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SING ON STAGE ONE
DAY: RANU MONDAL**

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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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SHG CONVENTION FOR SOUTH & WEST DISTRICTS

CM distributes laptops to SHGs and VAAs of South and West

JORETHANG, 11 SEPT (IPR): Chief Minister, Prem Singh Tamang (Go-lay) attended the Self Help Group (SHG) Convention for South and West Districts at Jorethang Play Ground today.

The program focusing on National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) and North East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP) organized by Rural Development Department (RDD) had the presence of Minister for Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services (AH&VS), Lok Nath Sharma, Minister for Rural Development Department, Ecclesiastical and Co-operation Departments, Sonam Lama, Minister for Energy & Power and Labour Departments, MN Sherpa alongside Area MLA Zoom Salghari, Sunita Gazmer, Political Secretary to the CM, Jacob Khaling.

Secretary RDD, CS



Rao, Special Secretary, RDD, Anil Raj Rai, DC South, Ragul K, SP South, Prawin Gurung besides HODs and RDD officials from South and West districts, Chairmen, Advisors also attended the event.

Secretary RDD, CS Rao presented the opening remark wherein he

laid out the objective of the SHG Convention. Expressing gratitude towards the CM for attending the programme, he stated that empowerment of women through programs of such nature are essential for our society as the improvement of women be it politically,

socially or economically is a highly important end in itself.

Chief guest for the day, the Chief Minister in his address extended his best wishes to the three best performing SHGs of South and West districts. Announcing the distribution of laptops to 3285

Self Help Groups and 6 Village Administrative Assistant (VAAs) of South and West Districts with a purpose to strengthen and empower women in the state, the CM stated that improving women's access to secure livelihoods and economic resources

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CM announces Rs 5 lac for female head of family

CMRHM renamed Sikkim Garib Awaas Yojana

GANGTOK, 11 SEPT: Chief Minister, PS Tamang [Go-lay], today announced the renaming of Chief Minister's Rural Housing Mission [CMRHM] to Sikkim Garib Awaas Yojana for which a total amount of Rs. 451 crore has been earmarked, as per an IPR press release. In addition

to this, he also declared that an amount of Rs. 16 crore has been allocated by the state government for house upgradation under this scheme.

He made the announcement during the Self Help Group (SHG) Convention for South and West Districts held at Jorethang Play Ground today.

Mr Tamang also announced the introduction of Health Insurance for State Government employees.

To empower women, he announced the transfer of Rs. 5 lakh to the

bank account of the female head of each family within the duration of five years.

The CM announced the absorption of employees currently employed under North East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP) under North East Livelihood Mission (NRLM). Similarly, the Chief Minister also announced the annual duration of renewal of licenses and registration for NGOs from existing one year to five years for the general convenience of the public.

SRM condemns trend of defections

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 11 SEPT:

Sikkim Rajya Manch Party has strongly condemned the current string of defections which has seen leaders and party workers party defecting in droves from Sikkim Democratic Front into other parties. Citing the recent defection by SDF MLAs, SRM has expressed deep concern over this trend especially when people elected on the ticket of one party switch sides after elections.

"Defecting and switching camps to ruling parties by elected members has been

happening every five years in Sikkim's electoral politics, but not being able to stay in opposition even for three months after running the government for 25 years is something that has happened for the first time in the history of Sikkim," said RN Chamling, the SRM Party president.

Terming the defections as manifestations of vested interest, Mr Chamling, through a press release, stresses that defection was great betrayal of people's mandate.

SRM Party denounced such leaders who play

with the emotions and aspirations of the people and sell themselves to meet their self interest, he states.

In the meantime, he has appealed to the people of Sikkim not to give up hope and remember that there is always a next time for the electorate.

The party has also cautioned "political merchants" to refrain from playing with the future of Sikkimese people and called on the people to keep a close watch against attempts to dilute old laws damaging the traditions, peace and harmony of Sikkim.

SFA bans League leader

Aakraman for assault on referee

Three players and coach banned for one year as well

SAGAR CHETTRI

GANGTOK, 11 SEPT:

Sikkim Football Association has initiated disciplinary action against four officials and players of Sikkim Aakraman Football Club following manhandling of the referee immediately after the match between Sikkim Police and Sikkim Aakraman FC on Tuesday in the ongoing SFA premier division league 2019.

SFA has imposed a ban on the coach, Shisil Karthak and players Kintup Lachungpa, Don Tshering Lepcha and Gyaltsen of Sikkim Aakraman FC for a period of one year. Sikkim Aakraman FC has also been banned for a period of one year along with a fine of Rs 30,000.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of Sikkim Football Association executive committee with members of League Organising Committee and Referee

Board of SFA on Wednesday.

SFA president, Menla Ethenpa mentioned that the meeting deliberated on the complaint lodged by the referee Subash Tamang of SFA Referee Board against players and officials of Sikkim Aakraman who jointly assaulted him immediately after the match of ongoing SFA Premier Division League played on 10 September.

Mr Tamang has also lodged an FIR on the incident.

After discussions and listening to eye-witness accounts, the meeting felt that this was a serious offense and unanimously decided to take disciplinary action.

The meeting decided that Sikkim Aakraman FC has also violated all basic norms of 'Play the Game in the Spirit of the Game' therefore the club has also been banned for a period of one year along with a fine of Rs 30,000 as prescribed, SFA informs.

turn to pg02

Aarati at Pashupatinath temple affected due to Nepal government's order on national anthem

SHIRISH B. PRADHAN KATHMANDU, SEPT 11 (PTI): Officials from Nepal's famed Pashupatinath temple may take action against the Bagmati Aarati Pariwar for not playing the national anthem prior to performing aarati though a government directive has made it mandatory, according to a media report.

The Pashupati Area Development Trust, that manages the affairs of the temple, has warned to take action against an organisation for not playing the national anthem prior to performing aarati, the Himalayan Times reported. The Bagmati Aarati Pariwar has been performing Ganga Aarati every evening at Pashupatinath temple for the last 12 years.

The ritual is performed on the banks of the Bagmati River near the holy Pashupati temple.

On August 26, Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Yogesh Bhattarai issued a directive to play the national anthem before performing the aarati.

The Bagmati Aarati Pariwar started playing the national anthem from August 30 as per the instruction, but discontinued to play national anthem since September 3.

turn to pg02

Bada Bungalow at Temi Tea Estate developed for tourism

TEMI, 11 SEPT (IPR): The Temi Bungalow, developed by Eco Adventure Resorts, was inaugurated at Temi Tea Estate today.

Present amongst others were Additional Chief Secretary, Commerce and Industries Department, Thomas Chandy, Managing Director (MD) Temi Tea, Mrinalini Srivastava, MD Priya Entertainment Pvt Ltd, Arjit Dutta and MD Eco Adventure Resort, Uttam Chaudhari local gentry, Tashi Tshering Bhutia alongwith local business operators.

Addressing the gathering, Additional Chief Secretary Mr Chandy spoke about the significance of Temi Tea Estate and how this organic estate has earned laurels for Sikkim.

He added that this estate is known for producing



premium organic tea leaves which he emphasized should be maintained.

Mr Chandy said that tea tourism should be encouraged as well in the rural areas and that resorts located in Temi Tea Estate should be highlighted as it will provide a wider platform for local businesses to flourish.

He also emphasized

that the resort should provide employment to locals of the area.

Mr Chandy shared that the tea estate was filled with rich heritage which should be preserved as it was an important asset of the State Government.

He also read out the message of Tourism Minister, BS Pant.

The resort consists of

5 rooms, 7 cottages and a view desk.

The Temi Bungalow was earlier called "Bada Bungalow" and has now been converted into Eco Adventure Hub and marks the first such public-private partnership initiative. Priya Entertainments Pvt Ltd is partnering this initiative with Temi Tea.

Sikkim Ecotourism wins "Most Exclusive Leisure Product" award at TTF

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 11 SEPT:

The JICA-aided Sikkim Biodiversity Conservation & Forest Management Project (SBFP) being implemented by Forest & Environment Department, participated in the Travel & Tourism Fair (TTF) in Surat, Gujarat from 06 to 08 September 2019 was represented by the Ecotourism Management Cell (EMC) which showcased the various ecotourism products developed through the SBFP intervention.

Sikkim Ecotourism was conferred the Most Exclusive Leisure Product award which was received by the EMC team comprising of Manager (PR, Event & Festival) Kesang P

Bhutia, Manager (Products & Sales), Barsha Sharma, Assistant Manager (Products & Sales), Meenu Dahal and Assistant Manager (PR, Event & Festival), Chogyal Bhutia.

TTF is India's leading exhibition for the travel and tourism industry which provides an annual opportunity for organisations from India and abroad to showcase their products and services. TTF events present a marketing opportunity for exhibitors to connect directly with the largest gathering of prospective travellers and members of the travel industry.

Currently, there are 11 notified Ecotourism Zones in Sikkim around the eight protected areas (i.e. National Parks and Sanctuar-



ies) where ecotourism activities are being implemented in an organized

manner by Joint Forest Management & Eco-development Committees

through the JICA aided SBFP project, a press release informs.

CM distributes...

which eventually will alleviate their standard of living has always been a key priority for the State Government.

He further, applauded the efforts of the women of the SHGs for their dedication towards their vocation and further gave impetus to this idea of empowering women through announcement of transfer of Rs. 5 lakh in the account of the female head of each family within the duration of five years.

The CM also reiterated the handing over of government school uniform stitching to the SHGs for fueling economic sustainability of the SHGs in every Constituency.

The CM also highlighted the achievements of the State Government in various spheres of development from the time of its formation post general elections.

Minister for RDD, Sonam Lama also addressed the gathering wherein he spoke about how the formation and existence of SHGs has several socio-economic benefits which includes economic self independence, participation in village affairs and awareness about education. He also spoke briefly about the advantages of village digitization for improving connectivity, productivity and digital efficiency.

Addressing the gathering, Area MLA, Sunita Gazmer threw light on the achievements made so far under Zoom Salghari constituency. She also placed forward various demands of her constituency before the HCM.

During the course of the program, Chief Minister handed over laptops to Self Help Groups of eight blocks of South district and six blocks of West district along with six Village Administrative Assistants (VAA) of both districts. The three best performing SHGs of South and West districts were awarded with an appreciation letter and cash prize of Rs. 3 lakh, Rs 2 lakh and Rs 1 lakh respectively. The winning SHGs were Sikkim Pragatisheel Nari Cooperative Society, Yangthang SHG Federation and Sadam Rabitar SHG.

The program also saw the official handing and taking over of NERLP to NRLM.

The Chief Minister also released a newsletter of NERLP. Voice Youth Club of Namchi were also felicitated for their commendable service towards making Sikkim a litter and a plastic free State and were presented a letter of appreciation by RDD.

Sikkim BJP holds workshop on upcoming organizational elections

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 11 SEPT:**

Bharatiya Janata Party's Sikkim unit organized a workshop with the Mandal Incharge of South and West Sikkim at Jorethang, South Sikkim, today regarding the upcoming organizational elections.

