

# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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## JNV-Rohtak closed for 10 ten days, Dans Energy ordered to begin immediate protective works

*DC-West convinced that company is being a public nuisance*

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 12 AUG:**

The Rangit has been spate for the past week or so, and as the water in the 96 MW Jorethang Loop Hydroelectric Project reservoir rises, it has been lapping perilously close to the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya at Rohtak which has its campus along the banks of the river. The situation had grown so dire that the DC-West today directed that the school be shut for ten days during which immediate protective works are to be undertaken by

the project developer and the weather would also improve. Strict directions have been reiterated to the project developer as well.

While the toe erosion caused by the rise and ebb of the reservoir has been cleaving away at the campus boundary ever since the project was commissioned in October 2015, this season has been especially bad. Apart from having taken away a portion of the boundary wall, the erosion is now threatening one of the hostels in the school and has already led to the evacuation of the affected section.

The reservoir waters are barely three to four feet away

from the said section of the hostel which has now been evacuated. The school authorities are at pains in trying to accommodate the 24 boys in the remaining dorms. And while that may have been an inconvenience they could weather through, the continuing threat of unchecked erosion being caused by the reservoir has everyone worried.

Yesterday, the area MLA had visited the affected school and assured that emergency measures will be undertaken, and although the reservoir level was reduced today, a long-term solution will have to be contemplated with proper rim treatment.

As for the immediate measures, DC-West, Kapil Meena, while speaking to SummitTimes about the JNV, Rohtak, situation, informed that the company in question, Dans Energy Pvt Ltd, has been given "strict instructions to complete temporary accommodation construction within five days."

This temporary arrangement, the DC has ordered, should be "proper and adequate and per the requirements of the JNV school to be decided in consultation with the Principal".

The project developer, he informs, has also been directed to install floodlights by the riverside from where all residen-

tial areas are to be vacated.

The school, the DC informs, has been closed for 10 days starting today as a precautionary measure.

"Also, we have asked the company to immediately lower the reservoir water level to a safe limit," the DC informed.

The DC, it is informed, has convened a meeting to address the situation at the school and issued formal orders.

"All precautionary measures to be taken by company and they have informed the water levels have been reduced today afternoon plus agreed to take up the works from tomorrow," the DC informs.

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## Uncertainty hangs over border trade as Doklam impasse continues

**VISHNU NEOPANEY  
GANGTOK, 12 AUG:**

Eleven years of smooth border trade between India and China via Nathula on the eastern front of Sikkim, has been disrupted by the escalating tension between the two countries on Doklam a short distance away.

Border trade had resumed in 2006, 44 years since it was stopped in the wake of the 1962 war between India and China.

The army guarding the border has asked traders to refrain from carrying out trade across the border, Customs sources informed SummitTimes, adding that it was the Chinese who first stopped their traders from crossing the border without informing their Indian counterparts.

The Indian army then also decided to stop traders from crossing the border into Tibetan Autonomous Region in view of the ongoing tension between the two neighbours.

Trade across the bor-

der was last reported on 24 July, it is learnt.

Trade was affected during the month of July since the road between Gangtok and Nathula was blocked at several places.

While the Border Roads Organisation [BRO] was undertaking upgradation work for more than two weeks during which time trade could not take place, road blockades due to landslides on the Chinese side extended this period for another 10 days, informed traders in Gangtok.

Indo-China border trade was seeing a steady growth during the last three years as per the statistics maintained by the Central Board of Excise and Customs, Sherathang Station. Last year, exports and imports both had touched a record eight digit figures.

As the ongoing tension between the two Asian giants continues, uncertainty looms large over the resumption of Indo-China border trade.

*Centre urged to initiate dialogue to end Darjeeling imbroglio*

**DARJEELING (WB), AUG 12 (PTI):** The Gorkhaland Movement Coordination Committee (GMCC) today urged the Centre to initiate a dialogue with all stakeholders to restore normalcy in Darjeeling hills, where an indefinite shutdown entered its 59th day.

The shutdown in the hills will continue until and unless a "positive step" is taken to restore normalcy by the Centre, GMCC, apex body of 30 hill parties participating in the stir for a separate Gorkhaland, stated at an emergency meeting at Kalimpong.

"We urge the central government to initiate a dialogue process so that normalcy can be restored in the hills. If the state government is part of that process, we have no problems," GMCC convenor Kalyan Dewan told PTI after the meeting.

The committee condemned the recent arrests made by police and the area domination marches in the hills during the past few days.

Asked whether any decision had been taken on relaxing the shutdown on Independence Day, Dewan said, "It will be decided very soon after discussing it with all the hill parties and GJM president Bimal Gurung. But the people of the hills are patriots and we will celebrate Independence here. Every household will hoist the national flag and we will take out rallies carrying the tricolor".

Sources said sharp differences have cropped up between Gorkha Janamukti Morcha (GJM) and other hill parties in the GMCC over continuing the indefinite shutdown.

Parties like Jan Andolan Party (JAP) of former GJM spokesperson Harka Bahadur Chhetri which had earlier thrown its weight behind the protest and others are now in favour of withdrawing the shutdown in the hills, sources said.

## Raley school kids gift handmade cards to soldiers proceeding on duty

**SUMMIT REPORT  
MANGAN, 12 AUG:**

A video showing school kids lined up along the road gifting cards to army vehicles passing by has gone viral on social media. The video has been viewed 79,000 times and shared by 1744 people so far.

Students of Raley Junior High School, East Sikkim handed greeting cards to the passing army vehicles to thank them and convey good luck as they head to lend their services at their respective camps in the State.

The students thronged the highway below their school on the Mangan-Singtam road to offer the handmade cards to the soldiers.

Some of the messages read, "To the defender of the nation, our true hero" and "Your endless efforts for our country are inspiration for us all".



## Syok Bhir landslide: A Year Later

**WANGCHUK BHUTIA  
DZONGU, 12 AUG:**

The Syok Bhir landslide which occurred exactly 365 days ago on 13 Aug last year cut off several villages under the three Gram Panchayat Units of Upper Dzongu like Sakyong-Pentong, Tingvong and Lingthem-Lingdem.

On the anniversary of the landslide and creation of what is now known as the Mantam lake, let's take a look at what has been done so far.

### RELIEF AND REHABILITATION

Immediately after the disaster, the government pressed into action relief and rehabilitation measures while Non Governmental Organizations flocked to the area to provide services to the affected people. Countless functions were organized to raise funds and help the cut off villages in every way possible. Essential commodities were being ferried on motor rafts across the lake.

An alternate route to connect Lingdem and Kayam was opened recently. The government also sanctioned the bridge from Kayam to Tingvong since the bridge at Mantam was submerged in the lake.

### THE MANTAM LAKE CONUNDRUM

The people of the cut off villages have demanded that the lake be retained for tourism purposes hoping to open up livelihood opportunities for the people of the area in the field of tourism. They also filed a petition seeking retention of the lake in the High Court of Sikkim. On the other hand, the task force committee set up by the government advised draining of the lake for the safety of the people living downstream.

The process to drain the lake was begun but stopped a month later due to the onset of the monsoon season. However, they did control breaching from the left bank of river where blasting of big boulders was done.

### A YEAR LATER

The affected people of the landslide are still longing for a roof above their heads. Houses of the affected people are yet to be constructed as announced by the Chief Minister during his visit to the affected area post the landslide. Mantam Primary School which is currently functioning in Passingdang Secondary School is yet to be restored.

## Nirmal and Sanju to be felicitated on I-Day

**GANGTOK, 12 AUG:** Sikkim Football Association, in a press release, has announced the felicitation of footballers Nirmal Chettri and Sanju Pradhan at the finals of the Chogyal Sir Tashi Namgyal Memorial Cup at Paljor Stadium, Gangtok on 15 Aug.

"They are being recognized for their contribution in the development and popularization of football in Sikkim and setting a vision for the upcoming Sikkimese footballers," reads the release.

Mr Chettri and Mr Pradhan will be felicitated by Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, informs the release.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF STNMH

# ABHISHEK LEMO GURUNG

IN CONCERT

19 August 2017  
Manan Kendra  
5:00 PM

GUEST PERFORMERS  
EMRS Gangyap  
Neha & Smyrna  
Bamboo Groove

FINALIST OF THE STAGE

NEHA PRADHAN SMYRNA SAMTEN SHERPA GAURAV ASHISH VASHISHTHA ASHWINI

BAMBOO GROOVE

EMRS GANGYAP



## Cabinet sanctions

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 12 AUG:**

Cabinet meeting held on 12 Aug approved/sanctioned the following proposals. The details were posted on Chief Minister's Facebook page:

#### ENERGY AND POWER DEPARTMENT

1. Rs.82.56 lakhs for restoration and modernization of Rongnichu HEP, Topakhani.(Post facto)

2. Rs.23.04 lakhs for installation of 10KVA, 11/0.240 KV Sub-Station along with the drawing of new HT and LT lines for electrification of Siringchok village under Darap GPU, West Sikkim.

3. Rs.1129.94 lakhs for construction of 2x5 MVA, 66/11 KV Sub Station and drawing of 66KV LILO for 66 KV Phodong and Meyong at Mangan, North Sikkim.

4. Rs.1088 lakhs for construction of 132 KV GIS Bays at Powergrid 400/220/132 KV Poling Station at New Rangpo for the 132 KV Chuzachen to New Rangpo Double Circuit Transmission Line.

#### HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

5. Draft Amendment of Tashi Namgyal Academy Board Act, 1983 to be placed in the next session of the State Legislative Assembly.

6. Rs. 6734.44 lakhs for implementation of earmarked activities under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan for the financial year 2017-18.

7. Rs. 6377.834 lakhs for implementation of annual work plan and budget for the year 2017-18 for integrated Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan ,Vocational Education, ICTAT Schools and IEDSS schemes. (Post facto)

8. Rs.1038.68 lakhs for the implementation of Mid Day Meal programme and procurement of kitchen device to 97 Institutions under Mid Day Meal Scheme during 2017-18 in the State.

9. Rs.5,94,21,000/- for construction of Academic Block (Block-B) for State Council for Education Research and Training at Bur-tuk, East Sikkim.

10. Rs.10,54,65,000/- for construction of Science Block at Kamrang Government Degree College at Namchi, South Sikkim.

#### ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

11. Rs.30 lakhs to be released to Rodung Heritage Revival and Development Committee for completion of Mankhim at Lower Dalphchand, Rongli.

#### DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND HERITAGE

12. Rs.2333.954 lakhs for establishment of Chenrezig Shigkham 'Riwo Potala' at Sanga Choling, West Sikkim.

#### FOREST ENVIRONMENT AND WILD-LIFE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

13. Rs.47.30 crores for Annual Plan of Operation of JJICA- assisted Sikkim Biodiversity Conservation and Forest Management Project for 2017-18.

#### RURAL MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

14. The rectified list for construction/renovation of Rural Foot Bridges in Sikkim. Earlier Cabinet had sanctioned 147 new foot bridges and 82 repair/renovation of rural foot bridges, now after rectification the number of new foot bridges/repair and renovation stands at 145 and 81, respectively.

#### SOCIAL JUSTICE EMPOWERMENT AND WELFARE DEPARTMENT

15. Rs.597.62 lakhs for implementation of schemes under Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan for 2016-17.

16. Rs.250 lakhs for providing milk, eggs & dry fruits to AWC attending children and children of Child Care Institution under Supplementary Nutrition Programme.

17. Rs.384.80 lakhs for construction of Destitute Home (Child Care Institute) at Begha, Dentam, West Sikkim.

18. Rs.6,42,37,700/- towards conversion of 35 Government buildings of the State capital into barrier free environment for persons with disabilities under the implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act,1995.

