



**HUMBLED BY GENEROSITY:
AMITABH BACHCHAN ON
DADASAHEB PHALKE HONOUR**

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**AN INCREASING NUMBER OF
COUNTRIES ARE BANNING
E-CIGARETTES – HERE'S WHY**

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BE DIRECTED BY PRABHUDHEVA**

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SummitTIMES

Vol 04 | Issue 258 | Gangtok | Thursday | 26 September 2019

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

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Dr Subba quits SDF, says many more from Soreng-Chakung will follow him out

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 25 SEPT:

Senior politician, Dr SAD Subba, has resigned from primary membership and post of vice-president of Sikkim Democratic Front. He is reported to have submitted his resignation to the SDF president on Tuesday and the same has since been accepted by the party. Dr Subba, it may be recalled led the Sikkim Himali Rajya Parishad for several years until he joined SDF. In the last SDF Government, he served as advisor to Health Department.

Dr Subba is the latest in the exodus that has hit SDF and following in his heels, nine founder-members and office bearers of the SDF from Soreng-Chakung constituency in West Sikkim also submitted their resignation letters at the party headquarters on Wednesday.

Addressing a press conference here today,



Dr Subba mentioned that the decision to resign was the need of the hour for him and was taken after consulting his team in the constituency [Soreng-Chakung].

He hinted that more SDF supporters and party workers from Soreng-Chakung constituency can be expected to quit

the party over the next few days.

As for the reasons behind his resignation, Dr Subba said that party workers have been left in “great confusion and dilemma” in the present political scenario as legislators and senior leaders of the party have been joining other polit-

ical parties without consulting their supporters or the people.

He further condemned this attitude of former SDF leaders of not taking supporters into confidence and remarked that this was unfair on the people and party supporters.

As for himself, he

said that he would stay independent for some time, study the political scenario and make his next move depending on directions received from the people.

He confirmed that he has been receiving feelers from different political parties.

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Onion prices continue to rule high

NEW DELHI, SEP 25 (PTI):

Retail prices of onion continued to remain high at Rs 70-80 per kg on Wednesday in the national capital and other parts of the country despite government measures to boost supply of the key kitchen staple.

As per data maintained by the consumer affairs ministry, retail onion price was ruling at Rs 60/kg in cities like Delhi, Mumbai and Lucknow. It was being sold at Rs 58/kg in Mumbai and Rs 42/kg in Chennai. In Kanpur, onion prices were at Rs 70/kg and at Rs 80/kg in Port Blair.

However, trade data showed retail onion prices ruling in the range of Rs 70-80 per kg in most parts of the country, depending on quality and region.

Onion prices have been on the rise for the last one month due to supply disruption from flood-affected producing states like Maharashtra. Prices have risen sharply in the last few days due to heavy rains in the key growing states.

“Centre has adequate stock of onion and asked state governments to take as much onion they want,” Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan tweeted on Wednesday.

The Centre is improving supply in the domestic market by offloading its buffer stock. The buffer stock stands at about 50,000 tonnes, out of which 15,000 tonnes have been released through agencies like Nafed, NCCF and Mother Dairy’s Safal outlets.

Paswan said the Centre has so far released 1,850 tonnes of onion to

Tripura, 2,000 tonnes to Haryana and 960 tonnes to Andhra Pradesh at the rate of Rs 15.59 per kg. These states will sell onion to consumers at a maximum rate of Rs 23.90/kg. “Delhi government has requested for 100 tonnes of onion per day for 5 days from 28th of September. We will provide required quantity of onion to Delhi,” Paswan tweeted.

The Centre is ready to provide onion to all states as per their requirement at Rs 15.59 per kg, he added.

On Tuesday, the minister had indicated that the government will consider imposing stock limit on traders if the current high price situation continues in the coming days.

The Centre has taken several measures to arrest the prices of onion in Delhi and other parts of the country. It is offloading onion from its buffer stock through agencies like Nafed and National Consumers’ Federation of India (NCCF), discouraged exports of onion by increasing the minimum export price and has withdrawn incentives. It is also cracking down on black marketers. At present, stored onion is being sold in most parts of the country and fresh Kharif (summer) crop will hit the markets from November onwards, traders said. They further said there is enough supply of stored onion (previous year’s crop) but its transportation has been affected due to heavy rains.

Prices have also picked up on a likely fall in Kharif output owing to the lower planted area following excess rains, according to sources.

Shutdown enters 52nd day in Kashmir Valley



SRINAGAR, SEP 25 (PTI): Normal life remained affected in the Kashmir Valley for the 52nd consecutive day on Wednesday with public transport off the roads even as few vendors set up stalls here, officials said.

Main markets and other business establishments continued to remain closed. However, few vendors set up stalls on the TRC Chowk-Lal Chowk axis here.

Public transport was largely off the roads, even as few inter-district cabs and auto-rickshaws were seen plying in some areas of the city, the officials said.

Movement of private cars was unhindered, they added.

There was no classwork in schools as efforts of the state government to open educational institutions have not borne any fruit as parents continued to keep children at home due to apprehensions about their safety, the officials said.

Mobile services remained suspended in Kashmir except in Handwara and Kupwara areas in the north, while Internet services -- across all platforms also continued to be snapped in the valley, they said.

They said the authorities would take a call on the resumption of mobile as well as Internet services, especially

leased-line and BSNL Broadband, at an appropriate time.

There are apprehensions of mobile and Internet services being misused by anti-national elements to fuel violence in the valley, they added.

The officials said there were no restrictions anywhere in the valley, but the deployment of security forces continued in vulnerable areas to maintain law and order.

Restrictions were first imposed across Kashmir on 5 August when the Centre announced its decision to abrogate Article 370 of the Constitution and bifurcate the state into two Union territories. The restrictions were lifted in phases from many parts of the valley.

Most of the top level and second rung separatist politicians have been taken into preventive custody while mainstream leaders, including two former chief ministers -- Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti, have been either detained or placed under house arrest.

Another former chief minister and sitting Lok Sabha MP from Srinagar Farooq Abdullah has been arrested under the controversial Public Safety act, a law enacted by his father and National Conference founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah in 1978 when he was the chief minister.

NRC becomes political hot potato in WB, Mamata claims 11 committed suicide

MIDNAPORE/KOLKATA, SEP 25 (PTI):

With the NRC becoming a political hot potato in West Bengal, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee claimed on Wednesday 11 people have committed suicide fearing loss of citizenship, while senior BJP leader Kailash Vijayvargiya asserted the exercise will be undertaken in the state but no Hindu will be deported.

Banerjee, who has often been accused by the BJP of Muslim appeasement, asked Block Development Officers and public representatives to visit every household to assuage the concerns of people about getting stripped of Indian citizenship.

BJP general secretary Vijayvargiya, however, insisted a National Register of Citizens (NRC) will be prepared in the state but no Hindu will be left out.

“So many people have died. 11 people have died so far over this NRC panic. I would ask government officials and public representatives to visit every household in their respective areas and allay public fear,” she told an administrative meeting at Debra in West Midnapore district.

“There will be no NRC in Bengal,” she declared.

The state’s TMC government has also started issuing advertisements to television and print media asking people not to panic.

A 4-minute audio-visual clip being aired by



local TV channels shows Banerjee asking people not to panic or be misled by “false claims” about NRC.

BJP chief Amit Shah had repeatedly said during the Lok Sabha poll campaign that the NRC exercise, which was limited to Assam, will also be extended to West Bengal.

Banerjee said her government’s programme to issue, replace and update ration cards had nothing to do with the NRC, as some people apprehended.

Though the Centre is yet to decide on whether to replicate the NRC exercise in West Bengal, large queues of people are being seen outside the offices of BDOs, borough offices and civic body offices across the state for the last few days to procure documents that could prove that the

state has been their place of residence.

“Be 100 percent sure about NRC in Bengal, but Hindus have nothing to fear as we are soon bringing Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in Parliament (to give Hindus who escaped religious persecution in other countries Indian citizenship),” Vijayvargiya told a gathering here.

Without naming Banerjee’s TMC, which has accused the BJP-ruled Centre and Assam governments of botching up the NRC exercise, as reflected in the exclusion of a large number of Bengali-speaking Hindus, he said some parties and politicians were spreading canards about the same happening in West Bengal.

“As the national general secretary of the BJP, I

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Governor attends 50th Governor's Conference Sub-Group Consultative Meeting

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 25 SEPT:

Governor of Sikkim, Ganga Prasad attended the 50th Governor's Conference Sub-Group Consultative Meeting at Ashoka Hotel, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi today. The Sub Group on various subjects for wider consultation and submission of report was formed by Rashtrapati Bhavan through a written communique in the month of August this year. Accordingly the subjects such as Tribal Issues, Reforms in Agriculture, Jal Jeevan Mission, New Education Policy: Higher Education and Governance for 'Ease of Living' were allocated to different sub groups of Governors and Lt. Governors.

The meeting on Governance for "Ease of Living" allocated to the Sub Group of Governors, of which Governor of Sikkim is a member, is being presided by Governor of West Bengal, Jagdeep Dhankar as the Convenor of Sub Group.

Its member being Governor of Manipur, Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Governor of Sikkim, Governor of Bihar, Governor of Nagaland, Lt. Governor of Delhi and Administrator, Union Territory of Lakshadweep with Vice Chairman and CEO of NITI Aayog as its invited participants.

Governor during his address highlighted the clarion of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Viswas given by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi towards the vision of New India to which following goals are the precursors.

- Attaining the target of 5 Trillion Dollar Economy by 2024-25.
- Achieving Sustainable Development Goals 2030, and
- Attaining the target of being largest economy in the world by 2047, the 100th year of Independence.

The Governor stressed on the need of multisectoral reforms and the way



the public resource is utilized in the country. These include Reforms in Allocation and Utilisation of National Resources, Reforms in Projects and Schemes of Public Welfare and Development being undertaken by Central and State Governments, Reforms in Monitoring and Evaluation of Schemes and Developmental Projects, Co-operative Federalism in letter and spirit, Electoral Reforms, Accountability and Efficiency in delivery of public services, Focus on E-Governance and Digitisation of Economy, Civil Service Reforms and also Building a Just and Law Abiding Society. Besides, the Governor also highlighted the need to improve accountability and efficiency in each rupee of the government spending.