BJP-Sikkim president, DB Chauhan, vice president Bharat Dulal, general secretary SB Karki, party legislators from the South District, Farwanti Tamang,, Rajkumari Thapa, TT Bhutia and party in-charge from different Mandals (constituencies) from south and west districts were present.

A nationwide organizational election process has begun in the BJP, it is informed and the party



will hold elections in the coming days to form Booth Level Committees, Constituency Level Committees, District Level Committees, State Level Committee and National Level Committee.

Today, special in-

structions regarding these elections were given to the constituency in-charges to strengthen the party in the South and West Districts.

Addressing the workshop, Mr Chauhan urged

party workers to engage with integrity and zeal to strengthen the organization.

He called on party workers to go to the people with the various policies of the party and welfare schemes of the

Central government.

The upcoming BJP Sewa Saptaha to be held from 14 to 20 Sept to celebrate the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi was also discussed at the workshop.

Organic farming training at Assam Lingzey



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 11 SEPT:**

One-day training and demonstration program was organized by International Panacea Limited and Sikkim Organic Mission under FS&AD Departments, Government of Sikkim for the farmer community of Daragaon Ward under Assam Lingzey GPU on 10 Sept, 2019, a press release informs.

The program was attended by Mission Officer (MOVCD), Horticulture Development Officer and Horticulture Inspector from Horticulture & Cash Crop Development Department, Government of Sikkim, Farmers Producers Organisation and Progressive Farm-

ers of Daragaon, Assam Lingzey GPU.

Field Executive of International Panacea Limited, Naina Kala Rai briefed about the activities of Organic Farming, Internal Control System and Certification programme at Assam Lingzey GPU. Ward level training and demonstrations were conducted by the concerned staff in each ward.

She urged the farmers to learn and apply Indigenous Technical Knowledge on their farms.

Ms Rai thanked all the participants, officers from the concerned Department and the IPL team for organizing such a GPU level program for the farmers of Assam Lingzey.

BJP workers injured in clashes with police in Kolkata

KOLKATA, SEP 11 (PTI): Several BJP activists were injured in clashes with police in the city on Wednesday during a rally against hike in power tariff in West Bengal, party sources said.

The BJP president Amit Shah and the state unit president Dilip Ghosh, who is in Delhi in connection with an organisational meeting, have been informed of the incident, the sources said.

Shah has asked the state leadership to submit to him the details about the incident, they said.

The clash broke out during a BJP Bengal unit organised protest rally from the party's state headquarters on Central Avenue to Victoria House, the headquarters of a private power utility in the city.

Two BJP state general secretaries Sayantan Basu and Raju Banerjee along with several top state leaders including party MP and president of its Mahila Morcha Locket Chatterjee, partic-

ipated in the rally.

Kolkata police tried to stop them by putting up barricades on Central Avenue and the force claimed that the BJP workers brickbatted its personnel.

Following this the police used water cannons and burst tear gas shells to disperse the crowd. It also resorted to lathi charge.

The BJP claimed that Basu, Banerjee, BJP Yuva Morcha state president Debjit Sarkar and about a hundred BJP workers were arrested.

It also claimed that about 85 party activists were injured and several of them have been admitted to the hospital.

"The power tariff of this private power supplier is much higher than other power suppliers. It is even more than that charged by the state electric supply corporation. But the state government has not taken any action against the company as it is hand in glove with this private entity in looting the masses," Basu told reporters.

Five SDF Panchayats join SKM



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 11 SEPT:**

Five Sikkim Democratic Front Panchayats from Dodok GPU under Daramdin Constituency, South Sikkim joined Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party today.

They were warmly welcomed by SKM president, PS Tamang [Golay] in the presence of Minister cum area MLA, MN Sherpa, MLA, Sunita Gazmer, Political Secretary to CM, Jacob Khaling at Jorethang, South Sikkim.

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Law College stages skit on Child Labour at MG Marg

GANGTOK, 11 SEPT (IPR): Sikkim Government Law College, Burtuk, presented a skit on Child Labour at MG Marg here today.

This unique approach had a powerful impact on the audience developing empathy for the less fortunate children employed as child labourers.

The skit aimed to raise awareness among adult listeners.

A quick discussion on Article 21[A], the Constitutional right of children aged up to 14 years to be in school and making their employment in any kind of job a criminal offence we underscored by the skit.

It is our responsibility to stand guard against child labour and report violations to the concerned authorities, it was stressed.

Lingi Payong students offer sharamdaan, clean garbage pit

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 11 SEPT:**

As part of ongoing Swachhata Pakhwada, students and teachers of Lingi Payong School offered sharamdaan for cleaning of disposal pit at Lingi Suntalay under Swachhata Hi Seva campaign, as per a press release.

Thirty students along with seven teachers reached the site and started segregation of waste found overflowing from the disposal pit. Mostly bottles, metal bins, sanitary pads, diapers, plastic bags and clothes were part of the waste.

The team careful-



ly segregated different kinds of waste materials and disposed them properly. The team members also cleaned the stream nearby which was also flooded with plastics and other non-biodegradable waste.

Panchayat President, Lingmoo Payong GPU, Yogesh Bhandari was also present on the spot. He appreciated the initiative of the school and offered tea and snacks to the students and teachers.

Poshan Maah signature campaign at Ravangla



RAVANGLA, 11 SEPT (IPR): A signature campaign as part of Poshan Maah was held at Ravangla today which was organized by Social Justice and Welfare Department.

During the campaign, a pledge was administered on welfare of children, nursing

mothers, right steps for handwashing, prevention of anemia and many more was held. Education Minister, Kunga Nima Lepcha, Chairman State Trading Corporation of Sikkim (STCS), Bishnu Kumar Khatiwara and many local gentry took

part in this campaign.

The campaign had the presence of CDPO (Ravangla), Laxman Tamang, District Programme Officer for Poshan Abhiyan, Jyothsna Khatiwara, Supervisor, Tshering Yangchen alongside Anganwadi workers of Ravangla rural project.

ANTHYESTI KRIYA

The anthyesthi Kriya of Nar Bdr Gurung , rtd , Record Officer Health deptt and also Vice President in Paramedical who left for his heavenly abode falls on 5th of September 2019 at Ahley ,Namthang south Sikkim. All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us in offering our prayers for the departed soul on 18.09.2019 at Ahley ,Namthang south Sikkim



Family Members

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For more details: 9083826462 /9832556698

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Talk on Effective Microbes by Dr Teruo Higa

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 11 SEPT:

Prof Teruo Higa delivered a lecture on the use and applications of Effective Microbes to a diverse gathering of Government officials, NGOs, delegates from the Bhutan Government, students and faculty of Sikkim University, Department of Horticulture and others at Hotel Lemon Tree in Gangtok today, a press release informs.

The lecture was organized by Maple Orgtech India Ltd (the only authorized producer of EM in India) and was attended by Khorlo Bhutia [Secretary, Food Security & Agriculture Dev Dept], DK Bhandari [Secretary, Dept of Horticulture & Cash Crops], Shakti Singh Chowdhury [Mayor, Gangtok Municipal Corporation] and Hem Chettri [Commissioner, GMC].

Chairman of Maple Orgtech India Ltd, Madan Mohan Mohanka delivered the welcome address and narrated how through a chance meeting with Dr Higa on a plane many years ago he had learnt about



EM Technology and was later able to set up units in India to produce the EM solution and make it available in India.

Prof Higa at the onset congratulated Sikkim for being declared the first organic state in India and was happy to note that EM technology had played a major role in setting the groundwork for organic farming in Sikkim.

Prof Higa elaborated on the three main

functions of EM based on its anti-oxidation, non-ionizing effects and conversion of harmful energy into harmless or useful forms of energy in a three dimensional (helical) manner.

Application of EM Technology was vast and diverse. Besides its use in our daily lives such as health and sanitation it was used in agriculture, animal husbandry, waste management and many other fields. The latest

use was in the reduction of radioactive contamination from the tsunami damaged Fukushima nuclear plant. EM Products addressed common problems faced by human beings – food crisis, environmental degradation, health care etc. He explained and demonstrated how EM can utilize quantum energy and gravity wave energy.

What was particularly interesting for the Sikkimese audience was the

use of EM Technology to mitigate wildlife damage to crops through the creation of EM based energy fields, the release mentions.

The audience was also addressed by Mr Khorlo and Shakti Singh Chowdhury, the former expressing much hope in the use of EM technology to address the human wildlife conflicts faced by the farmers of Sikkim. Dr Higa is scheduled for a field visit on Thursday to meet local farmers.

Army conducts Gujjars and Bakarwals traditional horse race in J&K

NEW DELHI, SEP 11 (PTI):

As many as 220 riders participated in the traditional Gujjars and Bakarwals horse race on Wednesday in the scenic locale of Padri Gali located at a height of 12500 ft in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. A free medical and veterinary camp was also organised for nomads and their livestock on the occasion, they said.

"Gujjars and Bakarwals Horse Race was conducted in beautiful and serene meadows of Padri Gali located at an altitude of 12500 ft.

"220 horse riders participated in this mega event which was witnessed by more than 1500 people including army officers, dignitaries from civil administration and police, teachers and students from colleges and schools. The event was organised with full gusto and fanfare," a senior Army official said.

Horse riders from Kathua, Samba, Pathankot, Jammu, Lakhanpur, Bani, Basoli, Dudu, Basantgarh, who have their deras in Doda district, participated in the event.

During the free medical and veterinary camp, 1100 patients and more than 550 livestock were treated by a team of doctors, he said. The Army also tweeted about the event and shared pictures.

"Kashmir is beautiful & people of J&K have great idea towards life & humanity. Gujjars & Bakarwals Traditional Horse Race was conducted in the spectacular meadows of Padri Gali #Kashmir located at 12500ft. Traditions are being kept alive," it tweeted.

The event was made colourful with cultural programmes and games for the students who had come to witness the event. A band from Bharderwah mesmerised the audience with their performance.



Manjusri Public School bags 51 medals in Swimming State C'ship

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 11 SEPT:

The swimming team of Manjusri Public School took part in the recently concluded 15th Sikkim State Open Swimming Championship 2019 held at Tashi Namgyal Academy, a press release informs.

The contingent comprising

of 17 students returned with a rich haul of 51 medals, out of which 18 were gold. Four students were also awarded individual trophies for best swimmer in their respective categories.

Saransh Thapa was awarded best swimmer in the junior category (Boys) Group 3. Rik-

in Tamang was awarded most promising swimmer in the junior category (Boys) Group 2.

Karma Diki Bhutia was awarded best swimmer in the junior category (Girls) Group 2 while Ahalya Winona was awarded best swimmer in the junior category (Girls) Group 3.

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT E Procurement Notice

Bid ID No. SK-PMGSY II Batch I Online (2019-20)

The Chief Engineer, RM & DD on behalf of Governor of Sikkim invites percentage rate bid through e-procurement. The bid should be submitted online in web site www.pmgstendersskm.gov.in for construction of respective work as detailed in the above website by contractors of appropriate class with the State Government for execution of Civil works. The bidders should have necessary portal enrolment with his own Digital Signature Certificate (DSC).