19. Rs.900 lakhs for construction of two girls hostel and two schools as under:

(i) 100 bedded Girls hostel at Temi Sr. Sec. School, South Sikkim .

(ii) 100 beddedGirls hostel for Lepcha Girls at Kyongsa, West Sikkim .

(iii) 12 roomed school building at Rolep, East Sikkim.

(iv) 8 roomed school building for upgradation of Sadam Sr. Sec. School, South Sikkim.

#### FINANCE REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE DEPARTMENT

20. Enhancement of Dearness Allowance to the State Government Employees and Dearness relief to Pensioners from the existing 132% to 136% with effect from 1.1.2017 in accordance with the recommendation of 4th State Pay Commission.

#### URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT

21. Draft resolution for repeal of Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition Act), 1993.

22. Rs 45 lakhs for restoration of road connecting Lower Sichey to Indira Bye-Pass,Gangtok.

#### DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL, ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS, TRAINING AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES

23. Creation of six posts under the Sikkim State Human Rights Commission, one post each for LDC-cum Typist, Driver, Pro-

cess Server, Peon, Residential Orderly and Safai Karmachari.

#### DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

24. Rs.78.74 lakhs for implementation of the project on long term monitoring on Glacier Dynamics of East Rathong Glacier.

#### TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

25. Rs. 2,99,45,243/- for acquisition of four Tanker, four Non- AC buses and three AC buses from authorized dealers.

#### HEALTH CARE, HUMAN SERVICES & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT

26. Rs.1340 lakhs pertaining to State Flagship programmes, Grants-in-aid to various Councils, AMC/CMC for various hospital equipments during the current financial year 2017-18.

27. Rs.5308 lakhs for implementation of National Health Mission during the financial year 2017-18.

#### BUILDINGS AND HOUSING Deptt

28. Rs.55,25,920/- for vertical extension of Block (C) Prison Sub-Jail at Boomtar, Namchi, South Sikkim.

#### TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT

29. Rs.234.70 lakhs for payment of land compensation for Corridor of Passenger Ropeway at Namchi, South Sikkim.

30. Rs.38 lakhs for onward release to the Pang Lhabsol Celebration Committee(PLCC) for the construction of Dome for the Statue of Unity at Gangtok.

#### HORTICULTURE AND CASH CROP DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

31. Rs.3388.90 lakhs for implementation of Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States under MIDH for 2017-18.

#### HOME DEPARTMENT

32. Creation of one post of Law Clerk-cum Research Assistant under the High Court Establishment on a consolidated pay

of Rs.20,000/- per month.

#### DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL, ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS, TRAINING AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES

33. Restructuring of cadre strength of the Sikkim Public Service Commission (Staff) Regulation, 2010 from its existing 49 posts to 56 posts in different categories.

#### ROADS AND BRIDGES DEPARTMENT

34. Rs.264 lakhs for construction of link road from Tanak to Middle Tarku under Yangang sub-division in South Sikkim.

35. Rs.6167.05 lakhs for construction of 2-Lane Highway from Adampool to Ranka Sichey Road in East Sikkim.

36. Rs.2841.02 lakhs for 15 new works to be taken up during the year 2017-18.

#### RURAL MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

37. Rs.56.45 lakhs as matching State Share for implementation of National Rural Livelihood Mission by the Sikkim Rural Livelihood Mission in East and North Districts of Sikkim.

#### DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

38. Notifying the amended Right of Way Policy, which grants permission to the telecom service providers in the state like BSNL, Reliance, Vodafone etc for laying the telecom cables either underground or on overhead infrastructure.

#### DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, LIVESTOCK, FISHERIES AND VETERINARY SERVICES

39. Draft of The Sikkim Prevention of Cow Slaughter Bill, 2017 to be placed in the forthcoming Sikkim Legislative Assembly.

40. Rs.50 lakhs for distribution of piglets to 560 beneficiaries from 28 territorial constituencies of four districts of Sikkim.

41. Draft Bill for Demand for Excess Grants & Appropriation for 2010-11, 1st Supplementary Demands for Grants 2017-18.

### Training under Capacity Building & Technical Assistance scheme begins

#### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 12 AUG:**

The first leg of training under Capacity Building & Technical Assistance (CBTA) scheme of Ministry for Development of North Eastern Region in collaboration with training partner Global Vocational Training Institute officially began at the Livelihood Center at Akhil Rai Kirat Bhavan in Pipaley on 11 Aug, a press release informs.

Assistant Director of State Institute of Capacity Building, G.R. Subba elaborated the need of such placement oriented trainings and promised to provide all possible support to make the training a big success.

Global Vocational Training Institute team on the occasion counseled the first batch of 25 candidates and their guardians and also encouraged others to enroll for the residential training.

Under the scheme 510 candidates will be trained under two sectors including four job roles of Hair Stylist, Assistant Hair Stylist, Beauty Therapist and Assistant Beauty Therapist (Beauty and Wellness Sector) and Mobile Repairing and Direct to Home Services (Electronics Sector).

## SKM meeting forms ad-hoc committee to protest Sikkim-Darj merger issue

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 12 AUG:**

To protest the Sikkim-Darjeeling merger issue which was recently brought alive by a social media statement made by a senior RSS leader, Ashok Chaurasia, a meeting was held here at Deorali on Sunday.

The meeting was chaired by the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha acting president and MLA, Kunga Nima Lepcha and was attended by various organizations and political

parties of Sikkim except BJP and SDF.

The meeting thoroughly discussed and deliberated on the issue, informs an SKM press release issued by its general secretary, Birendra Tamling.

The release informs that the meeting decided to register a strong protest against the statement of the RSS leader and constituted an adhoc committee led by SKM working president, MP Subba as convener. To

decide future course of action another meeting is scheduled to be held on 14 August.

The meeting strongly condemned and criticized the statement of the RSS leader further adding that such statements will not be tolerated. The meeting also demanded clarification from the Sikkim Government and the Chief Minister at the earliest.

Questioning the silence of the state government on the issue,

it was stated during the meeting that the government needs to take this matter seriously.

Further alleging that attempts are being made to dilute Article 371F, the meeting urged political and non-political organisations to come together for the protection of Article 371F.

The meeting was attended by SKM working presidents MP Subba and Navin Karki, SPCC president, Bharat Basnet, SI-BLAC convener, Tseten

Tashi Bhutia, Gorkha Apex Committee convener, Passang Sherpa, NASBO convener, Phigu Tshering Bhutia, Taxi Drivers Association representatives, concerned citizens, OP Bhandari and members of various organisations.

The release informs that Sikkim Sangram Parishad sent a letter conveying its inability to attend the meeting due to ongoing month-long mourning of the party on the demise of its leader NB Bhandari.

### Freedom from Open Defecation programme at Poklong-Denchung continues

#### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 12 AUG:**

Continuing the week-long 'Freedom from Open Defecation' programme at Poklong-Denchung, Sikkim Legislative Assembly Speaker, K.N Rai attended today's function along with the Gram Panchayats, Block Development Officer, teachers, students and the local residents, a press release informs.

Mr Rai congratulated the panchayats, BDO and the attendees for their diligent work and commitment towards achieving the Open Defecation Free (ODF) status. Mr Rai spoke about suggestions to maintain ODF status and motivated the children to keep their environment clean and green. He also advised the taxi drivers to inform the passengers to use public toilets.

The Speaker congratulated the students who wholeheartedly took part in the various categories during the event and urged them to strive for excellence.

The day's program started with a marathon to celebrate the status of Sikkim as ODF state in which 42 students participated. Dhan Kumar Jogi, Sunil Sharma and Bijay Rai stood first, second and third, respectively. They were awarded with cash prize,

certificate and trophies.

Priya Rai from Nandugaon Senior Secondary School, Pranam Bano from Jorethang Senior Secondary School and Roshni Koirala from Salgari Secondary School secured first, second and third positions, respectively in the essay competition organized to observe the Swachhata function.

The winners of the inter-school dance competition were also rewarded on the occasion. Nandugaon Primary School and Nandugaon Senior Secondary School were awarded with cash prize, certificate and trophy for their performance in the competition.

The Block also felicitated owners who had constructed the best toilets under the Individual Household Latrine (IHHL) scheme. They were presented with certificates of appreciation, gift hampers comprising of toiletries in order to encourage proper hygiene practice in the area.

During the course of the program distribution of Chief Minister's Rural Housing Mission (CM-RHM) allotment orders were also done and the selected beneficiaries were given suggestions to undertake and give topmost priority to the construction of toilets, says the release .

### Golay admitted at CRH Tadong

#### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 12 AUG:**

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha leader, PS Tamang [Golay] was admitted in Central Referral Hospital, Tadong early this morning following complaints of ill-health.

He was first taken to STNM Hospital from Rongyek State Jail where he was placed under judicial custody after he sur-

rendered to the Sessions Court on Thursday.

Mr Tamang had been convicted in a corruption case more than a month ago but had not been taken into custody since he was out of station undergoing treatment.

STNM doctors examined him for multiple complications following which they referred him to CRH for treatment by specialists.

### DC-South reviews essential commodities stock in South

**NAMCHI, 12 AUG (IPR):**

A meeting to review the availability of essential commodities in South district was held today under the chairmanship of District Collector, South.

Along with the DC (South), Senior Superintendent of Police (South), Joint Directors of Animal Husbandry, Livestock, Fisheries and Veterinary Services, Agriculture and Horticulture Department, Sub Divisional Magistrate (HQ), Station Head Master (Namchi) and District Civil Supplies Officer were present in the meeting.

As per the directions of the DC, SDM and SDPO Ravangla have been keeping check on the distribution of High Speed Diesel and Motor Spirit in the district. They have been directed to monitor the availability of fuel

and ration.

As per the report of Chief Medical Officer (South) the district is in short supply of essential medicines. Necessary requisitions for essential medicines have already been submitted to the head office.

As reported by the DCSO/S, LPG supply in the district is 'fine'. The DCSO has been directed to conduct a meeting with all the whole sellers of the market to get the list of required essential commodities. The supply of meat and vegetables in the district was reported as adequate by the DCSO.

CMO South has been directed to conduct a meeting with all the medicine vendors and inform them to keep stock of medicines for emergency purposes.

### NOTICE

As directed by State Home Department, this is for the information of the public that carrying of water bottles during the Independence Day Celebration 2017 at Paljor Stadium is strictly prohibited.

- IPR Department, GoS

### Swachhta Pakhwada observed at Pentok

**Mangan, 12 Aug (IPR):** District Sports and Youth Affairs Department, North Sikkim observed the nationwide campaign of Swachhta Pakhwada 'One Step Towards Cleanliness' at District Administrative Complex, Pentok here today.

The programme was jointly sponsored by National Service Scheme Cell, Sports and Youth Affairs (Gangtok) and Rural Management and Development Department, Mangan.

Additional District Collector (Dev), Tashi Chopel was present as the chief guest along with Sub Divisional Magistrate (Mangan), P.W Lepcha, Human Resource Development Department officials, members of Mangan Nagar Panchayat (MNP), Forest staff and students of Mangan School actively participated in the drive.

During the cleanliness drive, the NSS cell cleaned toilets of DAC complex, Pentok and drains of surrounding areas. Apart from cleanliness drive, the organizing committee also organized a plantation drive.

### No plans of Sikkim-Darj merger, says BJP's Ram Madhav

#### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 12 AUG:**

A team of Bharatiya Janta Party Sikkim Unit led by its president, DB Chauhan met BJP National General Secretary, Ram Madhav in New Delhi today.

