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SummitTIMES

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

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Nilesh Laichaney becomes first Sikkimese to score century in first class cricket



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 22 SEPT:**

Nilesh Lamichaney, the captain of Sikkim Cricket Team has become the first cricketer from Sikkim to score a century in first-class (List A) cricket this Friday in the Vijay Hazare Trophy, Round 3, plate division match, against Arunachal Pradesh in Vadodara, Gujarat.

As per a press release from the Sikkim Cricket Association, Nilesh scored 123 of 145 balls, including 2 sixes and 11 fours and had a vital opening partnership of 99 runs with Faizan Khan who scored 47 runs. He

is also the only and first player from Sikkim who has scored centuries in all the categories he has represented Sikkim in (against Bengal 101 runs playing for U15 team, 111 runs against Kerala playing for U17 team, 124 runs and 147 runs against Manipur and Nagaland respectively, playing for U19 team).

Sikkim being the only team in the tournament playing with all local players has made a good comeback in the second match after losing the first match a day before. Though Sikkim lost both the matches, the team

gave a good fight in the matches.

"We have faith in the team and after the last match and overall performance we believe we can come back even stronger. We need to work hard and learn from past two games of what improvements we need further. It is a team game and I would have been happier, if my century helped the team to victory," says Nilesh.

President of SCA, Lobzang G. Tenzing, has congratulated Nilesh for playing a captain's knock and being the first player from Sikkim to score a century in senior level

tournament of BCCI. A special mention must be made about the highest score in the first match by Lee Yong Lepcha and a quick 22 in the last match has shown true courage and character.

Faizan's score of 47 gave a good start and so did Amos Rai's excellent bowling average helping the team compete well.

"I'm proud of our local players for putting up a good show despite the lack of funds, match practice and proper infrastructure in Sikkim and wish them luck for the remaining matches," Mr Tenzing has said.

Large turnout at Mintokgang to wish CM on b'day

**ARPAN PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 22 SEPT:**

A huge number of people visited Mintokgang, the official residence of the Chief Minister, today to greet Chief Minister Pawan Chamling on his birthday. He turned 69 today.

Speaker of the Sikkim Legislative Assembly, Deputy Speaker, Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, Chairpersons, Advisors, Chief Secretary, Heads of the Department, Government officials, Police Officers, Councillors, students, party workers and general public were seen at Mintokgang to greet the Chief Minister.

Former Chief Minister of Sikkim, Sancha Man Limboo was also there to greet the CM on his 69th birthday.

People greeted the Chief Minister by offering khadas, floral bouquets, garlands and some gifts wishing him long life and good health. People gathered outside Mintokgang since morning and were allowed inside in batches.

This year, the CM also wrote a letter to the people of Sikkim on the occasion of his birthday.

Speaking to media persons this morning, the Chief Minister said that it is with the blessings, support and the love of the people of Sikkim that he has got the opportunity to serve the people and has been successfully serving the state and the people of Sikkim since the last 24 years and added that he will continue to serve the

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CS presents details about Pakyong Greenfield Airport

Gangtok, 22 Sept (IPR): Chief Secretary AK Shrivastava convened a press meet today to brief about the final preparations for the inauguration of Pakyong Airport by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He informed that the Prime Minister will reach Gangtok on 23 Sept evening and inaugurate Pakyong Greenfield Airport on 24 Sept. After the inauguration, the Prime Minister will address a public meeting at St. Xavier's School ground.

The Prime Minister will be accompanied by Union Minister for Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, Union Minister of State (I/C) DoNER, Dr. Jitendra Singh, and Union Minister of State (Elec & IT), SS Ahluwalia, amongst other dignitaries.

The inauguration

programme will also have the presence of Governor Ganga Prasad and Chief Minister Pawan Chamling.

The Chief Secretary, while addressing the press meet, gave technical details about the Airport.

He informed that the Airport has been built in a total area of 201 acres at an altitude of 4500 ft at an estimated cost Rs. 605 crore. The length of the runway is 1700 meters (1.7 kms), while the width is 30 meters. The Terminal building is in the area of 3000 square meters with a capacity of 100 passengers (50 incoming and 50 outgoing).

While expressing joy at the successful completion of the Airport, he said that it is going to be the 100th operational

airport in the country.

He further informed that the total amount disbursed towards compensation was Rs. 64.64 crore, and claims for additional amounts being made will be looked into by the Claims Commissioner (Principal Secretary, Law Department), Government of Sikkim appointed on 09 August, 2018.

The Chief Secretary further informed that the Green Field Airport was conceived in the year 2000 when Chief Minister Pawan Chamling approached the then Chairman of Finance Commission and State Government was given a token sum. Another token sum was given by the next Finance Commission. This paved the way for exploration of a construction agency, he informed.

Ultimately the then Planning Commission agreed to fund the project as a Central sector activity. When developments appeared positive, foundation stone of Airport was laid in February 2002. Acquisition of land was gradually taken up and an MoU was signed with AAI for construction of airport on March 2002.

He further informed that the actual proposed date of completion of airport was fixed at 2012. Negotiations continued between AAI and the concerned departments, Roads & Bridges initially and Transport later. For want of decision in respect of funds no headway could be made. The initial estimate of RS.309.46 crore was approved. The Bhumi Pujan

of the Airport was done in February 2009 and the construction was initiated by MIS Punj Lloyd, a reputed Construction Agency in April-May 2009.

Despite the best efforts of AAI and the contractors, the airport took much more time than expected. It included the whole of 2014 when no construction took place. As it happens in such mega projects, both cost and time over run took place. The total estimate reached the figure of Rs.605.59 crore and the expected time of completion of project was fixed at February-March 2018. The first trial run by an Air force Dornier plane took place on 5th March 2018 while the first trial run by a commercial plane (Spice Jet)

took place on 10th March 2018. It will be significant to note that Spice Jet has won the bid for this airport under the UDAN scheme of Ministry of Civil Aviation and that they will start the first flight from Kolkata to Pakyong on 4th October 2018. In near future, flights from Guwahati and Delhi are also expected. The aircraft will be BOMBARDIER 400 having a capacity of 78 persons.

In conclusion, Chief Secretary, AK Shrivastava stated that the journey has been long (18 years) but it is a satisfying one at the end. The Airport will further boost tourism and industrial development in Sikkim.

Subsequently, Secretary, Ministry of Civil

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SDF not interested in workers' issues, alleges SKM

**SAGAR CHHETRI
GANGTOK, 22 SEPT:**

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has reiterated that the Sikkim Democratic Front is not interested in solving the problems faced by workers of industrial units in the State. The party has questioned SDF labour front's 60-day ultimatum to private companies given on 01 Aug 2018.

Addressing a press conference here today, SKM labour front general secretary, Prem Raj Gurung mentioned that the SDF labour front had

written to the management of various private companies in the State demanding that they solve problems faced by workers in 60 days.

"Being the labour front of the ruling party they are in a position to implement laws in the interest of workers of Sikkim rather than give ultimatums," he expressed.

Mr Gurung asked what action the SDF would take when the 60 days are over.

He alleged that de-

turn to pg02

Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham installs real-time landslide warning system at Chandmari

**NITESH PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 22 SEP:**

A media workshop on real time warning system for landslides was held today in the capital.

After successfully commissioning India's first such system in Kerala's Western Ghats, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham [University], Kerala, is now readying a second installation in Sikkim to guard against rainfall-induced landslides in the Sikkim-Darjeeling belt. The project is jointly funded by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India, and Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham.

Amrita's new IoT (Internet of Things) system for landslides, being installed in Sikkim, is custom developed for Himalayan geology. It consists of over 200 sensors that can measure geophysical and hydrological parameters like rainfall,

pore pressure and seismic activity. It will monitor a densely populated area spanning 150 acres around the Chandmari Village in Sikkim's Gangtok District. This area has seen landslides in the past, the first one being reported in 1997.

The system collects real-time, continuous data from the sensors, performs basic analysis at the Field Management Center (FMC) located on the site in Sikkim, and relays it to the Data Management Center (DMC) at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham in Kerala's Kollam district.

The university researchers are using this data to characterize and learn the geological and hydrological nature and response of the hill with respect to the dynamic and real-time meteorological variations to develop the Landslide Early Warning Model for that area.

To improve the system's reliability and enhance the early warning duration, a three-level Landslide Early Warning Model has been developed.

The first level, based on rainfall threshold, has successfully completed the testing phase and is ready to go live and issue alerts for potential landslides at the state level.

In the second level, the system would generate a Factor of Safety (FOS) value for various points on the hill in real-time that will provide a more specific warning for the Chandmari region based on the rainfall, moisture and pore pressure sensor data from the field.

In the third level, the system would use data derived from the movement and vibrational sensors to issue landslide detection warning.

Dr Maneesha Vinodini Ramesh from the uni-

versity while addressing the program stated that this system can predict a landslide 24 hours in advance and has 24x7 monitoring. Her team has been working in Sikkim since March.

She further thanked the state government and local agencies for all the cooperation they have extended.

Dr Venkat Rangan, also from Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, thanked all the stakeholders and wished that the Himalayan state reaps rich benefits from the newly installed system.

They also hope that this system will be placed in other states so that it can help in mitigating challenges of landslides.

They have also asked for support from local community to take ownership of such an important system being placed in their locality.

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POP UP Pasal

Bhaichung's 2019 election prophecy laughable says SDF

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 22 SEPT: Sikkim Democratic Front has said that Hamro Sikkim Party vice president, Bhaichung Bhutia's prophecy on the upcoming assembly election is laughable. The ruling party has further said that it is amusing that Mr Bhutia is claiming to form government when his party still does not have a president.

In a press release issued today, SDF has also condemned HSP's allegations against the Chief Minister. Mr Bhutia should focus on finding a party president instead of levelling baseless allegations against SDF and the Chief Minister, the release states.

CM's greetings on Indraajatra

GANGTOK, 22 SEPT [IPR]: Chief Minister Pawan Chamling and Tika Maya Chamling have extended their best wishes and greetings to the people of Sikkim, particularly the Newar community on the occasion of Indraajatra.

The Chief Minister in his greetings says, "Indraajatra is a time when people come together, portraying their happiness in a celebratory mood. It is a season to be joyous and spread the spirit of sharing amongst people. So let the same spirits pervade in our society at all times and strengthen the bond of brotherhood and amity among our people. May the joyous festival bring peace and joy in the lives of the people of Sikkim.

As the festival is also a celebration of the rich culture and tradition that the Newar community is endowed with, the community should take it as an opportunity to protect and preserve the significance of the festival. They should take forward the rich legacy left behind by their forefathers and save it for posterity."

Golay extends greetings on Indraajatra

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 22 SEPT: Sikkim Krantikari Morcha president, PS Tamang [Golay] has expressed his best wishes and greetings to the entire Newar community for the festival of Indraajatra. He has further extended his best wishes for the good health and progress of the people of Sikkim.

Hee Karate Academy forms new exec body



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 22 SEPT: Hee Karate Academy of Yangthang, West Sikkim, formed a new executive body today in the annual general meeting held at Hee Yangthang Senior Secondary School. The new body is headed by Suren Limboo as president along with Tulshi Bista as general secretary and Aita Sing Limboo as treasurer, a press release informs.