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding		Last date of time for seeking tender clarification	Date & time of Opening of tender
		From	To		
Chief Engineer, RDD	SK- PMGSY II online (2019-20)	10/09/2019	14/10/2019 upto 4.30 PM	03/10/2019 upto 4.00 PM	15/10/2019 from 11.00 AM onwards.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-cum-Empowered Officer
Rural Development Department
Government of Sikkim
Gangtok.

PMGSY-II(Batch-I) RE-TENDER 5 2019-20

Sl	District	Pkg.No.	Block	Name of Road works	Road Length in kms	Tender amount (Rs in Lakhs)	Grade of Contractors	Jurisdiction	Earnest Money in Lakhs	Tender form cost	Completion Time.
1.	East	East SK02 P9 RT5	Pakyong	MRL05-Dahal Turning to Lower Bering in East Sikkim	2	181.99	All class III Contractors enlisted with the Sikkim Public Works Department	Competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction of the Gram Panchayat/ Urban Local bodies where the work is to be executed.	4.55	30000	1 YEAR

R.O No. 180/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20 Date: 10.9.2019

SHSC downs Kumar Sporting 2-1 in Sikkim Premier League

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 11 SEPT:

Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club downed Kumar Sporting Football Club in a very contesting match played on Wednesday at the ongoing Sikkim Football Association Premier Division Sikkim League 2019 here at Paljor Stadium.

Sikkim Himalayan SC won the match 2-1 to earn three points from another victory in the league.

Being a vital match, both teams pursued an attacking game right

from the starting whistle. Eventually, Musa broke the deadlock when he converted a cross and earned the lead for SHSC in the 25th minute. In return, Kumar Sporting FC players made some very good attacks but could not find the net.

While Kumar Sporting FC players were sweating out hard in the second half to bounce back into the match, Sonam Zangpo extended the lead to 2-0 in the 77th minute.

The Kumar Sporting FC squad played its heart

out but missed the net on different occasion until Birbal Rai won some consolation for the team in the injury time of the match but this was too late for them to stop Sikkim Himalayan SC from registering a 2-1 victory.

It is informed that following a one year ban imposed on Sikkim Aakraman Football Club by SFA, there will be no match on Thursday and the full three points and three goals awarded to its scheduled opponent State Sports Academy.

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GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM ENERGY AND POWER DEPARTMENT

No. 82/C&D/EHV-NE/2019-20/219

Dated: 09/09/2019

To
The Joint Director
IPR Department
Government of Sikkim
Gangtok

Sub: Publication of Shutdown News.

Sir
This is to inform you that EHV (Extra High Voltage) North/East Division is taking Proper Shutdown for the Maintenance and topping of trees under the 66KV Transmission line at various locations for uninterrupted Power Supply during Festival Season. Details have been given below:

Sl. No.	66KV Transmission Line	Date and Time of Shutdown	Affected areas
01	PGCIL-Bulbulay	19.09.2019 (Thursday) 8am to 5pm	No Affected areas.
02	LLHP-Pakyong	20.09.2019 (Friday) 8am to 5pm	Assam Lingchey, Pakyong, Linkey, Parkha, Machong, Rongli, Rorathang.
03	Tadong-Phodong	21.09.2019 (Saturday) 8am to 5pm	Entire North District
04	Pakyong-Rongli	23.09.2019 (Monday) 8am to 5pm	Rongli, Rorathang, Rhenock.
05	LLHP-Topakhani	24.09.2019 (Tuesday) 8am to 5pm	Singtam, Khamdong, Temi-Tarku.
06	Phodong-Mangan	25.09.2019 (Wednesday) 8am to 5pm	North District above Phodong
07	Mangan-Meyong	26.09.2019 (Thursday) 8am to 5pm	North District above Mangan
08	Tadong-Sichey	27.09.2019 (Friday) 8am to 5pm	No affected areas.
09	Sichey-Bulbulay	28.09.2019 (Saturday) 8am to 5pm	No affected areas.

I request your office to kindly publicize widely.

Thanking You

Your Faithfully

Ashish Sanichaney
Ashish Sanichaney, JES
Assistant Engineer (EHV)

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM ENERGY AND POWER DEPARTMENT

No.

Dated..

E-TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Addl. Chief Engineer (HQ-II), Power Department invites percentage rate tenders through e-tender from the Class II "A" contractors of East District enlisted with the Power Department, Govt. of Sikkim for the following project:

1	2	3
Sl.No.	Name of Work	Bid Value in Rs. In lakh.
1.	Strengthening, Modernization and Improvement of Transmission and Distribution System of Raj Bhavan, Mintokgang, High Court, VIP Areas and Surrounding Areas in Gangtok, East Sikkim.	6,42,93,773.00

The schedule of events (date wise) instruction to bidders (ITB) and detail bidding documents along with the technical specifications are available in the website www.sikkimtender.gov.in. The interested bidders may view and download the e-bid document from 06.09.2019 after 1100 hours onwards.

Sd/-
(S.R. Bhutia)
Addl. Chief Engineer (H-II),
Power Department
Govt. of Sikkim
Gangtok.

R.O. No. 176/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20
Date: 9.9.19

Save the Minor

by helping them heal from the trauma of crimes visited on them

The safety of children around grown-ups even in environments where they are expected to be safe is being discussed at the national level and on even media platforms of late. Crimes booked under the POCSO Act and cases eventually lost due to poor investigation and/or poor prosecution have been making headlines. And yes, that is a concern and one requiring immediate attention. Meanwhile, there are also other realities facing children at risk which need redressal.

Children have always been in harm's way and Sikkim is not new to disturbing incidents of minors being targeted with sexual violence. It is important that these discussions continue and the society does not get inured to the horror of sexual offences being committed against children just because it gets reported so often.

Words fail you when it comes to deploring the rape of a minor. While rape in itself is a reprehensible act, when the victim is a minor, the heinousness of the crime multiplies. The crime is no longer one in which the victim is violated physically, but becomes a transgression which scars an innocent mind permanently. Unfortunately most cases of child abuse and rape of minors are committed by people known to the child. Family friends and relatives, whom a child is normally conditioned to trust, are known to betray the faith and turn into animals as are neighbours and acquaintances that families leave children unattended around. While the Courts and the conscience of the predator will decide how the culprit lives with his guilt, it is the impact of such crimes on the fragile minds of children that is a matter of deeper and continued concern. Everything that a child has been led to believe and conditioned to accept [like trusting and respecting her/ his elders] are felled in one swoop of a warped mind. As much as the culprit needs to be punished, the child needs to be saved. The emotional trauma that is sure to haunt the mind which is still uncertain of what singled her/ him out to be targeted with such a crime needs to be addressed.

Minds of the minors understand and weigh everything as rewards and punishments. Already confused, the child cannot be left to find the reasons behind the crime by herself. She should not be allowed to go through the rest of her formative years trying to figure out what she had done wrong to deserve such 'punishment'. She has to be told that she was in no way responsible for what happened to her. It is important that victims understand that a deranged mind and ignorant elders allowed the crimes to happen. Everyone responsible for the child's care has to apologise to her for having ignored the warning signs [every culprit must have displayed some signs of his paedophilia] and allowed the crime to visit her. Victims also need professional help. It is now obvious that most parents don't have the wherewithal to handle such situations and ensure that their children heal properly. Hence, they along with the child need to be counselled by professionals so that the situation does not become worse for the child who has already suffered enough.

It is also important for all parents to look out for possible paedophiles in the family or the neighbourhood. Because this is such a repulsively deviant behaviour to discover in someone you know, most people tend to subconsciously ignore it even when it is obvious. We do so at our own peril.

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The Joker's origin story comes at a perfect moment: clowns define our times

ARI MATTES
theconversation.com

The joker, the trickster, the jester, the provocateur - there is a rich cultural history of these roles going back at least as far as Greek mythology's Hermes.

One of the most famous jester figures of the modern age is the Joker, who made his debut in the first issue of Batman comics in 1940.

As Batman's arch-nemesis, the Joker offers a reprieve from the less interesting narcissistic, angst-ridden histrionics of the hero. The Joker's punishment of society is often comical, and his relentlessly ironic spirit of rebellion contrasts with Batman's dour moral self-righteousness.

The Joker is funny, cool, and refreshingly intelligent. He is also back in theatres next month in the aptly named Joker, which this week won Best Film at the Venice Film Festival.

THE CULTURAL PROVOCATEUR

In a deck of cards the joker is (most of the time) formally useless. The two joker cards are omitted from most games, yet the deck is incomplete without them.

The joker is a necessary non-card, the exception that glues together the rest of the pack. A card of shifting rank and use, the joker offers a spark of improvisation within a rigidly hierarchical order.

Culturally, the joker reaffirms the social order through his lampooning of it, turning socially significant places into spaces of carnival and clowning, revealing the comical and absurd cracks in a spirit of anarchic play.

Yet this role has always been intimately tied up with the institutions it appears to subvert. The court jester, for example, functioned in part to legitimise the social order. He maintained a performative relationship with the people, but his acts of subversion of power reaffirmed its very boundaries in the first place.

There are many of these self-styled "maverick" figures in global politics today, who strategically position themselves as somehow outside of the power structures they in fact serve to reproduce.

The words and actions of such provocateurs flirting with the boundaries of social good taste and etiquette should always be taken with a grain of salt. Power can reproduce itself in multiple ways - including through its apparent critique.

1989: WACKINESS WITH A NASTY EDGE

Within the Batman franchise, the most effective characterisations of the Joker have him tottering dangerously between comedic whimsy and psychopathic sadism - that liminal space in which, arguably, all great comedy occurs.

Perhaps the greatest actor to portray the role

is Jack Nicholson in Tim Burton's Batman (1989). Nicholson's Joker embraces the wackiness of Cesar Romero's earlier interpretation in the 1960s TV series but adds a genuinely nasty edge, and this combination of colourful zaniness with lethal brutality makes for a disturbing experience for the viewer.

"I make art until someone dies," Nicholson's Joker says to journalist Vicki Vale (Kim Basinger) in an art museum after he and his goons have defaced several pieces whilst bopping along to Prince.

"See, I am the world's first fully functioning homicidal artist."

By the late 1980s, Nicholson, appearing as the perfect sleazeball in films like The Witches of Eastwick (1987), was the man behind some of the most hated characters in cinema. He was, thus, perfectly cast as the Joker - it helps that the Joker's demonically twisted face isn't that far from his own.

Nicholson received first billing in Batman, and as Roger Ebert commented, the viewer's tendency is to root for the Joker over Batman. It is this ambiguity that makes Burton's film so compelling.

2008: WHY SO SERIOUS?

Heath Ledger's Joker from The Dark Knight (2008), for which he received a posthumous Best Supporting Actor Oscar, was virtuosically full-bodied. Ledger is eerily, vitally intense. Yet the famous question he asks in the film - "Why so serious?" - could easily be turned back on Ledger's own performance.

Ledger endows the Joker with a psychological realism that, paradoxically, makes for a less interesting (and less complex) experience for the viewer than more ambiguous portrayals.