A press release from the party informs that Mr Madhav condemned

news reports suggesting Sikkim-Darjeeling merger as baseless and assured that there is no such plan of the Centre.

BJP Sikkim has said that it will not allow such a thing to happen and further expressed faith that the Centre will not undermine the sentiments of Sikkimese people.

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# West Point's Pretisha Tamang wins State Level Science Seminar competition

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 12 AUG:**

State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), Sikkim organised a State Level Science Seminar competition at Modern Senior Secondary School on 10 Aug, a press release from State Project Director of Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, Bhim Thatal informs.

The topic of the seminar was 'Swachh Bharat: Role of Science and Technology Promises and

Challenges'. Twelve students, three from each of the four districts participated in the seminar.

One student each from Tharpu Senior Secondary School, Hee Yangthang Senior Secondary, Buriakhop Senior Secondary School, Singhik Secondary School, Mangan Senior Secondary School, Sonam Choda Memorial Secondary School, Dzongu, Namchi Senior Secondary School, Melli Bazaar Secondary School, West Point Senior

Secondary School, Deorali Girls Senior Secondary School and Rangpo Senior Secondary School participated in the seminar.

The 12 participating students were selected from the district level seminar competition held at Soreng, Mangan. Namchi and Gangtok, last month.

Human Resource Development Minister, R.B. Subba attended the seminar as the chief guest. In his address Mr Subba appreciated the level of

competence and confidence exhibited by all student presenters.

He also praised the hard work of escort teachers for their support and guidance. The Minister also expressed happiness on the fact that Sikkim was successful in getting more than 70% of the 'Atal Tinkering Lab' scheme sanctioned for North Eastern States.

Pretisha Tamang of West Point Senior Secondary School was adjudged as the best

speaker securing the first position while Chetuk Lepcha from Deorali Girls Senior Secondary School and Priya Chhetri from Tharpu Senior Secondary School Tharpu were adjudged second and third best speakers, respectively.

Pretisha Tamang will now represent Sikkim at the National level Science Seminar to be held at Bir-la Industrial and Technological Museum (BITM), Kolkata on 09 Nov.



## Startup Harbour organizes workshop on GST for local entrepreneurs

**PALZOR MACHUNGPA  
GANGTOK, 12 AUG:**

Sikkim's entrepreneur's port, Startup Harbour on 11 Aug organized a workshop on Goods and Service Tax (GST) here at the capital. Hotel New Orchid by Voyage Hospitality in Development Area hosted the session which had Chartered Accountant, Rohit Khandelwal as the resource person of the workshop.

About 15 entrepreneurs from Gangtok attended the session wherein the concept of GST and different tax rates that will apply to several goods and services especially on newly formed startups were explained by Mr Khandelwal.

The Goods and Services Tax (GST), which came into effect from 01 July, requires all e-commerce businesses to register under the new tax regime.

"Even though the new tax has come into effect, many businesses have not prepared themselves



for GST. They are unaware of it and this workshop was conducted to make sure those local entrepreneurs were aware about GST," founder of Startup Harbour and NE Taxi, Rewaj Chettri shared.

"The level of unpreparedness is even greater among small businesses and tiny outfits. Many small entrepreneurs feel they can bypass the GST. That is true, but this ex-

emption comes with its own set of problems. Even if you are a small business, get yourself registered," he further says.

Startup Harbour also welcomed some new members on the occasion.

Speaking about the session they said, "The energy and support was something else. Great insights and amazing people. Overall a very good session."

## Burtuk JHS wins interschool football tourney at Rongyek



**SAGAR CHETTRI  
GANGTOK, 12 AUG:**

Burtuk Junior High School has blifted the champions' trophy of Inter School Football Tournament [junior high school level] held at Rongyek JHS ground in East Sikkim.

In the final match played today, Burtuk JHS outplayed Upper Shyari JHS in a tie-breaker. The full time score line was 1-1 and the match entered into a tie-breaker through penalty shoot out.

The tournament was organised by Rongyek JHS from 03 Aug as a part of its golden jubilee celebration. Nine junior high schools had

participated in the tournament.

The school situated in Dcheling, East Sikkim is all set to celebrate its golden jubilee in October this year.

Former Minister, Rinzing Ongmu, who was present as the chief guest, congratulated the school on the completion of 50 years of its establishment. She appealed to the people of the area to provide constant support to the school in all possible ways.

The winning and the runners up team were awarded with medals, trophies and cash prize. The winner's trophy was donated by Robin Tamang in memory of his

father Late Habbu Tamang. Likewise the runner-up trophy and cash prize was donated by Jeevan Lama, a local resident in the memory of his father Late CD Lama.

Lakpa Norbu Sherpa of 04th Mile JHS was adjudged as the Man of the Tournament, while Abhishek Ghatani of Rongyek JHS was awarded with Highest Scorer for his 6 goals and Pravash Gurung of Upper Shyari JHS awarded with Best Goalkeeper trophy.

Man of the Match trophy was presented to Kailash Tamang, Upper Syari JHS and Namong Arithang JHS was awarded as the Most Disciplined Team.

## Sensitization program on Lok Adalat held

**NITESH R PRADHAN  
GANGTOK, 12 AUG:**

A sensitization program on Lok Adalat, cognizance of cases by Lok Adalat and procedure of the judicial officers and members of the bar was held today at the Sikkim State Legal Services Authority (SSLA) premises in the capital.

The program held deliberations on various topics touching upon the legal aspects of rules and regulations that govern the functioning of the

Lok Adalats to sensitize the judicial officers and members of the law fraternity.

SLSA executive chairperson and High Court of Sikkim judge, Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai addressed the gathering and informed the audience on various aspects and questions on the powers and functioning of the Lok Adalats.

She said that for final settlement of cases many have to approach the court which gives a

wrong idea of the Lok Adalats. Even to completely settle the cases we do not want to go to the courts, she said.

She further informed the audience that the SLSA panel advocates are always available to provide free legal aid to certain sections like Scheduled castes, Scheduled tribes, women, victims of natural disasters, laborers and other economically backward sections. "We have made groups to disseminate

information on legal aid however there is still a lack of awareness," she informed.

Deliberations were also held by High Court of Sikkim Judge (Lok Adalat), Justice AP Subba, who held that the concept of judicial aid is not clear.

He also said that there are limitations of judicial powers in certain matters especially in matrimonial matters whereby when the husband fails to pay alimony

to the wife due to poor financial condition, the husband goes to civil prison.

There were also queries from the judicial officers in the interactive session of the program.

"Such programs need to be held at the mass level so that the benefits reach poorest of the poor," said Advocate Krishna Bhattarai.

The program was attended by judicial officers, bureaucrats and members of the SLSA.

## ARC Shillong in finals of I-Day football tourney

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 12 AUG:**

Defending champions, ARC Shillong have once again managed to secure its berth in the finals of the Independence Day Football Tournament for Chogyal Sir Tashi Namgyal Memorial Cup here at Paljor Stadium.

In a contesting semi-final match played today, ARC Shillong outplayed Sikkim Aakraman Football Club 2-0. With the help of P Ajit Kumar's

goal in the 15th minute, ARC Shillong finished the first half with 1-0 lead. P Ajit Kumar completed his brace in the 81st minute and sealed the 2-0 victory for ARC Shillong.

The home team played their hearts out but could not convert any chance into goals.

The second semi-final match will be played between the State Sports Academy and Royal United Sikkim Sporting Club on Sunday.

## Pendam FA makes finals of Late Laxman Pradhan Memorial football tourney

**YOGEN THATAL  
SINGTAM, 12 AUG:**

The first semi final match of the ongoing Late Laxman Pradhan Memorial

Open Football Tournament was played today between Pendam FA and Howlers Sporting FC at Golitar football ground.

Both the teams scored three goals each till full-time. However, Pendam FA emerged victorious after

its goalkeeper saved two goals in the penalty shoot out to break the tie.

Similarly, in the first semi final match of Late Menu Pradhan Memorial

Inter School Open Boys Football Tournament, Bardang Secondary School outplayed Middle Camp School to progress to the finals of the tourney.



**Government of Sikkim  
SIR THUTOB NAMGYAL MEMORIAL HOSPITAL  
Gangtok, Sikkim**

Ref No. 13/G.H./STNM/17

Dated: 7.8.2017

### NOTICE INVITING QUOTATION

The sealed quotations are invited from the registered firms for uninterrupted supply of Janani Sishu Suraksha Karyakaram (JSSK) drugs and consumables under Maternal and Child Health of National Health Mission for the year 2017-18.

#### Terms and Condition

- The Medical Shop located within the radius of 200 meters of STNM Hospital, Gangtok.
- Valid Trade License issued by authorised government agency and should possess necessary Diploma Certificate in Pharmacy from reputed and recognized institute.
- Medical Shop should be opened for 24x7.
- Medical Shop Signboard displayed for easy identification.
- The Tender detail and other documents can be obtained from the office of Accounts Officer, STNM Hospital on any working days from 21st August 2017 to 23 rd August 2017 from 11 am to 3 pm on production of Bank Challan of Rs.5000/-duly signed by Accounts Officer credited under head 0210-01-800 other receipt.
- The firm shall deposit TDR of Rs.100000/- (One Lakh) in favour of AO, STNM Hospital for the supply of JSSK drugs and consumables from SBS along with the sealed quotation. The department will not liable to pay the interest on the said amount.
- The duly filled Tender Document should reach the Office of Director cum Medical Superintendent within 12.30 pm of 29th August 2017. The Tender received after 12.30 pm of 29th august 2017 will not entertain.
- The sealed quotation will be opened on the same day at 2.00 pm in the Office of Director cum Medical Superintendent.
- Terms and condition shall be applicable as per the general purchase condition and details will be indicated in the tender form.
- The department committee reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender without assigning any reasons thereof.
- For further information visit the office of the undersigned.

Sd/-

(Dr. K.B. Gurung, MD).

Director cum Medical Superintendent

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# SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

## On Mantam Slide's First Anniv

**Make a resolve to prepare better, notice quicker**

Today, 13 August 2017, marks the first anniversary of the calamitous Mantam landslide when the entire cliff opposite 4th Mile Mantam in Dzongu, North Sikkim, suffered a slope failure and collapsed. The bhir thankfully crumbled at a safe distance from the nearest habitation and did not cause any casualties. It was however still close and dramatic enough to be captured on smartphones and the frightening visuals and videos were circulated widely on social media. The material loss at Mantam, a habitation of around 24 homes, has been substantial. The settlement was battered by extremely violent headwinds of the landslide, suffered through the confusion of zero visibility caused by the fine-as-talc dust kicked up by the landslide and watched Rongnue Chu, a friendly stream, turn into 3km long lake dammed up behind a nearly 300 feet high dam of debris. Parts of 4th Mile, Mantam, now sit under the lake and road connectivity to villages on the far bank remains disrupted. The trauma of the displaced is not as worrisome as it could have been because most of the residents had another home at a higher location or have managed alternative since then. But they did lose a lot to the slide and even if the material losses can be compensated, unquantifiable damages of having lost surroundings they had grown used to or classrooms the children were familiar with must have left a void.

The incident has also remained in the headlines with the High Court having stepped in to keep track of relief and rehabilitation and experts brought in to decide the fate of the dammed up lake. These processes are underway and while one could argue that more local expertise should have been involved in the form of traditional knowledge holders and geological experts who know this terrain intuitively from the years spent working here, we leave that argument for a later time. Hopefully, the present set of experts will find a workable solution, but since that has not happened yet, maybe the concerned agencies will seek out better counsel once the rains have subsided.