While deliberating on the primary needs towards ease of living, Governor also submitted his suggestions on the following issues which a large segment of our population is still struggling with.

1. Ensuring basic amenities such as clean drinking water, housing and sanitation for all citizens.

2. Ensuring free delivery of services on quality health care and education for all citizens including bridging the Urban-Rural divide in the health care and education facilities.

3. Concerted and concrete efforts on strengthening the public delivery system through robust implementation of E-governance and Digital India Mission.

4. Strengthening Road, Railway, Air and Broadband connectivity across regions, cities and villages on priority for bridging existing regional connectivity gap.

5. More welfare and social security measures with focus on universal pension, nutrition, women safety, capacity building and employment and economic empowerment of differently abled and weaker section of society, strengthening social harmony and cohesion by eliminat-

ing discrimination in the society.

6. Extending banking facilities to all individuals and promoting saving culture by linking all small savings to life insurance directly. Simplifying Mudra Yojna for the benefit of small and marginal entrepreneurs to promote self-employment on priority.

7. Ensuring public participation in all developmental and welfare schemes and following bottom up approach to developmental planning more vigorously.

8. Mobilisation and involvement of citizens on issues of national importance such as water conservation, energy saving, switching over to renewable energy sources, ban on single use plastics and other environmental concerns and converting these issues into people's movement in line with Swachhta Abhiyan.

Dikchu Scouts and Guides team leaves for Nagaland



WANGCHUK NHUTIA
MANGAN, 25 SEPT:

Bharat Scouts and Guides of Dikchu Senior Secondary School, East Sikkim is representing Sikkim in the nature study and trekking program to be held at Bharat Scouts and Guides headquarter, Kohima, Nagaland from 24 Sept

to 01 Oct, 2019.

The team comprising of 9 participants along with the unit leader, Arjun Pradhan have left for Nagaland from Dikchu on 24 Sept, 2019.

The team was flagged off on Tuesday by Headmistress Gor Secondary School, Tseten Lhamu Lepcha, Dzongu.

Dr Subba quits...

Meanwhile, SDF founder-member, BL Gurung, who quit the party today, added that more office bearers and members of the SDF party from Soreng-Chakung constituency will be resigning over the next few days.

He held forth that the party lost the last elections because of internal problems and misunderstandings in the party. He also said that the recent defection of 12 SDF MLAs was an embarrassing incident and one that had humiliated the mandate of the people and left the party supporters confused.

He also alleged that the party has failed to respect on the developments and this has left party workers convinced that there was virtue in remaining with the party.

NRC becomes...

want to assure all of you that NRC will be implemented but not a single Hindu will have to leave the country. Each and every Hindu will be given citizenship," he asserted.

As long as India's Prime Minister is Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister is Amit Shah, Hindu refugees have nothing to worry about, Vijayvargiya said.

"India is not a charity house that those who are the majority community in Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan (Muslims) can just infiltrate, spread terror and take away the livelihood of our citizens," the BJP's Bengal minder said.

Out of the over 19 lakh people omitted from the final NRC in Assam, which was published on August 31, about 12 lakh are Hindus. NRC was one of the provisions of the Assam Accord which was signed in 1985. The accord envisaged identification and deportation of illegal immigrants, especially Bangladeshi settlers.

"The TMC has been opposing NRC to protect Bangladeshi Muslim infiltrators who are its vote bank in West Bengal. But after many Hindus were omitted from the NRC list in Assam, it is trying to project us as anti-Hindu and an anti-refugee party," said a senior state BJP leader, who did not wish to be named.

Amit Shah is scheduled visit Kolkata on October 1 to address a seminar on NRC and the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill.

BJP Sikkim celebrates birth anniv of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 25 SEPT:

Bharatiya Janata Party Sikkim Pradesh celebrated the 103rd birth anniversary of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay at the party headquarter, Singtam in East Sikkim on Wednesday. The programme, which was attended by BJP state general secretary, SB Karki, MLAs, office bearers and party workers, started with lighting of the lamp and offering of garlands

on the portrait of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay.

A BJP press release informs that former state president, Padam Chettri highlighted the life, struggles, visions of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay.

Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay was born on 25 September in 1916 in the village of Nagla Chandrabhan in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh and he was the founding member of Bharatiya Jana Sangh, which later became Bharatiya Janata Party.

No nominations filed for by-poll in South

NAMCHI, 25 SEPT (IPR): No nominations were filed today for the upcoming by-elections of Poklok Kamrang Assembly Constituency in South Sikkim, as informed by Returning Officer, Ragul K.

Pranab Mukherjee releases Swamy's book on economy

NEW DELHI, SEP 25 (PTI): Former president Pranab Mukherjee on Wednesday released a book written by BJP MP Subramanian Swamy that tracks the country's economic development over the years and offers solutions for future growth.

Launching the book 'Reset: Regaining India's Economic Legacy', Mukherjee spoke of his long association with Swamy and said he speaks what he feels and believes, and he is not afraid to declare his views publicly.

The former president also acknowledged the MP's input on liberalising trade when the latter was the commerce minister in the short-lived Chandra Shekhar government in 1990-91.

Mukherjee said he will not pass his judgement on the book as it is for the readers to decide but praised its "lucid" writing.

Swamy, an outspoken figure who has often criticised economic policies of the Modi government, asserted that unless India targets 10 per cent growth rate, it will not be able to remove unemployment in the next 10 years.

Union MoS on Sikkim visit pays tribute to Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 25 SEPT:

Bharatiya Janata Party Sikkim Pradesh paid homage to Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay on his 103rd birth anniversary on Wednesday. He was the founding member of Bharatiya Jan Sangh.

On the occasion, Union Minister of State for Women and Child Development, Debasree Chaudhuri, who is on an official visit to Sikkim, paid tribute to Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay in a small programme held here this afternoon. The programme was also attended by leaders of BJP state unit.

Speaking to media persons, Ms Chaudhuri mentioned that Pandit Deen



Dayal Upadhyay's vision and thoughts are the reason why BJP is today the biggest political party in the world. She urged everyone to take inspiration from his vision, thoughts and struggles.

Speaking on her Sikkim tour, the Union Minister of State mentioned that the Centre is focusing on the North-East region and Prime Minister Narendra Modi

has directed all Union Ministers to visit every State of the North-East region. She stated that the north-eastern region has been neglected by previous governments so the present government is giving priority to the region in order to bring it into the mainstream.

"We will prove our commitments for the region with our works," said Ms Chaudhuri.

Legal Services Camp held at Jorethang

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 25 SEPT:

District Legal Services Authority (South) and Taluk Legal Services Committee (South) in coordination with the Sikkim State Legal Services Authority organized a Legal Services Camp at Jorethang Bazaar today, as per a press release.

The purpose of the program was to spread awareness about welfare legislations, various schemes and to strengthen the community's access to the schemes being implemented by the Legal Services Authority and other Departments of the Government, the release mentions.

The program aimed at identifying and connecting people to welfare schemes to ensure that fruits of the welfare schemes are passed to the eligible people. The program also looked at understanding the legal needs of the people by addressing their legal problems and giving appropriate legal advice.

Today's program focused mainly on NALSA (Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation) Scheme, 2015, and NALSA (Legal Services to the Victims of Drug Abuse and Eradication of Drug Menace), Scheme, 2015.

The program was launched by the Chairperson, DLSA (South), Jiwan Kumar Kharka in the presence of Secretary DLSA (South), Jwala D Thapa, Panel Advocates, Bhim S Pradhan and Prasuna Sharma, Doctors and team of Central Referral Hos-

pital (Manipal), SDM Jorethang, SHO Jorethang, Chairperson (Jorethang Municipal Council), Dristhi Child Line, Sanjivani Rehabilitation Centre, Brothers on Wheels Motorcycle Club, Para-Legal Volunteers and the local gentries of Jorethang Bazaar, South Sikkim.

A rally against child abuse and drug abuse was held from the Court of the District and Sessions Judge, Namchi till Jorethang with the help of Brother on Wheels Motorcycle Club.

At Jorethang awareness on two schemes was conducted by the Chairperson as well as the Secretary. Thereafter, the resource persons from each department also spoke in gist about the benefit with which they had come to the Camp. A short musical programme on disadvantages of drug abuse was also conducted by bikers of the BOW Motorcycle club.

During the program, two video clips were shown to the public broadcasting the benefits of National Legal Services Authority and Sikkim State Legal Services Authority.

The program was attended by 515 people who interacted with the officers and representatives of the Departments present to address their problems and to procure appropriate advice and guidance.

The doctors from Manipal Hospital also provided free health services.

CEPCS meets landslide victims, donates Rs 1 lakh



SUMMIT REPORT
Gangtok, 25 Sept:

Social Service Committee, a wing of Council of Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Sikkim (CEPCS) visited landslide affected areas in Yuksom on 23 Sept, 2019. The Committee members

along with SDM-Yuksom met the victims and distributed relief materials.

The Social Service Committee also contributed Rs. 1 lakh towards CM's Relief Fund and handed over the cheque to SDM-Yuksom, West Sikkim.

Lingi Payong School scores win in Purni Maya Memorial Cup

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 25 SEPT:

Late Purni Maya Niroula Memorial Football Tournament began today at Phalaichadara Junior High School. In the first match, Lingi Payong Secondary School registered a win against Snow Lion Samdong by 5 goals to 3,

a press release informs.

Harka Bahadur Chhetri of LPSS scored a hat trick followed by 2 goals from Mingma Lepcha. The football tournament was organised as part of 150th Gandhi Jayanti Celebration by the school.

The next match is scheduled to be held on 28 Sept.

KUTSE SHEGU

The kutse Shogu of our beloved mother late Karma Doma Bhutia who left for heavenly abode on 12th August falls on 29th September, 2019.

All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us for offering prayers to the departed soul at our residence Penlong Bazaar, East Sikkim.

We take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude towards those who extended their support during our time of bereavement..



