. It is observed on the third day of Shukla Paksha (fortnight) in the Hindu month of Bhaadon. [Sandeep Prasad]

Course on Tibetan medicine begins at NIT

**SUMMIT REPORT
 GANGTOK, 24 AUG:**

The Sowa Rigpa (science of healing) course at Namgyal Institute of Tibetology (NIT) commissioned with the initiative of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling in the proposed Buddhist Study Facility, officially began today with a ritual performed in the Conference Hall of the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology, Deorali by

Lachung Rinpoche, a press release from the institute informs.

The Rinpoche gave a short talk on the importance of Sowa Rigpa and advised the students to make best use of the opportunity provided by the institute.

Sowa Rigpa popularly known as Amji medicine is an integral part of Buddhist culture. This ancient practice of alternative medicine has been

prevalent in the State for centuries.

With the amendment of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1970 by the Parliament in 2010, the Sowa Rigpa system of medicine is recognized by the Government of India along with the Ayurveda, Sidha and Unani systems of medicine. Amji system of medicine is gradually gaining ascendance all over the world mainly

because the medication and treatment is not only cheap but also very much in tune with nature, reads the release.

The qualified students of the Sowa Rigpa course will be the first Amjis of Sikkim. The Rinpoche gave blessings to the teachers and students with scarves and wished them good luck for their future endeavors, informs the release.

NGT quashes petition challenging reduction of ESZ...

Contd from pg01

that reducing this distance has serious implications in conservation of the ecosystem which is the most important natural resource for development of the State. In order to protect the biodiversity, the catchment area for continuous water resources for water-based industries, the luxuriant forest cover to mitigate the threat of climate change & global warming and to protect the National Parks and Sanctuaries, NGT had been approached.

The State of Sikkim through the Chief Secretary along with the Chief Wildlife Warden-Forest Secretariat [Government of Sikkim] as respondents have stated that the State Government has been conscious of its responsibility towards protection of the environment and has taken various steps from time to time to preserve and protect the forests and environment of the State while necessitating the Notification.

They further contended that in terms of Government of India Guidelines 2011 for identification of ESZs, there is an outer limit of 10 km with no fixed minimum boundary of an ESZ. The parameters laid down in

the said guidelines put emphasis on regulation of activities around the National Park and Sanctuaries and not prohibition as such.

The respondents further stated that the applicant of the petition had not raised any grievance on deterioration of the environment pertaining to the National Park and Sanctuaries in the State over a period of time. The State has undertaken proactive steps in protecting and preserving the forest and wildlife by expanding the area of Kanchendzonga National Park, Fambongh Wildlife Sanctuary, Singba Rhododendron Sanctuary and Kyongnosla Alpine Sanctuary. As such, there has been no violation of the order of the Apex Court, the EP Act, the Biological Diversity Act 2001, the Precautionary Principle, the principle of Sustainable Development, Intergenerational Equity, the Principle of Eco-centrism and any legislative policy as alleged by the petitioner.

The State Government had further constituted a Committee with members from the Forest Department, Land Revenue Department, Rural Management & Development Department, experts from GB Pant

Institute of Himalayan Environment and Sustainable Development in terms of 2011 Guidelines for the purpose of studying ESZs around the eight protected areas namely Barsey Rhododendron Sanctuary, Fambongh Wildlife Sanctuary, Kitam Bird Sanctuary, Maenam Wildlife Sanctuary, Pangolakra Wildlife Sanctuary, Kanchendzonga National Park, Kyongnosla Alpine Sanctuary and Singba Rhododendron Sanctuary and making deliberations which were forwarded to the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change for issuance of the final notification with due consideration of the opinions of 59 people.

In the judgment made by the NGT Jury, it is stated that "the allegation made by the petitioner that a distance of 50m will not serve the purpose of acting as Shock Absorber to protect and preserve the protected areas from outer interference may not be applicable to the situation prevailing in Sikkim as in most of the cases the adjoining areas are reserve forests and there are restrictions for use of such forest for non-forests purposes, in terms of the Forest [Conservation] Act, 1927, in

reserved forests."

"The sole objective of identifying and notifying the ESZs have been dealt in the 2011 Guidelines and keeping the local conditions/situations and ecological factors in view, the areas are identified by an expert committee and we do not find the allegations of the applicant to be true," the jury clarified.

The Jury further stated, "it becomes clear that adequate exercise was undertaken both by the State and the Union Government to follow 2011 Guidelines to the extent possible and there has been no violation of the order of the Hon'ble Apex Court nor any procedural lapses and violation of the existing Acts and Rules...Therefore, we are not inclined to allow the application and quash the notification as we do not find any illegality or infirmity in issuance of these eight Notifications."

Expressing respect toward the NGT judgment and Jury, ACT has thanked the legal team, 'LIFE', led by advocates Ritwick Dutta, Rahul Choudhary and Sreeja Chakraborty, Civil Society Environmentalist from Kalpravriksh, Neeraj Vagolikar, and all other well wishers.

In the Hills, in Virtual Darkness

Contd from pg01

of a local resident, Turni Bhagowati, who shared his concerns with SFLC.in:

"Many a people in Darjeeling have bought things on EMIs and loans. I also bought a scooter on EMI but due to Internet shutdown I haven't been able to use the net banking and failed to pay the bank's EMI on time. The banks are closed and online transactions cannot be facilitated. In the first week, I asked one of my friends who stays in Pune to do that for me but as it has already been more than 2 months, and the situation is getting worse, I cannot ask for more help. There is no hope of immediate solutions to the problems that are rising every day due to this extended Internet shutdown."

Though there has been an appeal by the Home Minister Rajnath

Singh as well as several demands by Gorkha Janmukti Morcha activists and other hill parties to restore Internet services in the area, the State Government has refused to lift the ban citing law and order problems. Moreover, a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has been filed in the Calcutta High Court challenging the ban on Internet services by the State Government in the Darjeeling hills.

The situation in Darjeeling serves to demonstrate how an extended Internet shutdown can bring life to a virtual standstill, significantly impacting free expression and crippling general society and the economy in the process. Now more than ever, it is necessary for the Government to recognize that Internet shutdowns are not a justifiable response to law and order problems, especially considering the steadily

climbing frequency and durations of shutdowns in India. There is simply no room for such draconian and disproportionate measures in a democracy like India that emphasizes a great deal on the Internet in its development agenda.

[SFLC.IN is a donor supported legal services organisation that brings together lawyers, policy analysts, technologists, and students to protect freedom in the digital world. SFLC.IN promotes innovation and open access to knowledge by helping developers make great Free and Open Source Software, protect privacy and civil liberties for citizens in the digital world by educating and providing free legal advice and help policy makers make informed and just decisions with the use and adoption of technology.]

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

What's The POA Against Substance Abuse?