In the meanwhile, what is important if for the lessons slammed home by the slope failure at Mantam are learnt well. The slope had started peeling away on 02 August 2016 itself, collapsing in massive heaps which sprayed sludge and spatter on the road on the opposite hill. Despite this dramatic display, the disaster management "experts" remained oblivious to the potential disaster in the making. This process continued for ten days, until, on the eleventh day since the slide had begun, on a clear cloudless day, the entire cliff face tore away and crashed a heap. Sikkim has traditionally been natural disaster prone, its geography and weather patterns collaborating to deliver as many fearsome slides and rattles as the bounties that one finds here. And yet, for a place which has a natural disaster for every season, Sikkim remains staggeringly casual about preventive measures. It is also very poor when it comes to mitigation, and it is thanks only to its small size of affected people and big hearts of conscientious officers that the fallouts of disasters are not worse than what they have potential for. When it comes to preparation, the first requirement should be area-specific list of potential threats, preventive measures to keep those threats at bay and a checklist of things to do in worst-case-scenarios and a sequence by which the level of alarm and preparedness goes up. These should be worked in detail down to the ward level, but have obviously not been done at any scale anywhere beyond documents which speak in vague generalities. These documents should be given to village elders to draft because they know the history of natural disasters in their respective areas, still remember the traditional safeguards the communities had worked into their lifestyles, and, well, will be motivated more by the greater common good than the civil-works priorities which might influence the less public-spirited consultants. That is really where Sikkim's preparation for disasters needs to begin. That has not happened yet.

Today, as Sikkim marks the first anniversary of the Mantam collapse, it could resolve to prepare itself better, notice things quicker and know what to do.

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

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

# Even a 'minor' nuclear war would be an ecological disaster felt throughout the world

DAVID MCCOY  
*theconversation.com*

US President Donald Trump's vow to hit North Korea with "fire and fury like the world has never seen" is an unveiled threat to unleash America's most potent weapons of mass destruction onto the Korean peninsula. According to many defence analysts, the risk of nuclear confrontation over Europe and the Indian subcontinent has also increased in recent years.

In a more hopeful turn of events, 122 countries voted in June to adopt the United Nations Treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons in New York. The "ban treaty" will make nuclear weapons illegal for ratifying countries, and many see it as an opportunity to kick start a renewed effort towards multilateral disarmament. Supporters of the treaty argue that even a limited, regional nuclear war would produce a catastrophic and global humanitarian crisis.

Equally, other analysts suggest that the reality is not as severe as is often depicted. In March this year, Matthias Eken, a researcher of attitudes towards nuclear weapons, wrote in *The Conversation* that their destructive power "has been vastly exaggerated" and that one should avoid overusing "doomsday scenarios and apocalyptic language".

Eken argued that nuclear weapons are not as powerful as often described, on the basis that a 9 megaton thermonuclear warhead dropped over the state of Arkansas would only destroy 0.2% of the state's surface area. He also observed that more than 2,000 nuclear detonations have been made on the planet without having ended human civilisation, and argued that if we want to mitigate the risk posed by nuclear weapons, we must not exaggerate those risks.

Eken's sanguine approach towards nuclear weapons stands in contrast to the more dramatic rhetoric of global humanitarian catastrophe and existential threats to humanity. So what is the basis for the latter?

### NUCLEAR WAR IS ALSO A WAR ON THE ENVIRONMENT

The greatest concern derives from relatively new research which has modelled the indirect effects of nuclear detonations on the environment and

climate. The most-studied scenario is a limited regional nuclear war between India and Pakistan, involving 100 Hiroshima-sized warheads (small by modern standards) detonated mostly over urban areas. Many analysts suggest that this is a plausible scenario in the event of an all-out war between the two states, whose combined arsenals amount to more than 220 nuclear warheads.

In this event, an estimated 20m people could die within a week from the direct effects of the explosions, fire, and local radiation. That alone is catastrophic – more deaths than in the entire of World War I.

But nuclear explosions are also extremely likely to ignite fires over a large area, which coalesce and inject large volumes of soot and debris into the

of famine.

Although a nuclear conflict involving North Korea and the US would be smaller, given Pyongyang's limited arsenal, many people would still die and ecological damage would severely affect global public health for years. Additionally, any nuclear conflict between the US and North Korea is likely to increase the risk of nuclear confrontation involving other states and other regions of the world.

### IT GETS WORSE

A large-scale nuclear war between the US and Russia would be far worse. Most Russian and US weapons are 10 to 50 times stronger than the bombs that destroyed Hiroshima. In a war involving the use of the two nations' strategic nuclear

weapons (those intended to be used away from battlefield, aimed at infrastructure or cities), some 150m tonnes of soot could be lofted into the upper atmosphere. This would reduce global temperatures by 8°C – the "nuclear winter" scenario. Under these conditions, food production would stop and the vast majority of the human race is likely to starve.

Eken suggests that both the scenarios of a limited regional nuclear conflict and an all-out war between US and Russia are unlikely. He may be right. However, both scenarios are possible, even if we can't reliably quantify the risk. Continued adversarial rhetoric from both Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un about the use of nuclear weapons is not making this possibility any smaller.

What we can say, is that the doctrine of nuclear deterrence represents a high-risk gamble. Nuclear weapons do not keep us safe from acts of terrorism, nor can they be used to fight sea level rise, extreme weather, ocean acidification, biodiversity loss or antimicrobial resistance.

This is why so many medical and public health organisations have been campaigning to make nuclear weapons illegal. Regardless of how many need to be exploded to cause a catastrophe or produce an existential threat to humanity, and regardless of the risk of this happening, the adage that "prevention is the best cure" remains the case when it comes to these abhorrent and dangerous weapons.

*[the writer is Professor of Global Public Health, Queen Mary University of London]*



A boy looks at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park on the 72nd anniversary of the bomb, August 2017.

stratosphere. In the India-Pakistan scenario, up to 6.5m tonnes of soot could be thrown up into the upper atmosphere, blocking out the sun and causing a significant drop in average surface temperature and precipitation across the globe, with effects that could last for more than a decade.

This ecological disruption would, in turn, badly affect global food production. According to one study, maize production in the US (the world's largest producer) would decline by an average by 12% over ten years in our given scenario. In China, middle season rice would fall by 17% over a decade, maize by 16%, and winter wheat by 31%. With total world grain reserves amounting to less than 100 days of global consumption, such effects would place an estimated 2 billion people at risk

# How eclipses were regarded as omens in the ancient world

GONZALO RUBIO  
*theconversation.com*

On Monday, August 21, people living in the continental United States will be able to see a total solar eclipse.

Humans have been alternatively amused, puzzled, bewildered and sometimes even terrified at the sight of this celestial phenomenon. A range of social and cultural reactions accompanies the observation of an eclipse. In ancient Mesopotamia (roughly modern Iraq), eclipses were in fact regarded as omens, as signs of things to come.

### Solar and lunar eclipses

For an eclipse to take place, three celestial bodies must find themselves in a straight line within their elliptical orbits. This is called a syzygy, from the Greek word "súzygos," meaning yoked or paired.

From our viewpoint on Earth, there are two kinds of eclipses: solar and lunar. In a solar eclipse, the moon passes in between the sun and Earth, which results in blocking our view of the sun. In a lunar eclipse, it is the moon that crosses through the shadow of the Earth. A solar eclipse can completely block our view of the sun, but it is usually a brief event and can be observed only in certain areas of the Earth's surface; what can be viewed as a total eclipse in one's hometown may just be a partial eclipse a few hundred miles away.

By contrast, a lunar eclipse can be viewed throughout an entire hemisphere of the Earth: the half of the surface of the planet that happens to be on the night side at the time.

### ECLIPSES AS OMENS

More than two thousand years ago, the Babylonians were able to calculate that there were 38 possible eclipses or syzygies within a period of 223 months: that is, about 18 years. This period of 223 months is called a Saros

cycle by modern astronomers, and a sequence of eclipses separated by a Saros cycle constitutes a Saros series.

Although scientists now know that the number of lunar and solar eclipses is not exactly the same in every Saros series, one cannot underplay the achievement of Babylonian scholars in understanding this astronomical phenomenon. Their realization of this cycle eventually allowed them to predict the occurrence of an eclipse.

The level of astronomical knowledge achieved in ancient Babylonia (southern Mesopotamia) cannot be separated from the astrological tradition that regarded eclipses as omens: Astronomy and astrology were then two sides of the same coin.

**RITUALS TO PREEMPT ROYAL FATE** According to Babylonian scholars, eclipses could foretell the death of the king. The conditions for an omen to be considered as such were not simple. For instance, according to a famous astronomical work known by its initial words, "Enūma Anu Enlil" – "When (the gods) Anu and Enlil" – if Jupiter was visible during the eclipse, the king was safe. Lunar eclipses seem to have been of particular concern for the well-being and survival of the king.

In order to preempt the monarch's fate, a mechanism was devised: the "substitute king ritual," or "šar pūhi." There are over 30 mentions of this ritual in various letters from Assyria (northern Mesopotamia), dating to the first millennium B.C. Earlier references to a similar ritual have also been found in texts in Hittite, the Indo-European language for which we have the earliest written records, dating to second-millennium Anatolia – modern-day Turkey.

### SAVING THE KING

In this ritual, a person would be chosen to replace the king. He would be dressed like the king and placed on the throne. To avoid confusion with a

real coronation, all this would occur alongside the recitation of the negative omen triggered by the observation of the eclipse.

The real king would keep a low profile and avoid being seen. If no additional negative portents were observed, the substitute king was put to death, therefore fulfilling the prophetic reading of the celestial omen while saving the life of the real king. This ritual would take place when an eclipse was observed or even predicted, something that became possible to do in later periods. The presence of this ritual among the corpus of Hittite texts in second-millennium Anatolia has led to the assumption that it must have existed already in Mesopotamia during the first half of the second millennium B.C.

### A LEGEND

Although omens predicting the death of the king are already known for this earlier period, the truth is that the main basis for such an assumption is an interesting story preserved only in a much later, first-millennium composition known by modern scholars as the "Chronicle of Early Kings."

According to this late chronicle, a king of the city of Isin (modern Iṣān Bahriyāt, about 125 miles to the southeast of Baghdad), Erra-imitti, was replaced by a gardener called Enlil-bani as part of a substitute king ritual. Luckily for this gardener, the real king died while eating hot soup, so the gardener remained on the throne and became king for good.

The fact is that these two kings, Erra-imitti and Enlil-bani, did exist and reigned successively in Isin during the 19th century B.C. The story, however, as told in the late "Chronicle of Early Kings," bears all the trademarks of a legend. The story was probably devised to explain a dynastic switch, in which the royal office

passed from one family or lineage to another, instead of following the usual father-son line of succession.

### LOOKING FOR MEANING IN THE SKIES

Mesopotamia was not unique in this regard. For instance, a chronicle of early China known as the "Bamboo Annals" (Zhùshū Jǐnián) refers to a total lunar eclipse that took place in 1059 B.C., during the reign of the last king of the Shang dynasty. This eclipse was regarded as a sign by a vassal king, Wen of the Zhou dynasty, to challenge his Shang overlord.

In the later account contained in the "Bamboo Annals," an eclipse would have triggered the political and military events that marked the transition from the Shang to the Zhou dynasty in ancient China. As in the case of the Babylonian "Chronicle of Early Kings," the "Bamboo Annals" are a history of earlier periods compiled at a later time. The "Bamboo Annals" were allegedly found in a tomb about A.D. 280, but they purport to date to the reign of the King Xiang of Wei, who died in 296 B.C.