The new executive body also has Luhi Hang Limboo as vice president, Paras Basnett as

joint secretary, Sancha Subba as assistant treasurer, Dipesh Rai as publicity secretary, John Lepcha as assistant publicity secretary, Bhim Bdr Subba as technical in charge and Bishnu Kr Limboo as assistant technical in charge.

Executive members are PB Limboo and JB Gurung while Mon Rup Subba and Basanta Bista were appointed as advisors. All former and current members of the Academy were present in the meeting along with the co-owner of the

Academy, BB Subba.

Earlier in the meeting, the annual financial report was presented.

Hee Karate Academy is affiliated to Sikkim State Karate Do Association and recognized by Sports and Youth Affairs Department. It is also affiliated to Sikkim Olympic Association.

Technical in charge, BB Subba, said that the academy has already produced many national level karatekas and has the potential to scale greater and higher heights in the future.

Soreng-Chakung celebrates CM's birthday

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 22 SEPT: Soreng-Chakung constituency celebrated the 69th birthday of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling at Sikkim Democratic Front's Soreng office in the presence of Area MLA and HRDD Minister, RB Subba, informs a press release.

Party cadres raised slogans for the long life of Mr Chamling which was followed by cutting of a birthday cake.

Meanwhile, on the occasion, Block Level

SDF party office was inaugurated at 5th Mile Budhang under Soreng Chakung Constituency today by the Area MLA, Mr Subba, the release mentions.

5th Mile Budhang GPU was under combined jurisdiction with Malbaise GPU, but in August 2017 Budhang was made a separate GPU under Soreng Chakung Constituency. Mangsari Mangernung GPU is another new GPU that was formed in the constituency, the release adds.



Khandu exhorts Aka-Miji tribes to preserve culture, tradition

ITANAGAR, SEP 22 (PTI): Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu Saturday exhorted the Aka-Miji community of the state to preserve culture and tradition, saying that tourists visit the state for its rich cultural heritage and natural beauty.

Inaugurating the festival ground of the community here, Khandu said tourists look for authentic local lifestyles, customs and culture and not superficial lifestyle.

He said that tourist inflow to the state has risen steadily from 3 lakh in 2012 to 9 lakh in 2018. Congratulating the community for receiving a festival ground in the state capital for celebrating Chindang, Nyethri-Down and Sarok festivals, he also lauded the land donors of the festival ground and offered to extend all possible help for building infrastructure on it.

Khandu expressed

happiness that the festival ground will also be used by Sartang and Bugun community to celebrate their festivals and for other social activities.

Khandu said the Arunachal government is taking measures to preserve the indigenous arts, craftsmanship, dialects, clothing through the newly created Department of Indigenous Affairs.

"Arunachal is poised for astounding reforms

in the coming years to bring equity, fairness and efficiency in the system with think-tanks working round-the-clock behind the curtains, the chief minister said.

He said reforms so far such as administrative decentralization, creation of Staff Selection Board, recruitment of Group A/B government employees through independent commission, among others, is sure to bring good days ahead.

Islampur clash: BJP calls for 12-hour shutdown in WB on Wednesday

KOLKATA, SEP 22 (PTI): The BJP has called a 12-hour shutdown in West Bengal on September 26 to protest the killing of two students in a clash with police in North Dinajpur district in the state.

Announcing the shutdown, senior BJP leaders Mukul Roy and Pratap Banerjee accused the state government of failing to control the situation in Islampur, where the clash occurred on Thursday at Daribhit High School.

The villagers of Daribhit had claimed that the students were hit by bullets fired by police. However, the police had denied its involvement, even as the district superintendent of police had conceded that the two had died of bullet injuries.

Pratap Banerjee said, "We have decided to call a 12-hour shutdown in the state against the killing two people in police firing in Islampur area."

The people of Islampur and the entire state are "fed up with the misrule of TMC in Bengal" and the shutdown will be "an expression of people's anger against the anti-people government", he said here.

District Level Youth Parliament held in Namchi



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 22 SEPT: United Nations Volunteers India in collaboration with Nehru Yuva Kendra Namchi, South Sikkim organised District Level Youth Parliament today. Coordinated by UNV-District Youth Co-ordinator SMT, Sangita Dahal the programme aims to orient youth in the technique of group discussion, create awareness among the youth issues and develop understanding of Parliament procedure, informs an NYK press release.

The programme was attended by around 60 students and youth from different parts of South Sikkim. The participants were given orientation and role of different Members of Parliament.

The Youth Parliament began with National Anthem, Oath taking Ceremony and one minute

silence on the demise of former Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Parliamentarians debated on issues like Drug Abuse, Beti Bachao Abhiyan, women and child trafficking, unemployment, organic farming, entrepreneurship, youth policy, Swachhata and environmental protection.

The three Parliamentarians selected at National level are Ram Kumar Subba who played role of Finance Minister, Arun Jaitley, Shreya Sapkota who played the role of Maneka Gandhi and Sanjay Rai who headed the Parliament as Speaker.

The chief guest cum judge of the event was State Coordinator NER-LP, DT Bhutia while other members of the jury were Senior Journalist Sikkim Express, Namo Dixit and Teacher Phon-gla Secondary School, Martha Moktan.

Refresher training for JHS Headmasters concludes

SUMMIT REPORT

GYALSHING, 22 SEPT: The valedictory programme of orientation cum refresher training for the heads of Junior High School of West district was held on 20 Sept at the premises of DIET Gyalshing. The programme was attended by SP West, Tenzing Loden Lepcha as the chief guest along with Principal DIET, OP Ghatani and other dignitaries, informs a press release.

The three-day training organised by DIET West was held from 18 to 20 Sept where various topics and current issues were discussed by the resource persons.

Superintendent of Police, Tenzing L. Lepcha also took a session on Mission Jyoti and urged all the heads of schools to make use of the app which would be launched soon. He mentioned that the app would help us in understanding and com-

bating to issues like drug abuse, suicide and sexual abuse, the release mentions.

Additional Director HRDD West, T. Eden also had an interaction with the school heads during the course of the programme. She requested all heads to work in tandem with the department so that the good practices of one school may be shared with other schools.

The topics taken up during the training were school leadership, learning organisation, child protection and POCSO, Samagraha Shiksha Abhiyan, DIKSHA, learning outcome, stress management, innovative practices of schools and analysis of NAS report.

Programme ended with distribution of certificates to the participants and formally through vote of thanks proposed by lecturer of DIET West, Kuldip Sharma.

Preservation townhall: Old Delhi haveli-owners, urban experts debate value of heritage tag

NEW DELHI, SEP 22 (PTI): Haveli-owners from Old Delhi Saturday raised "issues" that crop up after a heritage tag is given to such properties, even as architectural experts said such tags are an "asset and not a liability".

The owners debated the issue threadbare during a workshop on 'Conservation of Heritage Buildings in Shahjahanabad' organised by the North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) and hosted by the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH).

The event sought to make owners and occupiers of havelis and other heritage houses in the Walled City area a stakeholder in the conservation process.

The interaction held at the historic Town Hall, at times, became heated, as some of the haveli-own-

ers, alleged that they (owners) have "not been made a partner" in the policy-making for preservation and just handed over a heritage tag by the civic authorities.

The multi-stakeholder conversation, prompted the municipal body to consider rebooting the heritage cell of the MCD.

A senior NDMC official said the civic body will examine the issue of "reviving the heritage cell to facilitate the process of conservation and application for a heritage tag for buildings".

The heritage cell, a kind of an advisory body, set up during the time of the erstwhile unified Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), has been "lying defunct" since the trifurcation of the MCD in 2012, sources said.

It comprised senior officials of the civic body

and some experts.

Sixty-three-year-old architect Ashok Goel, who owns an old property in Katra Heera Lal, said the event was a "good beginning" as it gave a platform to the haveli-owners and residents of such heritage properties to at least voice their problems.

"Some people got angry because the MCD has never conducted such programmes in the last so many decades, or even approached owners to make them a partner in the whole conservation process," he alleged, adding, "the frustration, pent up over these years is bound to come out".

Another haveli-owner, who attended the event, said, "We need to understand the listing process, and be consulted in the conservation process. But, we are just handed over a heritage tag for our

houses and then just have to live with the concomitant restrictions."

Convener of INTACH's Delhi chapter Swapna Liddle said, "The NDMC has done a good beginning with this workshop by bringing together different stakeholders on one platform, but the momentum has to be maintained, and more such events need to be organised regularly in future."

"We just wanted to impress upon them that having a heritage tag for a building or a haveli is an asset and not a liability," she said.

Large turnout at Mintokgang to wish CM on b'day

Contd from pg01

respect and gratitude to them," said Mr. Chamling. He further added that he has written the letter to the people of Sikkim not as a Chief Minister but as Pawan Chamling. He also said that he will continue to serve the people of Sikkim.

"I have dedicated my

life to the people of Sikkim and will continue working for the people," said Mr. Chamling.

While meeting people this morning at Mintokgang, the CM was accompanied by wife Tika Maya Chamling and daughter Komal Chamling.

Contd from pg01

spite the CM's announcement of ending the labour contract system, it still prevails in the State. He added that the government has still not implemented the Industrial Disputes Act 1947 in the State, which is in the interest of workers.

Demanding a white paper on welfare measures taken in the interest of workers of Sikkim, Mr Gurung alleged that SDF is not interested in workers' issues since it has already taken huge

donations from these industrial units.

While mentioning that some industrial units have not been providing bonus to its workers, he demanded that all industrial units provide complete bonus as per the rule to workers. He alleged that Wai Wai factory unit in the State has been providing unequal overtime to its men and women workers. He informed that the unit has been paying men workers Rs 75 while it gives just Rs 37.50 to women

workers. On the same, he demanded that the unit provide equal overtime payment to all workers.

SKM party spokesperson, Jacob Khaling challenged the SDF government to shut all industrial units in the State which fail to address the issues when the ultimatum given by its frontal organisation comes to an end.

Meanwhile, on behalf of SKM president PS Tamang [Golay] and party workers, Mr Khaling extended a warm welcome to the Prime Minister

Narendra Modi on his second visit to Sikkim. Alleging that Sikkim has just been given a facelift, he urged the PM to send a study team to see the real picture of the State.

Likewise, he also urged the PM to send a CBI team to the State to investigate the funds received by the State from the Centre and other States after the earthquake on 11 Sept 2011, power projects, NRHM and other issues.

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Gangtok on Sunday, 23 Sept

Temp: 28°C/15°C

Forecast: A morning thundershower in parts of area; otherwise, time of clouds and sun.

Sunrise: 05:24 AM

Sunset: 5:33 PM

CS presents details about Pakyong Greenfield Airport

contd from pg03

Aviation, Government of India, R.N. Choubey who is in the State to oversee the preparations and the final programme also interacted with the media and shared technical details about the Airport and the ensuing inauguration programme.

He stated that it is a proud moment for the country and Sikkim particularly that this modern airport has seen completion and will be inaugurated on Monday. Speaking about the journey of the project, he shared that it was initially a difficult proposition because of the terrain, and it was an engineering challenge to convert a hill into a flat land. He shared that one side of the hill was excavated and the other side of the land was filled with the same materials. The hill cutting and land filling was done for a long stretch of 2 kms.