The uncomfortable mixture of the comical and the sadistic is what makes the character perennially appealing - we never know which Joker we will be getting at any time. Ledger, by making the character "real", turns him into, merely, a rather humourless creep.

2017: CAUGHT IN A BAD BROMANCE

The symbiotic nature of the relationship between Batman and the Joker usually remains unexplored. Wonderfully, The Lego Batman Movie (2017) makes this relationship centre stage.

The film follows the Joker (Zach Galifianakis) as he tries to get Batman (Will Arnett) to admit that he needs the Joker as much as the Joker needs him. Batman refuses to acknowledge the bond the two share throughout most of the film; when he finally does, their bromance can fully mature.

2019: A MENTAL DETERIORATION

The latest version of the Joker is played by Joaquin Phoenix, an actor whose career has oscillated between the absurdly intense (Walk the Line) and the disarmingly clownish (I'm Still Here). Todd Phillips' film promises to revitalise the character in

an origin story following down-on-his-luck comedian/clown Arthur Fleck who transforms into the Joker as his mental health deteriorates.

Early reviews have praised the film's representation of the current political landscape. Time Out calls it a "nightmarish vision of late-era capitalism", and IndieWire suggests it is "about the dehumanising effects of a capitalistic system that greases the economic ladder".

In the context of the incel movement - in which men rally around the perception of their own unjust victimhood - a narrative of a violent folk hero forming through the failure of his dreams of celebrity glory seems strikingly poignant.

The frequency with which mass shootings now occur in America (in 2012 James Holmes killed 12 people at a screening of The Dark Knight in Aurora, Colorado) has also lead to concerns about how the story will be read. The same IndieWire review criticised the film as "a toxic rallying cry for self-pitying incels".

Given the necessity for a law and order stalwart against which the Joker can launch his antics, it is notable that there is no Batman in this film. Will the Joker be able to sustain a feature-length narrative on his own?

SEND IN THE CLOWNS

Clownish figures seem to be becoming the new normal in political politics. In April, comedian Volodymyr Zelensky was elected president of the Ukraine. The UK's new prime minister, Boris Johnson, has been dubbed "Bojo" by the press - and they're not just alluding to his name.

Much of the popularity of Trump has emerged from his presentation of himself as an outsider to the elite willing to lampoon and ridicule power - never mind that, as a rich New York City businessman, he is power personified.

The broader significance of this phenomenon is a little trickier to diagnose. It makes sense that, in an age when everything is valued in terms of its entertainment function (and when most people are aware of the common sleights of hand of the mainstream media they consume), clownish reality TV stars, provocateur comedians and gregariously sleazy entrepreneurs would amass unprecedented levels of power in the public domain.

Politicians entertain us by donning the outfit of the jester and making fun of politicians.

Perhaps this reflects a more widespread public cynicism regarding professional politics, or perhaps it is simply a reflection of a desire to be perpetually distracted by entertaining clowns.

At any rate, the film should be a hoot to watch.

[the writer is Lecturer in Media Studies, University of Notre Dame Australia]

Why fidgeting could be good for your child's health

JOHN J REILLY & XANNE JANSSEN
theconversation.com

Fidgeting is usually considered as a sign of boredom or lack of attention which can be distracting to others. Parents and teachers often demand that their children and pupils stop doing it. But fidgeting could actually be good for their health. Research suggests it might help protect against obesity, improve cardiovascular health, and even save lives.

In our recent study we measured the energy expenditure of 40 children aged four to six, while they each spent an hour in a "whole-room calorimeter". This is a chamber the size of a small bedroom, in which energy expenditure is accurately measured from the amount of oxygen breathed in and the amount of carbon dioxide breathed out.

The children all followed the same procedure in the calorimeter: 30 minutes watching TV, ten minutes drawing or colouring in, and 20 minutes playing with toys on the floor. We counted the number of times children changed posture and took that as our measure of fidgeting.

The fidgeting we witnessed - with

colleagues from the Australian universities of Wollongong and Deakin - varied enormously, despite all of the children following the standard set of activities. There were 53 posture changes per hour in the most fidgety third of the sample, and only 11 per hour in the least fidgety third. These differences directly affected the number of calories burned.

The difference between most and least fidgety groups was only around six calories per hour. But when extrapolated over months and years, this could lead to large differences in energy use.

After all, children of that age typically spend around nine to ten hours per day sitting down, so a six calorie difference per hour of sitting would become a difference of 60 calories per day, 420 calories per week (about three bags of crisps), and 22,000 calories per year (equivalent to about 2kg of body weight in a 20kg child).

We also found that children were much less fidgety while watching TV than when drawing, colouring, or playing with toys on the floor. This may partly explain why time spent watching TV increases the risk of obesity so strongly in children of this age com-

pared to other sedentary activities.

Meanwhile, an older study found that more fidgety adults resisted weight gain when overfed compared to less fidgety individuals. Taken together, this evidence suggests that differences in the tendency to fidget might partly explain why some people are more susceptible to obesity than others.

FIDGETING AS HEALTH STRATEGY?

It is now well established that prolonged periods of sitting are harmful to health, and it is possible that fidgeting might reduce the harms of sitting. A study of more than 12,000 adult women in the UK found, as expected, that the amount of time spent sitting per day predicted the risk of premature death over the subsequent 12 years.

At the start of the study the women had been asked to self-rate their tendency to fidget on a scale of one (no fidgeting) to ten (constant fidgeting). In the most fidgety third, the risks of premature death from sitting were substantially reduced compared to the least fidgety third.

Why fidgeting seemed to reduce premature mortality was not ex-

plored in that study. However, a more recent laboratory-based study in adults found that the harmful effects of prolonged sitting on blood vessels in the legs (such as reduced blood flow) could be mitigated by asking the study participants to fidget by moving their legs while sitting. Fidgety individuals may have some protection from cardiovascular disease compared to less fidgety individuals.

Fidgeting is not considered as being important to health at the moment, but the growing body of research suggests that it should be. The evidence might even lead to new (and much needed) approaches to preventing obesity and promoting cardiovascular health.

Such approaches might be particularly practical as they involve fairly small changes in how we live. Fidgeting or standing breaks during long periods of sitting in the classroom, or at home, far from being an annoying habit, could be precisely what we need.

[John J Reilly is Professor of Physical Activity and Public Health Science, University of Strathclyde; Xanne Janssen is Research Associate, University of Strathclyde]

One lynched on suspicion of being child lifter in Bengal, one arrested



KOLKATA, SEP 11 (PTI): A person was lynched at Asansol in West Bengal on Wednesday morning on suspicion of being a child lifter, police said.

One person has been arrested and several others have been detained by the police for their alleged involve-

ment in the incident.

The incident took place barely a fortnight after the West Bengal assembly passed a bill on August 30 against mob assault and incidents of lynching with provision for life imprisonment to those injuring a person and capital punishment

for causing death.

According to officials of Asansol Durgapur Police Commissionerate, the unidentified person aged 35-40 years was tied to a lamp post and beaten up on suspicion of being a child lifter.

He was later untied and thrashed again by

the mob, they said.

A huge police contingent rushed to the spot on being informed about the incident and rescued the man, who later succumbed to his injuries in a state run hospital, the officials said.

"We are yet to identify the person. We have

arrested one person and have detained few others on the basis of video clippings of the incident that went viral," a senior police official said.

"We have started an investigation into the case," he added.

The West Bengal (Prevention of Lynching) Bill, 2019, was passed by a voice vote on August 30 in the Assembly in the aftermath of a string of incidents in which people were beaten to death over rumours of cattle smuggling and child lifting.

It has provision of jail term for three years to life imprisonment in cases of assault leading to injury, besides a fine ranging from Rs one lakh to Rs three lakh.

In the event of the victim's death, the attackers would be punished with death sentence or rigorous life imprisonment and a fine of up to Rs five lakh.

Four minor girls rescued from rly stn in Assam, one held



MORIGAON (ASSAM), SEP 11 (PTI): Four minor girls were rescued on Wednesday from Kamkhaya railway station when they were being taken to Bihar by suspected traffickers, a senior police officer said.

One person, identi-

fied as Bokuli Bordoloi, was arrested in this connection, he said.

Acting on a tip-off, Morigaon district police launched an operation and managed to rescue the four girls from Awadh- Assam Express, SP Swapnanil Deka said.

Bordoloi had promised these girls jobs at a dance centre in Bihar's Muzaffarpur town, he said.

During questioning, he named three of his associates, Deka said, adding that a search operation is under way to nab them.

US 'warmongering' a failure, Iran says, as Bolton ousted

TEHRAN, SEPT 11 (AFP): President Hassan Rouhani said on Wednesday that the United States' "warmongering" was a failure, as Iran welcomed the sacking of hawkish US national security adviser John Bolton.

Rouhani also dismissed the prospect of a meeting with President Donald Trump at a time his US administration is continuing to slap more crippling sanctions on the Islamic republic.

"The Americans must understand that bellicosity and warmongering don't work in their favour. Both... must be abandoned," Rouhani told a meeting of his cabinet, according to the government's Twitter account. "The enemy imposed 'maximum pressure' on us. Our response is to resist and confront this," he said, referring to the US campaign of economic sanctions.

Arch-foes Tehran and Washington have been at loggerheads since May last year when Trump unilaterally withdrew from a 2015 nuclear deal and began reimposing the punitive measures.

Iran has riposted by scaling back its commitments to the landmark accord, which gave it the promise of relief from sanctions in return for curbs on its atomic programme.

On Tuesday, Trump announced his decision to dismiss Bolton.

It was a move an adviser to Iran's president, Hesameddin Ashena, hailed as a "clear sign of the defeat of America's maximum pressure strategy" against Tehran.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin stressed the US would maintain the strategy. But they added that Trump was willing to meet Rouhani without preconditions.

The idea of a Trump-Rouhani meeting was floated last month by French President Em-

manuel Macron, who has been spearheading European efforts to de-escalate tensions.

Rouhani said in response that Iran was ready to comply with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action only if the Americans did so too.

"We have said many times that our policy... is one of peaceful (nuclear) technology, and that our approach in the JCPOA is commitment for commitment," he said. "We have taken the third step... If it is essential and necessary in the future, we will take other steps."

Iran said on Saturday it was firing up advanced centrifuges to enrich uranium at a faster rate -- its third step back from the 2015 nuclear deal.

It had announced on July 1 that its stockpile of enriched uranium had increased to beyond the deal's 300-kilogram threshold, and a week later that it had exceeded a 3.67-per cent cap on the purity of its stocks.

Iran's UN representative Majid Takht-Ravanchi poured cold water on any talk of a Trump-Rouhani meeting.

The envoy said a meeting could take place only if Washington ended its "economic terrorism" and that it would have to be held in the framework of the group of major powers that negotiated the nuclear deal.

"As long as the US government's economic terrorism and such cruel sanctions are imposed on the Iranian people, there is no room for negotiations," he was quoted as saying by state news agency IRNA.

The diplomat said Trump's decision to dismiss Bolton -- a hardliner accused of pushing Trump towards war against Iran -- was a matter for the Americans.