The complexity of human events is rarely constrained and determined by one single factor. Nevertheless, whether in ancient Mesopotamia or in early China, eclipses and other omens provided contemporary justifications, or after-the-fact explanations, for an entangled set of variables that decided a specific course of history.

Even if they mix astronomy and astrology, or history with legend, humans have been preoccupied with the inescapable anomaly embodied by an eclipse for as long as they have looked at the sky.

*[the writer is Associate Professor of Classics & Ancient Mediterranean Studies, History, and Asian Studies, Pennsylvania State University]*





A landslide along the National Highway near Geil khola has washed away around 45 meters of road formation. However, vehicles are passing through the narrow stretch of road that still remains.

Protests demanding Nagaland gov's ouster on for second day

**KOHIMA, AUG 12 (PTI):** The Naga People s Front demanding ouster of Nagaland Governor P B Acharya for allegedly creating a constitutional crisis in the state by installing the T R Zeliang government continued its agitation for the second day today.

"The unconstitutional ly installed Zeliang s ministry should be dismissed and the Governor recalled so as to protect the Constitution," NPF Legislature Party leader Kuzholuzo Azo Nienu told the party's Central Youth Wing workers who are on a sit-in outside the Raj Bhavan here.

"The governor has violated the entire constitutional provisions in unconstitutionally installing the T R Zeliang government, and therefore he should be immediately recalled by the Government of India," he said.

Azo said the present move by NPF dissidents is a copy of the one in 2015, when 22 party MLAs, including himself, had tried to pull down the then Zeliang ministry by choosing Kaito as the new leader and himself as the NPF party whip.

The present imbroglio within NPF started following a dissident move against the Liezietsu government by 36 NPF MLAs led by Zeliang on July 8 last.

The governor had dismissed the Liezietsu government for failing to turn up for the confidence vote in the assembly on July 19 and had appointed Zeliang as the new chief minister, who proved his majority in the house on July 21.

CONTACT

Summit TIMES

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9832556698,

9832369520

Yi awareness campaign in schools to shield children from abuse

**KOLKATA, AUG 12 (PTI):** A series of awareness sessions are being held in schools across West Bengal under the nation-wide Project Masoom which is aimed at protecting children from sexual abuses.

The sessions are being held by Young Indians (Yi) Kolkata, the youth wing of CII, and would benefit 8075 children, 'Chair' of Yi Kolkata Chapter Alifiya Calcuttawala said today.

The chief objective of the exercise is to spread greater awareness about

Very heavy rains lash sub-Himalayan Bengal dists

**KOLKATA, AUG 12 (PTI):** Very heavy rains continued to lash sub-Himalayan districts of West Bengal with several places receiving extremely heavy precipitation leading to a deluge, the weather department said today.

Very heavy to extremely heavy rains occurred at most places in Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar and Alipurduar districts, while heavy to very heavy rain occurred at many places over Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts, the regional Met department said here.

The highest rainfall in the state was recorded at Hasimara in Alipurduar district at 480 mm, it said.

Other places in north Bengal which recorded extremely heavy precipitation are Buxaduar (450 mm), Barobisha (440 mm), Alipurduar town (390 mm), Jalpaiguri (290 mm), Domohani (250 mm), Cooch Behar (230 mm), Murti (200 mm) and Mathabhanga (190 mm).

Several rivers in the region are in spate and low-lying areas have been flooded owing to

the extremely heavy rains, they said.

The weatherman has forecast heavy to very heavy rains at a few places with extremely heavy downpour at isolated places over Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar, Alipurduar and Kalimpong districts for the next three days.

The districts in Gangetic West Bengal, where the monsoon is active, are likely to receive few spells of rains or thundershower. The sky would remain overcast for the next three days, the Met department said.

Tika Maya Subba Meritorious Award



**SUMMIT REPORT KITAM, 12 AUG:**

**T**ika Maya Subba Meritorious Award Trust organised its annual meritorious award function today at the Community Hall of Munal Club. CBSE toppers from Kitam Se-

nior Secondary School were felicitated on the occasion.

Manisha Gurung of Class X and Jitendra Kumar of Class XII were conferred with the 04th Tika Maya Subba Meritorious Award.

On the occasion, Ki-

tam-Manpur Employees Welfare Society was also felicitated by Kitam-Manpur Gram Panchayat in recognition of their service in upholding the prestige of Kitam in their maiden term after the creation of the Gram Panchayat Unit in 2012.

SDF health wing organizes free eye-camp at Gyalshing

**GYALSHING, 12 AUG:** Sikhim Democratic Front party's Health Wing organized a free eye-camp at District Hospital, Gyalshing in West Sikkim today.

The paramedical team comprises of eye specialists from Birat Eye Hospital, Biratnagar, Nepal along with the medical staff from Gyalshing District Hospital.

A similar eye camp was held on 09 and 10 Aug at Soreng.



India fully equipped to face any challenge: MoS PMO on Doklam standoff

**JAMMU, AUG 12 (PTI):** Union minister Jitendra Singh today played down the heightened rhetoric by Beijing over the Doklam standoff, stating that India was fully equipped to face any challenge.

He said the government was confident about the steps it was taking in this regard.

"We are well equipped to face any challenge whether externally or internally," Singh told reporters here.

The MoS PMO was

responding to a question about the recent 'threat' by China through its official media asking India to withdraw troops from the Sikkim sector.

"I think for us the more important thing is to see what we are doing. I am not here to respond to what somebody is tweeting from the opposition parties. We are confident about what we are doing," he said.

China had recently said that it had conveyed its firm stand to India that it must take "concrete

actions" by immediately pulling back troops from Doklam in the Sikkim section with "no strings attached" to resolve the current standoff.

The BJP leader also said that the government was giving "befitting reply" with regard to ceasefire violations on the Indo-Pakistan border, and was dealing with terrorism in Kashmir with a "stern hand".

The Union minister also hailed the "proactive" role of security forces on the borders.

36 killed in floods and landslides in Nepal

**SHIRISH B PRADHAN KATHMANDU, AUG 12 (PTI):**

**A**t least 36 people were killed and 12 others missing in floods and landslides triggered by incessant rainfall in several districts across Nepal, officials said today.

According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, seven persons were killed in Sunsari district

in southern Nepal. Four persons were killed in Sindhuli, four each in Jhapa and Sindhuli districts, three each in Banke, Morang and Panchthar districts and the rest others in different districts.

Hundreds of families have been displaced in the floods and landslides across the country. Meanwhile, Nepal

Cabinet held an emergency meeting during which Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba ordered the local district administrations to intensify the rescue and release activities.

Nepalese Home Minister Janardan Sharma said that all the security agencies will be mobilised in an integrated manner for carrying out

the rescue operations. Jhapa, Morang, Sunsari, Saptari, Siraha, Sarlahi, Rautahat, Banke, Bardiya and Dang districts were the worst affected by flood.

Hundreds of houses have been submerged in Morang.

Biratnagar airport has been closed after flood water gushed into the airport area.

Flood situation worsens in Assam, 5 die; 4,500 families homeless in Tripura

**New Delhi, Aug 12 (PTI):** The flood situation in Assam worsened today, with five deaths reported while flash floods affected three districts in Tripura where at least 4,500 families were rendered homeless.

Mainly clear skies prevailed in the national capital with the maximum temperature settling at 34.9 degrees Celsius.

The minimum temperature was pegged at 27.7 degrees Celsius, a Met department official said.

The humidity level oscillated between 78 and 58 per cent.

According to a report by the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), two persons died in Dhemaji and one person each in Lakhimpur, Kokrajhar and Morigaon districts.

With these, the total number of persons losing their lives in this year's flood-related incidents across Assam went up to 89.

ASDMA said 11 lakh people were affected in Dhemaji, Lakhimpur, Biswanath, Sonitpur, Baksa, Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Chirang, Kokrajhar, Dhubri, South Salmara, Morigaon, Golaghat, Jorhat, Majuli, Sivasagar, Charaideo, Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts.

The ASDMA report said Dhubri was the worst-affected where 1.92 lakh people were hit, followed by Dhemaji where 1.51 lakh people have been affected by the calamity.

Currently 1,752 villages were under water and over one lakh hectare crop area have been damaged, ASDMA said.

The flood has damaged embankments, roads, bridges and other infrastructures in Dhemaji, Darrang, Chirang, Kokrajhar, Bongaigaon,

Charaideo, Dhubri, Tinsukia, Sivasagar, Majuli, Sonitpur, Lakhimpur, Barpeta, Baksa, Dima Hasao, Golaghat and Morigaon districts.

Three districts of Tripura were affected by flash floods due to incessant rains and at least 4,500 families were rendered homeless, official sources said.

More than 2,000 families were forced to take refuge in different government buildings as large part of the state capital and its low lying outskirts were inundated, state Revenue Minister Badal Chowdhury, who along with District Magistrate of West Tripura district, Milind Ramteke visited the affected areas said.

Chowdhury said the water was flowing above the danger level in Howrah river.

District Magistrate of Sipahjaila Pradip Chakraborty said that at least 2,500 families were affected due to flood in the district and were sheltered in 60 relief camps opened in the government buildings.

Chowdhury said many parts of Khowai district were also inundated and many people were rendered homeless.

Director of Meteorological department Dilip Saha said the regional weather station here recorded 116.55 mm of rains.

Very heavy rains continued to lash the sub-Himalayan districts of West Bengal with many places receiving extremely heavy precipitation leading to a deluge, the Met department said.

The highest rainfall in the state was recorded at Hasimara in Alipurduar district at 480 mm, it said.

The West Bengal government said it was tackling on war footing the flood in north Bengal, where it

Arunachal to set up DIFCA for preserving culture of indigenous communities

**ITANAGAR, AUG 12 (PTI):** Arunachal Pradesh Cabinet has approved the creation of Department of Indigenous Faith and Cultural Affairs (DIFCA) to preserve and promote the culture of the indigenous communities of the state.

Chief Minister Pema Khandu said that due to globalisation, exposure and external influences, the indigenous communities of the state were fast getting disconnected with their rich culture and languages.

This calls for specific steps to preserve and protect them from disappearing into oblivion, Khandu said.

Creation of an independent department to look after preservation, protection and promotion of the rich indigenous cultural heritage of the state is a right step in the wake of a fast changing world.

"We cannot let our indigenous culture just fade away like many in the world, Khandu said yesterday, an official communiqué said.

While giving its nod to the proposal, the Cabinet also gave its approval to the creation of seven posts including that of a director of the department, to be headed by a secretary.

The DIFCA will also work to promote local languages and scripts along with literature on indigenous folklore, folk tales, proverbs and chanting of priests.

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## Tihar inmates croon for 'Tihar Idols'

**NEW DELHI, AUG 11 (PTI):** In a unique endeavour, the Tihar jail has organised a musical reality show for its inmates, including foreign convicts.

The show, its title track and promo will be screened at a special function tomorrow, a senior prison official said.

'Tihar Idols' has been produced by Delhi Prisons and Music One Records, he said.

"The inmates were specially groomed for the show.

Shooting for the reality show was conducted for many months in the makeshift studio in Jail No 1 of the prison complex," the official said.

The performance of inmates was judged by eminent personalities from the film and music industry. Several foreign inmates also participated in the show, he added.

## Toppers Conclave un Uttarakhand

**DEHRADUN, AUG 12 (PTI):** The five-day toppers' conclave concluded at Raj Bhawan today with Governor KK Paul expressing hope that the students would benefit from their interactions with eminent people at the event.