He further informed that the run way is roughly about 1700 mts long, and can handle an 80-seater aircraft. The aircraft pilots have been specifically trained for take-off and landing procedures in these conditions.

He further added that eco-friendly methods and technology like Geo-Grid was used to build the Airport. He asserted that all the safety norms have been followed and that the Airport poses no danger whatsoever to residents of nearby areas. He said that the outer wall of the Airport is an engineering marvel as it is the highest man made vertical wall in the country.

Secretary, Mr Choubey recalled the demand made by Chief Minister Pawan Chamling during the visit of the 12th Finance Commission. He shared that the Airport was one of the demands made by the Chief Minister following which the State was granted Rs 200 crore initially and additional sanctions in the subsequent Finance Commissions.

"I would like to express thanks and gratitude to the Chief Minister and his administration for providing all the support and cooperation in making the Airport a possibility. The Airport has been possible only because of the active interest taken by Chief Minister Shri Chamling," he stated.

The Secretary added that the Airport will give a huge boost to the tourism prospects of the beautiful State of Sikkim and will aid economic development. Tourists and visitors will save a lot of travelling time and more people would be interested to visit the State, he concluded.

State level folk dance and role play competition by SCERT



GANGTOK, 22 SEPT (IPR): State level folk dance and role play competition was held on 21 Sept at Modern Senior Secondary School hall organised by SCERT, Gangtok, Population Cell under National Population Education Project, NCERT, New Delhi.

The programme was attended by Vice Chancellor, GK Nirola, Additional Chief Secretary, HRDD, GP Upadhyaya, Director SCERT Gangtok, Dr. Rabin Chettri, officials & staff from HRDD

& SCERT, Principal & staff Modern Sr. Sec School, participating schools' teachers and students.

The programme was coordinated by State Project Coordinator, NPEP, SCERT, Ranju Pradhan and District (Gangtok & North) Coordinator, NPEP, SCERT Gangtok, Durga Shrestha.

The main objectives of the programme were: to convey effectively various issues related to Population Education and Adolescence Reproductive & sexual health

by using their own folk as medium; to provide them opportunities for experiential learning for life skills development; validating the strategies of the folk dance for transaction of Population and Adolescence Education.

The jury members of the competition were Medical officer In-charge, school health (RBSK) STNM hospital, Dr. Kulzar Lama, Artist, NSD, Cultural Department, Vikram Lepcha and Dancer, Director of Mingma's Dance studio, Namchi, Mingma

D Lepcha.

In the folk dance competition, Passingdang Sr. Sec. School bagged the first position followed by Biraspati Parsai Sr. Sec. School and Phensong Sec School in second and third positions respectively.

In the role play competition, Gyalshing Girls Sr Sec School came in first followed by Damthang Sec School and Middle Gyalshing Sec School in second and third positions respectively.

Singtam SSS SAATHI club organizes debate competition

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 22 SEPT:**

SAATHI (Sikkim against Addiction towards Healthy India) club of Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Singtam organized an Inter-House Nepali Debate Competition today as a part of the school's weekly extra-curricular activities, a press release informs.

Red house took on Green house on the topic "saving property for the bright future of children is better than providing better education to them?"



Blue house took on Yellow house on the topic "are extra-curricular activities good for students?"

The chief guest of the day was Swaminath Prasad of Rangpo [president of Sikkim Bihari Jagran Manch].

Journalist Sanjay Agarwal and general secretary of Vidhya Bharati-Sikkim, Bijay Dhital, were present as the Jury Members for the Competition, the release mentions.

SAATHI Peer Educators headed by Sumit Sharma of Class XI (Sci) performed a small skit on impact of substance abuse for the youth.

Babita Thapa of Class XI who is the 2nd runner-up of Himali-Pratibha

ko Khoj (Season 2) presented a beautiful song on the occasion.

At the end of the programme, all the invited guests and jury members were presented with mementos.

Principal, KB Chettri in his address thanked Swaminath Prasad who is always eager to help the school. He also thanked Sanjay Agarwal and Bijay Dhital for sparing precious time for the programme. He also thanked members of the staff and students for making today's programme a grand success.

Singtam celebrates CM's birthday



**YOGEN THATAL
SINGTAM, 22 SEPT:**

SDF flags were strewn all across Singtam bazaar, as every ward of Singtam celebrated the birthday of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling to-

day. Area MLA cum Minister Somnath Poudyal visited every ward where birthday cakes were cut for the CM. This was the first time that the CM's birthday was celebrated in the area.

SSACS announces Red Fest Music Competition 2018

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 22 SEPT:**

Sikkim State AIDS Control Society [SSACS] has once again announced its very popular event, Red Fest Music Competition as part of the Multi Media Campaign 2018-19. SSACS is organising the event in collaboration with Recovery Users Network [RUN] mainly to create awareness on HIV/AIDS and substance abuse through music.

Addressing a press conference here today, SSACS Project Director, Dr Uttam Pradhan mentioned that this time the competition will be held in acoustic, blues, soft rock, country, rap and



pop genres. He stated that bands and groups from different parts of Sikkim have been invited for the event. The last edition of the Red Fest

music competition was held in 2015.

The audition for groups from South and West Districts is scheduled to be held in Namchi on 11

Oct and audition for North and East District will be held on 12 Oct at Gangtok. The semi-final round of the competition is likely to be held on 27 Oct and grand

finale on 04 Nov. The registration forms are available at all Integrated Counseling & Testing Centres [ICTC] in the State and on the website of SSACS. The registration will be closed on 06 Oct.

The auditions will have four-member jury comprising of Neha Pradhan, Sonam Lachungpa, Nicki Rai and Sachin Gurung. The competition carries cash prizes of Rs 70,000 to the winner, Rs 50,000 to first runner-up and Rs 30,000 to second runner-up.

Dr Pradhan mentioned that Rs 500 is the registration fee which will go to Kiran, a self-help group of people living with HIV/AIDS. He stated that the par-

ticipating bands can sing any song in the audition but the selected group has to present two songs including a self-composition on the theme of HIV/AIDS and substance abuse and any cover song in the semi-final.

"This is our endeavour to reach out to the masses with a clear message and to motivate them to go for testing and treatment," he expressed.

He stated that such awareness campaigning would also help to clear all stigma and confusion regarding HIV/AIDS and encourage people to come for testing. He informed that testing facilities have also been set up in every PHC, CHC and District Hospitals.

He added that timely detection and proper treatment would prolong the life of the affected person.

Likewise, RUN advisor, KC Nima mentioned that the organisation has been working with recovering members with series of activities and supporting them in post rehabilitation.

He added that RUN members have also been working at the grassroot level with its awareness programme on substance abuse and HIV/AIDS. He stressed that the organisation would work more rigorously among general masses for wider awareness.

State Meet of Para-Legal Volunteers and Commendation Ceremony of best PLVs

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 22 SEPT:**

The Sikkim State Legal Services Authority under the guidance of Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, Acting Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim and Executive Chairperson, Sikkim SLSA conducted a State Meet of Para-Legal Volunteers and Commendation Ceremony of best PLVs today in the Conference Hall of Sikkim State Legal Services Authority, Development Area, Gangtok.

An SLSA release informs that the meet was presided over by Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, as chief guest along with Justice Bhaskar Raj Pradhan, Judge, High Court of Sikkim as guest of honour.

The programme was also attended by N.G. Sherpa [Registrar General, High Court of Sikkim], K.W. Bhutia [Registrar, High Court of Sikkim], Suraj Chettri



[Member Secretary, Sikkim SLSA], Jagat Bahadur Rai [District & Sessions Judge, East at Gangtok & Chairperson, District Legal Services Authority, East], Ranjeeta Pradhan [Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate, East at Gangtok & Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, East], Para-Legal Volunteers of all the four districts, press and media along with the officers and staff of Sikkim SLSA.

Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, in her address, applauded the commendable work done

by the PLVs for aiding the Sikkim SLSA, the Authorities at District and Taluk level and mentioned that PLVs are intermediaries bridging the gap between the common people and the legal services institution to remove impediments in access to justice. She also thanked active PLVs for their hard work and contribution to bridge gap between legal services authority and general public and also for generating awareness to the public at large.

Justice Rai also mentioned that the PLVs must

have passion for learning. It was apprised that in today's scenario counseling of school children has become extremely necessary and the PLVs were requested to provide counseling to the children about the ill-effects of early marriage. She also mentioned that the PLVs should also generate awareness on the issues pertaining to Mental Illness, Drug Abuse, Women & Child Trafficking, POC SO Act, 2012 etc.

In her address, Justice Rai stressed that the victim of drug abuse should not be

stigmatized by our society.

It was also mentioned that PLVs and others should not try to settle any offences under POC SO Act or the offence of rape. She also mentioned that failure to report commission of an offence under POC SO Act is also a punishable offence.

There was an interactive session between the dignitaries and the audience present.

11 PLVs selected by the respective DLSAs were awarded with certificates and mementos as a mark of appreciation.

Further, the Chairpersons and Secretaries of DLSAs were also felicitated for their dedication and commitment to the cause of legal services.

The welcome address was delivered by Suraj Chettri while the vote of thanks was proposed by Bikash Sharma [Deputy Secretary, Sikkim SLSA].

LOST

Sonam Palzor Lepcha, S/o. Ching Lepcha, R/o. Hee-Gyathang, Dzongu, North Sikkim have lost his CBSE board Class X Pass Certificate bearing No. 00305368, Roll No: 3120242 and Mark Sheet of AISSCE bearing No.: 101095, Roll No.: 3211270 while on way from Gangtok to Mangan. If found please kindly contact: **9609861871**.

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KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Divided in Suspicion

Anyone can deal in whispers, it takes leaders to deliver coherence

It is worrying how discussions on communalism continue to remain in circulation and of how often different sections and groups keep crying wolf, painting monsters only they see and hyperventilating over threats only they perceive and project. After all, into how many slivers can a population of barely 6 lakh people be divided? Of course, with some sections, the divisions are a simple two-way process of “us” and “them”, and that is a disturbing condition to suffer because that reduces every disagreement into an attack, every counter argument into an attempt to deny or subvert and people into binary compositions.

To begin with, let us not deny that divisions exist within the Sikkimese society. That much is natural, but what has also been exceptionally reassuring about the State is that the privately held prejudices have not been allowed by the people to pour out in public displays of communal posturing; at least not in a scale that causes any more damage than hurt feelings. The State, despite some close calls, has never suffered a communal clash. Its politics and several politicians have often succumbed to communalism though and continue to do so, but the people have performed much better. The politics of social engineering, of stitching together winning vote-bank combinations have also been tried, and have, thankfully failed as well in Sikkim.

But, if people are resistant to communal confrontations, why is the bogey raised so often here? Perhaps because it is an easy divide to hack away at and experience elsewhere has shown that the people’s defenses eventually crumble in the face of persistent communal scare-mongering. Given that everyone belongs to some community or the other, it is an accepted fact that people are also inherently communal, at least in as much as having a soft corner, if not hate, is concerned. Also, because we are social animals, this inherent communal streak seldom develops into paranoia or gets directed against other communities because in a small place like Sikkim everyone needs everyone else. This conditioning of social grooming, however, gets stressed when the leader of a pack smells blood – the possibility of making an issue emotive and convincing a people that they are under threat. Few things move off the counter faster than a fabricated conspiracy theory. The more dramatic the fabrication, the more looming is the threat perception. Years of shepherding a disinterested public has honed the skills of these leaders and they are only aided by the blunted perspicacity of the people. People share the blame of allowing space for such voices which keep growing in belligerence because no one holds them to account.