Khittu Tshering Bhutia (son) 9434127474
Tenzing Bhutia (son)
Sonam Nedup Bhutia (son)
Tshering Dorji Bhutia (son)
Lazey Bhutia (daughter in law)
Layzey Bhutia (DAUGHTER)
Chunki Bhutia (daughter)

~ SummitTIMES ~ CLASSIFIEDS

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पावर ग्रिड

NOTICE

1. Approval under regulation-86 of CEREC (Conduct of Business) Regulations '1999 and CEREC (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations'2019 for i) Revision of Transmission Tariff for 2004-09 tariff block, 2009-14 tariff block, ii) Truing up of Transmission Tariff for 2014-19 tariff block and iii) Determination of Transmission tariff for 2019-24 tariff block for Petition-1: combined Assets (i) Tala - Silguri Transmission System and (ii) Remaining part of Tala - Silguri Transmission System, **Petition-2:** 07 Nos of Assets under ERSS II, **Petition-3:** Combined Assets under ERSS-XIII Project, **Petition-4:** 2 Nos. 400 KV line bays at Muzaffarpur Substation for termination of Muzaffarpur (PG)-Darbhanga (TBCB) 400 KV D/C (Triple snowbird) line under Eastern Region Strengthening Scheme VI D Project.
2. The beneficiaries of the above mentioned Transmission system are:(a) BSP(HCL) (b) WBSEDCL (c) GRIDCO (d) JSEB (e) DVC (f) Power Dept. Government of Sikkim.
3. Tariff details:
 - a) 2004-09, 2009-14 and 2014-19 block

Revised Transmission Tariff for 2004-09					Rs in Lakh
Petition No.	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Petition -1	Asset-I	--	870.69	1816.25	1873.88
	Asset-II	--	--	1763.91	1980.92
					2138.91

Revised Transmission Tariff for 2009-14					
Petition No.	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Petition -1	5036.44	5027.19	4968.28	4907.49	4867.14

True up Transmission Tariff for 2014-19					
Petition No.	2014-15	2015 - 16	2016 - 17	2017 - 18	2018 - 19
Petition -1	4688.24	4614.64	4535.28	4460.73	4401.98
Petition -2	3221.29	3199.89	3147.53	3078.72	3013.86
Petition -3	0.00	0.00	1403.37	1725.47	1730.86
Petition -4	0.00	0.00	0.00	289.69	347.90
- b) 2019-24 Block

Petition no	DOCO	Tariff for 2019-24 block				
		2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Petition -1	01.05.2006	2783.56	2777.97	2779.49	2764.86	2750.84
Petition -2	01.03.2012	2715.76	2643.98	2572.46	2501.25	2430.46
Petition -3	02.04.2016	1731.90	1704.40	1659.32	1614.82	1565.57
Petition -4	21.04.2017	307.71	325.59	321.54	317.64	313.24

4. A copy of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of the applicant at www.powergridindia.com.
5. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the application be filed by any person, including the beneficiary below the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 3 & 4th floor, Chandralok Building, Janpath, New Delhi - 110 001 (or other address where the office of the Commission is situated), with a copy to the applicant at the address of its corporate office " Saudamini", Plot No. 2, Sector-29, Gurgaon, Haryana-122 001 within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Place: GURGAON

Date: 20.09.2019

Sr.General Manager (Commercial)

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G/CN Notice-34/Adv-44/2019-2020kark

Police-Public Relations

Working together versus cracking down and/or pushing back

Cops, who see themselves the world over as the custodians of law & order and personnel ensuring security for the people, have rarely evoked confidence as such, and of late, have found themselves at the receiving end of rebuke from the very public they are paid to protect & serve. While such a situation would visit only rarely in the past, it has become worryingly frequent of late, everywhere – from streets in the US of A, to the corridors of power in Delhi to shameful investigations in UP to crackdowns in neighbouring Darjeeling and even around Sikkim on rare occasions for most lay people, but too often for addicts and peddlers. Policing is increasingly, and not always without reason, attracting allegations of atrocities, excessive use of force and over exuberant crackdowns, often even in the absence of context or necessity.

Given that the police is weighed down by a huge colonial baggage, people are the most comfortable when cops are in the background. It is when police presence is overt and overpowering, that public responses can turn disdainful and even hostile. Overt and overpowering are not always about sheer numbers and can also manifest through attitudes, and no one will contest that cops tend to swagger around with an overbearing air. Why, the moment one crosses Rangpo, anyone in uniform flaunts more pompous officiousness than can be healthy, as is suffered by travelers in the hands of that vague community police kind of force that flags down vehicles and keeps finding new ways of challaning Sikkim vehicles. While people let such attitudes slide during “normal” times, when situations turn tense, the pent up frustrations explode and the backlash can be strong. Sikkim had such a moment in the college episode some years back, but to their credit, more recently, Sikkim Police managed the pre-poll tamashas rather well, not only keeping their cool, but also keeping the peace [and sanity] despite some offensive provocation and shallow posturing.

For whatever misgivings one might have about the police in Sikkim, what one cannot ignore is the fact that the force has been diligent in its crackdown on substances of abuse. Drugs hauls are made frequently, and sometimes of mind-numbing volumes, and yet, by Sikkim Police’s own admission, there remains no way of knowing whether any dent is being made in the consumption and supply network. This is because only Sikkim Police appears to be combating substance abuse here. This has to be a collaborative effort in which the society at large endorses a more intimate partnership between the police and recovering addicts in devising ways and means to tackle addiction. In the hands of the police, it becomes an exclusively a law & order matter and with NGO’s it remains a social issue. Since addiction involves a crime and a victim and exacts a social cost, all these aspects need to be addressed simultaneously, and this can happen only through a collaboration. But for such a collaboration to happen, trust will have to be established. As things stand, in Sikkim, the elite don’t care for the police because they can be shaken off with a phone call and the underprivileged do not care because not even genuine pleas appear to move them. To begin with, if the cops were just allowed to do their jobs without any interference, they will be able to evoke some faith among the people. Then some collaborations might become possible.

Police wields enormous power, and clearly shoulders enormous responsibilities as well; it is thus in its interest, and more so in public interest, for the personnel to be better trained and routinely briefed about their role in society. One option could be in loser community participation in the managing of neighbourhood outposts and police stations so that the police and the public learn to work together instead of, what is increasingly becoming against each other.

WRITE US:

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An increasing number of countries are banning e-cigarettes – here’s why

LORRAINE MARTIN & JAMES REIHILL
theconversation.com

The White House recently announced plans to ban flavoured e-cigarettes – except for tobacco-flavoured products – because of a rise in the number of middle and high school students using these products.

A few days later, India’s cabinet approved an emergency order banning the production, import and sale of e-cigarettes.

To date, over 20 countries, mostly in South America, the Middle East and South-East Asia, have banned the sale of e-cigarette products. Some countries have also banned possession of these products. Thailand has the strictest laws, while countries such as Australia, Canada and Norway have introduced many restrictions.

Research suggests that e-cigarettes may help smokers quit regular cigarettes benefiting their long-term health. But young people who have never smoked traditional cigarettes are taking up e-cigarettes, which are available in over 1,500 flavours, including bubble gum and candy floss. In a survey of US youths aged 12-17, 81% of e-cigarette users reported that the first product they ever used was flavoured and that they use e-cigarettes because “they come in flavors I like”.

According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) over 3.6m children in the US use e-cigarettes, with a jump of 78% (from 11.7% to 20.8%) of US high school students reporting e-cigarette use from 2017 to 2018. And in the UK, 1.6% of those aged 11-18 use e-cigarettes more than once a week, compared with 0.5% in 2015.

Because of the highly addictive nature of nicotine, there is a risk that young e-cigarette users might switch to using traditional cigarettes. Indeed, some healthcare professionals refer to e-cigarettes as a “gateway drug”.

HARMFUL ENZYMES

E-cigarettes create an aerosol by heating a complex solution of chemicals, comprising oils, flavouring and nicotine. The fine particles released in the vapour are similar in size and concentration to tobacco smoke and so can reach deep into the lungs. Several of these chemicals are toxic to cells, but what makes research into their safety difficult is that each product is very different with the final composition of chemicals being determined by the temperature at which the vaping device heats them.

Researchers have found that vaping irritates and inflames the airways, leading to the production of a greater amount of mucus and an increase

in tissue-degrading enzymes called proteases. High levels of proteases can destroy sensitive lung tissue and reduce the ability of our lungs to function. The resulting damage to the lungs is irreversible and over time can lead to severe lung conditions, including emphysema which is commonly found in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). For those who already have a chronic lung disease, such as COPD or asthma, vaping has been linked to an increase in the severity of symptoms.

Another study found that proteases are stimulated by e-cigarette vapour. The vapour was prepared from different e-cigarette brands and then used to treat isolated white blood cells in the lab. Levels of the enzymes were found to be similar to or more than when the cells were exposed to an extract prepared from cigarette smoke. The increase in enzyme levels was also found with nicotine-free e-cigarette products suggesting that other components in the e-cigarette vapour were responsible.



A recent US study, published in the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine, investigated the effect of chronic e-cigarette use on markers of lung injury in the airways of vapers. Proteases linked to tissue damage were increased in both smokers and vapers, compared with non-smokers.

DIFFICULT TO RESEARCH

The problem with investigating the potential harm of e-cigarettes is that there is such a vast array of products, devices and flavourings that it’s impossible to create a “standardised exposure”.

According to a report by the US Surgeon General, 97% of young vapers used a flavoured product in the previous 30 days. Individual e-cigarette products are reported to have over six flavouring chemicals with the sweetest flavours having a significantly higher number of compounds.

Tests of 166 e-cigarette products showed that one in five (21%) contains flavouring chemicals

(benzyl alcohol, benzaldehyde, vanillin) that can be toxic to the airways. Several other toxic chemicals were also found and measurable levels of tobacco-specific nitrosamines (TSNAs), an important group of carcinogens in tobacco products, were in 70% of the products tested. The effect of inhaling these complex mixtures of chemicals will be very difficult to determine.

The recent reports of deaths in the US associated with vaping fans further concerns on safety. The CDC has reported a rising number of cases (530 across 38 states) of a mysterious “lipoid” (presence of fat in the lung) pneumonia, most of which have occurred in young men who vape, and which has been linked to eight deaths. But it is worth noting that some who have developed lipoid pneumonia admitted that they vape THC (the active ingredient in cannabis), although others have insisted that they only used nicotine products with their e-cigarettes.

One substance called vitamin E acetate has been identified in all the samples tested by New York state health officials, but there isn’t enough evidence to say if this is the cause of disease. And so far, no cases of lipoid pneumonia have been reported outside the US.