Congratulating the toppers who participated in the conclave, he said they would benefit from the extensive discussions and lectures which would enhance their confidence and help in the growth of their personality.

He said they were fortunate that noted scientist CNR Rao delivered a lecture at the event and advised them to nurture a scientific temper.

The governor also asked the students to develop the habit of reading good books which would not just impart knowledge but also strength of character.

On the importance of reading, the governor said good books generate good thoughts in the reader that lead to good behavior and habits that finally add up to make a good character.

Paul asked the students to overcome limitations like lack of resources and work hard to succeed.

"There would always be some lack of resources and we can hardly ever achieve an ideal situation. Accepting these limitations, we must work hard and fight the odds to achieve success," he said.

Higher education minister Dhan Singh Rawat thanked the governor for having initiated this event in the year 2015.

He said the state government was making many efforts to improve the standard of higher education in the state.

The academic calendar would be fixed and laptops given to university toppers, he said.

From August 28 to September 5, a book fair will be organised in Dehradun with the theme "Padhega Bharat to aage badhega Bharat" where academic sessions would also be held, said the minister.

Each university will adopt ten villages to ensure that Uttarakhand achieved hundred per cent literacy, the minister said.

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# Heartbroken Neeraj vows to come back stronger



**PHILEM DIPAK SINGH**

**LONDON, AUG 12 (PTI):**

He can't really figure out what went wrong but rising Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has vowed to come back stronger by correcting the "flaws" that led to his unexpected early ouster from the World Championships here.

The 19-year-old Neeraj, the current world junior record holder, had carried the hopes of the entire country but failed to make it to the final round.

He could not cleared the automatic qualification mark of 83m. It was compatriot Davinder Singh Kang, who managed to make the cut, becoming the first Indian to qualify for the javelin throw final round in a World Championships.

"There is something lacking in my throwing, that is for sure. I don't know now whether it's a technical issue or some other factor. I have to find out and rectify it and come back stronger," Neeraj told PTI.

"I need some time to do that, to improve my technique. I have been taking part in competitions continuously for the last four-five months. Now I want some time for training to prepare myself for future events. I am waiting for the new coach to come," he added.

In the qualification round on Thursday, Neeraj cleared 82.26m

in his opening throw, 74 centimeters short of the automatic qualification mark.

Nerves got the better of the youngster in his maiden World Championships as he fouled his second attempt and then could only send the iron spear to 80.54m in his final effort to bow out of the competition.

"I was confident that I would be able to touch 83m and get the automatic qualification. I made a big effort in the first throw but it was short of 83m mark by a few centimeters.

Then in the second throw, I was going for the attack but I was off-balance in the run up and fouled it. The third and final throw also came short," said a dejected Neeraj.

"I got quite a good number of competitions and training before the World Championships and I should have qualified for the final round. I tried my best and I am disappointed that I could not do well," said the Haryana athlete who has a season's best of 85.63m and personal best of 86.48m.

Neeraj came without a coach as

former javelin throw world record holder Uwe Hohn of Germany is yet to join the national team. Hohn is still with the Australian team and he is expected to join as India javelin coach later this year.

"After (former coach) Gary Calvert left, I have been mostly doing training all alone. I am waiting for the new coach to come. A person who knows the techniques lets you do a lot of work. So I am waiting (for the new coach).

"In an ideal situation, it would have been better to have a coach but that is not in my hands. It makes a difference if a coach who knows techniques tells you what to do," he added.

Athletes are allowed to bring their javelin in the World Championships, which is checked by the IAAF, but Neeraj did not have one as he came straight to London after competing in the Monaco leg of the Diamond League meetings on July 21.

"I came here straight from Monaco after the Diamond League there, so I could not bring my javelin. It is good if you come with your javelin with which you do practice.

"I took my javelin when I competed in the Asian Grand Prix in Chinese Taipei and then I used my own javelin during the Asian Championships in Bhubaneswar also. Sometimes it makes a difference," said Neeraj.

# Bolt wins relay heats in his penultimate race

**LONDON, AUG 12 (PTI):** Usain Bolt began the countdown to his final race by anchoring Jamaica to the 4x100m relay finals with an easy win in the heats here on Saturday.

Running in his penultimate race of his illustrious career, Bolt eased past the finishing line as he helped the defending champions Jamaica win the second heat in 37.95 seconds, their season's best, to enter the final round with third best time.

The Jamaican quartet of Tyquendo Tracey, Julian Forte, Micheal Campbell and Bolt led the eight-team second heat from beginning to the end.

Experienced Yohan Blake, who finished fourth in the men's 100m final and failed to qualify for the final round in 200m, did not start in the heats but Bolt later said that he will return in the final race.

In his trademark style, Bolt grabbed the baton from

Campbell, who ran the third leg, and blasted ahead of all his rivals and slowed down while approaching the finish line to conserve energy for the finals.

The top three from each of the two heats and next two fastest finishers from the remaining qualify for the final round.

The United States team of Mike Rodgers, Justin Gatlin, Bee Jay Lee and Christian Coleman won the first heat in 37.70 seconds, the world leading time this season, to clock the overall best time going into the final round.

Great Britain clocked the second best time of 37.76, while France were fourth with their season's best of 38.03.

China (38.20), who had finished second in the 2015 edition at home, Japan (37.21), who took a surprise silver in the Rio Olympics, Turkey (38.44) and Canada (38.48) -- third in both 2015 World Championships and

Rio Olympics -- completed the eight-team final round which will run later tonight.

Bolt, who has anchored the gold-winning Jamaican team in both 2015 World Championships and Rio Games, will be seeking his 20th global title and would want to hang up his boots with a yellow metal in his final race of his glittering career.

He lost the 100m dash last Saturday in his final individual race, settling for a bronze.

His long-time American rival Gatlin, who has twice served bans for doping, won the gold while Coleman took the silver as the London Olympic stadium and the global television audience were stunned at the turn of events.

Widely considered as the greatest sprinter of all time, Bolt has won eight Olympic and 11 World Championships gold medals beginning with a 100m and 200m double at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Since then he has dominated the shorter two sprint events like none in athletics history. His Jamaican team had also won the 4x100m relay gold in Beijing but it had to return the medal after one member of the quartet -- Nesta Carter -- tested positive for a prohibited substance.

On the last day of his international career, fans jostled for space to have a glimpse of Bolt at the warm-up arena, adjacent to the stadium and television cameras were fixed at him to have a shot of the towering Jamaican.

Whenever the giant screen inside the stadium showed him doing the baton exchange practice with his Jamaican team-mates in preparation for the 4x100m relay race at the warm-up arena, the capacity crowd cheered loudly.

The showman, as usual, entertained the crowd as he acknowledged the cheers as he entered the stadium for the

relay heats. He did his routine marking of his starting position and did a few run-downs imitating baton exchange.

After easing past the finish line, Bolt ran down the track as he usually does and clapped towards the crowd.

"There are no words to describe how I am feeling. I get so much support from the crowd. I appreciate that a lot. All the energy I am getting from the crowd. It is brilliant," Bolt said after the race.

"The young runners in our team -- it is just about executing and coming through the race for them. We have been training that relay, there were some camps. Still there were some mistakes. Yohan Blake is coming in for the final is definitely good."

In the women's 4x100m relay, all the medal contenders -- United States, Great Britain, Germany and defending champions Jamaica -- progressed to the final round

without much trouble, while the Bahamas quartet failed to finish in the second heat due to a poor second baton change.

Olympic champions United States won the first heat in a world leading time of 41.84 seconds, even in the absence of individual 100m champion Torie Bowie.

Great Britain finished second in that heat -- and also second overall -- with 41.93, the third fastest time ever produced by a British quartet.

Defending champions Jamaica (42.50) finished second behind Germany (42.34) in the second heat.

Switzerland (42.50) qualified with the fourth fastest time overall while Netherlands (42.64), Brazil (42.77) and Trinidad and Tobago (42.91) completed the final round line-up.

American runner Allyson Felix later said that Bowie will return in the final round.

# International Left-Handers Day: going left in a world made for right-handers

**MANISH SAIN**

**NEW DELHI, AUG 12 (PTI):**

Known for his futuristic experiments and innovations, Leonardo da Vinci was a thoroughly curious man, but more curious was his writing style that flowed from right to left, forcing people to use a mirror to read it.

While most theories believe he wanted to make it difficult for people to steal his ideas, a simpler explanation is that he was probably trying to keep himself from smudging the paper while writing with his left hand.

But that was da Vinci, the Renaissance polymath celebrated as artist, inventor, scientist and architect.

As left-handers the world over celebrate International Left-Handers Day tomorrow, they know only too well the many obstacles they face, societal and otherwise, and the continuing feeling of being a minority in a world made for right-handers.

From not-so-friendly teasing to structural details like desks with writing slabs placed wrong and mouse clicks that need to be reconfigured, nothing really goes right for left-handers.

In India, where an estimated 10 per cent of the population is



left-handed, the belief that being left-handed connotes evil and is inauspicious continues.

Indian left-handers have grown up getting a quick slap here and hearing a harsh word there for using their left hand.

The word itself originates from the Latin word sinistra, or sinister, that meant left.

Deepak Bhati, 29, a software engineer in Bangalore, remembers being scolded for extending his left

hand to receive prasad and for giving money with the "wrong hand".

Aastha Chugh, 26, a Delhi-based PR executive, recalls getting hit with a stick for writing with her left hand.

The slap on the knuckles - literally - for using their left hand left Bhati and Chugh with a few bad memories. But for Anand Jayaram, 25, a media professional, the impact was far more profound.

Jayaram still finds it difficult to speak without a stammer.

"I remember my stammering started because my teacher in Montessori would force me to write with my right hand. The memories are nothing short of painful.

"Right from the postman to the driver and the courier guy, everybody insisted that I give money with my right hand.

I was considered a freak, made fun of," Jayaram said.

As for the other 'structural' difficulties, they just learn to live with it.

But Bhati finds it impossible to deal with "chairs with writing pads on the right" and Jayaram, a gamer at heart, continues to be frustrated by a right-hand oriented computer mouse.

Doorknobs, writing pads, scissors, coffee mugs, guitars are some

of the tools in a long list of such objects that are meant for right-handed people.

Iconic American guitarist Jimi Hendrix decided to turn his right-handed six-string guitar upside down and played it backwards when he refused a left-hand guitar by his father.

The list of famous left-handed people is long and varied, including names such as Aristotle, Barack Obama and Bill Gates. Famous lefties closer home include Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Amitabh Bachchan and Sourav Ganguly.

And there's Sachin Tendulkar of course who became the "god of cricket" playing right-handed his entire career.

Has Indian society evolved? Is being left-handed less of a stigma than it was?

Not really, says Mumbai-based psychologist Harish Shetty.

The stigma still persists, at times creating life-long trauma for children.

"Constant nagging and even punishment by parents and teachers to force kids to use their right hand can cause life-long trauma. Although mostly they manage to learn and

adapt, they lack self-confidence and try to keep to themselves," Shetty said.

Echoing him, Sandip Vishnoi, founder of the Indian Left Hander Club based in Aurangabad, says perception of society needs to change.

"The word left connotes something bad or wrong in Indian culture, the use of left hand for routine activities such as eating, writing and even for religious work is not allowed.

"There are families which don't allow their left-handed daughter-in-law to cook food or do religious tasks. The perception of society needs to change," he said.

The organisation, which aims to create awareness about left-handedness and overcoming social stigmas and prejudices, is setting up the "world's first ever museum for left-handers" in collaboration with Big-foot Museum in Goa.