One must realise that India has perhaps the best, most detailed Constitution at hand for the protection of its minorities. Ironically, the minorities still feel perpetually threatened in our country. It is unlikely that any minority was ever threatened as a state policy in the past; it was the majority they feared. As time passed, this suspicion fermented into animosity and now teeters on the brink of hatred. When one weighs in the current environment where hate crimes result often from the not so subtle nudging from the new powers in Delhi, one shudders to think what madness still awaits the country. In that light, one is almost relieved that the ultra-nationalist brigade has rediscovered an enemy in Pakistan because that just might keep their paws off the victims back home. But, like always, we digress here. One needs to ask who allowed such hate and such suspicions to get so normal? Surely not the people, because they are too preoccupied with aam-aadmi concerns. It’s the leaders who failed us. This deduction holds as true for Sikkim as it does for the nation.

Those claiming to represent communities started becoming instigators instead of counselors. These leaders forget that democracy offers people the right to self-determination, the right to negotiate, the right to harmonise. Instead, they allowed their supporters only the options of complaint, bickering and suspicion. Someone who speaks for a community should bridge the communication gap between communities. Anyone can deal in whispers, but it takes a leader to represent a cause and mediate.

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

Why Kipchoge’s spectacular Berlin run sets the stage for faster marathons

MICHAEL JOYNER
theconversation.com

Eluid Kipchoge’s spectacular 2:01:39 marathon world record at Berlin on the 16th of September 2018 raises a number of questions about just how low the record can go and when another record might happen.

The prior record of 2:02:57 was set by Dennis Kimetto at Berlin in 2014, and starting in 2003 when Paul Tergat ran 2:04:55, the record has been broken seven times at Berlin. The six prior world records at Berlin all lowered the mark by between 15 and 45 seconds. Kipchoge took a 78 second bite out of the record.

The Kenyan’s extraordinary success didn’t come as a complete surprise. In May last year he ran 2:00:25 for the marathon distance in a special “exhibition” staged by Nike run on the car racing track at Monza in Italy. The race included a phalanx of pace makers along with Nike’s latest and greatest racing shoe.

On top of this, since he started competing in marathons in 2013, Kipchoge has had an amazing string of competitive success in major races winning 10 of 11 including a gold medal at Rio. He also has a superb record at shorter races. His only non-win was a second place finish at Berlin in 2013.

As impressive as these performances are, I have been saying since the early 1990s that it might be physiologically possible for a human to run faster – and perhaps even to run a marathon under two hours.

I based this on my research which focused on the various physiological factors that contribute to fast marathon running. In my papers I looked at what would happen if one person had the best values ever recorded for the “big three” – maximal oxygen uptake, the so-called lactate threshold, and running economy or efficiency.

So what do the 2:01:39 record and 2:00:25 exhibition time by Kipchoge tell us about what might be possible – and when it might happen?

WHAT WE’VE LEARNT

First, for both runs the temperatures at the race starts were a bit higher than what might be ideal – about 8°C - 10°C. Things also warmed up during the runs. I believe that on a slightly cooler day, Kipchoge could go faster. The response to small changes in temperature can vary between individuals, but a slightly cooler day should be conducive to a faster time, maybe 20 or 30 seconds.

Second, for the 2:00:25 run in 2017, the course



had minimal sharp turns and the pacing was perfect with plenty of elite runners doing essentially a relay in front of Kipchoge to reduce wind resistance. By contrast the Berlin course is full of turns, and Kipchoge covered the last 40% or so of the race alone.

A faster course and better pace making could clearly also help take time off.

These two issues could be solved by having an open race on a flat fast (low altitude) loop course with minimal turns. The Monza track comes to mind. And the race would need to be run when the weather was likely to be good. Running it at night could keep things even cooler.

There could also be lots of fast runners recruited to run the race with cash premiums to anyone who hit fast times for intermediate distances. In marathon running top athletes only have a limited number of paydays per year, so to get all of the top runners at the same race on the same day would take a creative prize money scheme, appearance fees and a big purse.

The third key point is an infusion of talent. Kipchoge is now 33-years-old. He has been at the top for about 15 years and sooner or later he will slow down or retire. He clearly has a number of good years left, but not an unlimited number. The good

news is there are some emerging talents in distance running including a 12-minute 43-seconds 5000m track run (4th fastest ever) by 18-year-old Selemon Barega of Ethiopia just a few weeks ago.

While it’s certainly reasonable to expect that whoever comes next will be from the high altitude zones of Kenya or Ethiopia, Jakob Ingebrigtsen of Norway who will turn 18 on September 19 is running some very fast times at shorter distances. I also wonder what hidden talent there might be in the mountains of South America and Himalayas.

RIGHT CONDITIONS

The two terrific runs by Kipchoge set the stage – under the right conditions, on the right day – for the right athlete to go even faster. Sometimes after a big improvement a record plateaus for years and other times there are big jumps followed by smaller incremental improvements every few years. My guess is that we will likely be entering an era of smaller improvements and perhaps someone will break two hours by the later 2020s or middle 2030s.

On the other hand I would never bet against Kipchoge going faster, perhaps way faster, in the next few years.

[the writer is Professor of Anesthesiology, Mayo Clinic]

Empowering women lies at the centre of controlling population growth in Africa

ALEX EZEHE
theconversation.com

I think about the future of my continent in terms of three questions: Are Africans healthy? Do they have access to a good education? And do they have opportunities to apply their skills?

Millions more Africans have been able to answer yes to these questions in recent years. But there’s an elephant in the room. One of the keys to keeping this progress going is slowing down the rapid rates of population growth in parts of the continent. But population issues are so difficult to talk about that the development community has been ignoring them for years.

Population growth is a controversial topic because, in the not-too-distant past, some countries tried to control population growth with abusive, coercive policies, including forced sterilization. Now, human rights are again at the centre of the discussion about family planning, where they belong. But as part of repairing the wounds created by this history, population was removed from the development vocabulary altogether.

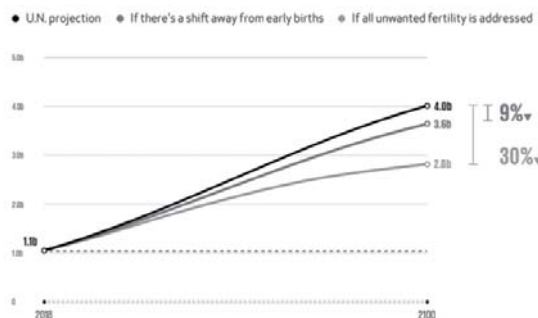
For the sake of Africa’s future, we should bring it back. Based on current trends, Africa as a whole is projected to double in size by 2050. Between 2050 and 2100, according to the United Nations, it could almost double again. In that case, the continent would have to quadruple its efforts just to maintain the current level of investment in health and education, which is too low already.

But if the rate of population growth slows down there will be more resources to invest in each African’s health, education, and opportunity – in other words, in a good life.

To be very clear: the goal of family planning programmes is not to hit population targets; on the contrary, it’s to empower women so that they



PROJECTED POPULATION IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA



can exercise their fundamental right to choose the number of children they will have, when, and with whom. Fortunately, empowering couples to make decisions about their lives also improves Africa’s future by changing the population growth scenario across the continent.

SCENARIOS

Some relatively simple future scenarios for sub-Saharan Africa have been modelled to consider how various family planning-related investments might affect population growth. These have been built using data from the Track20 Project. The project monitors global progress in extending access to modern contraceptives to additional 120 million women in the world’s 69 poorest countries by 2020.

Let’s examine the data.

Wanted fertility: the black line represents sub-Saharan Africa’s population to 2100 based on estimates by the United Nations Population Division. The blue line represents its population to 2100 if every woman had only the number of children she wanted. Currently, women in the region have an average of 0.7 more children than they want. If that number went down to zero over the next five years, the population in 2100 could change by 30%.

Education: another link between empowerment and population growth is the transformative impact of secondary education for girls. Educated girls tend to work more, earn more, expand their horizons, marry

and start having children later, have fewer children, and invest more in each child. Their children, in turn, tend to follow similar patterns, so the effect of graduating one girl sustains itself for generations. Though the impact of education is sweeping, our model looks at just one narrow aspect of it: a shift in the age at which women give birth to their first child.

The pink line represents sub-Saharan Africa’s population if every woman’s first birth were delayed by an average of approximately two years. The average age at first birth for women in Africa is significantly lower than in any other region. Currently, it is 20 or younger in half of African countries. This scenario doesn’t have anything to do with women having fewer children. It just has to do with when they start having them.

Consider this thought experiment. If every woman started having children at age 15, then in 60 years you’d have four generations (60/15=4). But if every woman started having children at age 20, then in 60 years you’d have three generations (60/20=3). Even if those women had the same number of children in each generation, the total population would be one-quarter smaller in the latter scenario. To be conservative, we assumed a less substantial delay in our model. Still, it changes the projected population by nearly 10%.

All well-meaning Africans will support sending girls to school and giving them access to information about family planning and contraceptives when they ask for them.

And I hope we will stop shying away from also pointing out that empowered women make millions of individual decisions that add up to a better demographic situation for themselves, for their children, and for Africa.

[the writer is Dornsife Professor of Global Health, Drexel University]

Small Town Airports

CK LEPCHA

Few weeks ago my Japanese friends were to visit me in Shimla. They had booked the Delhi-Shimla morning flight which is scheduled at 6:15am in the morning and reaches Shimla by 7:30am. I had sent the driver to the airport but the plane never took off from capital city due to weather conditions. So the only flight to Shimla airport for that day was canceled and the airport was closed because the same flight that comes from Delhi to Shimla, takes back the passengers from Shimla to Delhi. And as uncertain as it looked, my friends decided to try their luck the next day.

Next morning too, we were all in stand-by; the plane could either take off or get canceled so I kept calling the airport and the driver who was to pick them up. Between the sun and the clouds, the plane finally took off and they were in Shimla by 11:00am. In between flight cancellations and rescheduling, they had already lost a day and a half that was to be spent in this hill station. Though one can travel by train, bus or taxi to Shimla from Delhi, it takes a longer time. So they actually wanted to fly to save time be-

cause they only had three days in Shimla. By that time, I had heard tons of cancellation stories about the Shimla airport. There was a fellow who went to Delhi airport for three days in a row so he could catch the flight to Shimla. On the third day, the airport people told him to find another way to get to Shimla. We laughed at these accounts because if that's the case then why even build an airport, right?

People choose to fly for different reasons and for the most part, time is an important factor. We all want to save time so we opt for the shortest means of transport to get to places and get things done. But if one loses an entire day to reach a destination one thought would take just an hour, then there really is no point. Hence small town airports can be a bit tricky if you ask me.

In recent days, photos of Sikkim's "breathhtaking" new airport is making rounds in social media. These images show the scenic airport finding itself between sunset, clouds and the mountains at a height of 4500 feet. It is sure to catch a traveler's attention and it is all building up to the inauguration of Pakyong airport by the Prime Minister this week. There is a lot of excitement and optimism in the

air.