Laws and clubs are the first steps, wider engagements needed now

There is SADA (Sikkim Anti-Drugs Act), the SAATHI (Sikkim Against Addiction Towards Healthy India) initiative, SAAT (), Red Cross Clubs, rehab centres and their clutch of earnest workers. These are all options Sikkim is exploring to address the problem of substance abuse. Each has met with some success and some of these are remarkably laudable initiatives. And yet the problem persists. Agreed, ever since humans walked the earth, they have found substances to abuse. It might be a bit too utopian to imagine a world without addition or substance abuse, but the worry for Sikkim is that despite all its efforts, there appears to have been no dent made in the scale at which substances are abused. Although not a virtue, the saving grace earlier was that most of the substances of abuse were organic and only a few of them had the potency to cause permanent or lasting damage. The situation is different now. We are abusing manufactured chemicals, prescription drugs which damage the body more than the high they might deliver to the senses. Not only are these substances more accessible, being mass-produced as they are, but the damage they wreck also manifests much quicker. What makes the situation even more ominous for Sikkim is that the age of initiation into drugs is getting younger by the day. Twelve year olds have walked out of their bathrooms high on some drug or the other. Making the situation even more dire is that they are experimenting excessively. Overdose deaths have become so commonplace that they don't shock anymore and so routine that people have figured out ways to ensure that they are not even reported or recorded any more.

Teenagers walk around with puss-filled wounds, hiding limbs scarred by frequent injections and yet no one notices the scourge that has set in.

What has Sikkim done to combat this problem? Precious little. It continues to exist in the beautiful void that it has vacuumed itself within. And we are talking people here, because the government and some of its institutions have been trying to find ways to combat the situation. Those who have suffered the throes of substance abuse and come out reformed, have banded together and are trying to spearhead the movement against this problem. But is an odd "drug awareness camp" at randomly selected schools enough to even contain the problem, leave alone stamp it out? What makes the task even more difficult is that families, which should be the first to recognize the rotting that sets in with prolonged substance abuse, are still in a stage of collective denial. Rather than face the problem and seek professional help, they rely on emotional blackmailing and tantrums to rehabilitate an addict at home. More often than not, they fail. Schools, too, have no policy in place to address the issue. They have been opting for disciplinary action and even rustication in extreme cases to wipe their hands off the problem. This is no solution either. At the end of the day, it will have to be the state which outlines a clear-cut policy in combating substance abuse beyond the SAD Act. And they will have to address several issues. First will have to be education and then rehabilitation. These at the school level. Schools cannot have one drug awareness camp a year and wish the problem away. They have to support a sustained campaign of education and rehabilitation and here the SAATHI model needs to be replicated across all schools. The stigma needs to be effectively erased so that families and addicts can come out and seek help. Cracking down on substances of abuse is clearly not the approach and focus now has to be on informing the young more effectively, rescuing them earlier and rehabilitating sans stigma. Maybe then we will have a chance...

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

Mail us at: letters@summittimes.com

Philippines' ongoing war on drugs shatters hopes of peace for a generation

RIKARD JALKEBRO
theconversation.com

When he was elected president of the Philippines in July 2016, President Rodrigo Duterte promised to negotiate peace agreements with the major insurgent groups that have destabilised much of the country for decades.

His government announced it would commence peace talks with the representatives of the National Democratic Front, the umbrella organisation that represents both the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army. Duterte also committed himself to a peace agreement with the Philippines' largest insurgent group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

At the time, these seemed like breakthroughs in the making. But the early optimism has dissolved, and the peace talks have stalled. While the government does seem genuinely willing to negotiate, the president seems to be prioritising another one of his election campaign promises: eradicating crime and drugs.

This notorious "war on drugs" has been extraordinarily bloody, and criticised by human rights organisations and foreign governments alike. Nonetheless, it is supported by a majority of the population.

The popular narrative of the effects of drugs – in particular, shabu, or methamphetamine – seems to be exaggerated. Shabu use, urban legend says, results in not just theft and robbery, but paedophilia and arson; horror stories abound of addicts slaughtering entire families. The president himself has been quoted likening shabu addicts to "the living walking dead ... of no use to society anymore".

This rhetoric normalises a culture of impunity for the police and vigilantes, many of whom resort to extreme violence. Many innocent people have been targeted, both intentionally and unintentionally; journalists, police, politicians and other critics have been threatened, intimidated, fired or arrested for alleged links with drugs. Yet during my own research, many Filipinos told me they feel safer and that crime seems to have gone down.

The "war on drugs" may seem distinct from longer-running securi-



ty issues, but it isn't. The crackdown is contributing to a culture of unchecked violence, which is increasingly accepted as a necessary measure. If this normalisation continues, lasting peace will never be achieved.

GETTING IT WRONG

For all its conciliatory talk, the government is still using tough tactics to deal with violent insurgents. So far, they have not paid off.

In May 2017, the military launched an operation to apprehend Isnilon Hapilon, the leader of the Abu Sayyaf Group, a faction of bandits designated as a terrorist organisation. But when the army swooped in, Hapilon was protected by scores of armed men who quickly took strategic positions throughout Marawi City. Instead of capturing Hapilon, the military raid seemed to kick-start the group's unanticipated plan to seize the city.

Duterte was on a state visit to Russia at the time. The operation unravelled, and martial law was declared not just in Marawi, but on the entire island of Mindanao. The government has claimed it had intelligence about the group's plans, but has issued contradictory statements on the rationale behind the siege, citing both jihadism and the drug trade.

Reports state that a few hundred jihadists managed to hold onto several neighbourhoods in defiance of government troops; they held off the military with improvised explosive

devices, a sophisticated network of underground tunnels, and snipers placed in strategic locations across the city. This is a remarkable change in tactics for the Philippines' insurgents, and clearly echoes recent urban battles in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria.

The ongoing Marawi City crisis has scotched the government's ceasefire with the New People's Army. The deal was ultimately breached by both sides; in response, the Communist Party's central command ordered increased operations in other parts of the country.

GENERATION GAP

This decision is partly grounded in history. Communists still harbour bitter memories of the last period of martial law, imposed by dictator Ferdinand Marcos. True, the post-Marcos 1987 Constitution has more checks and balances in place than its predecessor, but martial law in Mindanao has already been extended to December 31, and may yet be extended to the entire country.

But outside the insurgent movements, many Filipinos see martial law as a necessary means with which to solve various problems in Mindanao. Aside from the insurgency, the region is home to many powerful families and clans with private armies and large weapon caches – something exemplified in the Marawi Crisis, where small groups of "terrorists" enjoy access to remarkably advanced weapons.

The problem is that martial law

has hardly been a storming success.

The government's airstrikes have caused both civilian casualties and immense material destruction. The armed forces have attempted to secure the area around Marawi City, but it seems likely that Hapilon and the Maute leadership have escaped. Nor has the army managed to prevent new fighters from entering Marawi City; on the contrary, the Maute Group and Abu Sayyaf seem to have no problem recruiting ever more members.

Other groups are having problems, too. The Moro Islamic Liberation Front's leadership has expressed concerns over its lack of control over the younger generation; the disconnect between what the Communist Party leadership says and what the New People's Army is actually doing could mean that the Communists have lost control of their armed affiliate.

The success of any peace process is measured not only by what agreement ultimately gets signed. What will matter is whether it can be implemented, and the extent to which it addresses both the roots and consequences of the conflict. Only then will any further violence be avoided, and permanently. The prospect of any such peace in the Philippines remains slim. To quote Duterte himself, "There will be no peace for a generation."

[the writer is Teaching Fellow, School of International Relations, University of St Andrews]

The anthropology of Trump: what to do when the court jester takes charge

ANTHONY J PICKLES
theconversation.com

Across cultures, fools, clowns, and court jesters are powerful critics of any existing order. But what happens when they take power? Thanks to Donald Trump, this is a reality we now face – and one that anthropology can help us to navigate.