The museum will be inaugurated tomorrow.

"Initially, we are exhibiting statues of the world's top 21 successful left-handed personalities... Later, we plan to have more than 100 statues. We are also going to present the highlights and trivia of their lives," Vishnoi said.



Jaypee Wish Town project homebuyers protest at firm's office

**Noida, Aug 12 (PTI):** Scores of angry homebuyers of Jaypee Wish Town project today protested at the company's office here demanding that their money be returned after the National Company Law Tribunal admitted the insolvency petition filed by IDBI Bank against the debt-ridden Jaypee Infratech.

According to the SHO of Noida Expressway police station, over 400 people protested at the company's office here and personnel from four to five police stations were deployed to control them.

They demanded that their money be returned first as they fear that if the company is declared insolvent all their court cases will become ineffective and they will not be able to get possession of their flats and lose their hard-earned money.

The Allahabad bench of NCLT has admitted the petition filed by IDBI Bank under Section 7 of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016, Jaypee Infratech had said in a regulatory filing.

Indian-origin man jailed for six months in Singapore

**Singapore, Aug 12 (PTI):** An Indian-origin man has been sentenced to six months and four weeks in prison by a court here for assaulting and threatening law enforcement officials who summoned him for smoking in a prohibited area.

Ramasamy Soogumar, 59, yesterday admitted in a court to three offences for causing hurt to a police officer and a National Environment Agency (NEA) officer whose colleague had summoned him for smoking in an unauthorised area, The Straits Times reported.

With a little over a year in his release in June last year after serving an 11-year, 12-stroke sentence for robbery with hurt, Soogumar, who works as a cleaner at a school, got into trouble with the law again.

NEA enforcement officer Gugan Santhirasaakaran, 24, and his colleague Salvin Kaur Mindar Singh, 23, saw the man smoking a cigarette while drinking beer in the void deck of Apartment Block 676, Hougang Avenue 8, at 7.05 PM (local time) on May 30 this year. There was a "no smoking sign" 3-metre away from where has standing, it said.

After identifying themselves, the officials wrote up a notice for Soogumar to attend court for committing the offence.

He then hurled vulgarities in Tamil at Gugan, bumped into him using his chest and slapped him. Sergeant Christian Tan Kai Jun, who was on a routine patrol in the area with another police official, then spotted the two NEA personnel calling for assistance.

Deputy Public Prosecutor Sarah Shi said that when the two police officers tried to questioning Soogumar, the cleaner tried to leave. He then repeatedly tried to confront Gugan in the presence of the police officers. They stopped him and told him to sit.

The Indian-origin man also tried to assault Staff Sergeant Lionel Tan Wei Ming but was stopped.

Xi asks Trump to avoid heightening tension with North Korea



**Lalit K Jha & KJM Varma Washington/Beijing, Aug 12 (PTI):**

Chinese President Xi Jinping today asked his US counterpart Donald Trump to avoid remarks and actions that could escalate the already-tense situation in the Korean Peninsula as the two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to denuclearise the region.

The two leaders spoke over phone to discuss the escalating tension after North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un threatened the US this week to fire missiles at Guam, a US island territory, after the US sponsored a resolution imposing new economic sanctions on Pyongyang over its missile and nuclear weapons programmes.

Xi told Trump that China is ready to work with the US to "appropriately resolve" the issue, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

"The concerned parties should avoid remarks and actions that could escalate tensions on the peninsula," Xi was quoted by the report.

"The relevant side must at present exercise restraint, and avoid words and actions that exacerbate tensions on the Korean peninsula," the report paraphrased Xi as saying "President Trump and President Xi agreed North Korea must stop its provocative and escalatory behaviour," the White

House said, adding that the two leaders also reiterated their mutual commitment to denuclearise the Korean Peninsula.

The two countries should strive to resolve the issue through dialogue and negotiation to reach a political solution, Xi said.

Trump warned North Korea it faced "fire and fury like the world has never seen" if it continued to threaten the United States with its missile and nuclear programs.

Xi told Trump that China is willing to keep close contacts with the US, on the basis of mutual respect, to seek a sound settlement on the issue, he added.

Xi said he had a productive meeting Trump on the side-

lines of the Group of 20 Summit last month in Hamburg, Germany.

Maintaining close contacts between the two leaders on issues of common concern is "very important for the development of the China-US relations," Xi added.

He urged the two sides to enhance dialogue and communication in accordance with the consensus previously reached, promote exchanges and cooperation in various fields, and appropriately deal with each other's concerns, so as to ensure healthy and stable advancement of bilateral ties.

Furthermore, the Chinese president said that Beijing places high value on Trump's state visit to China later this

year, urging both sides to make good preparations for the visit.

Trump also stressed the importance of maintaining close contacts between the two leaders on major issues and strengthening exchanges between their countries at all levels as well as in various areas, the report said.

Trump also said he is looking forward to his state visit to China.

On the Korean nuclear issue, Trump said the US fully understands China's efforts in resolving it, and is willing to continue to keep close contacts with Beijing on major international and regional issues of common concern, the report said.

Sharif terms ouster as 'joke', says will become PM again

**Sajjad Hussain Islamabad, Aug 11 (PTI):**

Nawaz Sharif today termed his disqualification from premiership as a "joke" and exuded confidence that he will be elected as Prime Minister of Pakistan for the fourth time. A five-member Supreme Court bench last month disqualified Sharif for dishonesty and ruled that corruption cases be filed against him and his children over the Panama Papers scandal, forcing the prime minister to quit for the record third time.

Addressing a huge gathering in Gujarat on the third day of his journey from Islamabad to Lahore via the Grand Trunk (GT) Road to display his political might, Sharif said even the judges who disqualified him failed to point out a single example of corruption against him.

"Should this even be called a disqualification? I will be made prime minister by the masses again tomorrow," he told a cheering crowd.

"They have only removed me on paper but they have not removed me from your hearts. Is this removing me at all?" Sharif asked.

He asked people to stand by him to make sure that their vote is respected.

"I cannot accept this joke. Can you accept this joke that you elect someone, then he is disgraced

and ousted," he said.

"May I ask why I was ousted? Did I commit any kind of corruption? I am innocent and did not commit any financial wrong. That has been said by the judges who disqualified me.

Then why I have been ousted," the 67-year-old veteran politician said.

Sharif said the people's vote had been trampled upon as millions of people elected a leader and a couple of people or five judges disgraced and sent him home. He said it was for the people of Gujranwala to "think that removal was just".

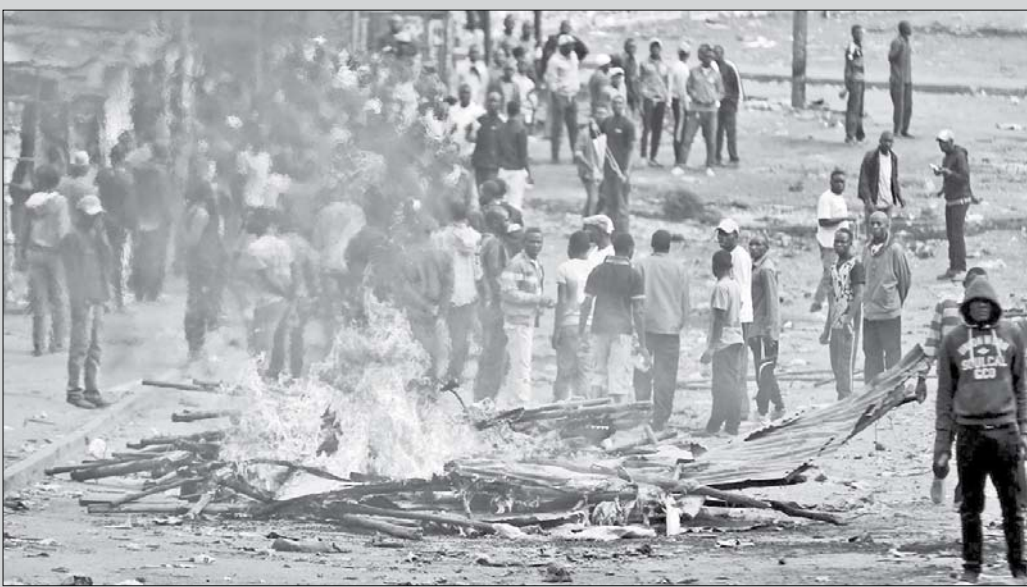
Sharif, who could not complete his term for a third time, also asked the gathering, "Should I sit back and accept the verdict or fight the injustice?"

The people responded in unison with a big 'No', prompting Sharif to ask them to stand by him.

"If you do not want me to sit back then you would have to stand by me. Then stand by me to change the fate of this nation. Promise me that you would do what I tell you," he said.

He also announced that he would share his future plan of action and asked his supporters to wait for it.

Sharif stepped down after being disqualified by the Supreme Court on July 28 and after staying in Murree and Islamabad, embarked on road journey to his home.



At least three people, including a child, have been shot dead during protests following the re-election of President Uhuru Kenyatta. A health chief confirmed one death in the Kisumu county while a police officer revealed a separate fatal shooting in the town of Siaya. Four people were also injured after opposition supporters staged protests at the outcome of the election, which they claim was rigged. The demonstrations have largely taken place in opposition strongholds, but have generated comparisons with the disputed 2007 election which led to two months of ethno-political violence that left 1,100 people dead. Opposition candidate Raila Odinga claimed his loss was down to vote rigging and said the election was a "charade". The 72-year-old politician has now had four unsuccessful attempts to win the presidency.

360 flights cancelled in Beijing due to incessant rain

**Beijing, Aug 12 (PTI):** Around 360 flights operating in and out of the international airport of the Chinese capital were cancelled today due to incessant rain that continues to batter the city.

The airport said operations were seriously affected and the situation will likely continue as a thunderstorm is expected this evening. There were 234 arrivals and 181 departures as of 11 am.

More than 400 flights were cancelled yesterday. Aviation authorities have issued a yellow alert for massive flight delays.

The National Meteorological Centre forecast precipitation up to 70 mm in Beijing in the next 24 hours while other northern regions will only see light rainfall.

Meanwhile, rainstorms will thrash some southern areas, including Guizhou and Guangxi, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

GST slabs rationalisation will depend on revenue buoyancy: Meghwal

**Kolkata, Aug 12 (PTI):** Rationalisation of tax slabs under the newly-introduced GST would depend on the rise in revenue collection in the days to come, MoS for finance and corporate affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal said today.

Presently, there are five tax slabs including exempted category at zero, five, 12, 18 and 28 per cent.

Meghwal said, while in pre-GST time only 80 lakh dealers were registered, another 13.2 lakh had been added post its introduction, of which 56,000 were from West Bengal only, the highest among the country.

Regarding GST Network (GSTN), he said that it would be further improved. "Registered dealers may be facing some teething problems. But the sys-

tem is perfect", he said.

The dealers would also have to maintain computerised records with regards to input tax credit and reverse charge mechanism, Meghwal said at a seminar here.

He said, all these were required to eliminate the shadow economy.

Regarding tax incentives in areas like the north-east, HP and Uttarakhand after introduction of GST, Meghwal said it would be decided by the GST Council.

Meghwal said that the government had introduced GST after consulting all the states and not on the basis of the majority.

Had there been an opposition from a single state, the government would not have introduced it.

Egypt train collision kills 44, injures nearly 180

**Cairo, Aug 12 (PTI):** At least 44 people were killed and nearly 180 others injured after two trains collided near Egypt's coastal city of Alexandria, officials said.

The Egyptian cabinet said in a statement that the number of deaths may increase and the final toll will be announced after clearing the debris of the two trains.