Tour operators are perhaps the most thrilled because more tourists will come to Sikkim now. But if you ask a local whether they would use the new airport or not, they might be a little hesitant to respond. Firstly, they don't want to kill the enthusiasm of a new airport but in reality they don't quite trust the infrastructure yet. Pakyong airport has been long time coming so those who have known this, is still not convinced perhaps. Friends have actually said, "No way, "who knows what will happen"? Exactly, we don't know yet.

And with Sikkim's monsoon as similar to Shimla, what if Pakyong airport brings similar woes as the Shimla airport?

Having said that, the potential of small town airports cannot be ignored either. Last November, I took a flight from Delhi to Dehradun. I was surprised there was even an airport there. When we studied in Mussoorie, we used to fly to Delhi first, then we took the shatabdi to Dehradun and then the bus to Mussoorie.

Figures, there has always been an airport in Dehradun but it was not functioning and they only resumed commercial operations in 2008. It took a while for Dehradun airport to come of age perhaps



but that flight was by-far the most civil domestic airline journey I have taken in my life. I say that because all the passengers remained glued to their seats till the aircraft came to a complete halt.

Most of us traveling by air know the regular drill. As soon as the wheels touch the ground, there is a rush to unfasten one's seatbelt and stand up and start looking for the cabin baggage. It is in fact very embarrassing when fellow passengers keep getting called by air hostess' to "please remain seated".

But perhaps the uncertainty of landing in small town mountain airports teaches us a lesson or two about plane journeys as such. It was the gentlest plane landing behavior as patient travelers remained stuck to their seats even when the plane had landed and the engines had stopped. One can only wish for small town airports to produce similar passengers and plane journeys as witnessed in Jolly Grant Airport, Dehradun.

[C.K. Lepcha, Fellow, Indian Institute of Advanced Study]

Nepal, India discuss high resolution satellite images in boundary survey work

SIRISH B PRADHAN KIRISHAMANDU, SEP 21 (PTI): The possibility of using high resolution satellite images in boundary survey work was discussed Friday during a meeting of the Nepal-India boundary working group (BWG).

The three-day meeting, which concluded here today, also reviewed the outcome of the fourth meeting of BWG held in Dehradun in 2017 and observed that the guidelines issued by it were properly followed, a press release issued by the Foreign Affairs Ministry said.

The Nepali delegation was led by Department of Survey Director General Ganesh Prasad Bhatta and the Indian side was led by Surveyor General Girish Kumar, it said.

The BWG is a joint body constituted by Nepal and India in 2014 to carry out works in the fields of construction, restoration and repair of boundary pillars, including clearance of no-man's land and other technical tasks.

Want to be more than marquee player: Cahill

KOLKATA, SEP 22 (PTI): Australian football legend Tim Cahill, who is one of the high profile recruits for the next edition of Indian Super League, said he would look to be more than just a marquee signing for Jamshedpur FC.

The 38-year-old Australian record goalscorer has announced his international retirement after playing in Russia World Cup this year but is not ready to hang up his boots completely just yet.

"With three Asian Cup and four World Cup appearances, I would like to contribute on the park as much as off it," Cahill, who scored 50 goals for Australia in a career spanning 14 years, told reporters Saturday, on the sidelines of ISL Media Day.

Having debuted last season as part of ISL's expansion to 10 teams, Jamshedpur finished a creditable fifth in their maiden campaign.

"I take great pride in playing and training. I would look to add more value than just be a marquee signing."

Asked whether his age will come in his way with the long ISL season stretching from September 29 to March next year, the former Everton



legend said: "It's only 18 matches per season with good number of breaks in between."

"I'm used to playing 30-40 matches per season. It's not long for me, it's very short I would say. I would give my best."

Cahill was all praise for Jamshedpur FC and said they tick all the boxes as far as structure and professional goes, something that made him join the club.

"The professionalism, the set up the academy, the training ground and the future of the club really impressed me. Here at Jamshedpur FC, we have no distraction as players."

"We have our complex, training pitch, gym and an upcoming swimming pool. It's the perfect vision to help Indian

football grow, something that excited me."

"The personal goal is to improve my team and see the right results. We have a great blend of foreign and Indian players including three from the (Tata Football) Academy that speaks volumes of our team building. Taking the talent making them represent the country is our goal."

Cahill received a warm welcome in Jamshedpur by the city fans with drum beats and dance.

"When I got to Jamshedpur, the first thing noticed was it's green, there's not much of traffic and loads of fans -- beautiful people, football and family. We are together 24x7 in the academy. This the environment I want to be in, this is professional football," he said.

Fit-again Lyngdoh shaping up well

KOLKATA, SEP 22 (PTI): Indian midfielder Eugene Lyngdoh will be returning to action after his knee injury in December last year and the ATK player Saturday said he's gaining confidence day by day.

ATK were struck by misfortune in their very third game last season in December, when Lyngdoh ruptured the Lateral Collateral Ligament on his left knee for which he underwent a surgery in January this year.

"It was a long term injury and was sidelined for a season. I could not do what I wanted. But I'm now trying my best and hope to achieve what I could not do last season," Lyngdoh, one of the best Indian midfielders, said.

"Things are looking positive. I'm looking to replicate what we did in



pre-season and hope to get better and better," he said at the sidelines of ISL Media Day here.

Lyngdoh was on crutches for close to two months and after that he could bend his knee, started walking and did physiotherapy.

"I was back home (Shillong) in complete rest. The moment the brace came off, I was in Kolkata and then started working with the physios at ATK," he said.

ATK had a pre-season in Spain and their new coach Steve Coppell ex-

pressed full confidence in his recovery.

"I'm not trying to push him. But the good thing was his injury was 100 per cent curable. He looks in good shape and slowly going for tackles. He is growing in confidence day by day," Coppell said.

Of the 19 Indians in the squad, Lyngdoh is one of the six who have been retained from the fourth season. The others include Debjit Majumder, Prabir Das, Jayesh Rane, Komal Thatal and Hitesh Sharma.

ATK had a fruitful pre-season in Spain and won two out of their three practice matches and will take on Kerala Blasters FC in the ISL opener at the Saltlake Stadium September 29.

"We are trying to be pioneers and be an example. We are focused in making a good structure something that the fans can be proud of. We want to make sure to tell the right story to the fans. It's on TV everywhere, it's global. Like cricket, like anything."

Cahill will miss Jamshedpur FC's opener against Mumbai City FC, serving a three-match ban handed by the Football Association for his tussle in his last match for Millwall against Fulham.

Having scored a brace against him seven years ago in their 4-0 win over India in the Asia Cup, Cahill will play with goalkeeper Subrata Pal.

"I'm sorry for scoring," Cahill told Pal, seated on the same dias. I'm lucky enough to play against India. It was a memorable match. We swapped jerseys, took photos. I've some great memories. The most important thing is respect," he said.

Few of Jamshedpur players complained of hectic travelling as they have to go to Ranchi, about three hours by road or rail, to board a flight for their away matches.

"We are professional footballers, four hours by train, no problem. We are a good group of players who are very humble and gel as a team," he signed off.

NEW DELHI, SEP 22 (PTI): Upping the ante on the Rafale issue, Congress president Rahul Gandhi Saturday alleged Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Anil Ambani jointly carried out a "surgical strike" on the defence forces.

His renewed attack on Modi came a day after a French media report quoted former French president Francois Hollande as purportedly saying that the Indian government proposed Ambani's Reliance Defence as the partner for Dassault Aviation in the Rs 58,000 crore Rafale jet fighter deal and France did not have a choice.

"The PM and Anil Ambani jointly carried out ... SURGICAL STRIKE on the Indian Defence forces. Modi Ji you dishonoured the blood of our martyred soldiers. Shame on you. You betrayed India's soul (sic)," Gandhi tweeted.

Modi had announced the procurement of a batch of 36 Rafale jets after holding talks with then French President Hollande on April 10, 2015 in Paris.

The opposition party has been accusing the government of choosing Reliance Defence over state-run Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd to benefit the private firm though it did not have any experience in the aerospace sector.

SummitTIMES

He left a struggler, returns a star

Mingma is better for a brother before the dance finale

Direct LPG subsidy savings only 10% of govt claim: CAG

Organic Sikkim begins with four product launches

SummitTIMES

Things have gone south in North Sikkim

Pokémon Go: Best Game of 2016

SummitTIMES

Syok Bhair collapses, blocks Kanaka completely

For Sikkim's Patron Saint

SummitTIMES

CAEPIT wins A-Maze 2016

The Gendered View from Behind the Lens

Nanchi Mahotsav wraps up grand after three days of impressive showcasing

Sikkim loses Dr T An Memorial cup to Manipal, but wins hearts and other trophies

Bishop Franco Mulakkal discharged from govt hospital

KOTTAYAM (KER), SEP 22 (PTI): Bishop Franco Mulakkal, arrested by the police over allegations of repeatedly raping and sexually assaulting a nun, was Saturday discharged from the government hospital in the city where he was admitted following complaints of chest pain, officials sources said.

The 54-year-old clergyman would be produced in a magistrate court in Pala later in the day.

He had complained of pain in his chest while being taken to Kottayam Police club from the Crime Branch office in Thrippunithura in Ernakulam district Friday night, they said.

He was under observation in the cardiology section of the Medical College Hospital for over 6 hours after his blood pressure shot up, they said.

Sources said ECG and other cardiac related tests were performed.His health condition is said to be normal.

In her complaint to the Kottayam Police in June, the nun had alleged that Bishop Mulakkal raped her at a guest house in Kuravilangad in May 2014 and later sexually exploited her on several occasions.

She said she had to approach the police as the church authorities did not act on her repeated complaints against the clergyman.

However, the bishop has denied the charges.

Book to feature unpublished writings of literary great AK Ramanujan

NEW DELHI, SEP 22 (PTI): Unpublished writings of one of India's greatest poets, folklorists and scholars A K Ramanujan that are being preserved and catalogued at the University of Chicago will be featured in a new book next year.

The book Journeys will be edited by son Krishna Ramanujan and Guillermo Rodriguez, who has authored a book on the poet-scholar.

It will feature excerpts from Ramanujan's personal diaries and journals, providing a window into his creative process. It will also include literary entries from his travels, his thoughts on writing, poetry drafts, and dreams. His diaries and journals provided fodder for much of his published work.

Among his vast body of work, Ramanujan (1929-1993) translated ancient Tamil and medieval Kannada poetry, as well as UR Ananthamurthy's novel "Samskara".

A modernist poet, he produced four poetry collections in English during his lifetime, and had intended to publish the journals he had kept throughout the decades.

After his premature death 25 years ago, his journals, diaries, papers and other documents - spanning 50 years from 1944 to 1993 - were given by his family to the Special Collections Research Center at the Regenstein Library of the University of Chicago in June 1994.

The book will be published by Penguin Random House (PRH) India in 2019.

Fear of losing drives Anthony Joshua to remain world's 'best heavyweight'

LONDON, SEP 22 (AFP): World heavyweight champion Anthony Joshua may have proclaimed himself "the best in the division" ahead of putting his titles on the line against Russia's Alexander Povetkin at Wembley Stadium but he also stressed a defeat would not signal the end of his career.