The president of the US makes a strange sort of jester, not least given how unfunny he often is. Recall the 2016 Alfred E. Smith Memorial Foundation Dinner, an American election tradition during which the two major party candidates engage in good-natured mockery. Trump's inability to self-deprecate and lack of self-awareness made his performance practically unwatchable, as did his failure to draw a line between slander and satire.

So it's easy to write Trump off as a failed, inept clown rather than a deft lampooner of his enemies. But his lack of self-awareness is largely irrelevant, and to simply proclaim him an idiot gets it wrong. His particular brand of foolery is in fact proving highly effective – and destructive.

On the surface, a court jester's job is to conspicuously cross boundaries and use humour and mockery to ridicule and violate the norms their on-lookers live by. The effect is ultimately conservative: the fool's ludicrous failures contrast with the seriousness of his powerful audience, confirming they're strong enough to withstand mockery and thereby cementing their status.

An example of how this works is the Hopi Tribe of Arizona's summer-solstice ritual, niman, in which a central plaza is occupied by "kachina" deities, then invaded and taken over by yelling clowns. The clowns proceed to eat gluttonously, drink urine and perform burlesque acts. Warned



by a lone deity that they must act moderately or perish, the clowns instead mistreat him and boast of their power. The kachina deities then return with whips and weapons, and retake the plaza to restore order and complete the ritual.

Similar processes play out at carnivals and mardi gras, where rules of behaviour and power structures are temporarily upended, only to come back into force more strongly. It's also what happens at Washington's storied White House Correspondents' Dinner, an annual event where the most powerful leader in the world "officially" acts the clown, delivering a joke-laden monologue and enduring caustic jibes thrown their way. (Having famously been humiliated by Obama at the 2011 dinner, Trump declined to take part this year.)

But if the whole point of temporarily suspending normality to let fools run the show is to strengthen authority, not weaken it, the Trump administration is something very different.

When a political joker like Trump actually takes control, they duly subvert the norms of their political roles with their ludicrous behaviour – but instead of strengthening those

norms, they weaken them, ultimately lowering the expectations to which all leaders are subject.

Trump's presidency will hardly feel like a temporary suspension of normality if it lasts for its full term, and not if he is able to achieve even a few of his policy goals. This will not be a comic interlude at the end of which things cleanly return to normal; it will have real and enduring implications for millions of people's lives.

Beyond that, the participants in this particular ritual drama do not agree on what status quo their fool should actually target. Is it the supposedly po-faced "liberal establishment" and those they defend, or the moneyed hegemony of Wall Street and those it favours? Sometimes Trump seems to think the answer is both, making him an interesting phenomenon: anyone's fool.

THE CARNIVAL IS OVER

Broadly speaking, critics of Trump can respond to his foolery in one of two ways. They can attack the kind of fool Trump is – one who targets minorities, women, and immigrants – or they can attack the idea that foolishness is a viable substitute for governance. The idea that building a giant wall across

the Mexican border is a policy, not a joke. The idea that peddling conspiracies about Obama's birth certificate is an acceptable way to enter political life. The idea that ranting on Twitter at 3am is presidential.

While they may seem cruel and desperately unfunny, some of Trump's pronouncements and blunders are perfect examples of what anthropologists call "hegemonic humour": the use of humour to root out and emphasise difference. Making Mexico pay for a wall is politically (and probably financially) impossible, but many of Trump's supporters seem willing to let it slide, suggesting his dogged commitment to it was more a farcical gesture to his audience than a statement of policy.

What obsessing over making Mexico pay really did was mark Trump out as a person who "gets it", as opposed to a member of the "elite" – a cabal of people stupid enough to take a joke at face value.

A joker in charge is very difficult to challenge. Allow him to rile you up, and he wins; laugh with him, and you reinforce his nihilistic agenda. If the president's opponents want his presidency to reinforce the US's norms and institutions rather than destroy them, they can only respond one way: concentrate on achievable, serious goals, and refuse to get distracted by the absurd, surreal personality show with which their president is mocking them.

This means putting faith in politicians who treat their office and their role with dignity and respect, and not in just any fool who happens to come along. It is very citizen's job to ignore fools and instead to deal in details.

[the writer is British Academy Research Fellow, University of Cambridge]

*Bright yellow
Rs 200 note
to be out*

tomorrow: RBI

MUMBAI, AUG 24 (PTI): The Reserve Bank will launch Rs 200 banknotes for the first time tomorrow, increasing availability of lower denomination currency in the system.

The bright yellow coloured notes will hit the market just a day after the announcement by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley that the government has given go-ahead to the RBI to issue the new currency bill.

"The Reserve Bank of India will issue on August 25, 2017 Rs 200 denomination banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi (new) Series, bearing signature of Urjit R Patel, Governor, Reserve Bank of India from select RBI offices, and some banks," RBI said in a press release.

As per new policy on theme-based currency notes, this currency notes bears motif of Sanchi Stupa, to depict India's cultural heritage.

*CAEPHT
organizes...*

contd from pg03

various projects of the University working in collaboration with the state government. He informed that the University has presently been working on mix plantation, demonstration of hand tools and equipments and other projects and also providing training to farmers in various fields of organic farming and agronomy.

During the seminar, resource persons and experts from different departments and organisations gave presentations on their respective topics.

Privacy a protected right emerging from Article 21: SC

contd from pg01

barking on a constitutional function which is entrusted to the Parliament.

"The Constitution must evolve with the felt necessities of time to meet the challenges thrown up in a democratic order governed by the rule of law. The meaning of the Constitution cannot be frozen on the perspectives present when it was adopted.

"Technological change has given rise to concerns which were not present seven decades ago and the rapid growth of technology may render obsolescent many notions of the present. Hence the interpretation of the Constitution must be resilient and flexible to allow future generations to adapt its content bearing in mind its basic or essential features," the bench said.

A law which encroaches upon privacy will have to withstand the touchstone of permissible restrictions on fundamental rights, it said.

"In the context of Article 21, an invasion of privacy must be justified on the basis of a law which stipulates a procedure which is fair, just and reasonable. The law must also be valid with reference to the encroachment on life and personal

**SUDIPTA CHANDA
SILIGURI, 24 AUG:**

Itchy fingers have once again sent shockwaves in the Darjeeling hills and this time by triggering explosive devices at Sukhiapokhri. The act understandably is to derail the pro-talks mood building up in the hills. The question is, can it?

Such acts can create fear psychosis and stall positive exercises like talks to deposit back the Darjeeling hills on an even keel for a length of time, but not scrap the intent perpetually. Had it been so, the Northeast, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir would have dis-

integrated into separate nations by now.

That is testimony enough that militant activities can create temporary boisterousness, but fall in line it has to sooner or later. The might of the state backed by the people always prevails in such situations.

A few more of last night's Sukhiapokhri like incidents would surely trigger further panic in the hills, but would also alienate the people from the movement in the long run. Political demonstration pegging a demand is one thing, going the militant way is a different kettle of fish.

Soon, those behind the itchy fingers will realize their action has proved counterproductive. It has antagonized the people instead who have no interest in tinkering with improvised explosives and live with the consequences thereafter.

That said, it also needs to be pointed out that the intelligence community has clearly failed to collate information about the presence of explosive devices in the hills.

The devices might have been brought in from other states, or assembled locally, but with the Sukhiapokhri

blast coming close on the heels of the Darjeeling and Kalimpong incidents it is likely more such devices might be present in the vicinity.