"The removal of John Bolton is an internal affair and we don't take stands on domestic issues," Takht-Ravanchi said.

NCST recommends 'tribal area' status for Ladakh under Sixth Schedule

NEW DELHI, SEP 11 (PTI): The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) on Wednesday recommended 'tribal area' status for Ladakh under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

The decision was taken at a meeting of senior officials of the Home, Law and Tribal Affairs ministries and the NCST.

The Home Ministry is the central authority for declaring an area as a "tribal area".

"After discussing the issue in detail, the com-

mission has decided to recommend 'tribal area' status for Ladakh under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution," NCST Joint Secretary S K Ratho told PTI.

The Sixth Schedule provides for the administration of tribal areas after setting up autonomous district and regional councils.

The recommendation comes against the backdrop of growing demand from a predominantly tribal population and political

leaders of Ladakh for according "tribal area" status to the region.

Though Ladakhis have welcomed the Centre's decision to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, and make Ladakh a Union territory, they fear an influx of outsiders would lead to a change in the region's demography, jeopardising their culture and identity.

It is estimated that more than 90 percent of Ladakh's population is tribal.

No water, no immersion of Ganesh idols in Latur



MUMBAI, SEP 11 (PTI): Over 10,000 Ganesh idols at Latur in Maharashtra region won't be immersed on the 'visarjan' day this year due to acute water shortage in the town, local officials said.

A senior official said there is "not even a drop of water" in the usual six spots in Latur where the Ganesh idols, both public and domestic, are immersed each year.

Latur district collector G Shrikant told PTI that the decision to skip the immersion process

is the result of public awareness and was finalised after review meetings of the Ganesh mandals in the city.

"This decision is not solely due to water scarcity.

The big mandals were reusing the idols for the last three to four years. It is a collective decision of the mandals," he said.

The municipal corporation has made facilities for storage of idols in temples, the IAS official said. "If they can be reused and recycled, that

will be the best way to overcome the water scarcity," he added.

"We have asked people to perform the 'visarjan' of domestic idols at home like Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis did at his official 'Varsha' bungalow. I will be doing the same," he said.

A local historian in Latur, which is around 500 km from Mumbai, said this will be the first time in over a century that the Ganesh idols in the city won't be immersed.

FC Goa to start pre-season on Thursday

PANAJI, SEP 11 (PTI): FC Goa will start their pre-season on Thursday.

After winning the Super Cup last season and coming within minutes of landing their first-ever ISL title, Sergio Lobera's men will look to launch another successful campaign.

The two-time ISL finalists have continued with a majority of the

squad that finished the last campaign with six members of the foreign contingent retained, a media release issued here on Wednesday said.

FC Goa pre-season squad: Goalkeepers: Mohammad Nawaz, Shubham Dhas, Naveen Kumar Defenders: Mourtada Fall, Seriton Fernandes, Carlos Pea,

Aibanbha Dohling, Chinglensana Singh, Mandar Rao Dessai, Amey Ranawade, Saviour Gama Midfielders: Hugo Boumous, Ahmed Jahouh, Princeton Rebelo, Leny Rodrigues, Edu Bedia, Brandon Fernandes, Jackichand Singh Forwards: Ferran Corominas, Seimenlen Doungel, Manvir Singh, Liston Colaco.

Mizoram ranks third in literacy rate in India: minister

AIZAWL, SEP 11 (PTI): With a literacy rate of 91.3 per cent, Mizoram is holding the third position in the country, state School Education Minister Lalthhandama Ralte said here on Wednesday.

The minister did not mention the two other states that are ahead of Mizoram in literacy. However, according to the 2011 Census, the

Northeastern state is behind Kerala (94.0 per cent) and Lakshadweep (91.8 per cent).

Addressing a function on the occasion of the International Literacy Day here, Ralte said now there are an estimated 36,700 illiterate people in the state at present.

"There were 43,341 illiterates when the state education depart-

ment conducted a survey in 2015. Of them, around 7,000 became literate," he said.

The population of Mizoram is 10,97,206, according to the 2011 Census.

The minister sought the cooperation of the civil societies and church leaders in achieving hundred per cent literacy in the state.

Narada case: CBI conducts voice sample tests of former Kolkata mayor, TMC MP

KOLKATA, SEP 11 (PTI): The CBI on Wednesday conducted voice sample tests of former Kolkata Municipal Corporation mayor Sovan Chatterjee and Trinamool Congress MP Aparupa Poddar in connection with Narada sting operation, sources in the agency said.

Chatterjee, who recently joined the BJP, and Poddar are among the ten leaders and ministers of the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress (TMC) who have been summoned by the agency for the test.

The TMC MP from Arambag had in 2017 moved the Calcutta High Court seeking to quash a CBI FIR against her in the case, claiming that



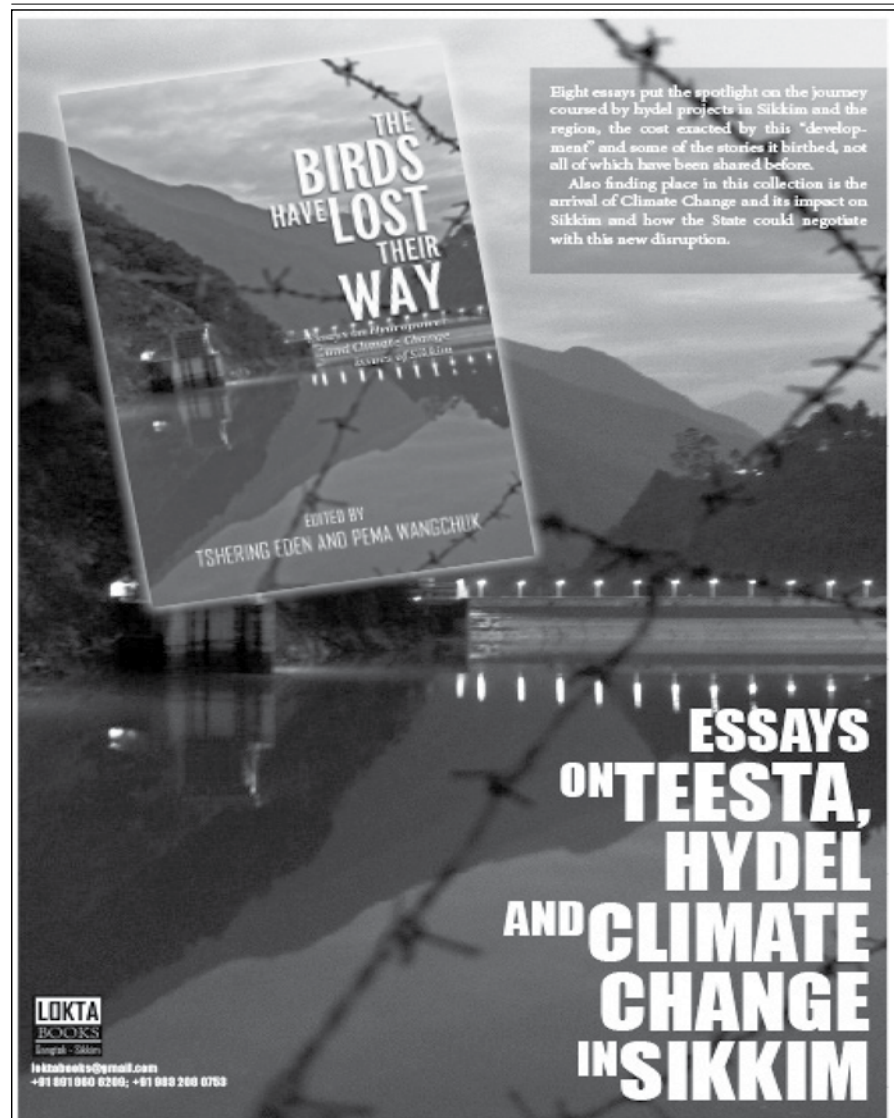
she was not an elected representative when the alleged video was shot and that the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act were not applicable on her.

The case is still pending before the high court.

According to the sources, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is carrying out the voice sample tests to as-

certain the truth of a video, which had surfaced in 2016 ahead of the West Bengal assembly polls.

Samuel Mathew, the editor of Narada News, had provided recordings, which showed persons resembling senior TMC leaders were accepting money from representatives of a fictitious company in return for favours.



Test Squad: Rahul under scanner, Rohit likely choice, Easwaran dark horse

NEW DELHI, SEP 11 (PTI): Opener KL Rahul's poor show with the bat could pave the way for Rohit Sharma's return to the Indian Test XI when the selectors meet here on Thursday to decide the squad for the three-match series against South Africa next month.

White ball vice-captain Rohit, who couldn't make the cut in the playing XI against the West Indies, is expected to be tried out as an opener after Hanuma Vihari and Ajinkya Rahane sealed slot Nos 5 and 6 in the batting order respectively. Rohit's last Test appearance for India was in the away series against Australia in 2018.

Cheteshwar Pujara, at No.3, and skipper Virat Kohli, at No.4, automatically pick themselves.

This has left head coach Ravi Shastri and skipper Kohli with only one option, to try an explosive player like Rohit at the top of the order, following the 'Virender Sehwag impact model'.

Bengal opener Abhimanyu Easwaran, a prolific performer at the domestic and India A games, could be rewarded with a place in the side as a reserve opener, if the selection committee decides to drop Rahul.

The other openers in fray are Priyank Panchal of Gujarat and Shubman Gill of Punjab.

Rahul, considered a favourite of this team management, has scored 664 runs in his last 30 Test innings, with his only notable score -- 149 against England at the Oval last year --, coming in a dead fifth rubber.

With Mayank Agarwal assured of his place, the only bone of contention could be the opening slot where a 15-member squad could ensure both Rohit and Easwaran make it. In case they both make it, then they might feature in the India A side in the two-day practice game against South Africa in Vizianagaram before the first Test in Visakhapatnam on October 2.

Otherwise, the selection will remain pretty straightforward with only Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who isn't fully fit, likely to miss out.

In that case, all-rounder Hardik Pandya could be back in the Test squad or else Navdeep Saini might come in as a back-up pacer.

However, it remains to be seen whether the Think-Tank will want Pandya to only concentrate on white ball cricket in the next 13 months keeping the World Cup in focus. Test matches in India normally feature one specialist keeper in the side but Wriddhiman Saha is very much in the scheme of things even though Rishabh Pant remains the top choice.

Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav and Ravichandran Ashwin will be the three spinners while Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami and Ishant Sharma will be the three pacers. In case Shami is rested, then Umesh Yadav can come in.

Anand confident of sealing GCT Finals berth

TAPAN MOHANTA KOLKATA, SEP 11 (PTI): With just two spots up for grabs, Indian chess wizard Viswanathan Anand on Wednesday said he is confident of sealing his berth in the 2019 Grand Chess Tour Finals to be held in London from November 30 to December 10.

The GCT Finals will be held during the London Chess Classic in London and Anand wants to brighten his prospects with yet another perfect finish in the Tata Steel Rapid and Blitz tournament to be held here from November 22 to 26.