The evidence to date suggests that vaping is not a safe alternative to smoking tobacco. This, coupled with the worrying trend of young, previous non-smokers being attracted to vaping, raises fears of yet another generation suffering from chronic lung disease. Indeed, a recent study in The Lancet estimates that in 2040, COPD will be the only disease in the top ten leading causes of death that will still be increasing. Although how much will be driven by vaping remains to be seen.

[Lorraine Martin is Professor of Biomolecular Science, Queen’s University Belfast; James Reihill is Senior Research Fellow, Queen’s University Belfast]

Four-day work week is a necessary part of human progress – here’s a plan to make it happen

DAVID SPENCER
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“We should work to live, not live to work”, declared John McDonnell in his speech to Britain’s Labour Party Conference. He followed this up with a commitment to the goal of a 32-hour, four-day work week. The goal, McDonnell said, was to be achieved within ten years and, importantly, was to be realised with no loss of pay.

The reduction of the working week to four days would be truly transformative. It would represent a radical break with the dominant work culture that exists in our contemporary capitalist society.

Yet its radicalism also presents challenges. Will business accept a cut in the working week? What kind of legislation will be required to achieve the cut? Ultimately, can capitalism be adapted to accommodate a four-day week or will it require us to imagine – and create – a future beyond capitalism?

THE CASE FOR WORKING LESS

The arguments for working less are compelling. Shorter work hours would free up time for us to do and be things outside of work. It would enable us to live better lives.

Evidence shows how longer work hours are associated with various forms of sickness – both physical and mental. The reduction of work hours, in this case, could help to raise the health and well-being of workers.

Beyond personal benefits, we could mitigate the effects of climate change by working less. The work-spend treadmill has an environmental cost that we could resolve by curbing the time we devote to work.

Less work could also pay for itself by giving rise to higher productiv-

ity. Rested bodies and minds make for more productive hours and offer the opportunity to produce what we need with more free time.

Finally, we might also work better. If we eliminate hours of drudgery, we could leave more time for us to enjoy more rewarding work. Reducing working hours is as much about enhancing the quality of work as about reducing its burden.

WORK’S PERSISTENCE

But the system in which we live keeps on pressing us to work more. It was once assumed that capitalism would develop in ways that would deliver shorter work hours. Back in 1930, the economist John Maynard Keynes famously dreamed of a 15-hour work week by 2030. He thought this would be achieved through no fundamental reform of capitalism.

In reality, however, hours of work in capitalist economies have remained stubbornly high and have even shown signs of increase (especially since the global financial crisis). Large differences in work hours exist between countries, to be sure. German workers enjoy shorter work hours than their US counterparts, for example.

But no country stands anywhere close to achieving a 15- or even 30-hour work week in the next ten years. On current trends, most capitalist economies look set to have average working weeks more than double Keynes’s prediction.

The reasons for this stagnation in work hours are varied. On the one hand, there is the issue of power. Workers cannot hope to secure shorter hours if they lack the bargaining power to realise them. The decline of

unions and shift towards the “shareholder value model” of management, which measures a company’s success by the return it brings to shareholders, has resulted in many people working longer, or the same hours, for lower pay.

On the other hand, the continued force of consumerism has acted as a prop to the work ethic. Advertising and product innovation have created a culture where longer hours have been accepted as normal, even while they have inhibited the freedom of workers to live well.

MAKING IT HAPPEN

The challenge for any political party that is committed to the goal of working less is to overcome the above obstacles. Notably, the Labour Party has rejected an economy-wide curb on work time. Instead, it favours a sector-by-sector approach, via a renewed system of collective bargaining.

McDonnell has suggested that working hours (along with wage rates and conditions) could be agreed at a sector level through negotiation between employers and trade unions. Any agreements brokered on reduced working hours could then become legally binding. This approach, in some ways, follows the lead of collective bargaining arrangements in Germany, where employers and trade unions have agreed on shorter working weeks.

The problem here will be reviving collective bargaining at a time of low union membership. Some service sectors, such as the retail and care sectors, have a very limited union presence and curbing work hours may be difficult to achieve

under this policy.

McDonnell also proposed a “Working Time Commission” with the power to recommend the government increases statutory leave entitlements as quickly as possible without increasing unemployment. This is more promising in that it aims to create a new debate – and ideally a new consensus – around the case for shortening work time across the economy as a whole. One effect of this commission might be the recommendation and implementation of a four-day work week in all sectors.

A wider policy agenda for shorter work hours is outlined in a new report written by Lord Skidelsky, which was commissioned by McDonnell. While there are areas to disagree on, the report itself – and Labour’s commitment to this policy – mark a significant step forward in the discussion of reducing work time. Generally, there now seems greater pressure to secure a four-day or even three-day work week.

Still, the barriers to change remain formidable. As seen in the reception by industry groups to Labour’s announcement, business will take some convincing about the merits of a shorter working week.

But the scepticism of business only shows how far we need to rethink the economy and life more generally. If we continue to work as long as we do, we will not just keep on damaging ourselves, but also our planet. Working less, in short, is not some luxury, but a necessary part of our progress as human beings.

[the writer is Professor of Economics and Political Economy, University of Leeds]

NRC won't happen in Bengal: Mamata



MIDNAPORE (WB), SEP 25 (PTI): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday allayed fears among the people that NRC exercise will be carried out in the state.

Addressing an administrative meeting at Debra in West Midnapore district, Banerjee said it is shocking that people have committed suicide fearing that NRC would be implemented

in the state.

"NRC will not happen in Bengal," she said.

The chief minister had iterated on earlier occasions that NRC will not take place in West Bengal.

Government sources had claimed on Tuesday that four persons have committed suicide in fear of NRC so far, while four others had died while waiting in queues to procure the requisite papers.

Banerjee said that the state government's programme to issue, replace and update digital ration cards, which was originally scheduled from September 9 to 27, will again commence from November 5 to November 30 "to help each and every citizen of the state."

The announcement comes at a time when large queues are seen outside the offices of BDOs and borough of-

fices in different parts of Bengal, besides at the civic body offices in the city to procure requisite documents. There are apprehensions among a large section of the people that NRC will be carried out in the state in future. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah had repeatedly said during the campaigning for the Lok Sabha elections that NRC would be

implemented in Bengal which has evidently triggered the fear.

Banerjee said the state government will start the process of updating digital ration cards again after the festive season and there will be new ration cards in two colours.

There will be one set of digital ration cards for people who want to keep it for identity proof, while the second set of cards in a different colour will be for those who want to avail subsidised food items and also for identity proof, she said.

Banerjee cautioned people against middlemen while updating digital ration card at government offices in the districts.

She claimed that she had reports that some of the government officers in the districts are not following the directives of the secretariat.

"I have heard allegations that some BDOs have been harassing common people and are not following directives of the state government. This can't go on," Banerjee said.

Assets worth crores of Rupees of ponzi firm IMA attached



BENGALURU, SEP 25 (PTI): Karnataka government on Wednesday said, it has attached assets worth crores of Rupees belonging to 'I Monetary Advisory' (IMA) group that is involved in a multi-crore ponzi scam, to protect the interest of depositors.

A CID probe has also been ordered into a similar fraudulent investment scam in Bengaluru Rural district by some companies and Deputy Commissioners of all districts have been asked to submit a report to the Revenue department on such "dubious companies" in three months.

"The IMA case has taken many major turns. The Revenue Department has now ordered attachment of the properties related to IMA and its group entities," Revenue Minister R Ashoka told reporters here.

He said "the government was convinced that IMA has made people believe in their business and collected money from them as investment and then did not pay them capital and profit share amount and thereby indulged in fraud.

So, in order to protect the interests of the investors, I have approved the attachment of movable and immovable properties of the company by the Revenue Department," he said.

Among the properties attached by the

government were 17 in Bengaluru with a market value of Rs 21.73 crore, Demand Drafts worth Rs 8.86 crore, gold and silver ornaments and materials worth Rs 91.57 lakh and 5,880 fake gold biscuits weighing 303.07 kg.

An amount of Rs 2.85 crore cash was also seized.

The government had recently entrusted the CBI to probe the IMA scam, in which over one lakh people, mostly Muslims, were duped.

IMA director Mohammed Mansoor Khan had allegedly duped investors, promising high returns, saying he was promoting Islamic way of investment.

Many touts and some religious preachers were also among those who lured people to invest in the IMA.

The case came to light a couple of months ago when Khan fled the country, leaving behind a video message saying he would commit suicide because of "corruption in the state and central governments".

He was later brought back to India from Dubai and is currently in judicial custody.

The IMA properties were attached under relevant sections of the 'Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishment Act, 2004 (Karnataka Act 30 of 2005).

Ashoka said such scams were growing and

the government would take 'merciless action' to put an end to 'mafia' like fake investment firms

Naming five companies involved in such fraudulent activities in Bengaluru Rural Limits, he said they had collected Rs two lakh to Rs 2.5 lakh from each investor.

The firms had promised returns of between Rs 10,000 to 25,000 each month on renting out cabs purchased in the name of investors.

As per preliminary information, about 2,000 people had invested about Rs 40 crore to 60 crore in the firms, he said.

Noting that the cars were not registered in the names of investors, Ashoka said... 'the model of business itself looks fraudulent, aimed at duping investors and is like a blade company.

He said the police and Deputy Commissioner there have conducted an inquiry and informed them these are bogus firms.

"To stop such mafia and to protect investors, I have ordered a CID probe into the case and asked police to arrest those behind it and get the money back to investors," he said.

Deputy Commissioners of all districts have also been directed to send a report to the Principal Secretary, Revenue department, on such companies in three months, he said.

NRC will be implemented in WB: Kailash Vijayvargiya

KOLKATA, SEP 25 (PTI): BJP national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya Wednesday said that NRC will be implemented in West Bengal and not a single Hindu will have to leave the country.

Without naming the TMC, Vijayvargiya, who is BJP's Bengal minder, said certain political parties and politicians are trying to instill fear among the general people over NRC by spreading canards.

"As the national general secretary of BJP I want to assure all of you that NRC will be implemented but not a single Hindu will have to leave the country. Each and every Hindu will be given citizenship, he said at a programme here.

"There are certain people who are trying to spread canards and misguide the masses," he said hinting at the TMC.