Reminds one of former chief minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee's oft mentioned quote during the height of the Kamtapur Liberation Organization (KLO) movement that his government would not allow north Bengal to become another Assam. The reference obviously was towards the ULFA and its line of action.

The former chief minister's comments coupled with several blood chilling inci-

dents during the turn of the millennium bears proof that north Bengal had been in the cross hairs of militant outfits for quite some time.

Add to that the cache of arms and explosives the Maoists of Nepal are yet to get rid of since war between the radicals and that country's national forces ended. The Darjeeling hills under such circumstances could prove one convenient dumping ground for such arsenal.

It is accepted that tracking movement of such arms or locating their presence is akin to finding a needle in a hay-

stack, but that is the job of the sleuths and their networks. The Darjeeling, Kalimpong and now Sukhiapokhri blasts prove neither the intelligence community nor its network has delivered on this count.

The blasts will have another unwanted impact. More than being considered a political issue, the ongoing movement would henceforth be treated as a law and order problem, which defeats every hill-based political party's cause.

That in reality is the gift the blast perpetrators have extended to their brothers-in-arms.

India, Nepal ink eight pacts, call for closer security and defence ties

NEW DELHI, AUG 24 (PTI): Nepal today assured India that it would not allow any activity against its "friendly neighbour", as the two sides signed eight pacts, including on cooperation in countering drug trafficking and post-earthquake reconstruction in the Himalayan nation.

After comprehensive talks with his Nepalese counterpart Sher Bahadur Deuba, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid emphasis on closer cooperation between the security and defence forces of the two countries in order to avoid misuse of the open border between India and Nepal.

"Defence ties and assistance in security is an important aspect of our partnership. Our defence interests are also dependent and connected to each other," Modi said at a joint press briefing after the talks.

Deuba gave an assurance of "every support, every help and cooperation".



"As you (Modi) mentioned that Nepal has an open border..."

I would like to assure you that Nepal will never allow any activity against friendly neighbour India and there will be every support, every help and cooperation from our side," Deuba said.

Acknowledging that there were "issues" in the implementation of the Constitution, he expressed confidence that a Constitution "encompassing" the views of the people from all sections and ethnicities would be

a reality.

Modi, too, exuded confidence that Nepal would take into consideration the aspirations of all its citizens during the implementation of the Constitution.

On August 21, the Nepalese parliament failed to endorse the much-awaited Constitution amendment bill to address the issues of Madhes as the ruling coalition could not garner the two-thirds majority required for its passage.

Deuba said both sides also exchanged views on regional and sub-regional cooperation using BIMSTEC (The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) and BBIN (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal Initiative) and create a "win-win" situation in various areas.

The Nepalese prime minister said regular engagement at the highest political level would greatly contribute to sustaining and cementing trust between the two countries and his current visit was an effort towards it.

The two leaders jointly inaugurated the Katiaiya-Kusaha and Raxaul-Parwanipur cross border power transmission lines. Modi said this would give an additional 100 MW of power to Nepal, apart from the existing 350 MW.

The two sides, he added, had also agreed on development of the Ramayana and Buddhist tourism circuits through better connectivity.

Flood management and irrigation projects was a point of focus in the talks between the two countries.

Modi stressed on greater coordination and consultation between the agencies of India and Nepal on flood management and said the two sides must work towards a long term solution, taking into consideration each others interests.

While he expressed the hope that the Detailed Project Report for the Pancheshwar project on the Uttarkhand border of the Indian side would be finalised soon, Deuba stressed that it would help in flood control and crop irrigation.

Gurung calls on Didi to initiate political dialogue

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 24 AUG:

Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) president, Bimal Gurung has written to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and requested her to 'initiate political dialogue' to resolve the crisis in Darjeeling.

The Darjeeling hills have been observing indefinite bandh for over two months now since 12 Jun to press for a separate state of Gorkhaland.

Referring to a negotiation on 18 Jul between the Government of India, Government of West Bengal and the GJM, Mr Gurung reminded that the GTA (Gorkhaland Territorial Administration) was only to be an interim arrangement as per the tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and the party has not dropped its demand for Gorkhaland.

Mr Gurung said the creation of autonomous bodies in Darjeeling, first as the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council in 1988 and then as the GTA in 2011, has 'failed miserably' and 'never fulfilled the people's aspirations under the Statesman of West Bengal'.

Lawyers sit in dharna demanding appointment of judges in Calcutta HC

KOLKATA, AUG 24 (PTI):

Lawyers today sat on a dharna demanding appointment of judges at the Calcutta High Court, which is at present functioning at less than half its sanctioned strength.

The agitating lawyers have also sent a petition to President Ram Nath Kovind seeking his "intervention" to alleviate the "plight of the justice system in Calcutta High Court."

"Around 600 lawyers practising at this court have signed the petition seeking immediate steps to appoint new judges at the Calcutta High Court," senior counsel Bikash Bhattacharya, who is

participating in the dharna, said.

"Litigant people are getting restless and taking resort to unconstitutional means by not getting the avenue of justice available to them," the letter said.

"The situation is alarming and requires immediate response to restore semblance of sense of justice and peace," it said.

"With nearly three lakh cases pending, the high court is functioning with only 31 judges out of the sanctioned strength of 72 judges," Bhattacharya said.

"Everyday the law-

yers are facing accusation from litigants that they are not diligent enough, but the real problem lies in the vacancy of judges," Rabishankar Chatterjee, another advocate participating in the sit-in demonstration outside the main entrance of the high court, said.

Acting Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court Justice Nishita Mhatre had earlier this month expressed anguish at non-appointment of judges in the high court, saying the court was constrained for time as it was functioning at less than half of its sanctioned strength.

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Howlers FC scores victory in B Division S-League

SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 24 AUG:

A brace by Tshering Zangpo helped Howlers Football Club to register its first victory in the ongoing Sikkim Football Association B Division Sikkim-League 2017 here at Paljor Stadium. In a league match played today, Howlers FC outplayed Pendam Football Academy 3-1.

Tshering Zangpo scored his brace for Howlers FC in the 40th and 72nd minute with one more goal added by Kewal Pradhan. The only goal of Pendam FA was scored by Sandeep Allay in the dying minutes of the match.

Public and Panchayat undertake...

contd from pg04

Monastery which was damaged by the 2011 earthquake. The Lingtyang Monastery in Lower Dzongu had suffered severe damages in the earthquake and since then the request for restoration of Monastery had been submitted to the government several times but no action has been taken so far.

Recently, the villagers under the aegis of their ward panchayat, Tshering Gyatso Lepcha decided to renovate the monastery themselves.

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Undefeated and unloved, Mayweather eyes final payday

LAS VEGAS, AUG 24 (AFP): Two years after retiring from boxing, Floyd Mayweather climbs back into the ring on Saturday chasing history and one last mammoth payday.