Anand, who finished a disappointing tied third in the Sinquefield Cup last month, needs 13 points from the remaining two legs in Bucharest (November 6-10) and Kolkata to seal a spot in the GCT Finals which carries a prize purse of USD 350,000.

"Definitely it's (securing a place in GCT Finals) gettable, but it is still very unpredictable. (Levon) Aronian, me and (Wesley) So all have the same tournaments left. So all of us are fighting for the same 13 points," the five-time former world champion told PTI in an interview from Chennai.

"On top of that, there are other guys, who in



the event of a crumble, can get close enough. So, I think 6-7 players are fighting for the last two spots. Hopefully, it will go well for me," he added.

The 'City of Joy' has been a happy hunting ground for Anand. From playing his first GM tournament here in 1986 to winning the Tata Steel Blitz title last year, Kolkata holds a special place in the chess wizard's heart.

"My performance in the Blitz tournament (last year) was great and that made it extra special. Kolkata has been

very special to me and the sport fans are really passionate," he said.

The venue for this year's Tata Steel Rapid and Blitz event is the prestigious National Library, which will host a chess tournament for the first time.

"I think the atmosphere there would be electric. National Library as the venue sounds amazing. I'm looking forward to see the final arrangement there. I'm sure they will do a good job. And, obviously I hope to do well," Anand said.

The competition in Kolkata will see Anand face world champion Magnus Carlsen for the first time in India since his 2013 World Championship defeat in Chennai.

"I have played him (Carlsen) many times in between. I don't think that matters too much either because there would be other players as well. Then I was playing him exclusively. Now there will be 10 participants," said Anand about his upcoming duel with the Norwegian.

"But of course it's always a big challenge

playing him. His performance this year has been very good.

"Generally he starts as a favourite everywhere. But you just play your best and see what's you're up to. Ding (Liren) has been very impressive too," he added.

Anand won one match and drew 10 at the classical leg of the GCT in the Sinquefield Cup in St Louis. The Indian, however, failed to convert some positional advantages there, especially against GM Ding Liren.

But Anand now wants to shift his focus

on the FIDE Chess.com Grand Swiss in the Isle of Man from October 8 to 22, where the winner will qualify for the 2020 Candidates Tournament.

Anand pulled out of the ongoing World Cup in Khanty-Mansiysk and is currently enjoying a break with his family at his home in Chennai. "I had a chance to rest, otherwise I would already have started playing (in World Cup). I thought that I might be tired so I took the decision to skip this one," he said.

On his preparation for the Isle of Man event,

which is expected to be the strongest Swiss-system tournament, Anand said: "It's still a while way but I am getting ready for it.

"There are too many variables. I don't know whom I'll be paired with and with what colours. So you just have to go, be ready to take your chances and see what happens. You can't plan and switch on."

Anand also sounded concerned about the ongoing infighting in Bengal chess where GM Dibyendu Barua has filed a complaint against BCA secretary and IM Atanu Lahiri for alleged of irregularities.

"Hopefully this short-term issue will be resolved. The main thing is developing the talent that you have," he said.

"There are enough activities and good players in Bengal. I'm optimistic that talent could emerge at any moment. You have a good chess culture here. Hopefully, the Tata Steel event will also inspire the young talents to emerge."

Anand, who will turn 50 on December 11, also ruled out retirement plans anytime soon.

"No, at the moment. I haven't thought about it. I will see how it goes. I don't think about it a lot," he concluded.

Invest in education, health of children, says Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi

MOHALI (PB), SEP 11 (PTI): Noting that children are not "our future" but "our present", Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi on Wednesday underscored the need for investing in their education, health and wellbeing.

He described it as a "serious matter" and highlighted that eight children disappear every day in India and are forced into slavery, prostitution and begging.

"Many people think that children are our future but they are not. Children are our present and if we cannot shape our present and we if cannot protect and educate our present, then the future will be dark," Satyarthi said on the sidelines of 'Nobel Prize Series India 2019' here.

"I strongly feel that we should invest in our children, invest in their health and education, safety and wellbeing. Unfortunately, this is not happening in the world," he lamented while addressing media.

Nobel Prize Series India 2019 is a three-day programme in which



nobel laureates will give lectures and take part in roundtable discussions together with experts, teachers and students.

"What did we teach our children? We talked hatred, we gave them identities to become Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jain and what not. Children never created any borders but the world has been fighting for borders for ages," he rued.

Children were never responsible for any violence, "but they are the worst sufferers and victims in the world... We have to learn from children instead of teaching theses wrongs which we have accumulated as ready-made answers for centuries and ages", he said.

He said people should learn compassion and simplicity from children who are taught to become liars.

To a question on alleged incidents of child lifting, Satyarthi said children are lifted for slavery and other illegal activities and the people should raise their voice against such cases.

"Some of such cases are reported and sometimes sentiments become bitter and violent. The irony is that while we are talking, eight children reportedly go missing every hour as per NCB (National Crime Records) data.

"They do not disappear in thin air. They are taken for slavery, prostitution, organ sale, forced begging and this

is a serious matter. If you see children begging in Chandigarh, Mohali they are not local. They are stolen from states like Bihar, Jharkhand and other parts of the country. They are brought here by traffickers," he said.

To a question on mob lynching of those suspected of child lifting, he said nobody can support any lynching. "If one has the slightest doubt that somebody is lifting a child then call the police instead of being involved in acts that are unconstitutional and illegal," he further said.

Satyarthi, who shared the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014 with Pakistan's Malala Yousafzai, said he had a dream of shaking hands and getting a photograph clicked with a Nobel Laureate since he was six or seven years old.

"But it did not happen for 50 years," he said.

The moment came when he got a dozen photos clicked while standing in front of a washroom mirror after his name was announced for the Nobel Peace Prize award, he said.

Southgate worried by England's 'ridiculous' mistakes in 'crazy' win over Kosovo



ANDY HUNTER theGuardian

Gareth Southgate said he was concerned with the ridiculous, crazy and basic errors that littered England's victory over Kosovo as he hailed Raheem Sterling for an "unstoppable" display in the Euro 2020 qualifier.

The England manager was highly critical of his team's defending at St Mary's Stadium despite a 5-3 win extending their immaculate record in qualification. England can secure their place at Euro 2020 with three matches to spare with victory in the Czech Republic next month. But Southgate admitted the individual mistakes that crept into the performance, following similar lapses against the Netherlands in the Nations League this summer, left major room for improvement.

Michael Keane gifted Kosovo the lead after just 34 seconds with a wayward pass and the visitors struck twice early in the second half having trailed 5-1 at the interval. Harry Kane also missed a penalty in a chaotic game illuminated by Sterling's brilliance and the first goals of Jadon Sancho's international career.

"It was bizarre. The outstanding features and the poor features are apparent to everybody, so we don't need to get the video out and go back through it," the England manager said. "Poor individual mistakes, a poor start to the game. I like the way we showed the composure to recover from that initial mistake and our use of the ball throughout the first half was excellent, right the way through the team.

"The small period after half-time: ridiculous mistakes, poor decisions, lack of covering back. So, we made the game really uncomfortable for ourselves. There were obviously mistakes that were concerning. Whether it was the intensity of the game, whether it was the pressure, I don't know. We've got to reflect on that but they were such basic errors, really, that you have to learn from. We just made some crazy errors."

By contrast, England were formidable in attack with Sterling scoring once,

providing three assists and hitting a post. Sancho scored twice and forced an own goal in his third competitive start for his country. Southgate added: "Our attacking play from Raheem, Jadon and Harry was outstanding. Raheem's two performances have been of the highest level. I think he's been almost unstoppable, his awareness of where defenders were, his ability to ride challenges, his vision and desire to get in on goal, and unselfish play as well, so I couldn't speak highly enough of the way he played. Jadon -- you know we were talking about the three on Saturday -- Jadon's performance was at that level as well. He worked really hard for the team without the ball and showed the ability he has to go past people, to be calm in tight areas. So, that part of our game was absolutely outstanding. We continued that threat for most of the game."

The Kosovo manager, Bernard Challandes, said Sterling was one of the best players in the world on current form. "It is impossible to play against him," he said. "I know Sterling in the past was very speedy but the last choice or shot was not good. Now he is incredible. He has learned a lot from Guardiola and is one of the best players in the world now."

Southgate denied England's error-strewn display stemmed from his philosophy of playing out from the back and insisted it was an individual concern. He said: "We haven't got caught being pressured in our own six-yard box. The errors in Guimaraes were basics, so that's nothing to do with any philosophy. We didn't play out any more than Kosovo did. I don't think our mistakes came from playing ridiculous errors or taking unnecessary risks.

"I know we were saying international football was dull but that wasn't the case tonight. Did it go exactly as I hoped it would have gone? No, but I've got to balance the two performances, the nine goals and what we've achieved this week against the obvious errors that will cost you, have cost us tonight, and of course would cost us against better opposition."

Pant says aiming for fresh start with South Africa series

Kolkata, Sep 11 (PTI): Indian wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant on Wednesday said he is eyeing a fresh start with the upcoming T20 and Test series against South Africa after drawing criticism for a below-par show in the tour of West Indies last month.

The South Africa series begins with the T20 Internationals starting September 15 in Dharamsala.

"I have practiced hard for the South Africa series, and I am going with

a positive mindset. I will try my best to get a good start," Pant said on the sidelines of a promotional event here.

Pant was criticised for not making his chances count in the limited-overs and Test tour of the West Indies, during which India won in all formats.

"It went great for our team. It's great to return on a clean slate. But once a team returns, the last series is past. Of course it's our home series and there will be advantage

for us but the most important thing is to start well," the 21-year-old said. Pant, who had become the first Indian wicketkeeper with Test centuries in England and Australia, scored 58 runs from two Tests in India's 2-0 rout of the West Indies and his dismissals were described as reckless.

"I'm looking forward to improve myself and help India win more matches. The focus is to do well in the South Africa series right now, then

we will think of Bangladesh. We will take one series at a time," he said.

The comparisons with the legendary Mahendra Singh Dhoni continue unabated when he steps on the field but the delhi player said he prefers to focus on himself.

"I just love him, I am a big fan of Dhoni Bhai. (But) I'm focusing on my cricket without thinking too much about who's saying what. I just want to take one match at a time. My focus is to improve myself," he signed off.

Indian students set to benefit from UK's 2-year post-study work visa offer

BY ADITI KHANNA

LONDON, SEP 11 (PTI): In a move that addresses a long-standing demand to boost Indian student numbers choosing British universities, the UK government on Wednesday announced a new two-year post-study work visa route for all international students.

The new "Graduate" route, to be in place by next year, will be open to all overseas nationals who have valid UK immigration status as a student and have successfully completed a course of study in any subject at undergraduate level or above at a government-approved UK higher education institution. The visa will allow eligible students to work, or crucially look for work, in any career or position of their choice, for two years after completing their studies.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who has effectively re-instated a policy ended by his predecessor Theresa May around nine years ago, said the change would see students "unlock their potential" to begin careers in the UK.

"The new Graduate Route will mean talented international students, whether in science and maths or technology and engineering, can study in the UK and then gain valuable work experience as they go on to build successful careers," said UK home secretary Priti Patel, the senior-most Indian-origin member of Johnson's Cabinet.