The 28-year-old British boxer has won all 21 of his fights since entering the paid ranks, with 20 by way of knockout, although his last title defence, against New Zealand's Joseph Parker in Cardiff in March, saw him go the distance for the first time as a professional before he secured a unanimous points decision.

But Joshua, citing the example of many great boxers, insisted a reverse in front of his home crowd on Saturday would not see him bow out of boxing.

- 'WHO AM I TO GO UNDEFEATED?' -
"That fear of losing is always there," Joshua, the International Boxing Federation, World



Boxing Association and World Boxing Organisation champion, told reporters at Wembley.

"Sugar Ray Robinson, the best fighter of all time, can lose. Sugar Ray Leonard, Marvin Hagler, Thomas Hearns, Roberto, Duran, Muhammad Ali, Mike Tyson, Evander Holyfield, (all lost).

"So who am I to go undefeated?...I have lost before as an amateur

and that didn't deter me from getting where I am today," added the London 2012 Olympic champion.

When it was put to Joshua that losing would not end his career, he replied: "One hundred percent and I know that it could happen because I know how tough this sport is." "That's what I say in boxing, there's no league one, league two... You are either the best or

you're not."

Joshua has a significant height and reach advantage of several inches over Povetkin, the 2004 Olympic champion.

Friday's weigh-in also confirmed a significant size difference, with Joshua tipping the scales at 17 stone 8 pounds (111.5 kilogrammes) compared to the 39-year-old Povetkin's 15st 12lbs.

This fight sees Joshua

returning to the scene of arguably his greatest triumph, an 11th-round stoppage of former champion Wladimir Klitschko last year.

Klitschko is the only man to have inflicted a blemish on Povetkin's 35-fight record, with a points win back in 2013.

Povetkin, however, served notice of his formidable punching power with a sickening knock-

out of Britain's David Price on the Joshua-Parker undercard at Cardiff's Principality Stadium.

Nevertheless, Joshua had no doubt his best would be good enough to defeat Povetkin.

"Yeah 100 percent," he said.

"I am the best in the division. There is no doubt about it. It's been proven. There hasn't been a time in boxing since I've been an amateur that I haven't been on top," added Joshua, whose management have yet to secure a heavyweight unification fight with World Boxing Council champion Deontay Wilder.

- 'WELL IS DEEP' -
Joshua though insisted he was fully focused on the challenge posed by Povetkin.

"I'm up against one of the best fighters in the world, he's a top three fighter in the world, so I have got to be on my A game," he explained.

But Joshua believes the fact he won a gruelling contest against Klitschko would stand him in good

stead on Saturday.

"Povetkin says he is not the same fighter he was when he lost to Klitschko, he's stronger," said Joshua.

"I can reflect and say I'm the same. When I fought Klitschko, I thought we would have a good boxing match. You know, two tall guys jab, one-two, one-two hook and I'm probably going to knock him out like I did the rest of the fighters. It turned out to be a completely different kind of night.

"Klitschko at the end of his career, he was 39, wanted his hands on the championship belts and he said he was obsessed.

"He was probably in good condition, because most fighters are if they train, but he was obsessed. Povetkin, same thing. Back at Wembley at the end of his career, same age, wants his hands on the belts so I have got to be prepared to go through hell and back.

"Without that Klitschko fight, I wouldn't be as prepared as I am now," Joshua explained.

Fancied India wary of unpredictable Pakistan

DUBAI, SEP 22 (PTI): Favourites India have no grounds for complacency as they wait to see 'which' Pakistan turns up in the Asia Cup here Sunday, well aware of the unpredictable arch-rivals' penchant for surprising not just opponents but themselves, too.

India are eyeing a place in the final after three wins in as many matches, while Pakistan will look to step up their game in the Super Four match, after a scare against Afghanistan.

India walloped Pakistan by eight wickets in the group game three days ago but if history is any indication, the Men in Blue will take their traditional rivals lightly

at their own peril.

After being made to work hard by minnows Hong Kong in their tournament opener, India got their act together in the much-awaited group game against Pakistan and produced a clinical display to make short work of Sarfraz Ahmed's team.

Chasing a small target, India were hardly tested as a half-century from skipper Rohit Sharma ensured that the team was home with as many as 21 overs to spare.

Even without their talismanic captain Virat Kohli, the Indian batting looked formidable and lived up to the billing by scoring freely on surfaces that are not really perfect for stroke-play.

Opening the innings, Rohit was at his fluent best against Pakistan and followed that up with another fine knock of 83 in the seven-wicket win over Bangladesh, more than making up for the failure against Hong Kong.

Rohit's opener partner, Shikhar Dhawan found himself amongst the runs after a torrid time in England's seaming conditions, scoring in all three matches, including a century against Hong Kong.

The middle-order duo of Ambati Rayudu and Dinesh Karthik will again look to grab the opportunity with both hands by making useful contributions in the big game.

Rayudu missed out

against Bangladesh after making an unbeaten 31 in the group game against Pakistan.

Veteran Mahendra Singh Dhoni managed to spend some time in the middle on Friday, remaining unbeaten on 33 off 37 balls. Then there is Kedar Jadhav, who has often proved his worth with the bat besides his bowling.

Coming back to the ODI side after more than a year, Ravindra Jadeja marked the occasion with a fine four-wicket haul against Bangladesh, and he seemed hungry for more. Pakistan will be wary of the threat posed by the left-arm spinner, who is also a handy bat lower down the order.

India will look to the

pace duo of Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Jasprit Bumrah to make the initial breakthroughs and put Pakistan on the back-foot before the spinners are introduced.

Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav are the two mainline spinners, but it was Kedar, who picked up the most number of wickets among the slow bowlers in the last game against Pakistan.

Pakistan will look up to their seasoned campaigner Shoaib Malik for inspiration. All-rounder Malik made 43 against India and saved his team the blushes with a crucial knock against a spirited Afghanistan Friday night.

Opener Fakhar Zaman, who made a

name for himself with a match-winning hundred against India in the final of Champions Trophy last year, flopped in their first game here.

Fakhar will look to make amends and so will be the likes of batsmen Babar Azam, Sarfraz and Iman-ul-Haq.

Pakistan's another cause of concern is the form of their strike bowler Mohammad Aamir, who has not been among the wickets in recent time.

While the left-arm pacer failed to deliver against India in the group game, he was not played against Afghanistan. The likes of Hasan Ali and Usman Khan will have to step up their game if their team is to do well.

Teams (From):
India: Rohit Sharma (captain), Shikhar Dhawan, Ambati Rayudu, Dinesh Karthik, MS Dhoni, Manish Pandey, Kedar Jadhav, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jasprit Bumrah, Khaleel Ahmed, Siddharth Kaul, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Ravindra Jadeja, Deepak Chahar

Pakistan: Fakhar Zaman, Imam-ul-Haq, Babar Azam, Shan Masood, Sarfraz Ahmed(-captain), Shoaib Malik, Haris Sohail, Shadab Khan, Mohammad Nawaz, Faheem Ashraf, Hasan Ali, Junaid Khan, Usman Khan, Shaheen Afridi, Asif Ali, Mohammad Amir.

Don't have to prove anything to anyone: Ravindra Jadeja



selectors about his prowess, but he said he was not thinking that far ahead.

"The World Cup is still some time away, we're going to play a lot of matches before that, and I can't comment on that yet. My ambition is to perform the way I did today whenever I get the opportunity.

"Can't think about it now. My focus is to perform in this series."

Jadeja, back in the Indian One-Day International team for the first time since July 2017,

foxed the Bangladesh batting line-up with his smart bowling.

"Even in Test cricket, because the last few series have been overseas, I haven't been getting chances consistently. So I was determined that whenever I get the chance I will perform, that's all that I can control. I was only focused about my own game and how I can improve further," he said.

The Saurashtra cricketer is known for his ability to bowl his spinning

deliveries quickly.

"On a slow wicket, you have to bowl with more of your own effort. On a normal wicket, the ball goes through quickly after bouncing so it doesn't give the batsman as much time. But on a slow wicket you have to bowl with more effort," said Jadeja.

Regarding the last-minute developments prior to his latest limited overs comeback, he said, "I didn't know that I got a call for one-day team because I was

playing for Vijay Hazare. I didn't know what is going on here. Day before I got call from the selector, he said I might have to go to Dubai, so be ready.

"I was playing Test cricket. Last few series were away so I didn't play in it. I was concentrating on what is in my control, how to improve my game in away conditions. When I got a chance in England, I did well. Here, unfortunately, Axar (Patel) got injured and I got my opportunity and did well."

How to deal with small issues in life, book seeks to provide answers

NEW DELHI, SEP 22 (PTI): At a time when depression, especially among youth, is becoming a major issue of concern, a book offers a comprehensive understanding of life's basic principles and suggestions on how to deal with mental stress.

"Here and Beyond: Eternal Happiness through Self Evolution" by Rashmi Joshi seeks to build inner strengths to deal with small issues in everyday life that might snowball into people facing severe problems.

With several anecdotes - ranging from dealing with a neighbour who calls one names to witnessing a child dying of a life threatening disease - the book articulates answers to all existential queries, helping one to learn and evolve as a spiritual being with each step.

Deepika Padukone was one of the foremost Indian celebrities to come out in open about this. It's only when celebrities commit suicide or talk about it that people wake up to such issues. The statistics on mental health issues are alarming.

More and more professional colleges and corporates are introducing sessions on happiness, yoga,

improving mental health, dealing with stress etc to ensure that students and employees can come out as winner. It's not about spirituality but how one can channelise internal energies in simple ways to live a positive and happy life.

In the book, published by Bloomsbury India, Joshi, who is a professional singer and yoga trainer, suggests six steps to rid oneself of a lot of pent-up emotions and physical ailments - accept that there is a problem, identify the problem, pour it out, thrash it out, meditate, and revise the process till one feels internal happiness.

"All of us need some kind of closure or settlement to our problems. We may not have been able to react or settle the issues optimally at the right time; therefore, we carried baggage and now it is too late to face the persons or situations that wronged us.

"We all find ourselves in this quandary, tirelessly chugging along, sometimes for decades together but worry not, there is good news - you do not have to live with it for the rest of your lives. You have the power, even today, to give it, that closure," she says.

Rouhani vows to boost Iran missiles despite Western concerns

TEHRAN, SEP 22 (AFP): President Hassan Rouhani vowed on Saturday to boost Iran's ballistic missile capabilities despite Western concerns that were cited by his US counterpart Donald Trump in May when he abandoned a landmark nuclear deal with Tehran.

"We will never decrease our defensive capabilities... we will increase them day by day," Rouhani said at a military parade.

"The fact that the missiles anger you shows they are our most effective weapons," he said, referring to the West.

Iran has ballistic missiles with a range of up to 3,500 kilometres (2,200 miles), enough to reach both Israel and US bases in the Middle East.

US denounces 'awful abuses' of Muslim Uighurs detained in China

WASHINGTON, SEP 21 (AFP): US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Friday denounced "awful abuses" of Muslim Uighurs detained in Chinese reeducation camps.

"Hundreds of thousands and possibly millions of Uighurs are held against their will in so-called reeducation camps where they're forced to endure severe political indoctrination and other awful abuses," Pompeo said in a speech on the state of religious freedom around the world.