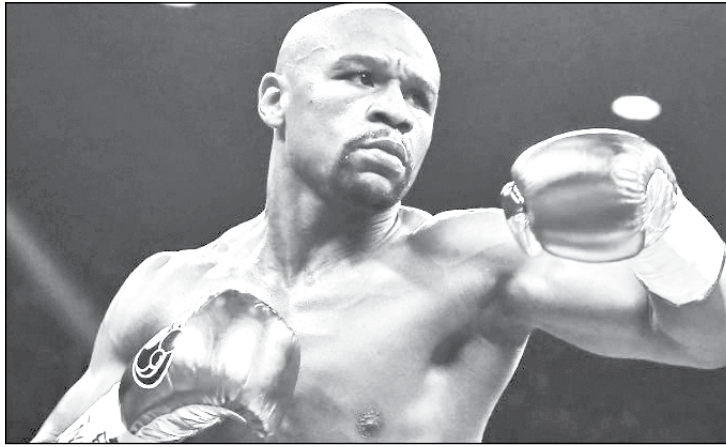
The 40-year-old former welterweight champion will become the first boxer in history to post a perfect record of 50-0, if as expected, he proves too strong for Conor McGregor, the mixed martial arts star fighting in his first ever boxing contest.

The 50th bout of Mayweather's 21-year professional career has been disparaged variously as a freakshow, publicity stunt or simply "bad for boxing."

Mayweather, who has spent years crafting an image as the fighter that fans love to hate, is not even remotely fazed by the catcalls.

Because not for the first time, the boxer who delights in displaying the trappings of his wealth across social media, will be laughing all the way to the bank.

Mayweather, whose career earnings reportedly topped USD 700 million following his last bout in 2015, could,



according to some estimates, pocket another 200 million this weekend.

It is the latest money-spinning stop on a career that has seen Mayweather go from 1996 Olympics bronze medalist to be regarded as one of the greatest boxers in history.

Born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on February 4, 1977, Mayweather was destined for the ring.

His father, Floyd Mayweather Sr., was himself a

talented former welterweight who once fought 10 rounds with Sugar Ray Leonard. Floyd Sr. taught his son to box almost as soon as he could walk.

Floyd Sr. was holding his infant son in his arms when he was shot in the leg during a family dispute, an injury that effectively ended his career.

"He was training to be a fighter in the crib," Mayweather Sr. said of his son.

Mayweather, who grew up

in a cramped apartment with seven relatives, frames his early life as a battle for survival.

"It's never been easy for me. Boxing is easy but life has never been easy," Mayweather says.

"I had a father who was a hustler and a mother who was on drugs. I was the man in the house from 16. That's just the way it was."

When Mayweather fought at the 1996 Olympics, his father was serving a five-year

prison sentence for drug-trafficking.

In Floyd Sr's absence, his uncle Roger had taken over the training of the young fighter, overseeing his entry to the professional ranks.

Within two years, the skillful, lightning-fast Mayweather had won his first world title, knocking out the WBC super-featherweight champion Genaro Hernandez in eight rounds.

Years of domination followed as Mayweather plowed through the divisions up to welterweight.

In 2006, he took the unusual step of buying out his contract with promoter Bob Arum, in order to take greater control of his career.

Since then Mayweather has been able to dictate terms for most of his fights, taking a cut of the back-end profit in exchange for upfront risk.

It means that the dollars have continued to flow in ever-increasing numbers, from USD 25 million to fight Oscar De La Hoya in 2007 to around USD 220 million for his 2015 fight against Manny Pacquiao.

But while the dollars have rolled in and the bank balanc-

es have swollen, Mayweather has struggled to build up a reserve of public goodwill.

Multiple convictions for domestic violence point to the fighter's dark side, while in boxing terms he has faced accusations that he ducked his most dangerous opponents, such as Pacquiao, until they were past their peak.

His cagey, cautious style inside the ring, while earning grudging approval from purists, has also frustrated fans hoping to see him take a more aggressive approach.

Mayweather, who insists Saturday's bout with McGregor will be the last time he ever enters a ring, is unapologetic about the tactics that have guided his career, believing his is a template that many rivals would like to emulate.

"When a person has been so dominant in his era, I think other fighters are going to pay attention," he told reporters recently.

"The main fighters are going to pay attention because they want to be at my level and they want to do the same thing -- they want to dominate with ease.

Indian boxers aim for bigger medal haul at World C'ship

**POONAM MEHRA
HAMBURG, AUG 24
(PTI):** Shiva Thapa and Vikas Krishan will be among India's best bets to better both the colour and number of medals at the 19th World Boxing Championships, starting here tomorrow.

Placed joint 49th in the all-time medal count, India have a bronze each to show for from the 2009, 2011 and the 2015 World Championships.

Shiva (2015), Vikas (2011) and the now-professional Vijender Singh (2009) are the only ones to have been on the podium of the prestigious event, which doubles up as an Olympic qualifier in alternate editions.

For this edition, an eight-strong team has made the cut through the Asian Championships held in Tashkent earlier this year.

"Our build-up has



been fantastic. We had a good Asian Championship where the boys won two silver and two bronze medals and finished third overall," the team's Swedish coach Santiago Nieva told PTI.

"Then we went to France and Czech Republic for training-cum-competition trips

and the results were excellent there.

So, I am hopeful of a strong performance but I don't want to make any predictions about the medals," he added.

To be tied with Australia, Tajikistan and Czech Republic in the all-time medal tally isn't exactly a true re-

flection of how far Indian boxing has come since Vijender won the breakthrough bronze in 2009 in Milan.

"This World Championship is going to be slightly different from the previous one because the draws will be opened up. There have been changes in weight

categories, some of those who went to Rio Olympics last year have quit. So there is going to be a lot of churning," Nieva pointed out.

"So, yes, we can hope for more than just one bronze medal," he added. The boxers, on their part, also spoke confidently about their chances.

"It has been a long journey and we have seen a lot in all these years. World Championships is the premier tournament for us after the Olympics. I am as prepared as I could ever be for a big tournament," said Shiva, all of 24 but a two-time Olympian with three back-to-back Asian Championship medals.

The Assam boxer, who won a bantamweight 56kg bronze in the 2015 world championship, will be competing in the lightweight 60kg category this time.

He had caught the eye of none other than Manny Pacquiao by clinching a rare knockout win for an Indian boxer at the big event.

The transition to the new weight category has gone rather well for him, the biggest proof of it being a silver at the Asian Championships just three months ago.

Another bright medal prospect for India is without doubt Vikas. The 25-year-old would be eager to make a mark especially after getting a disciplinary warning for forfeiting his Asian Championship semifinal bout due to "confused" travel plans.

The middleweight (75kg) boxer, a former Asian Games gold medalist, has chosen to stay aloof since the Asian meet and even trained alone in Pune at the Army Sports Institute,

away from the national camp in Patiala.

Not to be counted out is veteran Manoj Kumar (69kg), forever the dark horse who manages to surprise with tenacious performances. The 31-year-old former Commonwealth Games gold-medallist is perseverance personified and is yet to find a strong challenger on the national scene.

Another medal hope is Sumit Sangwan (91kg), who made a fine comeback from injury breakdowns to claim a silver medal at the Asian Championships earlier this year.

"It is a strong squad, very dedicated and I am sure they will not let anyone down in performance," said Nieva summing up the hopes.

The 10-day championship will feature 280 boxers from 85 countries.

How Pradipkumar shed HIV tag to become champion bodybuilder!



NEW DELHI, AUG 24 (PTI): From fighting psychological trauma, stigma and discrimination of being HIV-positive to becoming an international bodybuilding champion, Khundrakpam Pradipkumar Singh has come a long way.

His incredible journey is the subject of a new book "I am HIV Positive, So What?: A World Champion's Fight Against Drugs, Disease and Discrimination" by Jayanta Kalita and published by Bloomsbury India.