"It demonstrates our global outlook and will ensure that we continue to attract the best and brightest," she said.

The UK ended its two-year post-study work visa offer during Theresa May's term as



UK home secretary in 2012, widely seen as responsible for a major drop in student numbers from countries like India. "The withdrawal of the PSW (post-study work) visa was attributed with a decline in international student recruitment in the UK from key markets, notably India. Between 2010-11 and 2016-17, the number of higher education students from India more than halved," noted a report by the UK's All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for International Students.

The Boris Johnson government's latest announcement was widely welcomed by university chiefs and representatives, who highlight that Indian students were particularly prone to make their higher education choices based on being able to gain some work experience at the end of their degree.

"Although 82 per cent of our Indian graduates are satisfied with their careers wherever they are working, we know that they value the opportunity to spend some time in the UK working after their degree. This visa will make it significantly easier for them to

do that," said Vivienne Stern, Director, Universities UK International, which has been lobbying for such a visa for many years. "The UK ranks first for international student satisfaction overall, compared to other major study destinations, but having a more attractive post-study work offer will open the UK up to even more international students. It will also allow employers in all parts of the UK to benefit from access to talented graduates from around the world," she said.

Indian students coming to the UK registered a hike over the last three years, hitting around 22,000 in the year ending June 2018. This was a 42 per cent increase on the previous year, a reversal from a downward trend in the past.

"I'm delighted that numbers of Indian students coming to study in the UK are constantly increasing, having doubled over the last three years. Last year, alone we saw a massive 42 per cent increase. This exciting announcement will help ensure that the UK remains one of the best destinations for students across the world," said Sir Dom-

inic Asquith, British High Commissioner to India.

The latest announcement follows the creation of a new fast-track visa route for the scientists and the removal of the limit on PhD students moving into the skilled work visa route, which collectively aim to cement the UK as a science superpower and a world-leader in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) sector.

According to official UK figures, almost half of all Indian students 130,000 since 2008-9 heading to UK in the last 10 years chose a STEM subject.

The new Graduate route will launch for the 2020-21 intake of students to UK universities. After the two years, they will be able to switch onto the skilled work visa if they find a job which meets the skill requirement of the route.

The new visa, more details of which will be unveiled in the coming months, will offer opportunities to work or look for work after graduating. However, unlike the route which closed in 2012, the UK government stressed that the

new route will also include safeguards to ensure only "genuine, credible students" are eligible. Boris Johnson said projects of this kind wouldn't be possible "without being open to the brightest and the best from across the globe to study and work" in the UK.

His brother, Jo Johnson, who resigned as universities minister last week, is believed to have done all the groundwork on the new Graduate visa, having been an ardent advocate for the need of a credible post-study work offer.

Indian student groups in the UK also expressed their support for the re-instatement of a visa route they had been long campaigning for.

Sanam Arora, founder and chairperson of the National Indian Students and Alumni Union UK (NISAU), said: "The most impacted were Indian students, who repeatedly told us that they needed this post-study work visa for a number of reasons... We therefore were running the post study work visa campaign for the last five plus years and this marks the conclusion of a long and hard battle that has found its due justice.

Turkish high court to review Wikipedia appeal against ban

ANKARA (TURKEY), SEP 11 (AP): Turkey's highest court was scheduled on Wednesday to consider an appeal by Wikipedia aiming to reverse the Turkish government's more than two-year ban on the online encyclopedia. Turkey blocked Wikipedia in April 2017, accusing it of being part of a "smear campaign" against Turkey, after the website refused to remove content that allegedly portrayed Turkey as a country supporting the Islamic State group and terrorist organisations.

Access to Wikipedia and all its language editions was blocked under a law that allows the government to ban websites it deems pose a national security threat.

Wikipedia declined to remove content from the community-generated site, citing its opposition to censorship.

It petitioned the Turkish Constitutional Court in May 2017 after talks with Turkish officials and a challenge in lower courts failed. Wikipedia is also appealing the ban at the European Court of Human Rights.

Turkey's Constitutional Court was scheduled to start discussing

whether the government's blanket blocking order on Wikipedia violates freedom of expression. "We did not comply with the demand to remove the articles because we believed that the content in question was legally protected free expression and because we defend our volunteer editors' decisions about what information should be included on Wikipedia," said Samantha Lien, the communications manager for Wikimedia Foundation, which runs the website.

"Despite the block, the articles in question have continued to be edited and improved with more reliable sources from volunteers around the world," Lien told The Associated Press in an email.

Last year, Wikipedia launched a social media campaign with the hashtag "WeMissTurkey" to press for the removal of the block.

"Wikipedia is richer, more representative and more accurate when many people can contribute to its articles," Lien said. "If we lose one country, region, or culture's participation on Wikipedia, the entire world is poorer for it."

Lam assures investors Hong Kong can rebound from protests

HONG KONG, SEP 11 (AP): Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam reassured foreign investors Wednesday that the Asian financial hub can rebound from months of protests, despite no sign that the unrest will subside.

Lam told a forum on China's Belt and Road infrastructure initiative that Hong Kong is grappling with the double whammy of the prolonged US-Chinese trade war and the unrest involving mostly young demonstrators seeking democratic reforms.

Her promise last week to formally withdraw the extradition bill that sparked demonstrations since June failed to mollify protesters, whose demands have expanded to include direct elections for the city's leaders and police accountability. The unrest has become increasingly violent and threatens the semi-autonomous Chinese territory's reputation as a global financial hub. Lam voiced confidence that rifts can be mended through government plans for dialogue and upholding the "one country, two systems"

principle that gives Hong Kong some freedoms not enjoyed on the mainland after the former British colony returned to Chinese rule in 1997. "We can find a way back to reasoned discussion, to social stability...after all, Hong Kong has been built and rebuild time and again on our indomitable resilience. Call it the spirit of Hong Kong and know that it will see us through," she told the forum.

The protesters insist it is the Beijing-backed Hong Kong government that is undermining the "one country, two systems" principle.

Chinese officials at the forum urged a quick end to the violence.

Xie Feng, Commissioner of the Chinese Foreign Affairs Ministry in Hong Kong, repeated Beijing's rhetoric that foreign "black hands" were behind the "extremist forces" that were challenging Chinese sovereignty.

"Foreign forces have intervened, distorting the truth, and trying to protect those in the wrong and let them get away with it. With this continuous intervention

of black hands, violence cannot stop and the rule of law cannot be upheld," he warned. Xia said deeper integration with mainland China through Belt and Road projects is the way forward for Hong Kong's development.

More protests are planned this weekend. Bonnie Leung of the Civil Human Rights Front said it is waiting for police approval for a march Sunday from the Causeway Bay shopping district to central Hong Kong. Police banned the group's Aug 31 march but protesters turned up anyway.

Violent clashes erupted that night, with police storming a subway car and hitting passengers with batons and pepper spray.

The government has slammed radical protesters, but Leung said they were not out to hurt people but to "send symbolic messages" after peaceful rallies failed to move the government.

"Radical protesters, who we call braves, and peaceful protesters are fighting for the same goals. We want our freedom and rights for universal suffrage to be protected," she said.

Boris Johnson's Parliament suspension ruled unlawful; govt to appeal

LONDON, SEPT 11 (PTI): In yet another blow to his leadership, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson's decision to suspend the Parliament from this week until mid-October was ruled unlawful by Scotland's highest court on Wednesday.

A panel of three judges at the Court of Session in Scotland found in favour of a cross-party group of politicians who were challenging Johnson's move, which saw the UK Parliament being suspended this week amid a string of Brexit vote defeats for the UK PM.

In a summary of their findings, the judges said that the suspension of the Parliament was motivated by the "improper purpose of stymying Parliament".

"The Court will accordingly make an Order declaring that the Prime Minister's advice to HM [Her Majesty] the Queen and the prorogation which followed there-

on was unlawful and is thus null and of no effect," the summary judgment notes, with a full judgment to be released on Friday. The decision overturns an earlier ruling from the court, which said last week Johnson had not broken the law.

A UK government spokesperson said: We are disappointed by today's decision, and will appeal to the UK Supreme Court.

"The UK government needs to bring forward a strong domestic legislative agenda. Proroguing Parliament is the legal and necessary way of delivering this.

The ruling will not immediately affect the current suspension of Parliament, which started in the early hours of Tuesday, because no order has been given by the court to cancel the suspension.

A full hearing in the case will take place at the Supreme Court, which starts next Tuesday. UK

MPs are not currently due to return to Parliament until October 14, when there will be a Queen's Speech outlining Johnson's legislative plans. Meanwhile, the UK is due to leave the European Union (EU) on October 31.

A group of 75 largely pro-Remain MPs and peers behind the Scottish legal challenge are headed by Scottish National Party (SNP) MP Joanne Cherry, who has called for Parliament to be immediately reconvened following the ruling.

They believe Johnson's move was entirely intended to frustrate their attempts to hold the government to account over its Brexit strategy in the days ahead of the deadline.

Meanwhile, MPs in the Commons had succeeded in getting a bill through that prohibits the government from forcibly taking the UK out of the EU on October 31 unless a withdrawal agreement is in place.

UN chief appeals to India, Pak to resolve Kashmir issue through dialogue: Spokesperson

BY YOSHITA SINGH

UNITED NATIONS, SEP 11 (PTI): UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has appealed to both India and Pakistan to resolve the Kashmir issue through dialogue to avoid any "potential escalation" as the two countries clashed at the UNHRC over New Delhi revoking Jammu and Kashmir's special status.

At the 42nd session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva on Tuesday, India defended its "sovereign decision" to revoke Jammu and Kashmir's special status, which Pakistan said was an illegal act and demanded an international investigation by the global rights body.

Secretary (East) in the External Affairs Ministry Vijay Thakur Singh asserted that the revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status was India's sovereign decision and it cannot accept any interference in the country's internal affairs. She also hit out at Pakistan's "malicious" campaign on the Kashmir issue and condemned "state sponsored terrorism."

UN Secretary General's spokesperson Stephane Dujarric, at a daily press briefing here on Tuesday, said that Guterres had spoken to the leaders of both India and Pakistan. Guterres met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the G7 Summit last month in Biarritz, France and has also spoken to Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Dujarric said.

On Monday, Guterres also met with the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN Maleeha Lodhi on her request over the Kashmir issue.

His message to all of them has been the same, both publicly and privately, that he remains very concerned about any potential escalation between India and Pakistan over the situation. He appeals to both sides to deal with the issue through dialogue, Dujarric said.

Dujarric was responding to a question on whether Guterres plans to mediate between India and Pakistan on Kashmir during the UN General Assembly session later this month which would be attended by both Modi and Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan.

You know, the position our position on mediation has, as a matter of principle, has always remained the same, Dujarric said. The UN chief has maintained that his good offices are available only if both sides ask for it. However, India has made it clear to the international community that the Kashmir issue is an internal matter and there is no need for a third-party mediation.

And, as was said by the High Commissioner for Human Rights recently, the situation in Kashmir can only be solved with the full respect of human rights, Dujarric said.