Hundreds of people are queueing up at government and municipal offices here and across West Bengal to collect their birth certificates and necessary documents should the National Register of Citizens (NRC) be implemented in the state despite assurances by the TMC government that it would not be allowed.

The omission of a large number of Bengalis from the final NRC list in the BJP-ruled Assam has apparently created panic among the people and has led to eight deaths in the state so far.

Ker Tourism Facebook Page hits 3.48 million likes

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, SEP 25 (PTI): Driven by brand new content and fascinating visuals, the interactive Facebook page of Kerala Tourism has hit a new high, emerging as the most followed tourism page in South Asia, overtaking Tourism Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand by a fair margin.

The number of 'likes' on Kerala Tourism's Facebook page has tripled in the past two years, touching 3,481,239, thus eclipsing the popular social media platform of Tourism Malaysia that has 3.3 million, Visit Singapore 3.2 million and Amazing Thailand 2.6 million likes. Internationally, now only three countries Australia with 8.3 million, Go USA with 6.7 million Visit Dubai with 6.7 likes are ahead of Kerala, a press release said.

When compared with the portals of other tourism departments in the country, Kerala retains its number one position by a huge margin.

It is followed by Gujarat (1,336,836 likes), Madhya Pradesh (1,198,165), Rajasthan (588,453), Uttarakhand (494,992) and Odisha

(238,143). "It gives me immense pleasure and a feeling of pride to note that Kerala Tourism's social media page has now become the second most followed in the whole of Asia after 'Visit Dubai'," Tourism minister Kadakampally Surendran said.

It has been achieved by a sustained social media and digital media campaign, especially 'Human by Nature' video film, which focused on the people of Kerala and garnered 15 million views, he added.

The 'Kerala Tales Video Campaign', a series of 50 plus videos based on authentic stories from the state, garnered over 60 million views online.

These videos were published online in the past year, the minister said. According to Tourism secretary Rani George, one of the contributory factors to the impressive growth on social media platform is a sound content strategy based on engagement data analysis.

"It has helped us to fine-tune our content for better reach and create specific content for audiences with specific interests," she observed.

BJP, RSS to launch campaign to allay fears over NRC



KOLKATA, SEP 25 (PTI): Hitting out at TMC for intentionally creating panic over implementation of NRC in West Bengal, the BJP and the RSS said on Wednesday that they will launch a counter campaign in the state to allay the fear of the people and build public opinion on Citizenship (Amendment) Bill.

The saffron organisations would launch door-to-door campaign in West Bengal to allay the fears of the people over NRC, they said.

Without naming the TMC, a senior state RSS leader said political parties should have supported the Bill in Parliament instead of opposing it if they are worried over the omission of Hindus from the final NRC list in Assam.

"We will start door-to-door campaign soon over NRC and Citizenship (Amendment) Bill (CAB). We will tell the general people why NRC is needed to weed out Bangladeshi Muslim infiltrators and that we will first implement the CAB to give citizenship to Hindu refugees who have come to this country from neighbouring nations," said a senior state BJP leader.

"The TMC is only creating panic just to instill fear among the masses. We will counter it," he said.

Fear over implementation of the NRC in the state has made hundreds of people to queue up at government and municipal offices here and across West Bengal to collect their birth certificates and other necessary documents.

The fear has been sparked by the alleged omission of about 12 lakh Bengalis from the final National Register of Citizen list in BJP-ruled Assam despite assurances by the TMC government

that the NRC will not be allowed in West Bengal.

Apparently referring to TMC's opposition to the Bill, RSS West Bengal secretary Jishnu Basu said a few political parties are creating panic to serve their own vested interests.

"If they (TMC) are so concerned about Hindus then why are they opposing the CAB? They should support it. We want to categorically say that CAB will be passed in Parliament soon to grant citizenship to Hindu refugees. Those who don't want Hindus to get citizenship are opposing the CAB. We will campaign to inform the masses about the need for NRC and CAB," Basu said.

He said the NRC and the CAB are required to protect West Bengal as infiltrators from Bangladesh are taking shelter in the state and are involved in anti-national activities.

"This is not just harmful for the Bengali Hindus but also for Indian Muslims and is equally harmful for the security of our country," Basu said.

The CAB, 2019 provided for according Indian citizenship to Hindus, Jains, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Parsis from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan after seven years of residence in India instead of 12 years, which is the current norm, even if they do not possess any document.

The legislation was passed by Lok Sabha during its winter session on January 8 but could not be cleared by the upper house and lapsed.

Top BJP leader of Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma had said earlier this week that the Centre will reintroduce the CAB in Parliament in November.

BJP-led govt in Manipur will complete term, win next polls: CM

IMPHAL, SEP 25 (PTI): Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh has exuded confidence that the BJP-led government in the state will complete its term and win the next Assembly elections.

Singh was speaking at a programme held at a party office here on Tuesday to felicitate five Congress councillors

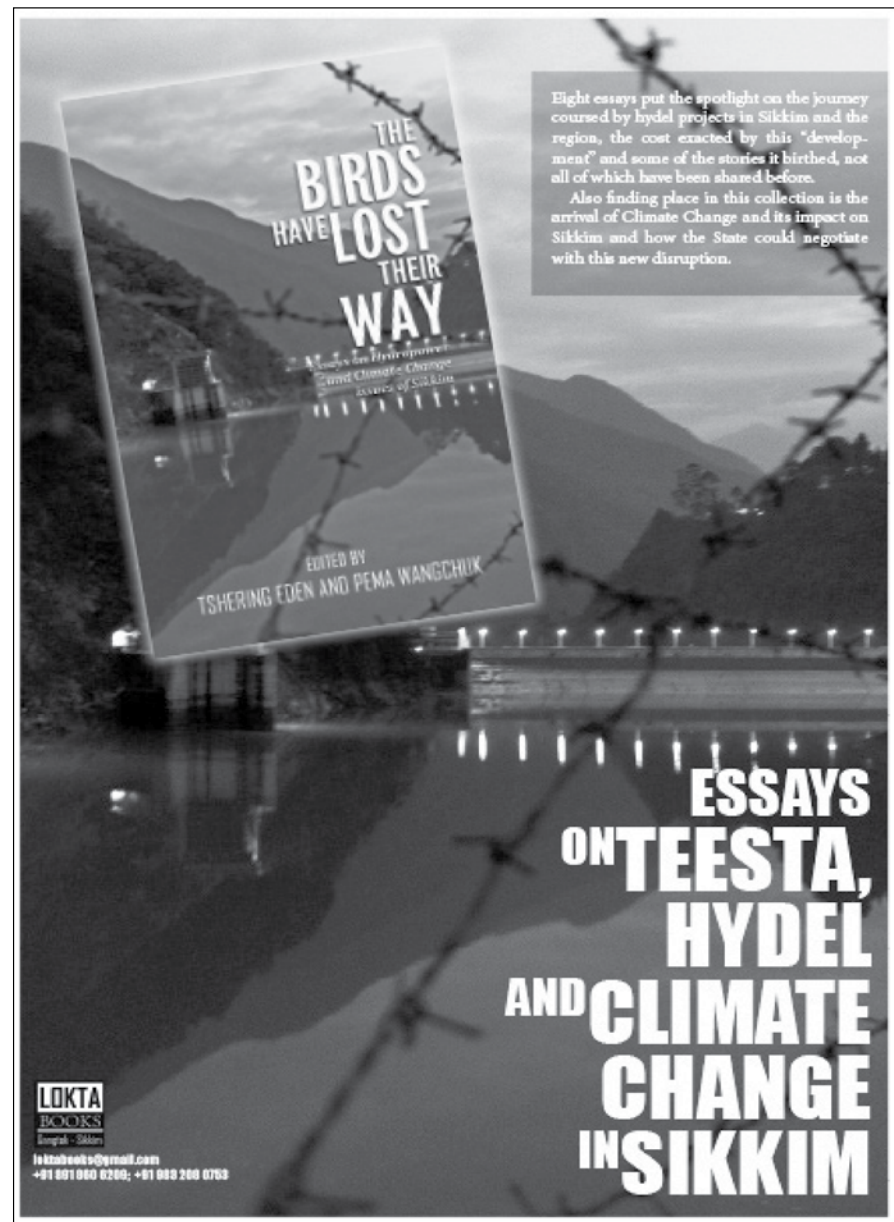
who joined the BJP.

"Congress leaders had predicted that our government would not last even for a year but now, we have completed two-and-half years of our term. We will complete this term and win the next elections," he said.

Singh said the annual state revenue has dou-

bled to Rs 1,000 crore while Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) growth rate has touched eight per cent under the BJP-led rule.

He said the annual revenue was Rs 497 crore while the GSDP growth rate was 3.77 per cent when his party came to power in the state in 2017.



How Ibrahimovic and Rooney became advocates for MLS players’ rights

GRAHAM RUTHVEN
theconversation.com

He is one of the best strikers of his generation, yet for many Zlatan Ibrahimovic is defined by what he says off the pitch rather than what he produces on it. Never before has this been truer than it is now. The Swede’s hat-trick against Sporting KC last week saw him break LA Galaxy’s single-season scoring record, and he now has 27 goals in 26 games. But that still doesn’t do justice to the way Ibrahimovic has affected the narrative in Major League Soccer this season.

He has had his say on the league’s playoff format (which he calls “shit”), the quality of his teammates (he is “a Ferrari among Fiats,” apparently), his place in the pantheon of great MLS players and the league’s artificial pitches. In typical fashion, there’s very little that Ibrahimovic hasn’t had his say on.

Ibrahimovic’s criticism of MLS comes from more than a place of trademark narcissism. Wayne Rooney, the league’s other globally renowned superstar, has also joined his former Manchester United teammate in exposing the league’s flaws, with the DC United forward this week highlighting the gross pay disparity in North American soccer.

“I feel that American players get underpaid,” said Rooney in an interview with ESPN FC. “I feel they deserve to get more money



to stay in line with football in the rest of the world but also in terms of the American sports. I’m not saying it to benefit me, I obviously won’t be in the league next season. I think it’s only fair to those players who are putting in the same work as all have to earn the right to earn more money for doing it.”