Until December 15, 2007, Singh was nobody. The very next day he was known across his state as 'Mr Manipur'. And soon after he lifted the title, Singh came out in the open with his HIV-positive status.

"It is best to be honest with yourself and face facts.

That is half the battle won. That is why I decided to disclose my HIV-positive status to the world," he once said.

Singh got into the habit of doing drugs when he was a student in the 1990s. And it was probably then that he contracted AIDS.

"Having discovered that he was HIV

positive was a body blow for Singh. The period from March 2000 to 2002 proved to be the darkest phase of his life," the book says. It was almost like a living death for Singh. But he was determined to break the stereotype of being branded as an AIDS victim.

Singh took it as a challenge to prove everyone wrong and towards the end of 2003, he seriously thought about resuming his exercises.

To his luck, his health was getting slightly better and he regained some weight. He then began to visit the gym and lift weights. His doctor, however, warned him not to do heavy exercises or go for weight training.

But Singh decided to go ahead, keeping his doctor in the dark.

And finally his D-day arrived. He took part in the 'Mr Manipur' competition on November 26, 2006 and bagged the silver medal in the senior 60 kg category.

And from then, it was no looking back. He became the champion the next year and subsequently took part in Mr India

contests. In 2010, he bagged the silver medal at the 50th Mr India contest in Goa and two years later, was crowned 'Mr South Asia'.

He won a bronze medal in the 'Mr World' championship in Bangkok in 2012. Since then, he hasn't taken part in any major event.

"Now, I need to be more careful about my body since I have been on ART for so many years. I am growing older and doctors advised me against doing rigorous exercises," he says.

Singh, 45, is now employed as a physical trainer at the department of sports and youth affairs of the Manipur government.

He was made brand ambassador for HIV/AIDS by the Manipur State AIDS Control Society and was roped in by the India chapter of a global non-profit to lead a pan-India HIV awareness campaign from Delhi.

Singh also took up the cudgels to sensitise people to the ill-effects of drug abuse, to which Manipur is the biggest victim in northeast India.

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50 mln people at risk of arsenic poisoning in Pakistan: study

Islamabad, Aug 24 (PTI): Around 50 million people in Pakistan's Indus Valley are at the risk of arsenic poisoning due to an "alarmingly high" level of contamination in water, a study has warned.

'Extensive arsenic contamination in high-pH unconfined aquifers in the Indus Valley' was published yesterday in the journal of Science Advances. It said that using a new data set of nearly 1200 groundwater quality samples throughout Pakistan, the researchers created state-of-the-art hazard and risk maps of arsenic-contaminated groundwater.

"We estimate that approximately 50 to 60 million people use groundwater within the area at risk, with hot spots around Lahore and Hyderabad," it said.

The study further noted that this number is alarmingly high and demonstrates the urgent need for verification and testing of all drinking water wells in the Indus Plain, followed by appropriate mitigation measures. It said that the hazard model indicates that much of the Indus Plain is likely to have elevated arsenic concentrations, although the rest of the country is mostly safe.

Unlike other arsenic-contaminated areas of Asia, the arsenic release process in the arid Indus Plain appears to be dominated by elevated-pH dissolution, resulting from alkaline topsoil and extensive irrigation of unconfined aquifers, although pockets of reductive dissolution are also present. It also reported that arsenic-contaminated aquifers are currently estimated to affect 150 million people around the world.

"However, the full extent of the problem remains elusive. This is also the case in Pakistan, where previous studies focused on isolated areas," it said.

Malnutrition, alcoholism behind widespread TB in South India

BOSTON, Aug 24 (PTI): Malnutrition and alcoholism are the key drivers of tuberculosis in the southern states of India, scientists say. Researchers from Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM) in the US and Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER) in Tamil Nadu found a striking link between malnutrition, heavy alcohol use and tuberculosis (TB) in southern India.

They collaborated on a large cohort study of TB cases, called the Regional Prospective Observational Research for Tubercu-

losis (RePORT).

The study, published in the journal PLOS ONE, aims to identify markers in the blood that predict whether an individual will fail TB treatment and whether their household contacts will develop TB.

The study evaluated those recently diagnosed with TB in Puducherry and Tamil Nadu and compared the study data to population level data in the area. The researchers calculated that more than 61 per cent of TB cases in women are attributable to malnutrition. The study also found

that up to 75 per cent of male TB cases could be eliminated if the impact of alcohol was reduced.

An estimated 10.6 million cases of TB occur annually in the world, and India accounts for 27 per cent, researchers said. This study comes on the heels of the World Health Organization's (WHO) strategy that encourages research into country-specific TB research plans.

"We hope this demonstration of how malnutrition and alcoholism are driving the TB epidemic in India will help local TB programmes target resour-

ces to reduce the local burden of TB," said Natasha Hochberg, assistant professor at BUSM.

"The Indian government has recently released guidelines for the nutritional care of TB patients; we anticipate that our findings will bolster their efforts and renew the emphasis on addressing malnutrition to prevent TB," said Hochberg.

The researchers also note a scarcity of alcohol treatment programmes in the Puducherry and Tamil Nadu region and that heavy alcohol use has an impact on TB treatment outcomes.



Eight people are missing following a landslide in southeastern Switzerland, police have said. Around 100 people have been evacuated from several small villages in the Val Bondasca region following the landslide on Wednesday. Graubunden cantonal police have said that German, Austrian and Swiss citizens are among the missing.

Death toll rises to 12 as typhoon Hato hit Macau, Hong Kong

BEIJING, Aug 24 (PTI): Typhoon Hato, the strongest to hit southern China in 53 years, left a trail of death and destruction in the region with Macau and Hong Kong bearing the brunt of the storm that has claimed at least 12 lives and injured over 150 others.

The former Portuguese enclave of Macau was still without electricity as the typhoon claimed the lives of at least eight people. The typhoon made landfall yesterday, bringing winds of up to 160 kilometre per hour to the mouth of the Pearl river and heavy rain to nearby regions, the local meteorological bureau said.

At least 150 people were injured, and residents had been struggling with a massive power failure for nearly 24 hours in Macau, South China Morning Post reported today. When the typhoon swept past Macau, a wall brought down by strong winds killed a man. Another person died after falling from the 11th floor of a building, and a third after being hit by a truck, according to Macau health authorities.

Sudan: Russian ambassador found dead in Khartoum residence

CAIRO, Aug 24 (AP): Sudan's foreign ministry says Russia's ambassador to the African country has

been found dead in his residence in Khartoum.

In a statement carried by the state-run SUNA news agency yesterday, the ministry said Ambassador Mirgayas Shirinsky died Wednesday and offered its condolences to the government and people of Russia.

The ministry praised Shirinsky's

diplomatic efforts while in office but offered no details on the circumstances surrounding his death.

Shirinsky, who was in his 60s, had been in the Russian diplomatic service since 1977 and had previously served in Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Rwanda. He was appointed ambassador to Sudan in 2013.

Nepali woman attacked in US, thrown on metro track

NEW YORK, Aug 24 (PTI): A 49-year-old Nepali woman had a narrow escape after a stranger pushed her onto the train tracks at a subway station here but she was pulled to safety just minutes before a train approached the platform.

Kamala Shrestha, was returning home from work at a nail salon on Tuesday night and was standing at the subway platform when a black man approached her and pushed her onto the tracks.

"(The) train was almost coming," she was quoted as saying by the New York Daily News.

"At that same time the guy came and said, I'm going to kill you. He was very strong and he just pushed me," she said.