Pakistan downgraded its diplomatic relations with India and expelled the Indian high commissioner following the revocation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir on August 5.

Exercising its right to respond to Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi's statement at the UNHRC, First Secretary in the MEA Vimarsh Aryan said Article 370 was a temporary provision of the Indian Constitution.

"We are not surprised at Pakistan's hysterical statements with false narratives aimed to politicise and polarise this forum. Pakistan realises that our decision cuts away ground from under its feet by creating obstacles in its continuing sponsorship of cross-border terrorism," he said.

Earlier at the session, Qureshi demanded an international investigation by the UNHRC into the situation in Kashmir and urged the world rights body not to remain "indifferent" after India revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status.

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AB FAB! The actress, Vanessa Hudgens stuns in a pair of eyelet shorts and Caroline Herrera monogrammed bra during her fashion show at New York Fashion Week.

Always believed I'd sing on stage one day: Ranu Mondal

MUMBAI, SEP 11 (PTI): Internet sensation Ranu Mondal on Wednesday said even though life is full of ups and downs, she had faith that she would one day be singing on stage.

Mondal became a popular name after her video, singing "Ek pyaar ka naghma hai", at a railway platform, went viral.

Impressed with her talent, music composer-singer Himesh Reshammiya recorded two songs with her for his upcoming film "Happy Hardy and Heer". At the launch of the song "Teri Meri Kahani" from the movie, Mondal said she was blessed to receive this opportunity.

"I am grateful for the love of people. They have given me immense love and I got a chance to sing. Himesh ji gave me this big chance, relying solely on my voice. I'm so grateful," she told reporters.

"If I didn't have the love, I maybe wouldn't have been able to sing songs. I have God's love, which is why I could sing," Mondal added.

The 58-year-old singer from West Bengal said she never lost hope.

"When I used to sing, I didn't realise (this

day would come), but I had faith in my voice. I was initially inspired by Lata (Mangeshkar) ji's voice and used to sing as a child. Even in the future I'll continue to sing.

"I never lost hope. Yes, the magnitude of the stage given to me by Himesh ji, is something that may be I didn't anticipate. I had earlier performed on stage but there was a gap

of few years in between," she added. Mondal said the distance between the stage and her could never end her bond with music.

"I never stopped listening to songs. I used to listen to songs of Rafi, Mukesh, Kishore Kumar, Lata ji, Kumar Sanu and Sonu Nigam. I used to listen to them on cassettes and learn continuously," she added.



Diljit Dosanjh postpones Houston show after FWICE's objection

MUMBAI, SEP 11 (PTI): Diljit Dosanjh on Wednesday announced the postponement of his show in the US after the Federation of Western India Cine Employees (FWICE) called on the actor-singer to cancel the gig, allegedly organised by Rehan Siddiqi, a Pakistani national.

The FWICE, in an August 31 release, asked the "Arjun Patiala" actor to pull out from the show in national interest amid tensions between the two countries.

"We have just seen a poster of Diljit Dosanjh who is giving his performance in a show organised by Rehan Siddiqi (a Pakistani national).

"We are writing to him to cancel this commitment of his in the interest of sentiments and dignity of our nation," the release stated.

Diljit, who was set to perform in Houston on September 21, shared his statement on Twitter, saying he was unaware of any such intimation by the federation until today.

The actor said the interest of the country will always precede his personal interests.

"I would like to state that my contract is only with 'Shri Balaji Entertainment' my dealings and agreement is with them only and nobody

else that is mentioned in the article or federation letter.

"However in lieu of the letter by the FWICE I have decided to postpone my Houston show at this time. I love my country and will always stand for the greater interest of the nation. India

ority to monetary considerations and refrain from being a part of any such project with Pak nationals and Pak performers anywhere in the entire world."

In a separate statement addressed to Ministry of External Affairs, issued on September 3, the FWICE had called



always," he said in a statement issued Wednesday. The FWICE also claimed, citing reliable sources, that artists such as actor Saif Ali Khan and singer Shreya Ghoshal are performing in America at the behest of Siddiqi, who is also the promoter of the shows.

"It is our humble request to all our country's performers not to give pri-

or for the cancellation of Diljit's visa "to restrain his performance in America as it will be labeled anti national".

The development came almost a month after singer Mika Singh faced a 'ban' from the FWICE for performing at a wedding in Karachi.

The decision was overturned after Mika issued an apology.

After 'Chhichhore', Sajid Nadiadwala signs Nitesh Tiwari for another film

MUMBAI, SEP 11 (PTI): Producer Sajid Nadiadwala is set to reunite with director Nitesh Tiwari after their latest "Chhichhore", which garnered favourable reviews.

"Chhichhore", starring Sushant Singh Rajput and Shraddha Kapoor in the lead, opened to critical acclaim last week.

"Working with Nitesh once again is a treat. He is a very accomplished director and now once again we are ready to tell the audience a new story.

"We have a similar bonding point that we listen and then we decide. Let's see how things unfold in the future," Nadiadwala said in a statement.

The producer said he is happy with the success of "Chhichhore".

"Nitesh and I had met long back even before 'Dangal' released to discuss if there's any story in the pipeline. That time 'Chhichhore' was just a one-liner and now its winning hearts all over. It's been a commendable journey for both of us," he added.

Mallika Dua joins 'The Office' season two

MUMBAI, SEP 11 (PTI): Comic-actor Mallika Dua is set to star in the second season of Hotstar Special "The Office".

The new season of the show, which is the official Hindi adaptation of the international series of the same name, starts streaming from September 15 on Hotstar VIP.

Mallika, whose acting credits include web series "The Trip" and "Namaste England", said she enjoyed working on the series.

"I've had a great time working on the show and we couldn't stop laughing during scenes because they were so funny..."

"The show is innately Indian and humorously relatable. Bringing alive the essence of any type of Delhiite is always a fun experience and I hope I have managed to add more quirks to this already mad bunch," the actor said in a statement.

Co-director Bumpy said the team is excited to continue the story of the employees at Wilkins Chawla, and the new staff promises to bring in more laughter. "Season two of 'The Office'

dives deeper into everyday situations and explores the nuances of unexpected relationships with its own unique twist, making it a fun watch," he said.

Set in Faridabad, the show chronicles the 9-to-5 lives of the employ-



ees at Wilkins Chawla as they navigate through their mundane routine that invariably gives rise to comical situations.

Mukul Chaddha, Gopal Datt and Gauahar Khan will reprise their roles in the 15-episode mockumentary.

The show, co-directed by Rohan Sippy, has been created for Applause Entertainment by BBC Studios India.

Soumitra Chatterjee to shoot after release from hospital

KOLKATA, SEP 11 (PTI): Actor Soumitra Chatterjee, who was admitted to a city hospital with respiratory tract infection in mid-August, will hit the shooting floor for two days from September 14, a family source said on Wednesday.

Chatterjee's daughter Poulomi Basu told PTI that the actor will shoot for a Bengali flick only for two days on September 14 and 15 due to prior commitment to the director.

This will be Chatterjee's first shoot after his release from the hospital.

"He will take part in shooting only for two days as he had given a prior commitment to the director. However, he will not be able to attend any more shootings for some time now," Basu said, adding that the 84-year-old actor is recovering.

Asked if any doctor will be present on the floor during the shoot, Basu said that has not yet been decided but he will follow the advices of his physicians.

Soumitra Chatterjee will essay the role of a wheelchair-bound elderly person, grandfather of the lead male protagonist in 'Romance', the film's director Shyamal Bose said.

The Dadasaheb Phalke awardee was admitted to a private hospital on August 14 with respiratory tract infection along with age-related health issues and was discharged on August 21.

Chatterjee, who has acted in over 250 films including 14 movies directed by Satyajit Ray, was conferred the Legion d'honneur by the French government in 2018.

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ARIES: The future is promising. Aries. Trust. What the Universe is offering right now: a giant cup of blessings that are helping you align with the life you want to create for yourself. Let love continue to be the secret ingredient, wild one. An ingredient that fills you with joy and motivation every time you feel like you're losing the plot.

Tip: Be cognisant of the opportunities being offered to you.

TAURUS: The Universe is offering you the gifts of financial security, stability and steady growth. Dependability is a super power, one that is making you alluring to the right kind of opportunities. Teach your inner bull when to stay still and when to take charge.

Tip: You are experiencing steady growth.

GEMINI: What was once the centre of your Universe, may now seem lacklustre. The storm has served its purpose,

Gemini. The path has been cleared for you to make a fresh start. In order to walk down this road, you must leave the past behind. Internalise the lessons being taught to you. Continue to act from a space of higher wisdom rather than fear.

Tip: A new pathway is opening up for you.

CANCER: If not now, then when? The air is rife with opportunities that will help manifest your dreams into your reality. Be creative, Cancer. Give yourself permission to visualise. Being cognisant of what is being offered to you will help you act in time.

Tip: The time to manifest your best life is now.

LEO: What a wonderful feeling to be in alignment, Leo. You are exactly where you need to be, and doing exactly what you are meant to do. The Universe is rewarding for the work you have put in. Keep an eye out for the big, fat pay-

check you deserve. Remember, this is your chance to up the money game.

Tip: Trust that you will be rewarded fairly for your efforts.

VIRGO: This week finds you exactly where you belong—on the top of your game. Expect many breakthrough moments, but don't get complacent about your long-term goals. You are in charge of manifesting those larger-than-life ideas in your reality.

Tip: This is the week to manifest those larger-than-life ideas in your reality.

LIBRA: Take a step back and survey what you have sown. This is a time to review rather than act. Which areas of your life have you been ignoring? What are the dreams that need to be nurtured? Realign with awareness, wild one. This is also a time of gestation for some.

Tip: Review your progress and make changes accordingly.

SCORPIO: What are you going to do with all that money in the bank? You have created both wealth and security for yourself. Now is the time to kick back and enjoy the fruits of your labour. Generosity is a virtue, wild one. Be sure to share the abundance with those who helped you get where you are today.

Tip: This is a time of financial security.

SAGITTARIUS: Your current energy brings the case of the great Norse God, Odin, to mind. He hung from the World Tree for nine whole days in order to gain wisdom and understanding. Of course, we are not suggesting you experiment with something as extreme, but you can embrace the delays and look for silver linings.

Tip: Find the silver lining.

CAPRICORN: Oh, the perils of micromanaging! See how and where you need to detach. This will help you focus on what's really important and put your

best work out. Thinking about expanding the team to take the load off?

Tip: Delegate where you need to.

AQUARIUS: Rest up, Aquarius. Let go of the idea of what productivity looks like. Understand the importance of doing nothing in order to create something. This is the secret to restore mental balance and be the most creative version of yourself.

Tip: Understand the importance of doing nothing at all every once in a while.

PISCES: You know that no great work of art can be created without retreating into 'shunya', the womb space, the beginning and end of all creation. This week, you are learning the importance of listening to your inner wisdom and being receptive to the cosmic currents of inspiration. Understanding the balance between 'doing' and 'being' promises to change your life, Pisces.

Tip: Retreat into that space of 'nothingness.'