Beijing has rejected UN estimates that more than a million members of Muslim minorities are being held in internment camps in China's western Xinjiang region.

In a letter to Pompeo and US Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin, Republican and Democratic members of the US Congress late last month called for sanctions on Chinese officials implicated in the internment of Uighurs.

Pompeo did not say in the speech whether he would take punitive measures.

He also expressed concern about the fate of Christians in China, who he said had been targeted in a government crackdown.

The government, he said, has been "closing churches, burning bibles and ordering followers to sign papers renouncing their faith."

Trump admin tells court decision to revoke work permits to H4 visa holders within 3 months

LALIT K JHA WASHINGTON, SEP 22 (PTI): The Trump administration has told a federal court that its decision to revoke work permits to H-4 visa users, a significant majority of whom are Indian-Americans, is expected within the next three months, a move which will have a major impact on Indian women as they are the major beneficiary of the Obama-era rule.

H-4 visas are issued by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to immediate family members (spouse

and children under 21 years of age) of the holders of H-1B visa, the most sought-after among Indian IT professionals.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in its latest court filing Friday told the US District Court in District of Columbia that it was "making a solid and swift progress in proposing to remove from its regulations on certain H-4 spouses of H-1B non-immigrants as a class of aliens eligible for employment authorisation".

The DHS said the new rule would be submitted

to the Office of Management of Budget (OMB), White House, within three months.

Till then, the department urged the court to keep in abeyance its decision on a lawsuit filed by 'Save Jobs USA', representing a group of US workers who claim that their jobs have been hit by such a policy of the government that was promulgated during the previous Obama administration.

The Trump administration is currently reviewing the H-1B visa policy that it thinks is being misused by companies to replace

American workers.

The administration has said publicly and also in its court filing that it wants to revoke work permits to H4 visa holders, a significant majority of whom are Indian-Americans and women.

The move will have a major impact on Indian women as they are the major beneficiary of the Obama-era rule.

This is for the third time that the Department of Homeland has informed the court about the delay in issue of Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM).

The DHS has filed three status reports - on February 28, May 22 and August 20. The next status report is due on November 19.

Explaining the reasons for delay, the US attorney said since the filing of the most recent status report, the DHS's senior leadership reviewed the proposed rule and returned it to the USCIS this month for revisions.

"Senior leadership review and the request for revisions is standard practice within the DHS. When the necessary revisions are incorporated, the US-

CIS will return the proposed rule to the DHS for final clearance and submission to OMB," he said.

However, 'Save Jobs USA' has sought an early decision from the court, arguing that the longer the case remains in abeyance, the greater the possible harm to the US workers.

As of December 25, 2017, the USCIS had approved 1,26,853 applications for employment authorisation for H-4 visa holders. These count all approvals since May 2015 when the rule was implemented. This number includes 90,946

initial approvals, 35,219 renewals, and 688 replacements for lost cards.

"Ninety-three per cent of approved applications for H-4 employment authorisation were issued to individuals born in India, and five per cent were issued to individuals born in China. Individuals born in all other countries combined make up the remaining two per cent of approved applications," the Congressional Research Service said in its recent report, based on information obtained from the USCIS.

Pak PM Imran hits out at India, calls it "arrogant" for cancelling talks

ISLAMABAD, SEP 22 (PTI): India's decision to cancel the foreign minister-level meeting in New York was "arrogant", Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan said Saturday, asserting that he was "disappointed" by the New Delhi's "negative" response.

India on Friday cited the "brutal" killing of three policemen in Jammu and Kashmir as well as the release of the postal stamps "glorifying" Kashmiri militant Burhan Wani for calling off the meeting between External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and her Pakistani counterpart Shah Mehmood Qureshi on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York this month.

Announcing the cancellation of the meeting, External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said in New Delhi that the incidents "exposed" the "true face" of Pakistan's new Prime Minister Imran Khan to the world as well as Islamabad's evil agenda behind the proposal for talks. "The latest brutal killings of our security personnel by Pakistan-based entities and the recent release of a series of 20 postage stamps

by Pakistan glorifying a terrorist and terrorism confirm that Pakistan will not mend its ways," Kumar said.

"Disappointed at the arrogant and negative response by India to my call for resumption of the peace dialogue," Prime Minister Khan said in a tweet.

"However, all my life I have come across small men occupying big offices who do not have the vision to see the larger picture," he said in a sharp reaction to India's cancellation of the meeting.

Kumar said talks with Pakistan after the "two deeply disturbing" developments would be "meaningless".

"In view of the changed situation, there will be no meeting between the Foreign Ministers of India and Pakistan in New York," he said.

Reacting to India's remarks, Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman Mohammad Faisal said Friday that the "so-called 'disturbing developments'" alluded to in the Indian statement predated the Indian agreement to hold the bilateral meeting in New York.

He said the alleged killing of a BSF soldier

took place two days prior to the Indian announcement of its agreement to hold the bilateral meeting.

When the allegations of Pakistan's involvement first appeared, Pakistani rangers clearly conveyed to BSF through official channels that the country had nothing to do with it, he said.

"Pakistan... categorically reject these allegations... Our authorities would be prepared to conduct a joint investigation to establish the truth," Faisal said.

On the issue of the postage stamps, he said they were issued before the July 25 elections and before Prime Minister Khan assumed office on August 18.

"We choose not to further comment beyond saying that these comments are against all norms of civilised discourse and diplomatic communication," Faisal said.

"We believe by its ill-considered cancellation of the meeting, India has once again wasted a serious opportunity to change the dynamics of the bilateral relationship and put the region on the path of peace and development," he added.

Gunmen attack Iran military parade, killing at least 24

TEHRAN, SEP 22 (AP): Gunmen attacked an annual Iranian military parade Saturday in the country's oil-rich southwest, killing at least 24 people and wounding 53 others, local media reported.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the assault in Ahvaz, which saw gunfire spray into a crowd of marching Guardsmen, bystanders and government officials watching from a nearby riser.

However, Iran faced a bloody assault last year from the Islamic State group and Arab separatists in the region have attacked oil pipelines there in the past.

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif immediately blamed the attack on regional countries and their "US masters," further raising regional tensions as Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers is in jeopardy after President Donald Trump withdrew America from the accord.

"Iran will respond swiftly and decisively in defense of Iranian lives,"

he wrote on Twitter.

State television aired footage of the aftermath of the assault on Ahvaz's Quds, or Jerusalem, Boulevard, which like many other places around the country saw an annual parade marking the start of Iran's long 1980s war with Iraq.

The images included paramedics trying to help one person in military fatigues as other armed security personnel shouted at each other.

The semi-official ISNA news agency published photographs of the attack's aftermath, with bloodied troops in dress uniforms helping each other walk away.

A local news agency in Khuzestan province, of which Ahvaz is the capital, aired grainy mobile phone footage showing parade goers fleeing as soldiers lay flat on the ground. Gunfire rang out in the background.

"Security forces have restored security in the area but the parade has totally been disrupted," a reporter on the scene for Iranian state television said by phone in a live

broadcast. "People have been killed but we have no figures yet."

Zarif on Twitter said that the gunmen were "terrorists recruited, trained, armed & paid by a foreign regime." He did not immediately elaborate. However, Arab separatist groups in the region have launched attacks on oil pipelines there in the past and Iran.

The separatists also accuse Iran's Shiite theocracy of discriminating against its Sunni Arab citizens. Iran has blamed its Mideast archrival, the Sunni kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for funding their activity.

Reports of how the attack unfolded remained unclear immediately afterward. The state TV reporter said the gunfire came from a park behind a riser.

The semi-official Fars news agency, which is close to the Guard, said two gunmen on a motorcycle wearing khaki uniforms carried out the attack.

The state-run IRNA news agency said the attack killed 24 people and wounded 53.

UN chief Antonio Guterres to visit India in Oct

YOSHITA SINGH UNITED NATIONS, SEP 22 (PTI): UN chief Antonio Guterres will travel to India early next month, his first trip to the country as head of the world body that coincides with the commencement of events marking the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

The Secretary-General will arrive in New Delhi on October 1. His visit coincides with the beginning of events to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on October 2 next year, Deputy Spokesman for the UN Secretary-General Farhan Haq told reporters here Friday.

On October 1, Guterres will formally open the new UN House in New Delhi and on October 2, the Secretary-General will participate in the closing session of the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Con-



vention. During the visit, he will meet President Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj on October 3.

He will also meet with Speaker of the Lok Sabha Sumitra Mahajan before giving a lecture at the India Habitat Centre on Global Affairs on the theme 'Global challenges, global solutions'.

The Secretary-General will also take part in the General Assembly of

the International Solar Alliance. In the afternoon of October 3, he will visit the Golden Temple in Amritsar and will return to New York on October 4.

Guterres had visited India in July 2016, just months ahead of the election for Secretary General. During his visit then, he had met Swaraj.

Replying to a question on Guterres' trip to the Golden Temple, Haq said that the visit is essentially a personal one as the UN chief wanted to see the holy Sikh pilgrim-

age site.

When asked if Guterres will be asked questions about the 1984 Sikh riots, Haq said it was a bit "premature" to mention the topics he will bring up.

Haq also expressed the world body's gratitude to the Indian government for its contribution of USD 1 million to install solar panels and a green roof on the Conference Building of the United Nations Secretariat.

The contribution was received by Under-Secretary-General for Management Jan Beagle, who said that "India's generous contribution sends a strong message promoting innovation for action on climate change, and to enable greater efficiencies".

The initiative will help the Secretariat reduce its carbon footprint and promote sustainable energy, Haq added.

Eight essays put the spotlight on the journey coursed by hydel projects in Sikkim and the region, the cost exacted by this "development" and some of the stories it birthed, not all of which have been shared before.

Also finding place in this collection is the arrival of Climate Change and its impact on Sikkim and how the State could negotiate with this new disruption.

ESSAYS ON TEESTA, HYDEL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN SIKKIM

EDITED BY TSHERING EDEN AND PEMA WANGCHUK

LOKTA BOOKS
Lengla - Sikkim
loktabooks@gmail.com
+91 901 060 0200; +91 900 200 0763

**Contact
Summit
TIMES at
9832556698,
9832369520
news@summit-
times.com
advertise@sum-
mittimes.com
summittmes16@
gmail.com**

'Village Rockstars' is India's official entry to Oscars 2019

MUMBAI, SEP 22 (PTI): Rima Das' National Award-winning Assamese feature "Village Rockstars" has been chosen to represent India in the Best Foreign Language category at the 91st Academy Awards next year, the Film Federation of India (FFI) announced Saturday.

The film follows Dhunu, a girl who grows up in poverty and learns to fend for herself. However, that does not prevent her from following her dream of forming a rock band and owning a guitar someday.

Elated with the news, Das said "Village Rockstars" selection is a "huge recognition" for filmmakers from northeast.



"It feels great. I don't have many words to explain. The whole journey is kind of a fairy tale. It is a huge recognition for northeast and

I think it is the first Assamese film to get selected. So I believe it will change a lot for filmmakers from the region.

"I was always hopeful. I was always looking forward to going to the festivals and winning accolades. But most important for me was that people should connect with the film. That emotional connections is something which I have achieved through this film," Das told PTI.