Shrestha hit the subway tracks, her head struck the metal and split open, leaving a large gash. As she shout-

ed for help, two persons rushed to pull her back onto the platform just before a train approached the station.

"I tell someone, 'Help me! Help me!' I was scared. The two guys, they give me (their) hands, saying 'Come on! Come on!'"

"They pulled me out," she added. "I feel so good because they helped me," she said.

She was immediately rushed to a local hospital and treated for injuries.

"I got a new life today," Shrestha told the Daily News from the hospital. "I feel good, actually. I almost died today."

Police is looking for the man who pushed her and then walked out of the station. Shrestha said she hopes the police will find the man as he could try and push other people too, putting their lives in danger. "I want to find the guy," she said.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Renu Goyal**, daughter of Late Nanak Chand Garg resident of DPH Road, Gangtok Sikkim would like to declare that my previous name was **Renu Agarwal** vide affidavit 069105 dt. 24.08.2017. I have correctly changed my name from **Renu Agarwal** to **Renu Goyal** for all purposes.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Govind Kumar Goyal** son of late Om Prakash Goyal resident of DPH Road, Gangtok Sikkim would like to declare that my previous name was **Govind Kumar Agarwal** vide affidavit no 090930 dt. 11.08.2017. I have correctly changed my name from **Govind Kumar Agarwal** to **Govind Kumar Goyal** for all purposes.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Ashish Kumar Goyal** son of Govind Kumar Goyal resident of upper M.G.Marg, Gangtok, Sikkim would like to declare that my previous name was **Asish Goyal** vide affidavit 090929 dt. 11.08.2017. I have correctly changed my name from **Asish Goyal** to **Ashish Kumar Goyal** for all purposes.

Anthyesthi Kriya



A warm-hearted man with a resounding voice, **Puran Chandra Gurung** lived his life with joy, laughter and goodwill. He always wished all life their well being. On the 12th of August, 2017, his delightful journey in this realm came to an

end. We, the family members, would like to thank everyone who was a part of his story. We believe that he responsibly concluded his role as a husband, father, brother, friend and a public servant. While we reminisce about him, we request everyone who cared and wished him well to join us in offering prayers and to bid him a final farewell. The ceremony will be held at our residence in **Gairee Gaon, Tadong, Gangtok** on the **2nd of September, 2017 (Saturday)**.

Basudha Syangden (Wife), Dr. Upashma Gurung (Daughter), Namgyal Tashi Bhutia (Son in law), Upendra Gurung (Son), Ph: 9647889413; 9475504210; 7797672743

Anthyesthi Kriya



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

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

Kutse Shegu



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

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

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Draw Time : 8:00 pm onward

Draw No:4 DrawDate on:23/08/17
1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 92C 66008
(Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 66008 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
06170 13825 24749 28953 30596
33537 67219 81780 84576 95587
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
11376 14069 14897 23654 54992
68887 77323 83663 85485 98567
4th Prize Rs.1000/-
1271 1469 3424 4447 4647 4649 7388 7732 8278 9612
5th Prize Rs.500/-
2164 2662 4337 4901 5303 5742 7941 8626 8735 9472
6th Prize Rs.250/-
0054 0150 0160 0383 0557 0772 0860 0939 0956 0995
1048 1170 1471 1490 1661 1804 1858 1862 1944 2041
2087 2151 2195 2308 2595 2741 2829 3370 3615 3632
3646 3722 3927 3956 4079 4444 4448 4493 4608 4625
4700 4807 4862 4904 4906 4928 4944 5078 5412 5434
5441 5540 5575 5634 5680 5778 5780 5984 6049 6173
6194 6588 6594 6677 6822 6832 6962 7063 7284 7297
7348 7456 7644 7706 7743 7889 7897 7984 8130 8334
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9295 9365 9450 9498 9528 9560 9609 9820 9822 9944

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DEAR KIND

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(Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 19282 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
00508 30121 38014 51796 60830
63817 70290 76662 89127 97102
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
16589 17718 18689 21747 42928
45581 59386 82880 87676 93014
4th Prize Rs.1000/-
0128 1275 2584 4853 5712 5986 6909 7153 7715 8550
5th Prize Rs.500/-
0506 1626 4054 4544 5757 5822 7786 8020 8213 9349
6th Prize Rs.250/-
0070 0195 0232 0315 0457 0627 0702 0734 0839 0841
0849 0885 0964 1295 1340 1511 1557 1696 1830 1942
1975 2124 2220 2234 2342 2397 2422 2436 2518 2571
2711 2773 2874 2902 2922 2977 3042 3403 3415 3440
3728 3786 3841 3940 4135 4203 4568 4587 4827 4914
4995 5015 5019 5149 5171 5208 5410 5491 5514 5530
5576 5788 5811 5829 5909 5936 5969 5976 6149 6158
6273 6299 6444 6604 6671 6802 6999 7300 7761 7768
7841 8144 8212 8261 8527 8540 8760 8856 9281 9304
9329 9339 9427 9577 9602 9653 9720 9831 9916 9950

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1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 95J 29346
(Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 29346 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
11146 11891 15986 31377 47004
55537 70464 82897 87492 88027
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
01417 29926 30651 63354 69433
71551 81959 84737 87594 97627
4th Prize Rs.1000/-
1752 2608 3397 4500 5429 6656 8157 8234 8314 9092
5th Prize Rs.500/-
2609 4380 4392 4973 5578 6492 6568 8047 8791 9869
6th Prize Rs.250/-
0130 0344 0583 0818 0944 0977 1239 1307 1315 1471
1779 1908 1948 2028 2209 2300 2304 2358 2381 2470
2508 2665 2801 2953 3081 3095 3108 3335 3430 3512
3591 3607 3641 3686 3707 3754 3889 3960 4085 4296
4374 4448 4477 4489 4594 4679 4728 4750 4868 4895
4906 5024 5110 5192 5405 5644 5725 5799 5830 5835
5883 6653 6837 6856 6893 6927 7106 7123 7271 7294
7317 7393 7450 7596 7654 7780 7854 7921 7967 7983
8094 8105 8126 8190 8281 8317 8371 8609 8634 8737
8820 8911 8915 8972 8980 9144 9155 9208 9544 9586

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COLLEGE BOUND: Brooklyn Beckham took dad David Beckham to his college orientation at Parsons School of Design in New York City recently.

SHABANA AZMI BELIEVES THAT THE TRIPLE TALAQ JUDGEMENT IS A VICTORY FOR BRAVE MUSLIM WOMEN

SHABANA AZMI is happy about the Supreme Court's Triple Talaq judgement as she believes that it is a victory for brave Muslim women in the country. Triple talaq being practiced by the Muslim community is held as "unconstitutional", "arbitrary" and "not part of Islam" by 3:2 majority judgement by the Supreme Court.

Shabana tweeted on Tuesday, "I welcome the Supreme Court judgement on instant Triple Talaq. It's a victory for brave Muslim women who have waged a battle against it for years"

Shabana Azmi is also a social and women rights activist besides being an actor and has actively supported child survival, AIDS and various other social causes. She has

been a role model to many women and has stood up for women in general and has brought to notice a number of issues affecting women in society.

She also carries forward the work started by her father, eminent poet and lyricist, Kafi Azmi, which is Mi-jwan Welfare Society (MWS) started in 1993 to empower women in rural India.