This comes just a month after Rooney criticized the league’s policy on charter flights, with MLS teams only permitted four char-

ter flights per season (a return trip would count as two flights). “Gutted about result last night. We deserved more,” he tweeted after an away defeat to the Vancouver Whitecaps last month. “Looking forward to a 12 hour travel day which could be done in six (sic) but hey this is MLS.”

Rooney certainly isn’t the only active player to have spoken out against the current charter flight arrangement, but the former En-

gland and Manchester United striker has the sort of audience few others in MLS have. In fact, Ibrahimovic is the only figure who can match Rooney for his clout and it feels like both players are fighting for their fellow MLS professionals.

MLS’s centralized system has resulted in a culture of unwritten censorship. The league stamps the paychecks of every player, coach and member of staff at every one of MLS’s 24 clubs, and many choose

not to bite the hand that feeds. Even in the way the league is covered largely by reporters on the MLS payroll, there is a soft-touch approach.

There’s no suggestion that MLS itself actively enforces this culture. It is a by-product of North American soccer’s structure. But this is why it’s so important that the likes of Ibrahimovic and Rooney, figures with the status to be heard and quality not to be cut from the roster for causing a fuss, continue to offer their colleagues a voice. They don’t have as much to lose.

Ibrahimovic and Rooney’s comments are particularly pertinent due to the looming collective bargaining agreement discussions in MLS. The current CBA deal expires on 31 January 2020 and so the league and the Major League Soccer Players Union (MLSPA) will sit down soon to start official negotiations after two years of informal talks. Many of the hot button topics have been hit by Ibrahimovic and Rooney of late. That’s unlikely to be a coincidence.

Indeed, a number of players have changed their social media avatars to a graphic declaring “I

Am The MLSPA”. This is about much more than just Ibrahimovic and Rooney taking on MLS HQ to keep themselves amused. Alejandro Bedoya and DaMarcus Beasley have also made themselves heard on a number of issues, with the latter taking aim at the format of the MLS season. “No disrespect to MLS, but when you lose a game and you don’t play well, it’s like ‘Eh,’” said the Houston Dynamo veteran. “For MLS, making the playoffs is the threshold. That’s where the line is. Really? That’s how it is. It shouldn’t be that way.”

Increasingly, it seems that MLS is at a pivotal point of its recent history. Off the field, the league continues to grapple with the implementation of its new political signage ban, with the discourse over what makes something ‘political’ causing strife. Regarding on the field matters, discussion over the salary cap, the Designated Player rule and the general format of MLS has never before been so highly charged.

If fundamental change does occur in MLS, the pressure from Ibrahimovic and Rooney will have played a part. Not all superstar Designated Players would feel such a sense of responsibility for a league that will likely be no more than a footnote on their shimmering resumes once they call it a day. Their impact on North American soccer won’t just be quantified by the number of goals they scored.

Siddharth Shanghvi pens book on mortality

NEW DELHI, SEP 25 (PTI): Award-winning author Siddharth Dhanvant Shanghvi will come out with a memoir on death and grief, drawing on a string of personal losses - of his parents and a beloved pet.

In *Loss*, the author will chart the landscape of bereavement as he takes the reader down the dark, winding path to healing.

In three essays in *Loss*, I’ve tried to look in the eye what I have lost; I never thought that everything, and everyone, we have lost could mark our character so profoundly, says Shanghvi,

whose first novel *The Last Song of Dusk* won the Betty Trask Award, the Premio Grinzane Cavour, and was nominated for the IMPAC Prize.

Udayan Mitra, publisher (literary) of HarperCollins India, terms *Loss* as an incredibly powerful book about bereavement and grief - a personal ode to the mortality and transience that define human existence.

Loss will hit stores next summer.

Shanghvi, whose second book *The Lost Flamingoes of Bombay* was shortlisted for the Man Asian Prize, wishes he could say that

loss and the accompanying grief makes one a better person.

Mostly, I have found, loss exhausts you; often, it leaves you bitter. And yet it gifts the living something: detachment, a cool cleanness for seeing people as they are, so that you might love them without having to like them, he says.

The only thing we can do for anyone, beyond even love, is to acknowledge them as they are, for whom they are, even if it is to let them go from our lives, he adds.

Goa-based Shanghvi’s most recent book is *The Rabbit & the Squirrel*.

Barcelona’s return to winning ways marred by Lionel Messi injury worry

Barcelona bounced back from Saturday’s shock defeat by Granada with a 2-1 home win over Villarreal to move up to fourth in La Liga but their night was marred by Lionel Messi going off injured.

Messi, making his first start this season, received lengthy treatment before being replaced at half-time by Ousmane Dembélé in what the coach, Ernesto Valverde, insisted was a precautionary measure.

Valverde said of Messi, who was named Fifa’s male player of the year on Monday: “He noticed a little bit of an issue with his adductor and we preferred for him not to stay on the pitch, but it was just a precaution. I don’t think it’s any more than just a niggle but we’ll need to wait for tomorrow to confirm.”

Antoine Griezmann and Arthur got the first-half goals at the Camp Nou as Barcelona moved to within a point of the top trio Granada, Athletic Bilbao and Real Madrid. The former Ar-



senal midfielder Santi Cazorla pulled a goal back for Villarreal just before half-time.

Barcelona claimed the lead after 10 minutes as Griezmann applied a deft flick to Messi’s near-post corner to guide the ball over the Villarreal goalkeeper, Sergio Asenjo, and into the net.

The home side doubled their lead five min-

utes later as the midfielder Arthur beat Asenjo once more with a shot from 25 yards that flew into the top corner. The Brazilian was given space as the Villarreal defenders stood off him and he took his chance with a fine finish.

Cazorla reduced the deficit a minute before the break with a fine long-range effort

of his own that eluded Marc-André ter Stegen in the Barça goal.

Teenager Ansu Fati replaced Luis Suárez with 12 minutes to go but was given offside as he finished off an early opening. Shortly after the 16-year-old fired just wide as Barcelona hunted a third goal.

Gerard Piqué saw his late free-kick from the

edge of the area kept out by Asenjo and Griezmann also shot over the bar late on but Barcelona had already done enough to secure the victory.

Valverde added: “We are playing well at home but I think with the injury to Leo everyone was stopped in their tracks a little bit. I think we’re very much on the right track at home, though.”

Will be back stronger: asserts Bumrah



NEW DELHI, SEP 25 (PTI): Indian pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah on Wednesday said he will come back stronger after recovering from the lower back injury that has ruled him out of the Test series against South Africa.

The 25-year-old was on Tuesday forced out owing to the injury that was caught in a routine radiological screening. The Test series against the Proteas starts on October 2 in Visakhapatnam.

“Injuries are part & parcel of the sport. Thank you for all your recovery wishes. My head is held

high & I am aiming for a comeback that’s stronger than the setback,” Bumrah tweeted.

Umesh Yadav has replaced him in the Indian squad for the three matches. Bumrah is also likely to miss the upcoming T20 and Test assignment against Bangladesh scheduled for next month.

Bumrah had been rested from the recently-concluded Twenty20 series against South Africa, which ended in a 1-1 draw.

The paceman, with a sling action, is feared for his immaculate line and length, particular-

ly the perfectly-placed yorkers.

In the Test series against the West Indies, which was his last assignment, Bumrah emerged as the wrecker-in-chief for India with 13 wickets in two Tests.

He became the fastest Indian pacer to take 50 wickets in Tests during the course of that assignment last month.

He achieved the feat during the second Test against the Caribbean side in his 11th Test, surpassing Venkatesh Prasad and Mohammed Shami, who took 13 matches each to touch the mark.

Dravid to depose before BCCI ethics officer on Thursday

MUMBAI, SEP 25 (PTI): Former India captain Rahul Dravid would depose before BCCI Ethics Officer D K Jain on Thursday to explain the conflict of interest allegations against him.

Dravid is currently the Director of National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru, besides being a vice-president in the India Cements group, which owns the IPL franchise Chennai Super Kings.

The 46-year-old former batting mainstay was the head coach of the India A and Under-19 teams before being handed the NCA role, which includes monitoring the progress of these two sides as well.

The complaint against Dravid, by Madhya Pradesh Cricket Asso-



ciation (MPCA) life member Sanjeev Gupta, alleging that there is conflict of interest in Dravid’s role as NCA head and being an India Cements employee.

Dravid has already given a reply and defended himself saying he has taken leave of absence from employers India Cements and he has nothing to do

with the Chennai Super Kings.

Similarly, BCCI employee Mayank Parikh has been asked to depose before the Ethics Officer on Thursday.

Parikh, who too faces of conflict of interest allegations. A part of the operations team in the BCCI, Parikh is also associated with multiple clubs, with vot-

ing rights, in the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA). Dravid’s hearing will be in the morning, followed by Parikh’s.

As per the BCCI constitution, no individual can hold more than one post at the same time.

The BCCI Ethics Officer would give his judgement based on the hearing on Thursday.

Pakistan PM says Trump asked him to mediate with Iran

UNITED NATIONS (US) SEP 25 (AFP): Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan said on Tuesday Donald Trump had asked him to mediate with Iran to defuse tensions, though the US president later suggested it was Khan who approached him and nothing was final.

Khan met Trump and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on the sidelines of this week's United Nations General Assembly, before which he visited Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Saudi Arabia, whom he said had made the same request.

"Trump asked me that if we could de-escalate the situation and maybe come up with another deal," Khan told reporters at the gathering of world leaders in New York.

"Yes, we did convey this, and yes, we're trying our best," he said.

"I immediately spoke to President Rouhani yesterday after the meeting with President Trump. I can't say anything right now more than this, except that we're trying and mediating," he added.

In Saudi Arabia, which was hit earlier this month by attacks on its oil infrastructure blamed on Iran, the crown prince "also asked me to talk to the Iranian president", Khan said.

Speculation has been rife about a possible face-to-face between Trump and Rouhani on the sidelines of the general assembly, with France's Emmanuel Macron trying to broker what would be a historic meeting.

At a separate briefing to reporters where Trump spoke on Iran, he said: "They would like to negotiate. It certainly makes sense but we haven't agreed to that yet."

Asked about Macron's involvement, he responded: "He's also talking to us, a number of people are."

"So is Prime Minister Khan of Pakistan. A lot of people, Chancellor Merkel just now and she's very much involved, we have a lot of people involved. A lot of people would like to get us to the table." But pressed on whether he had asked Khan to get involved, Trump said: "Well, he'd like to do that and we have a very good relationship and there's a chance that that could happen."