"Village Rockstars", starring Bhanita Das in the lead role, had its world premiere at the 2017 Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) and has toured more than 70 prestigious international and national film festivals.

The coming-of-age film had bagged the Best Feature Film trophy at the 65th National Film

Awards, besides also winning Best Child Artist, Best Location Sound Recordist and Best Editing.

The announcement was made by SV Rajendra Singh Babu, Chairman, Selection Committee for Oscar Award, FFI.

"It is technically a film with good human concept that would touch people around the world. We are honouring a film that deserves to be at the Oscars. We are hopeful and confident that people will see and respect the film," he told reporters.

Sanjay Leela Bhansali's "Padmaavat", Alia Bhatt-starrer "Raazi", Rani Mukerji fronted "Hichki", Shoojit Sircar's "October", "Love

Sonia" directed by Tabrez Noorani, "Tumbaad", "Halkaa", "Kadvi Hawa" and latest release "Manto" were part of the list of 28 films submitted for next year's Oscars.

No Indian film has ever won an Oscar. The last Indian film that made it to the final five in the Best Foreign Film category list was Ashutosh Gowariker's "Lagaan" in 2001.

"Mother India" (1958) and "Salaam Bombay" (1989) are the other two Indian movies to have made it to the top five.

Hindi film "Newton" by director Amit Masurkar and starring Rajkumar Rao was India's official submission to the Oscars last year.



MARVEL SUPER FAN! Tom Hardy attends the photo call for his upcoming film, Venom, in Moscow, Russia.

Netflix renews "Sacred Games" for season 02

Netflix has officially green lit the hit series "Sacred Games" for a second season.

The thriller series, based on author Vikram Chandra's novel of the same name, features Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Saif Ali Khan in the lead.

Directed by Anurag Kashyap and Vikramaditya Motwane, the first season of the series premiered on Netflix on July 6.

The second season will pick up from Sartaj Singh (Khan) pursuing his relentless battle of saving the city and Ganesh Gaitonde (Siddiqui) facing bigger challenges to retain his position as the legendary kingpin of Mumbai, the streaming giant said in a press release.

Actor Pankaj Tripathi, who played the intriguing Guruji in season one will also be back for the show's sophomore run.

His character plays a pivotal role in unfolding a chain of events that shape the next season, which is scheduled to film in India and locations overseas later this year.



For the second season, Kashyap will continue to direct the story of Siddiqui's Gaitonde, while Motwane will be handing over the baton for the shooting of Sartaj Singh's plot to "Masaa'n" helmer Neeraj Ghaywan.

Motwane and Varun Grover will continue their roles of being the showrunner and the lead writer respectively.

"We've been thrilled by the response to Sacred Games from fans worldwide, and especially in India, to

this high quality production. It's incredibly exciting for us to take the story of Sacred Games forward and open a new chapter in the series with its second season," said Erik Barmack, vice president, international originals at Netflix.

"Sacred Games" is the first of eight Indian series that Netflix has commissioned. Upon its debut, the show received positive reviews from critics, mainly for the performance of its lead actor.

'Manto' screening restored after initial hiccups

Manto is finally screening in theatres across India following cancelation of its first show.

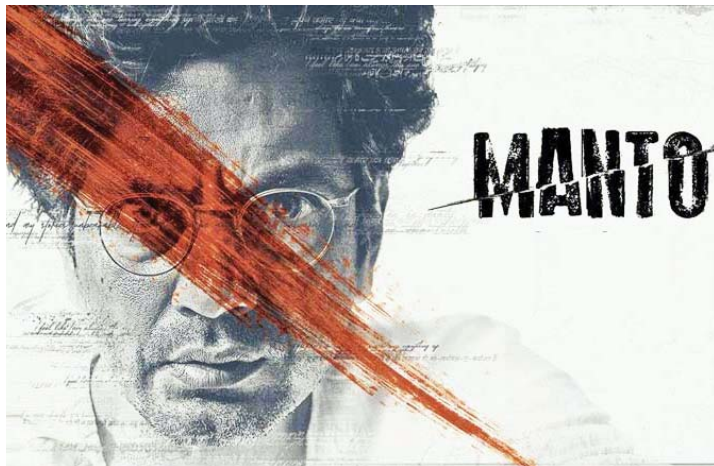
"Manto", starring Nawazuddin Siddiqui as legendary Urdu writer Saadat Hasan Manto released Friday, but multiplex chain PVR Cinemas had to cancel the morning shows due to technical glitch.

"Hugely disappointed... six years of work and many people's collective intent and commitment was to find its culmination this morning.

"Am assured by @Viacom18Movies it will be fixed at noon today. Please let us know if it has not been. Spreading #Mantoiyat will not stop," Nandita had posted on Twitter.

PVR had assured fans and the director that they were working towards solving the problem and would soon start screening the film.

"Hi, We would like to inform you that due to some technical glitch, the shows of



the movie, 'Manto' were cancelled. However, we would never want you to miss out on a good movie and are trying our best to bring you the shows of this most awaited movie.

"Stay tuned to our app/website for latest updates regarding this," a post shared

on the official Twttier account of PVR support read.

PVR later tweeted that the film has released and is playing within the PVR chain all over the country.

Producers Viacom18 also tweeted that the film has been released in PVR cinemas.

"All shows of @man-

tofilm are up and running now. Check timings and join the #mantoiyat fever this afternoon onwards," the post read.

"Manto" also features Rasika Duggal and Tahir Raj Bhasin.

When audience is unhappy I get restless: Rohit Shetty

MUMBAI, SEP 22 (PTI): Rohit Shetty, one of the most successful commercial directors of the Hindi film industry, says love and acceptance of the audience motivates him to give his best to every project.

The director said his aim is to provide entertainment to the people and he wants them to enjoy his films, irrespective of what the critics are saying.

"I think of audience, especially my family audience, while writing or making or editing a film. I want them to enjoy my films. I am more happy when audience is happy. When they are laughing and cheering.

"It gives me high and happiness. If a person goes to watch a film, he puts 10 per cent of his earning in it. So I should see to it that they are entertained. When audience is not happy, I feel restless," Rohit told reporters here Friday at the Jagran Cinema Summit.



The director said whenever his film releases, his team goes to the theatres to gauge the audiences reaction.

"For me personally, after my film releases we have a team that goes to check and understand the reaction of the audience. I feel there has to be a reality check. I have a team who have been working with me for years and there is a emotional bond that we share. I consider and think over the

suggestions that they give."

Rohit believes with time cinema has changed and a filmmaker should not be worried as to what works and what does not with the audiences.

"Cinema was always changing and developing when Manmohan Desai was making 'Amar Akbar Anthony'. There was Hrishkesh Mukherjee making 'Milli'. Earlier it was commercial and parallel or art film and today it is multiple kind of film. A good film is a good film and a bad film is bad."

He also shared if he ever decides to make a biopic, it will be on Maratha warrior, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

"If I ever have to make a film then it will be on Shivaji. It needs lot of money," he said.

Talking about trend of biopics in the film industry, Rohit added, "Trend keeps coming and changing and if the audience is liking it then there

is no harm in making a film in that space."

The director believes that his frequent collaborator Ajay Devgn has a big role in his success as a filmmaker.

The two have worked together on "Golmaal" and "Singham" series, "Zameen", "Bol Bachchan".

"We met once or twice on sets before Ajay's 'Phool Aur Kante' came and then we started working together. He started his own company and told me to work with him," he said.

"When I started I knew I don't need to struggle as Ajay is there. My first film happened because of Ajay and it did not work and he stood by me. And when we were doing 'Golmaal', industry people were like 'Action director and actor known for action are making a comedy'. But Ajay has always stood by me. I am what I am because of him," he added.

ARIES: Too many people could be vying for your attention today. Aries. All of them want advice or help. This could be flattering, and you'll probably want to help them, but it can also be unsettling and make it hard to focus. Don't let this set your temper on edge and cause you to snap at your friends. Take each request one at a time, make no promises, and do your best.

TAURUS: There could be trouble brewing in the workplace, Taurus. Some of your colleagues neither like nor trust each other and find it impossible to work together. Adjustments are needed if everyone is going to work to the best of their abilities. If you're in a position to handle this, do it now. If you aren't, distance yourself from the situation. It's the only way to stay sane!

GEMINI: Squabbles may come up between you and a sibling or neighbor, Gemini. Your ability to compromise is definitely called for here. If you aren't careful, this could turn into a battle of wills. The minute the disagreement comes up, try to talk it out and turn it into a win/win situation. Otherwise, things may be said that shouldn't be, and feelings could remain hurt for a long time.

CANCER: Money matters might cause you a few headaches, Cancer. You could be torn between the desire to put money aside for the future and the impulse to buy something that you've wanted for a long time. There may be a way to have it both ways. Save a little less and try to find a bargain price for your item. Take everything into consideration and work it out before you make yourself crazy.

LEO: Too much rigorous exercise over the past few days might have you feeling a little sore and tired, Leo. Your nerves may be on edge, and you could be more likely than usual to snap at those around you. Try to ease both nerves and muscle aches by soaking in a hot bath. Herbal tea might also help. Accept that you should take it easy today and then do it!

VIRGO: Spiritual breakthroughs may have you feeling a little disconcerted, Virgo. Clearing away deadwood, such as past traumas, might tell you a few things about yourself you'd rather not face. It's vital to release them in order to progress as a human being. Even if tears are involved, this is a positive development. You'll feel happier once it's all set free. Onward and upward!

LIBRA: A conference of some kind could touch upon some pretty volatile issues, Libra. People could disagree to the point that the meeting turns into a shouting match. You probably have strong opinions on this as well, but don't get involved. You won't be able to stop the argument, and it can only cause you stress. If you can, avoid this meeting altogether. Think about it!

SCORPIO: Is your significant other caught up in family problems and unable to spend time with you? Don't let your insecurity get the best of you. Your partner needs to deal with family now. Relax, do what you want to do, and have confidence that you'll be spending more time together as soon as possible. After dealing with family quarrels, you'll be a peaceful refuge for your partner.

SAGITTARIUS: Matters involving communication seem to be fouled up, Sagittarius. Messages may not get delivered, emails may not go through, and people might misinterpret your words. This could create a mess that brings everything to a screeching halt. You need to speak to people directly, give detailed instructions, use simple language, and make sure they take notes, or beware of the consequences!

CAPRICORN: Your values could oppose those of a business or romantic partner today, Capricorn. One of you may be overly pragmatic and the other too idealistic. One seems callous, while the other seems to be living in a dream world. This could be a milestone in your relationship if approached properly. If you can't create a win/win situation, perhaps you should reconsider the partnership.

AQUARIUS: If you've been having trouble reaching a romantic partner, Aquarius, it might be a good idea to stop trying. Your friend is having a rough day and might not make the best company. In fact, your beloved could view a call from you as an unwelcome interruption and be short, if not downright rude. If you speak with your friend, keep it brief and plan to get together - just not today.

PISCES: You may feel a bit restless and unsettled without really knowing why, Pisces. Stresses on the job could churn up repressed resentment from the past that you need to release. Try to discern exactly what these stresses remind you of. If you're unable to do this, however, you'll probably still reap the benefits of the release. Stay focused on your work and just let it happen.