RANVEER SINGH TO BE THE FIRST GUEST ON BABA RAMDEV'S REALITY SHOW

Baba Ramdev is all set to come up with his musical reality show titled Om Shanti Om. Unlike the other reality shows, this one will be based on devotional music. The show will be judged by Sonakshi Sinha, music composer Shekhar Rav-jiani and singer Kanika Kapoor with Baba Ramdev as the mahajudge.

The latest buzz says that actor Ranveer Singh has been roped in to host the first ep-

isode of Om Shanti Om. In an interview with M u m - bai Mirror, a source close to the makers of the show revealed, "Ranveer has been roped in for the shubhaarambh episode, after which Aparshakti Khurana will take over as host. The actor will open the show by performing on the Gajanana song from his film Bajirao Mastani. He will also be introducing the show's 14 contestants."

NEWSMAKER!!!

ARIES: A friend could seem distant today, Aries, and probably won't be communicating with you much. Don't jump to the conclusion that your friend is upset with you. If anything, this person is probably worried about his or her job. Just be your usual friendly self, don't push, and go about your business. Your friend will talk when the time is right.

TAURUS: Are you picking up on some unsettling feelings from a friend who lives far away, Taurus? You may wonder if there's something wrong in this person's life. Perhaps you'd better give your friend a call. You'll probably find out that whatever is troubling him

or her is minor and nothing that can't be dealt with. Anyway, it will be good to catch up!

GEMINI: Is the stock market taking a nosedive again, Gemini? Is this causing you to worry about your investments? Relax! The situation is likely temporary, and your stocks and bonds will probably regain their former value, if not surpass it. However, this isn't a good day to make new investments or even to open a bank account. Wait a few days.

CANCER: Your love partner may be experiencing some minor conflicts with colleagues today. Cancer, and may seem distant and pre-occupied. The problem could well

pass by tomorrow, but your friend isn't likely to listen to any reassurance. Just make it clear that you're there if needed and then do something else. Your beloved may have to come to terms with this alone.

LEO: Recent overindulgence may have you to feel a bit under the weather this morning, Leo. Avoid coffee and other stimulants. Try to sleep in if you can. Too much stress in your life certainly isn't helping. This malaise could pass by noon, but if you've been doing this a lot lately, you need to ask yourself why and find a way to quit doing it.

VIRGO: Feelings of love for a romantic partner could be so over-

whelming today you might be moved to tears, Virgo. You will experience a lot of sensual passion, so an intimate evening together is definitely called for if you can arrange it. If it isn't possible, don't jump to the conclusion that your friend doesn't desire you anymore. If your friend claims to be busy, it's probably true.

LIBRA: Today the walls may seem to be closing in around you, and you're anxious to get out for a while, Libra. Your significant other could want nothing more than to stay in. Don't let this turn into a major issue. Find a compromise. Go out to dinner and then come home and watch TV. Enjoy your

time together! If single, get out and mingle.

SCORPIO: Some wonderful news may come to you today, Scorpio, and this could send you into such excitement that it's difficult to concentrate on the situation at hand. This is OK for a while. Your friends and loved ones will probably understand. But at some point you need to come down to Earth! Take a walk and work off the excitement. That might be just what you need.

SAGITTARIUS: A friend or colleague may pay you back a small sum of money that's owed to you, Sagittarius. You'll be thrilled, but you might feel a little guilty that

you plan to spend it on something frivolous instead of putting it toward your bills. This isn't worth the guilt. It isn't that much money, and you're entitled to a little frivolity now and then. Go for it!

CAPRICORN: Your home may seem lonely today, Capricorn, and love may seem to be absent. A family member, perhaps your love partner, could be away for the night, making the place seem far colder and emptier than it is. This isn't a good night to stay home. Go out and visit a friend or go to a movie. You need to keep yourself occupied until your partner returns.

AQUARIUS: Are you preoccupied today, Aquarius? Something

that means a lot to you could require some careful consideration so you might be quieter than usual. Loved ones may think that you're ill, upset, or even angry. Talk to them about what's on your mind. Let them know why you're quiet. That should relieve their fears and they might even be able to help.

PISCES: Money worries may plague you today, Pisces. There might not be any real reason. You may just be fretting over possible troubles that could come up. This is a pointless exercise. Cross that bridge when you come to it. Take steps to avoid this contingency if you wish, but don't waste time worrying. The stress isn't worth it.

TAYLOR SWIFT UNDERLINES 'REPUTATION' WITH NEW ALBUM



The unveiling of the US star's upcoming album comes after she successfully took a stand against a DJ for sex assault.

The first single from the US star's upcoming collection was set to hit the market this Friday. Returning to social media after disappearing late last week, the singer-songwriter posted the album's artwork online.

A black and white portrait is overlaid with newspaper-style text, in which her name appears again and again. It comes after videos of a writhing snake had also been posted on her accounts - believed to be a reference to a row she had with Kanye West last year.

Swift, 27, was compared to a snake after claiming she had not approved a lyric on West's track Famous. The words from the song were: "I feel like me and Taylor might still have sex. Why? I made that b**** famous."

However, a phone call between the rapper and Swift - posted on Snapchat by

West's wife, Kim Kardashian - appeared to show her giving her blessing. The album announcement comes a little over a week after her court victory, when a jury decided she had been groped by a radio host before a concert.

The legal battle, which led to the week-long trial at a court in Denver, Colorado, was sparked when DJ David Mueller attempted to sue Swift, her mother Andrea and an aide for up to \$3m (£2.3m). He claimed he had been slandered and had his career ruined after Swift's mother and the aide contacted his bosses about the allegation, follow-

ing which he was sacked. Swift, who was brought to tears at points during the trial, counter-sued Mueller in

the civil case for a symbolic \$1 (£77p) and the chance to stand up for other women.

She vowed to assist other victims of sexual assault following the court judgment. Reputation, due to be released on 10 November, will be Swift's sixth studio album, arriving three years after the multi-award winning 1989.

Named after the year of her birth, it became the fastest-selling album in the United States in a decade.

It also took the Grammy Award for Album of the Year.

what's TRENDING



KATY PERRY DRAFTS IN GAME OF THRONES AND GLEE STARS FOR MUSIC VIDEO TO ALLEGED TAYLOR SWIFT DISS TRACK

Katy Perry has dropped her music video for Swish Swish, the alleged diss track aimed at Taylor Swift.

Featuring Katy as 'Kobe Perry' a basketball player who is going up against a

rival team called T h e Sheeps in a championship match, the video also has a huge list of famous faces in it including Nicki Minaj, Molly Shannon, Game Of Thrones' Hafþór Júlíus Björnsson, NFL player Rob Gronkowski, and the ladies of GLOW (Sydelle Noel, Britney Young, Kia Stevens, Jackie Tohn).

But no Taylor Swift. On Monday Katy caused confusion among fans and a lot of theories when she tweeted of the upcoming video: 'COUNTDOWN TO CATASTROPHE!'

Catastrophe was of course Taylor's alter-ego's name in the video for Bad Blood which was her alleged diss track aimed at Katy.

The video comes just 12 hours after Taylor confirmed that she would be returning three years after her last album with a new EP that appears to deal with the backlash she received following

a public falling out with Kim Kardashian and Kanye West. Following a slew of cryptic snake teasers - a name which she was given by haters following the spat - Taylor announced her sixth album will be titled Reputation and will be released on November 10.

MUSICBUZZ!!!