The deadly collision took place yesterday after a train travelling to Alexandria from Cairo, crashed into the back of another train coming from the Canal city of Port Said.

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6828 6832 7077 7120 7236 7317 7326 7397 7885 7896
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52830 67515 73163 87880 98512
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
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47901 55658 79704 91472 98970
4th Prize Rs.1000/-
0265 0568 0818 2295 2506 4689 7424 7480 7933 8140
5th Prize Rs.500/-
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6th Prize Rs.250/-
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1067 1089 1219 1374 1644 1683 1708 1731 1737 1837
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5100 5348 5448 5512 5720 5862 5880 5960 6096 6205
6543 6742 6847 6856 6881 7020 7121 7194 7210 7359
7589 7978 8002 8063 8090 8142 8314 8321 8357 8468
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# JUDGE THROWS OUT DJ'S CASE AGAINST TAYLOR SWIFT

A judge dismisses a Colorado DJ's lawsuit against the singer, saying he couldn't prove she ruined his career over groping claims.

A US judge has dismissed allegations that Taylor Swift got a radio DJ fired, but court proceedings will continue to consider the singer's allegations that he sexually assaulted her. David Mueller has accused Swift of slandering him to his radio station, alleging her complaint led to his unfair dismissal.

Swift is counter-suing Mueller in the civil case, alleging he groped her during a 2013 backstage photo op with fans and guests before a concert in 2013. US District Judge William Martinez ruled that Swift could not be held liable because Mueller failed to prove that she personally set out to have him fired.

He agreed with Swift's attorney, who had filed a motion asking for the pop star to be dropped from Mueller's lawsuit, saying his case should have been against his Colorado radio station. Swift was happy to hear the judge's ruling in court, hugging members of her legal team. Mr Martinez said the eight-person jury will make a decision on Swift's claim that she was groped.

The panel will also consider allegations from Mueller that Swift's mother, Andrea Swift, and her radio manager, Frank Bell, contributed to him losing his job. Swift's attorney Doug Baldrige had argued there was no evidence the singer herself took any action that harmed Mueller.

"A man grabbed her rear end. She told her mother, and that's it," Mr Baldrige said.

Earlier Friday, Swift's former bodyguard Greg Dent testified that he witnessed the singer's skirt being flipped up as she posed for a photo with Mueller and his girlfriend. Mr Dent, a former police officer, said in his testimony: "I saw his hand under her skirt... Her skirt went up... She jumped."

Swift spent an hour on the witness stand on Thursday, defiantly recounting what she called a "despicable and horrifying and shocking" encounter.

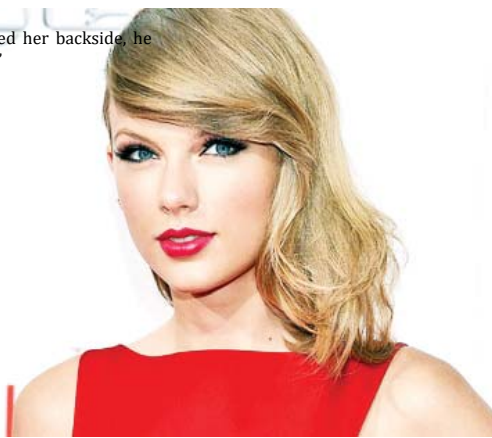
"He stayed attached to my bare ass-cheek as I lurched away from him," she said.

"It was a definite grab. A very long grab."

Mueller gave evidence on Tuesday to say he may have made innocent physical contact with Swift, but insisted he did not

grobe her.

Asked if he grabbed her backside, he replied: "No, I did not."



**BRIGHT WHITE:** Naomi Watts stepped out in a pleated white dress with shoulder embellishments in New York City.

## RAJKUMAR HIRANI SAYS HE OWES HIS CAREER TO SANJAY DUTT



The trailer of Sanjay Dutt's comeback film *Bhoomi* was released yesterday and it has made a huge impact. Rajkumar Hirani, who has made the Munnabhai films with Dutt was vocal about the debt he owed to his star at the trailer launch. "Sanjay Dutt has been a very important part of my career. Have made 4 films- 3 are with Sanju and the 5th one I am making on him. I am what I am because of him."

Hirani is working on Dutt's biopic and Ranbir Kapoor is playing Dutt in the film. Ranbir also spoke his heart out on the occasion. "I was never a fan of work outs and gym. I have been working out in Sanju sir's gym for the

past 10 years, and I remember after three years he came to me and said 'Main tujhe pichle 3 saal se dekh raha hun, koi difference aaya nahi, tu karta kya hai? But good evening everyone. Congrats to all. The trailer is wonderful. It is amazing to see Sanju sir back on screen."

Ranbir got emotional talking about his idol. "Like Raju sir said, we all have missed you so much and when we see you on screen it is magical. Something happens deep within. Like all of us here, I have been a huge admirer of Sanju sir. I have had the good fortune of knowing you as a person and I have interacted with you since I was a child. So I know your heart. And I am really happy and welcome back to the movies. We all missed you a lot."



### 13<sup>TH</sup> AUG WORLD HISTORY

**1732:** François-Marie Arouet, popularly known as Voltaire's "Zaire," the first French tragedy was premiered in Paris by Comedie Francaise.

**1792:** Revolutionaries imprisoned the French royal family, including King Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette.

**1882:** William Jevons, English economist, drowned while bathing near Hastings. His book "The Theory of Political Economy" declared that value depends entirely upon utility.

**1889:** The first coin-operated telephone was patented by William Gray of Hartford, Connecticut, USA. A foreman had refused to let Gray call his sick wife from the company phone.

**1910:** Florence Nightingale, British nurse famous for her care of British soldiers during

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY

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

the Crimean War, died at 90. **1923:** The Turkish National Congress selected Mustafa Kemal Pasha (Ataturk) as president.

**1926:** Fidel Castro, revolutionary leader, was born in Biran, Cuba.

### INDIAN HISTORY

**1784:** Pitt's India Bill was introduced in the British Parliament for improvement of administration in India.

**1891:** The three great defenders of Manipur, Senapati Tikendrajit Singh, his brothers, Agnesh Sena and General Thangal were hanged by the British.

**1951:** The first aircraft designed and manufactured in India, the Hindustan Trainer 2 took its maiden flight.

## LUPITA N'YONGO STARS AS A HEARTBROKEN WOMAN IN JAY-Z'S NEW 'MANYFACEDGOD' VIDEO

JAY-Z continues to run laps around hip-hop with his unprecedented roll-out for 4:44. After releasing his Friends-inspired video "Moonlight" last week, Hov shifts gears and darkens the mood for his latest visual "MaNyfaCedGod."

Starring Oscar-Award winning actress Lupita N'yongo, "MaNyfaCed-God" portrays the 12 Years a Slave star emotionally torn at the start of the video. With tears streaming down her face, N'yongo appears floored by her strained relationship with her partner. Dejected by her recent pain, she cries for a considerable portion of the video.

Later, N'yongo wakes up from what is seemingly a dream in a white setting -- a contrast from the ominous black background from the start of the video. Instead of sulking, she regains her swagger and later runs through her past lover with no fear. Last June, Hov released a short snippet of "MaNyfaCedGod," before releasing his album



**ARIES:** Try not to rock the boat too much today, Aries. Hold fast to your point of view, but don't get down when other people don't share your sentiments. You might feel the urge to snap at people, but realize that you're probably better off holding your tongue. Let your daydreams carry you away from the present reality. Your imaginary world will be your closest ally.

**TAURUS:** Let the child within come out and play, Taurus. Return to and relish your most primal state. Some of life's most important lessons are the ones you learned when you were a child. Return to that state of mind and embrace the simplicity of life you experienced then. Life is

only complicated because you make it so. Remember what it was like to live without care and live that way again.

**GEMINI:** Try not to be a stick in the mud today, Gemini. Other people aren't going to want to take the time to drag you along. Take the initiative. If you want to have fun, create it. The biggest part of this equation is your attitude. Other people can sense your jealous nature, so don't think you're fooling anyone. Let others live their lives. You need to concentrate on your own.

**CANCER:** Be a little selfish, Cancer. Be honest and straightforward with what you want. There's no need to beat around the bush simply be-

cause you want to spare someone's feelings. You will do everyone a favor by laying it out clearly. Refrain from playing mind games just to see how much you can twist people into knots. Such actions will later come back to haunt you.

**LEO:** Your dander might be up today in reaction to someone's strong opinion. You don't want to back down, Leo. The fire burns hot within you. Use this power wisely. Try not to use it in an aggressive, manner toward those you don't want to offend. Watch your back and keep your energy pure. You have the power to affect quite a number of people.

**VIRGO:** Move boldly toward your dreams today, Virgo. Your sense of

reality may not be perfectly in tune with the actual situation, but don't worry about it. Put wings on your shoes and fly into the stratosphere. Push the boundaries. The only way you're going to grow is if you go beyond your normal mode of existence. This is your day to soar into the great beyond.

**LIBRA:** There's extra action in your day today, Libra, so go with it. Don't fight against the wave of unconventional support that's brewing at your back door. There's a great deal of potential energy at your disposal. The only thing keeping you from harnessing it is your own mind. Don't be so scared of that which can actually help you out. Open your

mind and let the new into your life.

**SCORPIO:** Today is a great day for you. You should communicate a lot, Scorpio. Talk in riddles and say your sentences backward. Be fanciful and outlandish. Most of the information will be relayed in a nonverbal manner. Let your wild side shine through. Wear the wackiest thing in your closet. Don't give in to the social norm just because it's the thing that has been done repeatedly.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Your emotions and fantasies are strongly tied today, Sagittarius. Let your feelings revel in a surreal state. Let your daydreams filter into your decisions. You might feel electricity in the air, so go with it. There's a great deal

of creative energy available to you that's extremely potent. This energy has an activating effect that will help you get off the couch.

**CAPRICORN:** You should enjoy a good mood today, so head toward something you believe in, Capricorn. There will most certainly be a magical element to this day that you should not only believe in but also encourage. Miracles are possible if you believe. Let your fanciful mind realize something out of thin air. Lean toward the new and unconventional. The times are changing rapidly.

**AQUARIUS:** Not much will happen until you decide to give up a few vices that have a serious effect

on your well-being, Aquarius. Realize that if there are certain things that control you, you don't have complete control over your life. Try not to fight this truth. Simply accept that these things exist in your world, and understand that you can coexist without having to surrender to their power.

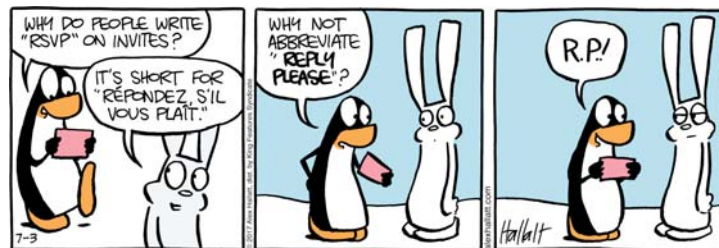
**PISCES:** This is a whirlwind day for you. You will finally feel like you're getting things back on track, Pisces. Any lag you've felt in the past few days will be eliminated. Your engine is in high gear. You have more of a sense of what you want. Don't be so concerned with how you're going to get it. Focus more on defining it precisely.

### LOCKHORNS - HOEST & REINER



"LEROY'S JOB IS OUR DAY-OLD BREAD AND BUY-ONE-GET-ONE-FREE BUTTER."

### ARCTIC CIRCLE - HALLATT



### BABY BLUES - KIRKMAN & SCOTT