"But no, I haven't spoken -- he actually asked me, he thought it would be a good idea to meet and we're here, we're in New York together and we have the time to do it, although we've done a lot of bilats in the last two days."

Pakistan traditionally has strong relations with Saudi Arabia but also maintains ties with Iran, with Islamabad representing Tehran's consular interests in the United States in the absence of diplomatic relations.

The leaders of France, Germany and Japan were all also meeting Rouhani and Trump at the UN in hopes of reviving diplomacy.

Greta Thunberg showed the world what it means to lead

GRETA THUNBERG
theGuardian

At the 2019 annual gathering of world leaders at the United Nations, a 16-year-old climate activist took the mantle of global leadership usually reserved for the US president.

Donald Trump's decision to not participate in the UN climate summit illustrated just how devastatingly Trump's climate-denying policies have undermined America's role in the world as a force for good, and how his actions could contribute to the destruction of the futures of countless billions. Meanwhile, Greta Thunberg called him – and other world leaders – out for their malign neglect in failing to address the single most existential threat humanity faces, while revealing the energy with which a new generation of leaders is determined to act.

Each year, leaders come to New York and remind us of the promise of the United Nations – the notion that the international community can work together to solve shared challenges. The meetings can also showcase the ability of US leadership to encourage countries to tackle serious threats. These gatherings can yield genuine results – commitments to tackle a pandemic like Ebola, for instance. Whether crafting solutions to pressing challenges or inspiring the world to act, UNGA can remind us how much America can achieve when it leads and works together with partners.

Not this year. Of course, Trump's mere presence is more than enough to sap the power of American diplomacy on the world's greatest dip-



lomatic stage, and this year Trump again came ready to embarrass himself – and America – by roaming the halls of the UN reminding the public that he attempted to force the president of Ukraine into investigating Joe Biden in a move that should be worthy of a unanimous impeachment conviction.

And so, Trump refusing to participate in the UN climate summit was little surprise from a president who gutted domestic environmental protections, announced his intention to withdraw the United States from the Paris climate agreement, and is even trying to prevent California from enacting higher emissions standards for automobiles.

Enter 16-year-old Greta Thunberg. The climate activist from Sweden – who has helped spark a global movement of young people striking

from school to press their leaders to urgently confront climate change – was the star of the show. Her remarks reminded us what leadership, courage and sacrifice look like.

Speaking to the assembled world leaders, Thunberg outlined the stakes of inaction on climate change and denounced the world's focus on "money and fairytales of eternal economic growth." Thunberg made clear what's coming: "You are failing us. But the young people are starting to understand your betrayal... We will not let you get away with this... The world is waking up. And change is coming, whether you like it or not."

Read all of what Thunberg said. Watch the passion – and the justified anger – in how she said it. Too many of the world's leaders – political, corporate, civic – are col-

lectively robbing the world's youth of their futures. The lack of action means that young people like her have to sacrifice, Thunberg said: "This is all wrong. I shouldn't be standing here. I should be back in school on the other side of the ocean. Yet you all come to me for hope? How dare you! You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words."

Thunberg's sacrifice couldn't find a stronger contrast than the selfishness of Trump, who only looks out for himself. His egotism was illustrated yet again when he mocked Thunberg's speech.

If politicians can't find a way to act quickly and on a scale the likes of which the world has never seen in order to mitigate the effects of climate change, the student strikes and marches will pale

in comparison to what we are likely to see in the future. If entire generations know as a scientific fact that earth will, in their lifetimes, become violently inhospitable to vast swathes of humanity, what kinds of actions would we expect them to take?

Thunberg is right – change is coming. There are leaders of countries and businesses making commitments to tackle climate change. Local governments, like California, are trying to move ahead on their own when their countries abdicate their responsibility. And, as Thunberg exemplifies, younger generations are beginning to mobilize. One poll of US teenagers noted that roughly one in four people ages 13 to 17 have taken action – attended a protest, taken part in a walkout, written to an public official – to advoc-

ate for change in climate policy. But time is not on our side, and the longer that the actions of Trump and other leaders defending the use of fossil fuels are allowed to stand, the more catastrophic the results will be for our children.

Tackling the climate crisis requires American leadership. America is by far the largest cumulative contributor of emissions since the industrial revolution and is currently the second largest emitter (after China). America has a responsibility to act; the worst effects of climate change cannot be averted without US action, and Americans are already feeling the pain of the climate crisis.

Furthermore, American leadership, when wielded the right way, can produce results. The United States has the unique ability to bring countries together on climate, as we saw when the US and China (the world's largest current emitter) struck a deal that created the political momentum that led to the Paris agreement.

The speech that Thunberg gave should be echoed by an American president and accompanied by sweeping actions to cut emissions. Unfortunately, right now, such an America lies dormant. In his annual UN speech, Trump yet again trumpeted his nationalist "America First" policies that do nothing but spurn the world. Trump has, for the time being, eviscerated the power of American leadership to do good.

But Greta Thunberg and her generation are ready to lead and to sacrifice. The world's youth won't accept failure – they have no choice.

Europeans see last chance for Iran-US meeting



UNITED NATIONS, SEP 25 (AFP): US President Donald Trump and his Iranian counterpart Hassan Rouhani face their last chance Wednesday for a historic meeting as European leaders raced to arrange talks aimed at defusing soaring tensions.

A meeting between the arch-adversaries would be historic but also come under a political cloud, with Trump's Democratic rivals on Tuesday announcing an impeachment inquiry against him.

With world leaders gathered in New York for the annual UN General Assembly, French President Emmanuel Macron made a fresh push for Trump to meet Rouhani.

Escorting a smiling Rouhani to a meeting with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Macron said that time was running short.

"If he leaves the country without meeting with President Trump, honestly this is a lost opportunity because he will not come back in a few months," Macron said.

"And President Trump will not go to Tehran, so they have to meet

now," he said, as Johnson voiced agreement.

Macron has spearheaded efforts to arrange a historic summit, selling Trump on the idea last month as he hopes to salvage a 2015 denuclearization accord with Iran.

But tensions have flared anew after attacks this month on Saudi Arabia's oil infrastructure. The United States blamed Iran, a finding backed this week by France, Britain and Germany.

Trump earlier voiced willingness to meet Rouhani but made clear Tuesday that he would not ease economic pressure on Iran -- a condition set by Rouhani for any meeting.

"As long as Iran's menacing behaviour continues, sanctions will not be lifted. They will be tightened," a grim-faced Trump told the General Assembly.

"All nations have a duty to act. No responsible government should subsidize Iran's bloodlust," he said.

Trump is set to address a news conference on Wednesday that will no doubt be dominated by the impeachment

moves.

He has come under fresh fire over allegations he pressured the president of Ukraine to investigate the son of former US vice president Joe Biden, who is seeking to challenge Trump in next year's election.

Trump last year pulled out of the nuclear agreement and imposed punishing sanctions.

Rouhani -- responding to Trump's speech in an interview with Fox News, which the tycoon president is known to watch avidly -- said that the withdrawal from the nuclear accord had badly shaken confidence.

"We must create mutual trust," Rouhani said. "If the government of the United States of America is willing to talk, it must create the needed conditions."

But German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who also called for a Rouhani-Trump meeting, said after seeing the two leaders that Iran's condition on sanctions was "unrealistic," although Macron said that "conditions have been met for a rapid resumption of negotiations."

Macron warned in a speech to the General Assembly of further risks in the Middle East, where Saudi Arabia is also mounting a devastating air campaign in Yemen.

"The risk is that there would be a flare-up based on a miscalculation or disproportionate response," Macron said.

"I am not naive and I don't believe in miracles but rather in the courage to make peace, and I believe that the United States, Iran and all signatories of this (nuclear) accord have that courage," he said.

Despite his strong words, Trump is known for his fondness of made-for-television drama, as witnessed in his three meetings with North Korean strongman Kim Jong Un, and for following last-minute gut instincts.

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan said that both Trump and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, whom he met on his way to New York, had asked him to mediate with Iran.

"Trump asked me if we could de-escalate the situation and maybe come up with another deal," Khan told reporters.

"I can't say anything right now more than this, except that we're trying and mediating," he added.

Pakistan has a close relationship with Saudi Arabia but also maintains ties with Iran, representing its interests in the United States.

Trump, however, said Monday that he was "not looking for any mediators," saying of Iran, "they know who to call."

More than 80 students wounded during Indonesia protest



JAKARTA, SEP 25 (AP):

More than 80 students in Indonesia's capital are being treated at a hospital after clashing with police during protests sparked by a new law that critics say cripples the country's anti-corruption agency.

Officials at Jakarta's Pertamina Hospital said Wednesday that the in-

juries included broken bones, head wounds and respiratory problems due to tear gas.

The protests outside Parliament were dispersed just before midnight after descending into violence. By Wednesday morning, city officers were cleaning up rocks, plastic bottles, banners and other debris

from the protest.

Other demonstrations were held in cities around the country.

Several student groups vowed to return to the streets Wednesday and do so until the new law is revoked. The House speaker has called on the students to stop protesting and invited them for dialogue.

VIDEO NEWS SECTION

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Humbled by generosity: Amitabh Bachchan on Dadasaheb Phalke honour

MUMBAI, SEP 25 (PTI) Megastar Amitabh Bachchan on Wednesday said he was short of words to express his gratitude after he was named Dadasaheb Phalke Award recipient for 2018.

The 76-year actor, who completes 50 years in cinema, took to Twitter to share his response with fans.

"There is a paucity of words searching a response .. for the generosity of words that pour in.. I am but deeply grateful and most humbled .. my sincerest gratitude," Bachchan wrote.

On Tuesday, Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar announced the award for the Bollywood veteran.

The award, named after the father of Indian cinema, Dhundiraj Govind Phalke, was instituted in 1969, the year Bachchan made his debut in Hindi film industry with "Saat Hindustani".

Considered the highest honour for an artiste in Indian cinema, the award comprises a Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus) medallion, a shawl, and a cash prize of Rs 10,00,000.

It was conferred upon late actor Vinod Khanna in 2017.

Congratulations continued to pour in from the film industry after Bachchan was announced as the recipient.

Legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar said she was thrilled with the news.

"Namaskar Amit ji. I am delighted to know you have been honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award. Hearty congratulations to you. An award named after the Father of Indian cinema being

congratulations. Proud of you. See you soon," Sircar wrote on Twitter. He is reuniting with Bachchan for his next directorial "Gulabo Sitabo", which also stars Ayushmann Khurrana.

South superstar Mammootty said



bestowed upon the megastar of Indian cinema is a historic feat in itself," Mangeshkar tweeted.

Director Shoojit Sircar, whose "Piku" earned the veteran his fourth National Film Award for Best Actor, said he was proud of Bachchan.

"@SrBachchan sir many many

it was about time the actor received the honour.

"Wishing dearest Amitji my hearty congratulations! In fact in all our eyes you deserved it much earlier. But still brings me so much joy to know you're being awarded the Dadasaheb Phalke Award," Mammootty wrote.

Salman's next Eid release to be directed by Prabhudheva



MUMBAI, SEP 25 (PTI): Salman Khan will keep his date with Eid 2020 as the superstar is set to reunite with Prabhudheva for another film.

The actor, who recently promised a film during next year holidays after his collaboration with Sanjay Leela Bhansali, "In-shaa-allah" got shelved, confirmed he another project with his "Dabangg 3" director.

"We (Prabhudheva and I) are doing a film together again. But it is not called 'Radhe'. It will come on Eid," Salman, 53, told PTI.

Speculations were rife that "Radhe", to be directed by Prabhudheva, will be Salman's next Eid release. As per media reports, the new film is an official adaptation of a Korean film, titled "Veteran".

This film would mark a third collaboration between Salman and Prabhudheva after "Wanted" and "Dabangg 3". Salman will soon be seen hosting reality show "Bigg Boss 13".

"Dabangg 3" is slated to be released on December 20. He also has Sajid Nadiadwala's "Kick 2" in the pipeline.

Kirby Howell-Baptiste boards 'Cruella'

LOS ANGELES, SEP 25 (PTI): Kirby Howell-Baptiste has joined the cast of Disney's live-action adaptation of "Cruella", which stars Emma Stone in the title role.

According to Entertainment Weekly, details on "The Good Place" star's character are yet to be revealed.

Stone will play Cruella De Vil, the infamous villain

in what is being touted as an origin story, set in the early 1980s with a punk vibe.

Craig Gillespie is directing the live-action take on the 1961 animated classic "101 Dalmatians".

Also featuring Emma Thompson, Paul Walter Hauser and Joel Fry, the film will hit the screens on December 23, 2020.

Carmen Chaplin to direct documentary on grandfather Charlie Chaplin

LOS ANGELES, SEP 24 (PTI): Filmmaker-actor Carmen Chaplin is set to direct a theatrical documentary feature on her grandfather, screen legend Charlie Chaplin.

Titled "Charlie Chaplin, a Man of the World", the film will shed light on a barely explored new facet to Chaplin, his Romani roots and heritage, reported Variety.

This is the first time that the Chaplin family is involved at a deep creative and industrial level in a movie about the creator of the Tramp.

Carmen Chaplin is also attached to co-write the screenplay with Amaia Ramirez, a co-writer on "Another Day of Life", a European Film Awards best animated feature winner.

It is produced by Madrid-based Wave of Humanity's Stany Coppet, Dolores Chaplin and Ashim Balla, Ramirez at San Sebastian's Kanaki Films and Nano Arrieta and Silvia Mart nez at Madrid's Atlantic Pictures.

The documentary "radically reinterprets Chaplin's oeuvre from a Romani

perspective and examines the persecution of gypsies through his lens".

"Determined to subvert audience expectations of a documentary on the silent film master, the storytellers envisage a dynamic fusion of animation, film excerpts, interviews with artists and Chaplin's children, and cinema verite footage of Roma life today coming together to a soundtrack of new interpretations of Chaplin's original compositions," the filmmakers said.

Chaplin revealed in his autobiography that his parents were half-Romani. He did not have a birth certificate. He kept a letter, discovered in 2012 by daughter Victoria Chaplin, locked in his bedside table which he received late in life claiming that he was born in a Gypsy caravan at Black Patch Park in Smethwick, Staffordshire in the UK.

The film will be made in association with France's MK2 which owns rights to Chaplin's movies. Production starts in early 2020.



ARRIVED IN STYLE! The model, Karlie Kloss is looking chic in a black blouse, sheer skirt and stunner shades at Paris Fashion Week.

AAMIR KHAN announces book on music composer Vanraj Bhatia

MUMBAI, SEP 24 (PTI): Superstar Aamir Khan on Tuesday announced a book based on the life of veteran music composer Vanraj Bhatia, a week after a media report shed light on his declining health and poor financial situation.

Bhatia, 92, is best known for composing music for films like "Ankur", "36 Chowringhee Lane" and TV show "Tamas", for which he won a National Award.

"Hey guys, happy to announce a book project on the great music composer Vanraj Bhatia, to be written by Khalid Mohamed, at the initiative of my friend Dalip Tahil," Khan tweeted. A daily reported that Bhatia has trouble walking and is unable to get treatment due to lack of funds.

Tahil said the book will be Bhatia's biography and the veteran actor is glad that Khan stepped in to support it.

"He (Bhatia) has a colourful life and a very interesting journey. His contribution to films and music is substantial. He has worked with some of the best talents, not only here but also overseas.

"I thought it's time we quickly do a book on his life. I want to get it done as soon as possible and that the book to be out in public domain," Tahil told PTI.

The actor said he held Bhatia in high regard

and that he owed a lot to the composer, who had given music to a play which featured him.

"Vanraj discovered me. Ebrahim Alkazi's daughter (Amal Allana) directed me in a play for which Vanraj gave the music. He was the first one to give me songs on stage. I met him this Sunday. I was happy to see that he still



has his memory intact," Tahil said.

"So many people have met him after the report and he told me while he is happy, he feels they might think of him as just an old man, who nobody knows. We need to inform people about his life and his spectacular achievements," he added.

Recently, Indian Performing Right Society (IPRS), headed by veteran screenwriter Javed Akhtar, also came forward to help Bhatia and offered financial aid to the composer.

ARIES: As the first sign of the zodiac you are the Great Initiator. You were born to live a life of greatness, Aries. Awaken to your power. This phase of your career brings wonderful opportunities to climb the ladder, up the financial game, and experience the stability that comes with years and years of labour. But you didn't get here alone.

Tip: Inspire those around you to live up to their highest potential.

TAURUS: Draw your boundaries, Taurus. Not everybody deserves access to the given information. Know when to let your head rule over your heart. Some of you may need legal intervention to deal with the trouble at hand. Turn to a trusted lawyer to navigate the treacherous waters.

Tip: Don't shy away from seeking legal intervention.

GEMINI: Daily reminder: age is not a factor. Time travel to an age when you painted the walls for the joy of it, and not because you were seeking validation from those outside. Step #2: channel some of the creativity into everything you do today, no matter how

mundane the task. You'll find that this is the secret to bringing your A-game to the table and having a wild time at work.

Tip: Solemnly swear to be up to no good.

CANCER: That mansion isn't going to purchase itself. Neither is the IKEA furniture you plan to adorn the space with. This phase of your life is all about the hustle. Keep the long-term goals in mind as swiftly move forward. Remember, the only way to jump out of bed as soon as the sunlight hits your windowsill is by being truly, deeply, and madly in love with what you do. Take a moment to check your alignment, Cancer.

Tip: Go forth and conquer!

LEO: It's not about calling each other every day or about making grand announcements on social media. It's about showing up when it matters. Be cognisant of those who have been there for you consistently. Perhaps, this is your chance to render support. As such, this is a time to strengthen your connection with friends, both old and new.

Tip: Show up for those who matter.

VIRGO: "Watch your thoughts, they be-

come your words; watch your words, they become your actions..." Lao Tzu prophecy is manifesting in your life in wonderful ways. Success is in store as projects near their completion. Virgo, some last minute hurdles might need to be jumped over, and you seem to be the champion of this obstacle course. The finish line is now directly in your line of sight.

Tip: You're this close to the finish line.

LIBRA: If you're looking for a career change, this is an ideal time. The Universe is showing you where your happiness lies. You just have to follow it. A little bit of optimism can go a long way, Libra. That and the willingness to take a few risks irrespective of your age. Still searching for your purpose? Reconnect with your inner child, wild one. She will help you draw up a map.

Tip: A career change is on the cards.

SCORPIO: Your life could feel a bit like a multiple choice question round. The method of elimination will help separate the wheat from the chaff. Besides, your heart already knows the best way forward, Scorpio. In

love, let truth and integrity be your magic words. Don't stick it out simply because things look fantastic on paper. If you're seeking something deeper, communicate your needs to your partner.

Tip: Listen to your heart.

SAGITTARIUS: The cup hath runneth over, Sagittarius. This is a time of joy and celebration, of connecting with your tribe and being in the company of those who feel like home. If things have been lacklustre on the work front, trust that a big change is coming soon. A dream project is on the horizon. An attitude of gratitude will help you make space for the incoming blessings.

Tip: A dream project is coming your way.

CAPRICORN: A powerful affirmation to make you a money magnet: "I am aligned with the energy of wealth and abundance". Repeat these powerful words to yourself in the mirror, or write them down on a piece of paper. But the change you are going through is not just internal. The Universe is showing you proof of your receptivity. Get ready to receive the financial rewards you truly de-

serve. This is an especially significant time for those who are a part of the family business, or work in big organisations. Ensure everybody gets their share of the pie.

Tip: Your finances are taking a turn for the better.

AQUARIUS: "The greatest fear in the world is the opinion of others. And the moment you are unafraid of the crowd, you are no longer a sheep, you become a lion. A great roar arises in your head, a roar of freedom." An Osho quote to awaken you, Aquarius. Break free from the last of the shackles. This chapter of your life requires you to stop thinking, start acting, and rewrite history.

Tip: Have the courage to be your most authentic self.

PISCES: Luck is on your side, Pisces. If you are thinking of investing in that new project or business, start formulating your plan of action. You'll know when it's time to act. As such, the New Moon that will appear in the sky later this week will present the perfect opportunity to plant your seeds with intention and get organised.

Tip: Invest in your dream project.